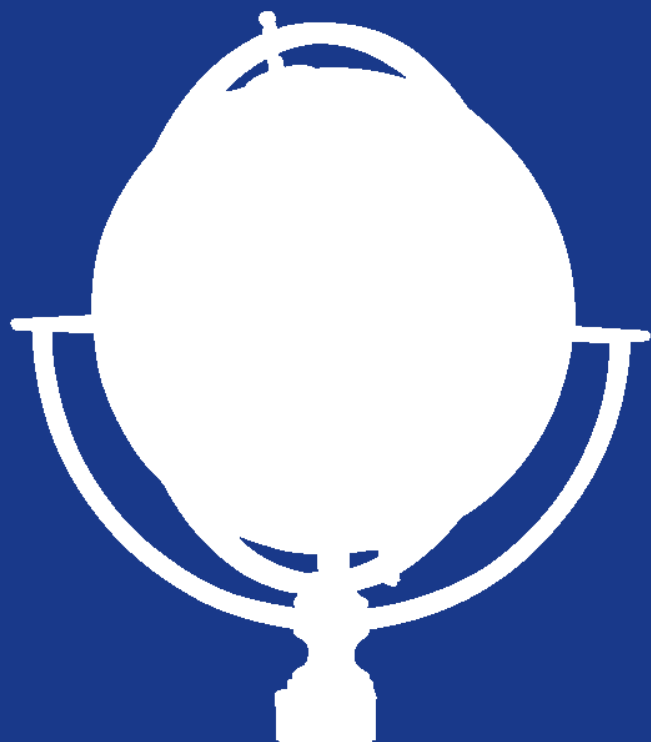


# T. Dwenger Times

December 2021





## BISHOP DWENGER HIGH SCHOOL

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Bishop Dwenger High School, a diocesan Catholic school founded in the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, provides a faith-centered community dedicated to academic excellence, growth in the spiritual life, a Christ-centered active life outside of class, and a Christian life of service to the community.

#### ADMINISTRATION

Jason Schiffl  
*Principal*

Tiffany Albertson  
*Assistant Principal*

Amy Johns '95  
*Assistant Principal*

Greg Slee  
*Athletic Director*

Katie Slee  
*Director of Development & Alumni Relations*

Julia Schultz  
*Marketing & Communications Coordinator*

Jason Garrett '88  
*Pastoral Minister*

Lora McGuire  
*Director of Guidance*

Lauren Slater '97  
*Director of Special Education*

Mary Sturm  
*Director of Technology*

Tom Tidwell  
*Business Manager*

(260) 496-4700  
[bishopdwenger.com](http://bishopdwenger.com)  
[saints@bishopdwenger.com](mailto:saints@bishopdwenger.com)

*This institution is an equal opportunity provider.*

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

# Be Grateful and Give Thanks

I am preparing for the holiday season as I type this letter, so I am naturally in a pensive mood, reminiscing over the past year, and reflecting on that for what I am grateful. For some of us, this moment to count our blessings comes too infrequently. Once a year is not enough. Therefore, it helps to have the holiday season to slow us down and remind us of the reasons we give thanks.



Like all families, the Dwenger Family experiences the ups and downs of life, but there is always reason for celebration. Our faith teaches us that the central virtues are love, hope, and gratitude. The Greek word "Charis" means "gift" or "grace." What else is a Eucharistic life but a life of gratitude? In other words, both our body and our soul need the spirit or charisma of gratitude.

I have always reminded our new families that Bishop Dwenger is a place of spiritual formation and transformation. Whether it be in the classroom, in the chapel, on the field, court, or stage, even when helping others by serving in the community or at church – our Saints receive the formation from the witness everyone provides. This is the transformation process into becoming Citizens of Two Worlds.

For these reasons, I am grateful. Our Dwenger community is more than a school - it's a way of life - taught by the past Saints who set the examples, and those with whom we interact every day. Let's embrace this strength, this hope, by singing a song of thanksgiving.

In this edition of the Times, you will discover people who are shining examples of hope, and who edify what it means to be a Citizen of Two Worlds. I cannot express enough thanks to them for being blessings and sources of joy and inspiration for all of us to emulate.

I pray all our Dwenger families will be able to lift their eyes from their surroundings and block out the noise of busyness so they can truly see themselves blessed to be a part of this awesome and grace-filled community.

  
Mr. Jason Schiffl

**On the Cover...** The four pillars are part of the foundation of a Bishop Dwenger education. An Academic Life, An Active Life, A Spiritual Life, and A Life of Service are uniquely woven into every facet of the school. Read pages 10 and 11 to see how these pillars shaped some of our Alumni.

# DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI RELATIONS

*“If the only prayer you said was thank you, that would be enough.”*

*- Meister Eckhart*

It is with great excitement and gratitude that I am writing my first address to you all through the Dwenger Times! I find myself at a bit of a loss for words as I try to express my feelings of thanks for the warm welcome I have received since arriving at Bishop Dwenger. The calls, letters, emails, and kind words you have shared made me feel instantly at home. My gratitude continues with every event we hold and every time I meet more members of our BD community. I am amazed by your depth of faith, the strong bonds you share, and the way you have all welcomed me and my family into our broader Dwenger Family.



Reflecting on these changes in my life and the way I have been embraced by those around me, I am reminded that I am not the only one experiencing change. As we begin to navigate the newness of our own realities and the transformations we have all encountered over the last few months, and even the last couple of years now, we are afforded the opportunity to decide how to proceed. Rather than being merely an emotion or reaction, gratitude is a choice. The choice to be grateful allows us to learn and grow in our faith. This is a choice to mindfully acknowledge whatever it is we have and to see it as a blessing. It is a choice to make our prayer one of thanks.

It is in this spirit of thanks that I approach my place here, and it is my prayer to represent Bishop Dwenger in a way that makes you all proud. It is a great opportunity to serve this community and I am looking forward to embracing all that it is. I am most grateful to you all and the best thing I can think of to say is “thank you!”

*Katie*

Mrs. Katie Slee

Director of Development and Alumni Relations

## *Can You Spell S-T-A-T-E?!*



The BDHS Spell Bowl team had a great season this year. In every competition, they placed in the top four teams, including a few first-place finishes. Earning a fourth-place finish in the Area Competition, their ticket to the State meet was booked. The team competed at the State Spell Bowl Competition at Purdue University in November. After a hard-fought spelling battle, the Saints came out as third place finishers! The Spell Bowl team is excited about how their competition season went this year and is already looking forward to next year. Stupendous job to our spelling Saints!

## *Cheers to Being #1!*



The Bishop Dwenger Varsity Cheer Team added another State title to their growing list of accomplishments. In November, the team competed against eight other finalists in the Varsity B Division. Despite injuries, Covid, and other impediments, the team rallied together. They were able to cheer their way into the top spot and won the State title. The BDHS Cheer program has the most State titles out of any program in the school's history. They have 10 Varsity titles, five JV titles, and 10 Freshman titles. On top of State wins, they also have 13 National Championship titles under their belt. The program was started by Vicki Kuker, who helped lead the squad to victory this year. That makes this her 49th year of coaching our Dwenger Saints. The Cheer team is thrilled with the first-place finish and is ready to make it to Nationals this spring. Good luck, ladies, go for the 14th title!

A photograph of four individuals standing in a row against a dark background. From left to right: a man wearing a white face mask and a dark jacket; a woman wearing a black headscarf and a patterned top; a woman with curly hair wearing a black top; and a man with glasses and a beard wearing a grey suit and a yellow tie. Each person is holding a small, dark award plaque with a gold emblem. The text 'Hall of Fame' is overlaid in a large, white, serif font across the bottom of the photo.

# Hall of Fame

## Arts & Letters - Seth Boyden '11

Trying his hand as an artist in 6th grade, Seth began with claymation, buying cheap blocks of clay and animating them by taking incremental pictures with an old family camera to create the illusion of movement. By the time he began high school, he knew he wanted to pursue a career in animation, where he could draw and create stories for people to see.

Citing his high school art teacher Marcy Adams' class as the most influential in shaping his future, Seth says Mrs. Adams always pushed him out of his artistic comfort zone to sharpen his technique and challenge his conventional approach to art-making.

After high school, Seth earned his Bachelor of Fine Arts degree at California Institute of the Arts. While a student, he created 'An Object at Rest,' an animated short film that won the silver medal at the 2015 Student Academy Awards, was awarded the Walter and Gracie Lantz Animation Prize at the 2015 CalArts Character Animation Producers' Show, and was listed in the Top 10 for the 2015 Academy Awards Best Animated Short Film. He also received the Special Jury Award at the British Academy of Film and Television Arts in Los Angeles.

Today, Seth works as a story artist at Walt Disney Animation Studios. He is known for his work in several movies, including *Ferdinand*, *Spies in Disguise*, and *Encanto*.

## Alumna of the Year - Lara Nguyen '94

With a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Columbus College of Art and Design, and a Masters in Fine Arts from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Lara is the Chair of the Art Department at Warren Wilson College in North Carolina, where she received the Excellence in Teaching Award. She owns Stone Cloud Studio with her husband, Todd Frahm, who is a sculptor. They have two children.

She volunteers as a judge for local art competitions and exhibitions, and as a translator for Asheville City Schools. As a muralist for community art exhibits, she was awarded the Davidson Experience Grant through Warren Wilson College in Community Partnership with Emma Elementary in Asheville, NC. In addition, she was awarded a Work College Consortium Grant that allows her to work with the Burton Street Neighborhood Association and the Vine Street Community Garden to design and create murals with Warren Wilson College students and community members in collaboration.

Twelve years of Catholic education taught Lara acceptance, forgiveness, unconditional love, and to help serve the underserved. The Lara Nguyen Fine Arts Scholarship has been awarded annually since 1997 to selected upcoming 8th graders at Saint Jude Catholic School.

## Citizens of Two Worlds - Megan (Oberhausen '04) Swaim

Megan has served every parish and school of which she has been a member since her youth. This includes Our Lady of Good Hope, Saint Charles, and Bishop Dwenger. She recalls as her fondest memory of BD that of meeting her now husband, Josh, when they both attended the March for Life. They now have four daughters.

Megan attended Marian University, where she earned a Bachelor of Art in Philosophy. She has worked as Associate Director for the Office of Youth Ministry and Spiritual Formation for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, and Director of High School Youth Ministry at Saint Pius X Catholic Church. In these roles, she wrote a manual for Youth Ministry, directives for liturgies involving youth, organized a diocesan World Youth Day pilgrimage to Madrid, and organized 400 days of content during the Year of Faith.

She currently serves the Catholic Church through Catholic Sprouts, a ministry committed to helping parents evangelize to their children. She has played an instrumental role in all of the content produced by Catholic Sprouts and, most notably, has played a key part in the creation of the Domestic Church Project Bootcamp, a 6-week training program for Catholic Families that enables them to build and lead their Domestic Church.



**Alumnus of the Year -  
Andy Dailey '93**

After graduating from Bishop Dwenger, Andy earned degree in Culinary Arts at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, RI. There, he focused on the progressive development and practice of culinary skills and techniques, product identification and cooking methods, then expanded to the study of classical and contemporary techniques and flavor profiles used in the production of the major world cuisines.

After graduating from Culinary School, Andy returned to Fort Wayne and began his own IT business while working as a chef at a downtown restaurant. Today, Andy and his wife Holly have one daughter, who attends BD. Andy is the Director of Food Service at Saint Vincent de Paul Catholic School, where he also serves as Systems Administrator. He believes in using his vocation to bring people closer to the faith, and he wants to teach children to encounter Christ through their food experience. He plans the students' meals around the liturgical calendar, serving food appropriate to whatever the feast day may be. He treats his cafeteria as his classroom, teaching students the importance of being kind to the person eating lunch next to them.

Four times a year, Andy cooks the meals for the men and women attending the Christ Renews His Parish weekend retreats, putting much thought and prayer into each weekend.

**Athletics -  
1990 & 1991 State Championship  
Football Teams**

Led by five-time SAC Coach of the Year, Andy Johns, the 1990 and 1991 Bishop Dwenger High School Football Teams brought home back-to-back football State Championships for the City of Fort Wayne.

Prior to the 1990 season, the players on that team resolved to not lose a single game. Their hard work in the off-season paid off, as the team went undefeated, setting or breaking several team and individual records along the way. The Saints were unstoppable at the Hoosier Dome against New Palestine, winning the game with a score of 56-14. Today, these players still recall the closeness of the team that made them play unselfishly as one unit.

The following year, the 1991 team was defeated only once in the regular season. They regrouped and won the rest of their games, facing many tough opponents. The Saints were back at the Hoosier Dome, this time facing Indianapolis Cathedral. With the game tied 27-27, a key play by the Saints allowed them to win the game with a score of 34-27.

As we celebrate the 30th and 31st anniversaries of Bishop Dwenger's football state championships, we applaud these fine student-athletes, coaches, managers, and all of the die-hard fans who made the fall of 1990 and 1991 seasons to remember!



# The Great Halo



This year's Saints Alive! chairpersons, Becky & Jeremy Reidy and Shannon & Steve Bermes, invite you to help us solve the mystery of who stole "The Great Halo." So put on your Sherlock Holmes and Nancy Drew hats, mark your calendars, and join us for this year's Dinner & Auction on Saturday, March 5, 2022. We are excited to unveil the heist at the Thursday night Grand Opening event, which is back this year on March 3, 2022.

During the first half of the school year, we typically host two annual Saints Alive! events: the Diamond Dinner in October and the Holiday Tables Luncheon in December.

This year's final Diamond Dinner was a virtual birthday bash to celebrate what would have been the 100th birthday of the event's founder, Dr. Justin Arata! Sweet and savory birthday boxes were delivered to participants' homes, and each included a chance to win a 1+ carat diamond along with other birthday surprises. The evening also included the presentation of the annual Arata Diamond Award to Andy Lebamoff for his donations from Cap n' Cork to Saints Alive! over the years! It was a pleasure to recognize this hardworking man for his continuous service and dedication to Bishop Dwenger High School and Saints Alive! We have been abundantly blessed by his generosity! Thank you to all of you who made this event possible, especially Cap n' Cork, Peter Franklin Jewelers, Gracey's Goodies, Kelly Box & Packaging, and Rudy's.



*Dr. Justin Arata*



*Andy Lebamoff*



For over 20 years, Patsy Dumas has hosted the Holiday Tables Luncheon during the first week of December. Due to the pandemic, last year's annual Holiday Tables Luncheon was redesigned and became a lunch delivery format. This was so successful, we decided to include two formats this year. Individually packaged lunches, placed on a Christmas dish, were delivered on two Wednesdays in December, and our in-person luncheon was back! Patsy Dumas again graciously hosted this festive feast in her beautifully decorated home! The lunches were donated by Pastor's Place and came with a festive holiday cookie from Gracey's Goodies!

**Mark your calendars,  
the game is afoot!**

**Grand Opening  
March 3, 2022**

**Dinner & Auction  
March 5, 2022**

For more information or to get involved, please contact: Dayna Horner  
at 260-496-4804, or [dhorn@bishopdwenger.com](mailto:dhorn@bishopdwenger.com)  
[bishopdwenger.com](http://bishopdwenger.com) and search "Saints Alive!"

# Blue and Gold Raffle


It's Saints Alive! Blue & Gold Raffle time! This year, the Blue and Gold Raffle is designed to directly fund the interests of our students! Each team, group, and club can raise funding for their area of involvement. For every ticket they sell, 50% of the net profit will go directly to funding their team, group, or club! The remaining proceeds benefit tuition assistance, capital improvements, and general operating expenses for our school.

To participate, please complete the form below and return with your payment. Ticket stubs will be submitted in your name, based on the number you purchase. For example, if you purchase 6 tickets, 6 stubs will be entered into the drawing in your name. Please provide your contact information on the form below so we can send you your ticket stub(s) which includes your raffle ticket number(s). You can select a team, group, or club to support but it is not required.

All BD students can earn prizes for top selling individuals. If you would like your ticket purchase to be credited to a specific student's fundraising efforts, please write his/her name and grade on the order form below.

Tickets may also be purchased online at [bishopdwenger.com/saints-alive](http://bishopdwenger.com/saints-alive) if paying by debit card.

Tickets are: 1 for \$20 • 6 for \$100 • 15 for \$200



## Blue & Gold Raffle

Winning Tickets Drawn at Saints Alive!

March 5, 2022

<b>Grand Prize:</b>	<b>\$ 10,000</b>
<b>2nd Prize:</b>	<b>\$ 2,500</b>
<b>3rd Prize:</b>	<b>\$ 1,000</b>

*Need not be present to win.  
 All proceeds benefit Bishop Dwenger High School.  
 Cost of raffle tickets is nondeductible.  
 Winnings are subject to applicable taxes.*

License #000573

Please cut on the dotted line, complete form, and return with payment to Bishop Dwenger High School. Feel free to use the remittance envelope included in this issue of the *Times*.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Please credit this student for ticket(s) sale(s) - Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Team/Club (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ **Team/Club must be listed to receive credit**

Please **mail** my ticket stubs

Please **email** my ticket stub numbers

Mail payment to: Saints Alive! • 1300 E. Washington Center Rd. • Fort Wayne, IN 46825

**Cash or Check Only (payable to Saints Alive!)**

**Thank you!**



We welcome Fr. Luke Okoye and Fr. Michael Ammer as the new Bishop Dwenger Chaplains! To get to know our Chaplains a little better, we asked them a few questions. Check out their answers to know more about them. Thank you, Fr. Luke and Fr. Michael, for your participation. We are blessed to welcome you to the Dwenger Family!

### **Fr. Luke Okoye**

#### **Where is your home parish?**

St. Peter's Parish Awka, Anambra State, Nigeria, West Africa.

#### **When did you feel called to the priesthood?**

I became an alter server very early in life and admired some of the priests I served at Mass, wishing to be like them.

#### **Who is your favorite saint?**

I find it hard picking a favorite saint because I feel attracted to any great sinner who became a saint, just like St. Paul.

#### **What kind of music do you listen to?**

Worship songs and country music

#### **What are your hobbies?**

Listening to music, playing soccer, and reading novels

#### **What are some of your favorite foods?**

Seafood especially fish and shrimp; mushrooms, too

#### **What is your favorite sacrament to celebrate?**

The Holy Mass

#### **What do you like most about BD so far?**

Long-standing tradition, and effort to be the best

#### **What are you looking forward to as chaplain?**

Being able to positively impact the lives of my brothers and sisters

### **Fr. Michael Ammer**

#### **Where is your home parish?**

I grew up in New Haven, Indiana, thus my home parish is St. John the Baptist in New Haven.

#### **When did you feel called to the priesthood?**

Late high school was when the thought first came to mind, but I did not grapple with the question of priesthood until after college.

#### **Who is your favorite saint?**

St. John of the Cross

#### **What kind of music do you listen to?**

I listen to relaxing music when working and I listen to rock when exercising.

#### **What are your hobbies?**

I enjoy hiking and camping. I will spend some of my free time cooking as well.

#### **What are some of your favorite foods?**

Slow-cooked BBQ

#### **What is your favorite sacrament to celebrate?**

The Sacrament of Reconciliation

#### **What do you like most about BD so far?**

There is a lot of great pride and heritage within the school. The people of Dwenger have been great.

#### **What are you looking forward to as chaplain?**

Getting to know more about the students and staff. After three months I feel that I have only scratched the surface of getting to know everyone.



# ANNUAL FUND

*Every gift helps every student on their road to success*

We are all on this journey together. Through your generosity and guidance, our school community stays on track. The Annual Fund ensures that no one in our Dwenger Family walks alone. Your prayerful gift allows us to travel alongside our brothers and sisters in the following ways:

## CROSSING THE BRIDGE

Cover the difference between the tuition and the true cost of educating each student. Tuition goes a long way in financially supporting our school, but in order to keep it as low as possible so that Catholic education is attainable for all students, the Annual Fund helps bridge the gap.



## LIGHTENING THE LOAD

Provide tuition assistance for deserving families facing economic challenges. While the School Choice program has undoubtedly helped families of varying means, there are still many who benefit from our tuition assistance initiatives.



## GOING THE EXTRA MILE

Funds exceeding our goal will serve our community by way of capital improvements and updates. Our school and facilities require a tremendous amount of upkeep. The Annual Fund aids in supporting our overall Bishop Dwenger community where we need it the most.

## REACHING OUR DESTINATION

Commitment to a culture of continuous improvement helps our students and staff achieve their greatest potential. Maintaining a strong financial backing for our Dwenger Family ensures this level of excellence for generations to come.



With a gift to the Annual Fund, you help chart the course for others and help them navigate an affordable, quality Catholic education. Every student deserves the chance to embark on their high school experience as a Citizen of Two Worlds. The Annual Fund helps them get where they want to go. Thank you for your support!

*“And He will make straight your paths.” -Proverbs 3:6*



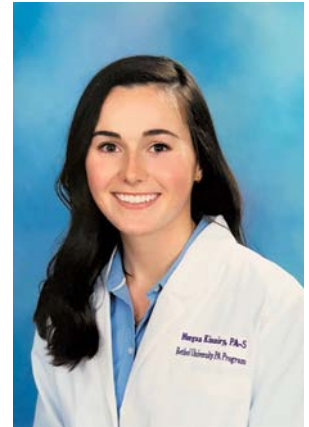
# GRADUATED with

## *A Spiritual Life*

### **Morgan (Kinniry '14) Fean**

In reflection of my time as a student at Bishop Dwenger, I am grateful to have had the opportunity to be a student at a school where Catholic education and identity were a consistent priority. Our Catholic faith defines us and sets us apart as a school, while also uniting us as a community. As a BDHS student, the practice of faith was a steadfast part of each day. Whether it was prayer over the school announcements, with classmates and the teacher before classes, prayer before sporting events, theology classes at each grade level, class retreats, Mass, prayer in the chapel, or reconciliation opportunities, our thoughts turned to God in varied, purposeful ways throughout our daily routines. Ample opportunities to grow in faith encourages students to prioritize God and their relationship with Him as they go through their high school years immersed in a Catholic atmosphere.

While time as a BDHS student comes to an end, our call for participation in the Catholic faith is lifelong. The faith foundations enhanced by BDHS help evolve students' faith into adulthood and become a constant force in their lives. Bishop Dwenger endows its graduates with an education rooted in Catholic teaching and tradition. This, in turn, invites them to be lifelong learners of their faith and continue to carry the light of Christ with them into their communities. The vocations of a BDHS graduate are varied and diverse, yet we are all equipped with the same strong foundation of faith to hold with us as we grow into our own families and careers. Our shared faith and the Eucharist will continue to unite us to Christ and one another no matter where our path leads us. I feel thankful to have gone to a high school that combined solid academia with intentional emphasis on the spiritual and holistic development of its students.



## *An Active Life*

### **Lisa (Miller '88) McBride**

As I reflect on the theme of gratitude, I am reminded of how grateful I am to the Lord for allowing me to live an "Active Life." The blessing of being physically active began for me as a young girl, continued throughout my years at Bishop Dwenger, and has carried into the rest of my life as an adult.

While I was growing up, staying active was always important in my family. Summer softball and baseball games, swimming and skiing at Coldwater Lake, attending basketball camps, beach volleyball on Panama City Beach, biking around Mackinac Island, and hiking National Parks were just a few of the many opportunities that my parents provided for us to stay active and involved with family and friends.

My Catholic education and participation in co-curricular activities at Bishop Dwenger influenced my life in so many positive ways. Not only did I stay active, but I also developed relationships with others and had a well-rounded high school experience. These activities gave me the opportunity for greater character development, especially in leadership skills, time management, and a greater interest in community involvement. Athletics instilled discipline and emphasized the importance of integrity and a good work ethic. While I gained a high level of self-confidence and resiliency, I also discovered my strengths and weaknesses. I was able to accept constructive criticism, a skill that has helped me in my intellectual and personal growth. Being active in high school also allowed me to develop problem-solving and communication skills, which are necessary for success in lifelong careers. Most importantly, participation in athletics led me to be truly grateful for my abilities and opportunities I had as a student-athlete.

These lessons impacted me beyond high school. I received the opportunity to play basketball at IPFW, which later translated into my professional life as an assistant coach at IPFW, and then as a teacher and girls varsity basketball coach at Carroll High School. I have been blessed with the daily responsibility of teaching students how they can stay active as well as modeling respect and sportsmanship toward others. Ultimately, the lessons learned at Bishop Dwenger formed me in my most important role – my vocation as wife and mother, where being active as a family allows me to connect with my four boys and instill in them the valuable lessons sports taught me. I am blessed and thankful for my education and experiences at Bishop Dwenger, which paved a foundation for the rest of my life.



# GRATITUDE



## *An Academic Life*

### **Max DiFilippo '17**

As a recent college graduate who is just starting a career in engineering, I have become more and more aware over the past few years of how BD's academics prepared me for the challenges that would lie ahead. At Dwenger, I had the opportunity to take many AP and dual-credit classes, like calculus, chemistry, APUSH, and W131. These got me accustomed to the more challenging course load that I would face in college and allowed me to enter Purdue's first-year engineering program already having credits for a handful of classes. Being able to skip some of these first year or gen-ed classes went a long way, especially at a large public university. This meant I had more flexibility with my schedule and could lighten the load for later semesters when I would be enrolled in the more advanced classes specific to my major. I felt well-prepared for the increasingly heavy workloads as I continued through Purdue's civil engineering curriculum because of the solid academic foundation laid for me at BD. I continually drew on the work ethic and study habits I had developed during some of the more difficult semesters filled with AP and dual credit classes during my junior and senior years of high school.



Now in the beginning of my career as a structural engineer, I still rely on the habits I developed at Dwenger, and make daily use of knowledge from classes fundamental to engineering like calculus and physics. I have also come to appreciate the importance and necessity of a different set of classes I took at BD. An often taken for granted skillset, being able to effectively communicate ideas through speaking and writing, is critical to success in any professional setting, and potential employers are quick to recognize who has or has not mastered these skills. I have found that having the ability to communicate clearly is just as important as having the proper technical knowledge in most cases. I feel capable of handling all types of tasks put in front of me in the professional world because of classes I took at BD like speech and W131. These are just a few examples of how the many different facets of Dwenger's academic program have set me up to be successful both in college and afterwards, and for that I will always be grateful.

## *A Life of Service*

### **Craig Vanderwall '99**

How great that our life is a gift from God! How great that we can give that gift to all of those around us! The "you" in your life is the "you" who has the power to change the world. As a student at BD, I never fully understood what life is. It took life "happening" for me to understand that it is the gift of being called to service. While taking Discovery and Service my senior year, I learned a pivotal lesson that "I" was not the center of the universe. I learned that my life here on earth is a gift to be shared with the world.

Then it all came crashing down shortly after graduation. While my friends went on to college, I had to withdraw my first semester due to major health complications. That fall, I had four emergency surgeries and two brushes with death. By 2008, that increased to eighteen surgeries and five brushes with death. I learned that our time here is finite, so we had better get to work!

While walking across the campus at the University of Saint Francis, I was having a conversation with a professor. I was in a pretty dark spot, but she said, "Craig, you don't get it – You have a greater calling. You are here for a reason." From that early fall afternoon came an epiphany to lead a life of service. I then dedicated myself to the University and my community. Volunteering and philanthropy became my second vocation.

As a college student, I served on the Student Council and as President of the student body. I have remained dedicated to my alma mater, serving as a director since 2005 and a founding member and co-chair of the Busse-Fabini Cougar Classic. I have also had the pleasure to serve the National Kidney Foundation of Indiana, the National Soccer Festival, and am founding member of the Believe in a Dream Foundation and Three Rivers Music Theater. I have also become involved with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society as a Man of the Year candidate, winner, chair, and All-Star and Team Member. If any of these service opportunities appeal to you, please inquire!

I remind my girls daily that their life is a gift, and it is best-lived in service to others as a "Citizen of Two Worlds." My message to the Bishop Dwenger community is this: Be the gift of life and give yourself to others through service.



# CLASS NOTES

## 1970's



**Robert F. Rossiter, Jr. '74** was nominated to the District of Nebraska Court bench in 2015, and the U.S. Senate confirmed his appointment in 2016. He has recently been appointed Chief Judge of the District Court. Prior to becoming a judge, he practiced law for 30 years as a member of Fraser Stryker law firm, and was an adjunct professor at Creighton

University School of Law for more than 15 years.

## 1990's

**Amy (Schenkel '90) Thomason** works as the Advancement Director at Saint John Paul the Great Catholic High School in Virginia. She and her husband Christopher have four children and are hoping to make it back to a reunion in 2025.

**Nicole Bobay '91** was inducted into Mount St. Joseph University's Athletic Hall of Fame for dual sports, basketball and softball. As a student-athlete, Nicole was a member of the NAIA Division II District 22 Final Four basketball team, was an Academic All-American and an NAIA All-American Scholar Athlete, was named Softball Player of the Week, College Sportswoman of the Year, and was also named to the All-Great Lakes Region Team. Nicole graduated from the Mount *magna cum laude* with a Bachelor of Science in Biology in 1995 and earned her Master of Physical Therapy degree from Andrews University. She currently is a board-certified women's health clinical specialist, working for Fertility and Midwifery Care Center in Fort Wayne.



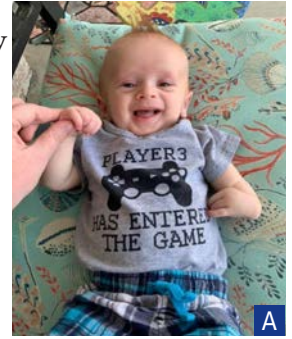
## 2000's

**Ethan Harper '01** and wife Christie welcomed their son, Paul, into the world on July 20, 2021.



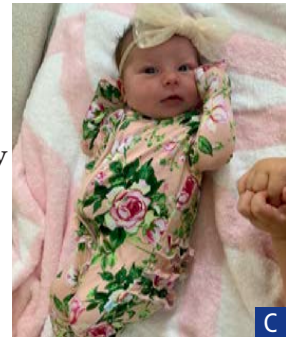
**Matt Talarico '03** and former Saint Grant Richardson were spotted at Yankees headquarters.... Matt is a Yankees coach and Grant is their recent draft choice out of IU.

**Teresa (Trout '06)** married Anthony Wohlleb on July 11, 2020. They welcomed their first child, James Anthony, on May 7, 2021. [A]



Peyton Allen was born on September 27, 2021. His proud parents are Erick and Alyssa (**Grutsch '07) Ehinger**. [B]

**Erica (Bellio '07) LaRue** and husband Colton added to their family with the birth of Lyla Jean on August 13, 2021. She joins proud brother Beckett Wayne (2). [C]



Leiah Marie was born October 1, 2021, joining big brothers Joseph III, Kevin, and big sister Peyton. Their proud parents are **Candace (Frane '07) Norris** and Joseph Norris, Jr. [D]

**Bridget (Niezer '08) Barnum** and husband Dan welcomed baby #3, Maggie, to the world on July 10, 2021.

**Sara Donnelly '08** was named Director of Financial Aid at Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) School of Medicine, where she engages students in financial literacy and debt management practices. She has also worked with the AAMC on various projects surrounding Public Service Loan Forgiveness. Sara is currently working towards her MBA at the Weatherhead School of Management at CWRU.



**Lauren (Rosswurm '09) Seculoff** and husband **Steven Seculoff '09** welcomed Marcie Anne on July 26, 2021. She joins siblings Thomas Steven and Nora Grace.

# ONCE A SAINT...ALWAYS A SAINT!

## 2010's

**Maggie (Badders '10) Emenhiser** and husband Brennan welcomed Georgianna Rosalee to the world on June 25, 2021.

**Austin Hartzog '12** and wife **Amy (Royal '13)** welcomed their second daughter Blair Madeline in April 2020. Blair joins big sister Elaina.

**Brianna (Noll '12)** and **Timothy Trout '14** were married on July 24, 2021.



## 2020's

**Alex Schipper '20** is an engineer intern with Ottenweller Company, Inc. while attending PFW, studying Mechanical Engineering. One of Alex's projects was the signage in front of the Cross on the Hill, gifted by the Class of 1970 and complemented by a donation by the Class of 2020, which stands on the south end of Shields Field Stadium on BD's campus. Alex put the design together for the signage, walked it through the shop processes of programming, laser cutting, machining, welding and assembly. He also took the time to install it. Thank you, Alex!

The following Central Catholic classes celebrated their reunions this year:



CLASS OF 1961



CLASS OF 1971



CLASS OF 1965



CLASS OF 1973



CLASS OF 1970



MUSIC ENSEMBLE, ALL CLASS REUNION

## REUNIONS

If your high school graduating class year ended in a "2" or "7," then your class should be gathering for a reunion in 2022! If you or someone you know is planning a class reunion, please contact Molly Schreck, Alumni Coordinator, at [mschreck@bishopdwenger.com](mailto:mschreck@bishopdwenger.com) or (260) 496-4775.

### Class of 1967 – 55 year Reunion

When: Saturday, August 20, 2022

Where: Holiday Inn,  
4111 Paul Shaffer Drive

Time: 6:00 pm

\*\* Informal gathering on Friday, August 19, at Holiday Inn. More info to follow.

### Class of 1972 – 50 Year Reunion

When: Saturday, July 23, 2022

Where: Parkview Field Lincoln Room

Times: 6:00 pm

Contact: Shib Nedeff,  
[shibnedeff@gmail.com](mailto:shibnedeff@gmail.com)

### Class of 1977 – 45 Year Reunion

When: Saturday, September 24, 2022

Where: Lucky Moose, 622 E Dupont Rd

Contact: Kris (Merz) Markham,  
260-466-8155 or

Dan Wunderlin, 260-415-7433

### 1982 – 40 Year Reunion

In Planning Stages

Contact: Julie Braun,  
[chillerz2011@yahoo.com](mailto:chillerz2011@yahoo.com)

### 1997 – 25 Year Reunion

In Planning Stages

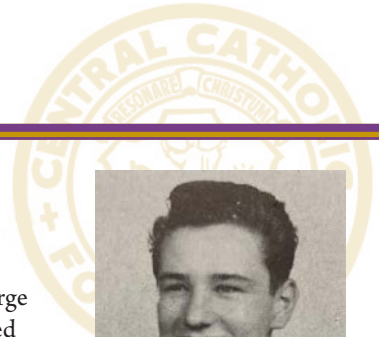
Contact: John Henry III,  
[john@jhspecialty.com](mailto:john@jhspecialty.com)



CLASS OF 1991 REUNION

Do we have your email address? Please visit [bishopdwenger.com](http://bishopdwenger.com) to update your email address along with any exciting news- babies, jobs, moves, etc. Thanks!

# Central Catholic



## Mark your Calendar!

June 11, 2022

We will celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the closing of our beloved Central Catholic.

We will enjoy an afternoon of fun and memories.

This will take place at the Memorial Site.

Watch for more information.

## Alumni Officers

Officers are elected every year by the Board of Directors

President: Mark Linker

Vice-President: Leanne Oddou Mensing

Secretary: Laura Fleckenstein Stuckey

Treasurer: Dan Vought

## In Memoriam

Our beloved (and very thorough) Treasurer, George Haggenjos '48 passed away recently. George served as Treasurer for 10 years and did a fantastic job.

He is missed by all of us. Rest in Peace, George.



## Thank You!

It has been my honor to serve as President of the Central Catholic Alumni Association for the past several years. "Thank You" to the thousands of you who have supported our organization. Many wonderful activities have brought CCers together for a variety of reasons, causes, and activities. Our Memorial Plaza on the grounds of our school as envisioned by Past President Mary Lou Morris is "A dream come true." Special thanks to John Tippmann who graciously provides us with office space. Thanks to Bishop Dwenger Principal Jason Schiffler and his staff for the many ways they have helped us. Thank you to all of you for your support and love during my term in office. It has been a BLAST! Go Irish!  
- Leanne Mensing '56

The Central Catholic Alumni Association would like thank current lifetime members and welcome the following new members:

Deanna (Ley) Accurso '60  
Eva (Henkenius) Alberini '69  
Dennis Allen '70  
Rosalyn (Walsh) Anthony '60  
Ralph Bakle, Jr. '62  
Suzanne (Piepenbrink) Beard (memorial) '66  
Judith (Krock) Carey '57  
Fr. David Carkenord '51  
Danillo '54 & Virginia (Jehl '55) Castro  
Judith (Miller) Colligan '58  
Judith (Egts) Cox '59  
Leannette Coyne '56  
Joan Marie (Hambrock) Creigh '51  
Patricia DeWald '64  
Judith (Ehinger) Diagostino '56  
Helen Didion '58  
Thomas Dirig '62  
Thomas Doehman '69  
Richardo Dominquez '63  
Theodore Druhot '52  
Elias Escobedo, Jr. '66  
Marilyn (App) Fahey '47  
Mary Rose (Bendele) Figura '59  
Michael Fleckinstein, Sr. '68  
Sandra (Vorndran) Fleek '73  
Karen (Forrester) Freeland '60  
Edward Freiburger '60  
Henry Freistroffer '68  
Col. Charles Gallina USMC Ret. '59  
Dianna (Lenarz) Gilbert '60  
Thomas Green '56  
Richard Grimmer '66

Don Hall '60  
Jeanette (Vodde) Hatfield '56  
Jerry & Becky (Keefer) Henry '68  
Timothy Hipskind '58  
Helen (Castleman) Huff '60  
Linda (Hamm) Hughes '72  
Stanley Huntington '69  
Thomas Jacquay '56  
Daniel & Rebecca (Somers '68) Kelker '68  
Joanne (Moore) Kiewicz '64  
Lawrence & Annette (Brough '62) Kapp '60  
Monica Knecht '43  
Jon & Kathleen (McCoy '56) Lassus '55  
Matthew Leffers '72  
David Louthan '60  
Teresa (Uercker) Lucas '61  
Nyla (Mayers) Mansdorfer '53  
Linda (Jaap) Mattes '62  
Philip & Linda (Whitacre '68) Meurer '67  
Michael & Susan (Hammond '59) Miller '59  
Jerome Minnich '64  
Cheryl Monroe '67  
Thomas Moreno '65  
Daniel Mulgrew '61  
Mary Ann (Bickel) Murphy '60  
Joseph Noll '57  
Michael Panyard '68  
George Papp '67  
Patricia (Pranger) Parker '57  
Nancy Peden '55  
John Pendergast '66  
Jeanne (Kleber) Porter '71

Judith (Hunt) Potosky '51  
Linda (Doetsch) Rea '67  
Rose (Mann) Rhett's '62  
Nancy (Summers) Rodgers '69  
Marlene (Lauer) Romie '57  
Terri (Petrila) Rydell '66  
Gerald Scherer, Jr. '65  
Henry Schmitt '66  
Mary Lou (Weaver) Schnurr '53  
John Segyde '59  
Joan (Nicholas) Shank '62  
Ronald Simonis '70  
Roberta Smith '65  
Thomas Sorg '56  
William Sorg, Sr. '61  
Lary Steinbacher '65  
Stephen Stettler '71  
Dewan Tagtmeyer '61  
Nancy (Arata) Teagarden '66  
Suzanne (Smith) Todd '61  
Rita (Avila) Tsuleff '64  
Susan Verstyne '68  
Anne (Poinsatte) Wall '66  
Sara (Popp) Ward '56  
Larry Warner '69  
Mary Beth (Jackson) White '72  
Judith (Price) Wombacher '60  
Larry Yarnelle '71  
Leeann Zaremba '72  
Linda Zaremba '72  
Richard Zollinger '71

Contact Membership Chairman Vickey Linker at 260-224-4551  
or [victoria.linker@gmail.com](mailto:victoria.linker@gmail.com) for membership information.

# IN MEMORY

## Central Catholic

Rita (Sordelet) Stump '41  
Mary Jane (Gladioux) Fletcher '45  
Marie (Meyer) Jordan '45  
Edward Woehner '46  
Donna (Coe) Bandor '47  
Norman Henry '47  
Gwen (Waite) Jenne '47  
Daniel Minick '47  
Richard Passino '47  
Phyllis (Arnold) Rush '47  
Frederick Behrns '48  
Rose Marie (Becker) Noll '48  
George Haggengos '48  
Samuel Talarico '48  
Nancy (Aiken) Girard '50  
Dolores (Schneider) Kleinrichert '50  
Barbara Streicher '50  
George Weaver '50  
William Bougher '51  
Patricia (Bentley) Fox '51  
James Kesler '51  
Arlene (Kiel) Kinder '51  
Robert Landstoffer '51  
Max Roesler III '51  
Marianne (Stock) Porter '52  
Ronald Straessle '52  
Jerome Boyce '53  
Lois (Gerhardstein) Brown '53  
Jane (Romary) Christman '53  
Shirley (Berry) Cobb '53  
Carol (Boehrer) Abbott '54  
Mary (Boxberger) Keeley '54  
Theodore Weaver Jr. '54  
James Kohrman '55  
Alan Wiechart '55

Stephen Haxby '65  
David Hoevel '56  
Barbara (Schlup) May '56  
Jeanette (Knoth) Secaur '56  
Anthony Carcione '58  
Daniel Alter, Sr. '59  
Stephen Becker '59  
Daniel Carmona '59  
Sharon (Noble) Jarvis '59  
Ann (Hester) Myers '59  
David Stang '59  
James DeVinney '60  
Marjorie (Frantz) McClure '60  
Richard Sarrazin '60  
Kathleen (Singer) Wirth '60  
Patricia Madden '61  
Stephen Davidson '62  
Hannah (Kennerk) Wilson '62  
Constance (Haffner) McFarland '63  
Sharon (Schrader) Roth '63  
Stephen Kelker '64  
Annette (Butler) Spade '65  
Carol (Tippmann) Eisaman '66  
John Martin '68  
Daniel Doak '69  
Russell Miller Jr. '69  
Thomas Behrns '72

Robert Nancarrow '72  
Robert Wagner '76  
Karen (Korst) Hawkins '77  
Kristina (Kinniry) Datta '85  
Mary Monagle '88

## Friends

Mary Ellen "Jinx" Adams  
Charlotte Ball  
Peter Ball  
Larry Bartee  
Ruth Emma Beier  
Janet Bergeron  
Michael Burns  
Yvonne Ciocca  
William Close  
Janet Dembickie  
Muriel Eagan  
Mary Felts  
Suzanne (Gillig) Foley  
Patty Jasinski  
LeRoy Lepley  
Colleen Makovic  
Adam McCarthy  
John Onest  
Evelyn Perez  
Marguerite Quigley  
Mary Quillin  
Elizabeth Schenkel  
Regina Schowe  
Raymond Shank  
Marvin Stoner  
Walter Veerkamp

## Bishop Dwenger

Michael Gee '68  
Jean (Wunderlin) Mackin '68  
Geraldine (Cains) Lewellen '69  
Mark Schory '69  
D. David Hilker '70  
Susan (Henry) Koons '70



Richard Sarrazin passed away Tuesday, November 2, 2021. Born and raised in Fort Wayne, Rich graduated from Central Catholic High School in 1960, worked for a number of companies, and ultimately retired in 2002 from the Slater Stainless Steel Engineering Department. Richard was a United States Army veteran, and member of the Most Precious Blood Knights of Columbus, where he was also a parish member. Bowling was a true lifelong passion for him. He combined his servant heart with his love of bowling and managed the Northside Recreation Center at Most Precious Blood Church and School for over 45 years which was renamed the Rich Sarrazin Bowling Center in 2017. He also served as the Bishop Dwenger Saints bowling coach for over 15 years. He had many bowling accolades including being inducted into the Fort Wayne Bowling Association Hall of Fame in 1994. Richard will be missed by many, including his wife Linda, daughter **Wendy (Rich '85) Luley '87**, sons **Richard (Chrissy) Sarrazin '91**, and **Larry (Carly Rody '05) Sarrazin '03**, and eight grandchildren. True to his love of the sport, the best way his family and friends knew how to honor his memory was to bowl a round at the lanes he loved so much. Well done, good and faithful

We sincerely apologize for the following errors that were printed in the last edition:

Geraldine (Cains) Lewellen '69 is a graduate of Bishop Dwenger High School, not Central Catholic High School.

Barbara (Grimmer) Hoevel '56 and Philip Bonahoom '59 were listed as deceased in error.

Please contact Bishop Dwenger's Development Office at (260) 496-4801 with submissions and corrections.

You may also submit an online notification at [bishopdwenger.com](http://bishopdwenger.com)



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## Tales From Tuffy

Whodunit? Mark your calendars for this year's Saints Alive! Dinner & Auction on Saturday, March 5! This year's theme is "The Great Halo Heist: a Saints Alive! Night of Mystery and Intrigue." The evening will include an interactive mystery game that will keep our guests sleuthing away to find the culprit who stole the Great Halo. Tables are available now through sponsorships and tickets will go on sale soon. To purchase a sponsorship or donate an auction item, contact Dayna Horner at 260-496-4804 or [dhorner@bishopdwenger.com](mailto:dhorner@bishopdwenger.com).

Peace and Love,  
**Tuffy**