



TRADITION

A magazine for the alumni, families and friends of Joliet Catholic Academy

Summer 2017



From left to right: Emily Cherwin, Jafet Soto, Emma Ehram, Hayden Wagner, Shannon Quinn



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT/PRINCIPAL



Dear Alumni, Families and Friends,

As the 2016-2017 school year came to a close, I wanted to start this letter by saying-THANK YOU. Thank you to all that gave to JCA through their time, talents, and treasures. We are a community built on TRADITION, SPIRITUALITY, and FAMILY to which you have played a major role. On behalf of our students, faculty and staff, and administration, we are eternally grateful to the mark that you make on our school on a daily basis. We could not be Joliet Catholic Academy without your support.

So we turn the page on another successful academic campaign, and have just congratulated the Class of 2017 on a stellar year. Our graduates earned more than 15 million dollars in college scholarships, which we feel is a great return on investment for our families. Our students logged more than 16,000

hours of community service and have once again set the bar for ACT /College readiness with their remarkable test scores. We feel that our students are prepared for college and the world and have the necessary tools to be leaders in their fields.

Regarding our Capital Initiative, we are excited to report that we are about two-thirds complete with Phase II. The updated Wi-Fi infrastructure has been installed and paid for at the start of this school year. We are currently in the process of finishing the new window installation in the back of the building. That project should take us into July. The final piece of this Phase is the installation of air-conditioning. Installation of air-conditioning will last all summer and probably take us into the fall. We are being as strategic as possible, with the classrooms as our number one priority. We are still \$450K shy of our goal of \$1.5 Million for Phase II. We have been very successful thus far, but we need to keep moving, raising the necessary funds to finish.

On the horizon, we see many advancements for our school and our students. Our 1:1 technology initiative saw much success in its first year; we have successfully completed an AdvancED accreditation review and are accredited once again for five years through this national organization. Our curriculum next year features exciting new additions such as Engineering and Robotics. We always want to make sure that our students are getting the best opportunities to succeed and thrive. We will always make sure that we are preparing them for their future.

On behalf of the administration, faculty and staff, I hope that you have a wonderful summer and Thank You once again for all that you do for JCA!

Blessings,

Jeffrey R. Budz

Jeffrey R. Budz
President/Principal
Joliet Catholic Academy

OUR TRADITION

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ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Joliet Catholic graduate finds the cause of his life in Syria

By SARWAT S. AHMAD
Shaw Media correspondent

Printed April 23, 2017 in the Joliet Herald News

Last spring, ready to leave for a medical mission to Greece to help Syrian refugees who had survived crossing the Mediterranean Sea, Dr. John Kahler (JCHS '65) heard about the death of the last pediatrician in East Aleppo in an airstrike on al-Quds Hospital in the war-torn and divided city.



"I contacted the head of [the Syrian American Medical Society] and I said, 'Send me, I'll go,'" recounted Kahler, a 70-year old pediatrician who just retired on Jan.1.

Kahler lives in Palos Park with his second wife, Cecilia McClellan, but was born and raised in Lockport.

McClellan, a social worker, said it was agreed early on that "he'll 'save the world' and I'll take care of the family."

He's "had the itch" to travel all his life, Kahler said, and has spent the last 20 years traveling to places like New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina as well as Haiti, Africa and Latin America on short-term medical missions.

But Syria was to be unlike any other mission, in a number of ways.

East Aleppo is one of the most dangerous places in the world, with daily airstrikes by the government of President Bashar al-Assad on the rebel-held area.

Dr. Zaher Sahloul, a critical care specialist from Burr Ridge who is also with SAMS, said Kahler repeated that request to him in Greece.

"I told him, 'It's very risky, especially for an American physician,'" Sahloul said. "Physicians in general are targeted by the Assad regime."

Sahloul, a Syrian-American who volunteered in Syria 14 times – five of them in East Aleppo – since the beginning of the civil war six years ago, knew firsthand the dangers Kahler would face.

The Road to Aleppo

At the end of last June, Kahler, Sahloul and an American surgeon at Northwestern Medical, Samer Attar, having crossed the Turkey-Syria border, found

themselves on Castello Road, an open road bombed frequently and the only road left into East Aleppo.

Kahler had helped with Syrian refugees in camps in Jordan and Lebanon. In Haiti, he traveled with armed guards because of the threat of kidnapping by gangs.

Kahler said he imagined Aleppo would be "something akin" to that. He was wrong.

During a pause in bombings, in separate SUVs Kahler and his companions and drivers made their way past shells of bombed-out cars and trucks.

"When we got into the city we could smell burnt flesh...the smell of death was in the air, no doubt about that," he said.

Kahler and Sahloul's trip back out four days later was more terrifying, they said.

At the M10 and M2 hospitals (which now have been bombed out) Kahler saw at least 150 patients, he said. Many of them needed general care, but a number of children also had psychological problems. Many suffered from bed-wetting, anxiety, headaches and insomnia.

One child was so afraid to sleep inside the family's home because of the bombings that the father had to set up a tent in the courtyard, Kahler remembered.

Sahloul said that every day they heard explosions, but people continued to work.

"John was very cool; he took it very well," Sahloul said.

Attar met Kahler on that mission, his own second one which would last two weeks, but they became friends during that harrowing trip in.

"John has been going on medical missions throughout the world," Attar said. "There is no place he wouldn't go...I think he is a remarkable, selfless human. He sees the humanity in all of us."

A Life Lived in Service

Kahler said he has devoted most of his life to providing medical care to underserved areas, not only as a medical missionary but also in the 34 years he worked at Cook County Hospital in Chicago.

He credits the Carmelite Catholic education – which stresses "service as well as spirituality" – he received at the former St. Joseph Elementary School and Joliet Catholic High School (now Joliet Catholic Academy). (Bold and Highlight this section)

But in the last four years, after a bout with cancer, "something changed in him" and he began to view his purpose differently.

"There was too much 'of me, for me' involved in those [previous] missions," Kahler said, adding that seeing the world was a part of those missions.

Now, he was looking for something "to leave in the world."

In April 2015, Kahler saw a "60 Minutes" segment on the sarin gas attack on the Ghouta region of suburban Damascus. More than a thousand civilians were reported to have been killed. Syrian rebels blamed Assad for the attack.

"The gassing and the sight of hundreds of children laid out in that warehouse haunted me," Kahler said. "I would wake up two to three nights a week with that nightmare."

Soon after Kahler joined SAMS.

A Witness and a Cause to Die For

About his desire to go to Aleppo, Kahler said that



Dr. John Kahler cares for patients in Syria



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT *continued*

it was less about sharing his medical expertise as wanting to bring awareness, especially in the United States, to the plight of the Syrian people.

Kahler felt more attention was paid in media and by the United States to the threat of ISIS and not the Syrian victims of Assad's bombings. He added that more attention is on civilians now since the sarin gas attack on the town of Khan Sheikhoun on April 4 and the subsequent U.S. airstrikes on a Syrian airfield.

Kahler said he wanted "to be a witness to what was going on" and support the local health care workers who "are the real heroes."

Both Kahler and Sahloul recounted a conversation last fall in which Kahler said he was willing to die to get attention for the Syrian people.

"I said, 'If the concept of an American martyr would [stimulate the U.S. to help stop the bombing of the Syrian people], – I would do that,'" Kahler said. "Not in an orange jumpsuit on your knees but as an American killed at the hospital."

Sahloul said Kahler wanted to go back into East Aleppo. Since the two left on June 30, the city has been besieged by the government with Castello Road

closed off.

They will not go to Aleppo yet, but in May Kahler and Sahloul are planning to go to another war-torn country – Yemen, as part of a SAMS Global Response Team medical mission.

As for Syria, Kahler said he wants "to walk in a peaceful Damascus." However, he is not optimistic about the future of the Syrian children who have experienced "a cultural disruption" or a unified Syria.

One night Kahler said he climbed to the top of M10.

"It was pitch black because there is no electricity in East Aleppo," Kahler said. "You look one way to-



wards the desert and you see rockets being dropped. You look the other way [towards West Aleppo] and all the lights are on."

Kahler and McClellan have been married almost 30 years and have a blended family of six children and 12 grandchildren.

JCA hires Shelley Poropat as Head Varsity Dance Coach



Shelley (Ruettinger) Poropat '97

Shelley (nee Ruettinger) Poropat is no stranger to the JCA dance program, having led the Angels as head coach from 2003 to 2014, before a family relo-

cation to New York for one year. For the past three seasons, Poropat has served as Natalie Minarich's top assistant coach in the program. JCA athletic director Mr. Dan Sharp is proud to announce that Poropat will again takeover the reigns of the dance program.

Poropat, a '97 graduate and four year-member of JCA's dance program, has a wealth of experience in the dance world, beginning with her training at Mary Ann Corcoran's studio in Joliet, and BDA Dance Company, where she currently teaches Creative Movement and three-year old ballet. Poropat danced with BDA all the way up through her high school career at JCA, then moved onto Arizona State University, where she spent four years as a member of the Sun Devils competitive dance team. An, '01 graduate of ASU, Poropat coached for three years at a local Arizona high school while in college, and then joined JCA as its head coach in 2003. Poropat said, "I'm extremely ready and excited for this upcoming year in preparing the girls both mentally and physically for a successful season."

Poropat leads a program rich in tradition, with four UDA National Championships ('86, '87, '88, '90)

and numerous National semi-finals appearances. This past year, at the UDA Nationals in Orlando, Florida at Walt Disney World, the Angels made it to the national semi-finals for their jazz routine. At UDA Regionals in January at the University of Illinois-Chicago JCA placed 3rd in Hip-Hop and 5th in Jazz for their lyrical performance. In January of 2016, the varsity dance program also recorded semi-final finishes at UDA Nationals in both the Lyrical and Hip-Hop categories.

Sharp added, "we are very excited to have Shelley back with us as head coach once again after leading the program from '03-'14. She was an outstanding coach before and brings a ton of experience as a high school coach, private instructor, and collegiate dancer at Arizona State University. Above all, her love for our school is second to none."

The JCA Dance program is currently undertaking a project to fundraise for appropriating a practice area/dance studio on campus. Alumni and friends interested in the project should contact JCA Director of Development Mr. John Horn at jhorn@jca-online.org or 815.741.0500.



NEWS FROM AROUND CAMPUS

JCA students attend Catholic Heart Work Camp Mission Trip

JCA took its largest group of students on the Catholic Heart Work Camp Mission trip to Mishawaka, Indiana the week of June 11 – June 16. Twenty students, from an incoming freshman to Class of 2017 graduates, worked together for private citizens in need, homeless shelters, food banks, the YWCA, and Habitat for Humanity on a variety of service projects.

Students attended daily mass followed by a six-hour work day in the community. Their evenings were spent with CHWC programs including music, skits, inspirational videos, motivational speakers, and pictures of the workday.

All were encouraged to share their own photos with the hashtag #CHWC. Their luxury sleeping quarters were air mattresses on classroom floors in the host school, Virgil Grissom Junior High in Elkhart, Indiana.

After a long, rewarding week of service, the students visited the University of Notre Dame with chaperones Fr. Jeff Smialek, Mr. Mark Clarke, Mrs. Maria Fischer, and Mrs. Melissa Ferro.

Fr. Jeff said his goal is to recruit an even larger group for next year's trip. Students will be provided with opportunities to talk to JCA campers and join the 2018 team when the new school year starts.



Senior Class President Organizes First Life Skills Assembly

JCA senior class president Maddie Bauer organized the very first Life Skills Assembly in the JCA Student Activity Center this past April. JCA seniors, in preparation of graduating from high school and entering college or the real world, learned valuable skills like how to jump a car, tie a tie, sew a button, manage personal finances, manage social media profiles responsibilities, and more.

JCA once again leads largest contingent in Joliet Diocese to March for Life Rally

The Joliet Diocese once again led the largest contingent of parishioners in the Chicagoland area at the annual March for Life rally in Washington, D.C. this past January 27th. 200 parishioners from the Diocese made the trip, including 56 JCA students and seven adults from the JCA community. The 63 members of Joliet Catholic Academy, the largest community attending within the Diocese, were led by JCA theology teacher and Respect Life Club moderator Mr. Jeremy Hylka.

The mission of the March for Life is to provide all Americans with a place to testify to the beauty of life and the dignity of each human person. Both in January, on the anniversary of legalized abortion in the US, and throughout the year March for Life brings together pro-life leaders and groups to organize, unite and strategize around a common message, and to communicate this message to the government, the media and the nation in a way that is powerful and life affirming (www.marchforlife.org).

Hylka said, "Each January our nation unites as one, praying for an end to abortion, protecting the sanctity and dignity of all human life. Our teens at Joliet Catholic Academy realize that their voice is important, regardless of how old they are. We must all be the voice for the voiceless and show our nation that America is pro-life. The March for Life demonstrates that people of every color, religion and background stand together to try to end this horrific holocaust that continues to occur on our soil. To see the youth of Joliet Catholic Academy come together to support life, along with over a half of a million other Americans, is truly a remarkable and incredible experience. As a theology teacher and Respect Life Club moderator, but even more so as a disciple of Christ, it brings so much joy to my heart watching these kids take a stand against something as important as abortion"





NEWS FROM AROUND CAMPUS



Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate

Past President Sr. Faith celebrates Jubilee

Congratulations to the 2017 Joliet Franciscan Sisters celebrating their Jubilee in June, including our immediate past president Sr. Faith Szambelanczyk. Sr. Faith celebrated her 60th anniversary of the profession of her vows. Visit www.jolietfranciscans.org/our-jubilarians to see a complete listing of the Sisters of St. Francis of Mary Immaculate Jubilarians.



Carmelites with JCA connections elected as Carmelite Provincials

Congratulations to current JCA Board Member Fr. William Harry, O. Carm, and Joliet Catholic High School graduate Fr. Carl Markelz, O. Carm on their recent elections as Provincial and Vice-Provincial of the Carmelites. Fr. Carl is a 1980 graduate of JCHS. Fr. Bill and Fr. Carl lead a large contingent of Carmelite friars who minister God's people in the USA, Canada, Peru, Mexico, and El Salvador. Let us pray for them as they lead their community in the next three years.

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Day of Classes:
August 18, 2017

Alumni Golf Outing:
Friday, September 8, 2017

at the Joliet Country Club
11 a.m. shotgun start, scramble format.

Register at

<http://www.jca-online.org/golf-classic/>

Questions? Contact Sue Bebar

sbebar@jca-online.org or

815-741-0500, x269.

Hall of Champions Induction:
September 9, 2017

Homecoming: *September 18-22, 2017*

Open House for Prospective Families:
October 22, 2017; November 9, 2017

Incoming Freshman Entrance Exam:
December 2, 2017

SAVE THE DATE!

2018 Hilltopper Banquet:
Thursday, January 11, 2018 at JCA
featuring Terry Gannon, '81, sportscaster
for NBC Sports and Golf Channel,
currently announcing golf and figure
skating.



Special Events

"Cowboys and Angels" Jubilate a rousing success

Now that the dust has settled and the cowboys have gone home, it's befitting that we "spin a tale" about JCA's 32nd Annual Jubilate event, Cowboys & Angels. This event took place on Saturday, March 11, 2017 at Bolingbrook Golf Club and was a wonderful success for our JCA family. Guests wore western themed outfits and shined their boots to look their best. Our Event Chairs were Lisa & Tony Sandora along with Alex & John Quinn ('86). Talk about hustlers who could motivate a crowd to work hard for our JCA students! They were great leaders to a committee who was always there to offer a helping hand.

Dr. Jeffrey Budz, President/Principal of JCA was honored to present the JCA Recognition Award to the late Pat ('59) & Patty (Liker '60) Graham. Budz mentioned that the Graham's have made a difference in the lives of our JCA students by their contributions to our JCA community and that their children and grandchildren have lived up to the expectations set before them. JCA was proud to have this opportunity to say "thank you" to the Grahams.

Jubilate's live auction items included things that anyone would love to have. From an autographed Rizzo Jersey to a Maui Condo, Clearwater Beach Stay, Beaver Creek Town Home, Deer Valley Getaway to a side of 100% pure Angus Beef; there was something for everyone. Our guests were able to purchase raffle tickets from our JCA volunteer students who were so encouraging and kind that it was impossible to say "no" to any of them. Jill Glavan, an alum of SFA, was the excited winner of the \$10,000 cash prize.

Jubilate 2018 will once again be hosted at Bolingbrook Country Club on March 3, 2018. It will bring three awesome parent leaders: Colleen (Graham '87) & Tom Dow ('85); Nicole & Mike



Murray and Alex & John Quinn ('86). They expressed that they are all looking forward to the challenge of producing another fun-filled, revenue-generating event benefiting our JCA students.

Thank you to all the supporters of this event including our kind ad sponsors. JCA is committed to utilizing their services to reciprocate for their ad donations. Additional thanks are extended to J.L. Adler Roofing and Sheet Metal Inc. and D'Arcy Motors for being the Jubilate Event Sponsors. JCA is most grateful to the generosity of the Alumni Organization for their contribution to Jubilate's Call for Cash for classroom air-conditioning. Jeff Phelan's ('86) heart-warming appeal to all alumni and guests at Jubilate made a difference, as



\$42,500 was realized that evening for classroom air-conditioning alone.

Happy Trails to all Jubilate 2017 donors, contributors and supporters. JCA is grateful!

JCA Announces Fall Spirit Raffle Dates

Joliet Catholic Academy wants to remind the community that the school will be holding its annual Spirit Raffle this fall. Tickets will be given to all students in their homerooms on August 31, 2017.

The first raffle turn-in will be held on Wednesday, September 20. The final raffle turn-in will be Wednesday, October 4. The drawing for cash prizes will be on Friday, October 6.

The Spirit Raffle is the only student fundraiser sponsored by JCA and is highlighted by incentives for selling tickets, which include a free day, spirit wear, free lunch and the cash rewards.

For more information, contact Special Events Manager Christine Voss at 815-741-0500, ext. 283, or email cvoss@jca-online.org.



Join us in honoring a *Legacy...*



& ushering in a *new era...*



Raffle prizes
50/50 Raffle

of JCA football *excellence!*

**Saturday, August 12
at 6 p.m.**

at the JCA Heritage Quad
1200 N Larkin Ave.
Joliet, IL

tickets can be purchased at
www.jca-online.org/football

**\$25 per person includes... tailgate food
pop & water**

**Cash bar will also be available
Musical entertainment featuring...**

Stephen Neal ('09)

Special Recognition of the Joliet Catholic Champion football teams:
1977, 1987 and 2007

Proceeds to benefit the Joliet Catholic Football program





JCA Announces Fourth Hall of Champions Class

Joliet Catholic Academy has announced its fourth Hall of Champions class, which continues to speak to the depth of the tradition and talent both on and off the playing fields that the school has produced over the years. The previous classes were made up of a "Who's Who" of athletic royalty in the Joliet area: Gordie Gillespie, Bill Gullickson, Allie Quigley, Jim Stefanich, Tom Thayer, Mike Alstott, Terry Gannon, Mark Grant, Tippy Madarik, Pat Mudron, Pat Sullivan, Liz Tortorello-Nelson, Jane Condon and more.

JCA president/principal Dr. Jeffrey Budz is proud to announce the 2017 Hall of Champions Class:

Patti Carbery (SFA '82) - Four-year varsity starter in basketball, softball, and tennis. Scored more than 1,000 points during her SFA career. Earned eight varsity letters at Yale in basketball and softball.

Emily Marino (JCA '97) - Earned 10 varsity letters in basketball, softball, and volleyball. Inducted into the ESCC Hall of Fame in 2008. Four-year starter at Florida in softball; still holds several Florida softball records.

Larry McKeon (JCHS '68) - Earned eight varsity letters in baseball, basketball, and football. Still holds Hilltopper career receiving yardage and receiving touchdown records. Hall of Fame high school football coach; 261-89 career record at Plainfield and Naperville North.

Dan Sharp (JCHS '74) - 199 victories and six state championships as Hilltopper head football coach ('97-'16). 223-69 overall career record as head coach at Minooka and JCA. Head of athletic department that saw unprecedented success during his tenure (11 state championships in 20 years).

David Sims (JCHS '80) - Won 1980 IHSA state title in the 500-meter freestyle; named JCHS Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Named to 1980 U.S. Olympic Swim Team. Set numerous school and Pac-10 records collegiately at Stanford University.

This year's legacy honoree (pre-WWII Joliet Catholic High School or SFA graduates) is **Bill Sticklen (JCHS '43)** - JCHS golf team captured Chicago Catholic League title three years in a row during his career. Inducted into the Chicago Catholic League Basketball Hall of Fame. Starred collegiately at Northwestern University in basketball and golf; leading golf to Big Ten Championship in 1949.

This year's class will be honored on Saturday, September 9, 2017 at Joliet Catholic Academy with a reception and dinner. More details will be available closer to the event. Contact Sue Bebar, Director of Alumni Relations and Hall of Champions co-chair, for further details at (815) 741-0500, ext. 269.



Joliet Catholic Academy TUITION TRANSFER GRANT

*\$4,000 Grants for Transferring
High School Students Grades 10-12*

For more information visit

www.jca-online.org

815-741-0500





JCA announces 2017 Hall of Fame Class

Joliet Catholic Academy history teacher Jason Midlock began JCA's spring Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony with a quote from legendary basketball coach and leadership author John Wooden, "a leader's most powerful ally is his or her own example." Inducted at the ceremony were three current staff members, with a combined total of 45 years of service to the JCA community, who all have one thing in common: they have consistently shown leadership through the daily example they set for students. The JCA community is proud to honor current faculty and

staff members Mr. Mark Clarke, Mr. Jose "Pepe" Herrera, and Mrs. Suzi Arnett.

Midlock, who is also the head of JCA's cross-country program, inducted his fellow history department teacher, and current cross-country assistant coach Mr. Mark Clarke. Mr. Clarke has been employed at JCA since 2005 in the Social Studies department. He retired after thirty-plus years of service at Troy District 30-C as a middle school teacher and coach. Coach Clarke, as he is affectionately known to many student-athletes at JCA, owns multiple masters degrees in teaching, and has spent his career as an athletic official, coach, and club moderator. Over twelve years at JCA he's coached girls basketball, cross-country, and currently serves as the moderator for JCA's chapter of Habitat for Humanity, History Club, and Psychology Club. Clarke thanked his late wife Lucy, who he credited as the "true teacher in their family", and his daughters Elizabeth, Mary, and Ann.



L to R: Mr. Jose "Pepe" Herrera, Mrs. Suzi Arnett, Mr. Mark Clarke

Mr. Jose "Pepe" Herrera began working at JCA in the summer of 2000 as a member of the maintenance and custodial staff. Known to all in the JCA community as "Pepe", Mr. Herrera has become a fixture at JCA extra-curricular events over the past seventeen years, and has been crucial to success of school events such as monthly masses, Open House, the Alumni Banquet, Remembering "G" Fundraisers, and more. Mr. Herrera, who was presented his award by JCA assistant admissions director and head basketball coach Joe Gura, remarked, "I have one question: WHY ME?" He also said, "thank you to you all... you are my brothers, my sisters...and thank you to my grandpa Joe Gura", which elicited laughter from the entire crowd. He was also joined at the yearly surprise ceremony (honorees are not informed prior to the event) by his wife Sylvia, sons Alex and Jose, and daughter Samantha.

Mrs. Suzi Arnett also began her career at JCA in the summer of 2000. She started her teaching

career alongside her presenter Mrs. Amy Douglas, the director of JCA's Academic Resource Center, as a student-teacher at Taft Elementary School. Mrs. Arnett, who teaches English and moderates the Victory View student newspaper has taken on a wide variety of extra-curricular roles while employed at JCA. Over 17 years she has served as a resource teacher, Yearbook moderator, Student Council moderator, HillZone (JCA's student cheering section) moderator, as well as moderating many of JCA's dances and social gatherings. Mrs. Doug-

las noted the bond the two have formed over the years as colleagues and in teaching one another's children, a fitting testimony to the family atmosphere cultivated at Joliet Catholic Academy. Congratulations poured in for Mrs. Arnett, even on social media. Kurt Kleeman, JCA Class of 2004, remarked "Congrats Mrs. Arnett! You deserve it! I wouldn't be the person I am today if it wasn't for all your help! I am very thankful for all the time and effort you put in to make sure I was going to be successful. It is something I will always cherish and I can't thank you enough." Arnett was joined on the stage by a host of friends and family members, including her husband Todd, and sons Nathan, Ian, and Thomas. Mrs. Arnett capped off the ceremony saying, "the reason I'm here is because of all of you. I love teaching and watching you grow into leaders and young adults. Thank you."



JCA Class of 2017

The Tradition of Academic Excellence Continues



The Joliet Catholic Academy Class of 2017 was honored on Wednesday, May 18th at the Cathedral of St. Raymond's during the annual Baccalaureate Liturgy and Honors Ceremony. Graduates took part in a mass led by Principal Celebrant the Most Reverend R. Daniel Conlon, Bishop of Joliet-in-Illinois, and then received awards highlighting the numerous accolades the Class of 2017 garnered during their high school careers.

Angels and Hilltoppers are assets to their school and community, and each member of the Class of 2017 is recognized for their talents and accomplishments.

Valedictorian: *Audrey Greder*

Salutatorians: *Kelly Testin*

Angel of the Year: *Emily Cherwin*

Hillman of the Year: *Hayden Wagner*

JCA Spirit Awards: *Shannon Quinn and Samuel Seneker*

Scholar-Athlete Awards: *McCoy Hutchison and Jack Surin*



These are just a few of the prestigious colleges Angels and Hilltoppers from the Class of 2017 will be attending in the fall:

65 students in the Class of 2017 graduated with a "Perfect Record"

16 students gained acceptance into the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

26 students graduated as members of the JCA Honors Program

27 students were named Illinois State Scholars

The Class of 2017 earned over **\$15 million** in college scholarships

Joliet Catholic Academy's Class of 2017 graduated on Sunday, May 21, 2017 in the JCA Student Activity Center. Visit www.jca-online.org and click on "News Headlines" to see a complete listing of student awards from the Class of 2017.



Career Day

On Wednesday, April 26, 2017 JCA invited alumni from near and far (as far as Arizona) to participate in our 3rd Annual Career Day. Alumni guests spoke to students, primarily those in the junior class, about their own unique journey from high school graduation to where they are at today. JCA alumni told their unique story of their path... speaking both about challenges and chances, lessons learned and also information about the career they have now chosen and why. In summary, the feedback from JCA students was... "interesting... informative... inspiring."

JCA's annual Alumni Career Day challenges students to open up their minds to all that is out there in the world, to give them insight into life's twists and turns, and how to adapt to those changes. Career Day is more about the journey and less about the actual career.



This year, JCA students sat in on presentations from alumni in the following occupations: doctors, nurses, community servants, attorneys, judges, policemen, firemen, insurance agents, teachers, financial advisors, marketing directors, and an FBI agent to name a few.

"It was a day that gave me great pride... pride in the alumni of Joliet Catholic Academy and pride in our students and faculty," said Sue Bebar, Director of Alumni Relations.

Thank you to our 2017 Alumni Career Day Presenters:

Mark Babcock 1995
Channel Sales

Lois Babich 1982
St. Joseph School

Robert Bailey 1990
College Professor

Patrick Bannon 1985
Director, Supply Chain Management

Kevin Bayci 2005
Civil Engineer

Aaron Bertolotti 1995
Aerospace Testing

Patrick Cardwell 1988
Police Sergeant

Ryan Connelly 1991
Financial Advisors

Jennifer DeGeus 1991
Pediatrician

Moira Dunn 1995
Assistant States Attorney

Michelle Fleener 1980
Interior Design

Britt Florin 2006
Assistant States Attorney

Ragan Freitag 1999
Attorney & Will County Board Member

Joseph Frescura 1988
FBI Special Agent

Raymond Jones 1961
Funeral Director

Colleen Juricic 1977
Accounting

Kathleen Kempf 1997
Marketing

Leslie Lindholm 1964
Retired Coach & Teacher

Michael Maloney 2000
Director of Admissions/
Marketing- Head FB Coach

Brien McHugh 1974
Communication & Media Arts
Assistant Professor

Kristina McMillin 1993
Legal

Patrick Mudron 1967
Insurance Broker

Anna Nunez 2008
Firefighter

James O'Connell 1989
Restaurant Manager

Matthew Peksa 1994
Battalion Chief

Claire Randich 2010
Coach Relations Manager

Kathryn Randich 2007
Marketing Manager

James Roth 1977
Managing Director

Matt Schimanski 1998
Financial Advising

Richard Schoenstedt 1974
Chief Judge

Ann Shaffstall 1979
Registered Nurse

Mark Siefert 2006
Director of Water/Wastewater

Henry Simon 1962
Engineer

Carl Suligoy 2003
Advertising/Operations

Eric Vanisko 2012
IT Analyst

Matthew Vertin 2003
Senior Tax Manager

Poojan Wagh 1994
Electrical Engineering

Lawrence Wiers 1966
Educator

Dara Wise 2007
Psychiatry Resident Physician

Alumni Awards

This year's award winners will be honored at the Alumni Awards Banquet on Thursday, July 13, 2017 at the Jacob Henry Mansion.



Jim Roth



Vince Cornelius



Samantha Quigley



Karen Tyrell



Doug Giaudrone

The Joliet Catholic Academy Alumni Association is proud to announce its 2017 Alumni Association Award Winners:

Alumnus of the Year: Jim Roth, JCHS '77 – Nominated by his children, William ('07), Andrew ('10), Ellie ('14), and Patrick ('17), Jim Roth is a shining example of the Roth family's long legacy at JCA. Jim is a significant giver (often quietly) of both time and money to JCA, and he and his wife Luanne (Honorary Alumna of the Year in 2014) were past chairs for Jubilate for two years and served on the Jubilate committee for 10 years in total. Jim has also served the Board of Directors on the JCA Investment Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee for many years. The Roth family resides in Naperville and have been very influential in helping to encourage students from that area to attend JCA. Jim consistently credits Joliet Catholic and JCA for providing superior education to himself and his children. Their youngest son Patrick graduated this May, ending a string of 14 consecutive years with at least one Roth child at JCA!

Career Achievement Award: Vince Cornelius, JCHS '82 – Vince is a proud Hilltopper, a prominent local attorney with offices in Joliet and Wheaton, and the current President of Illinois State Bar Association. He is the 140th ISBA President, and the first African American to have earned the role. A major focus of Vince's term involved the future of young lawyers, with efforts to drive collaboration amongst Illinois law schools and law school deans, the Illinois Supreme

Court, the American Bar Association, and others to prepare young lawyers for the profession. As a small-firm attorney, Cornelius understands the concerns of his peers, including solo practitioners, and has advocated on their behalf, as well. Vince earned his law degree from NIU and his undergraduate degree from USF, where he was an Academic All-American athlete. Vince resides in Naperville with his wife Zina and two children, Taylor and Chandler.

Paddy McGowan Award: Samantha Quigley-Smith, JCA '06 – Samantha is the newly-named Head Women's Basketball Coach for Lewis University after five successful years as head coach at University of St. Francis, where this past season she guided her #1 ranked team to an undefeated regular season and a berth in the NAIA Final Four. During her time at JCA, Sam earned All-State honors in softball, volleyball (2003 State Champions), and basketball, and was named the Sun Times Athlete of the Year in 2003. She played collegiately at DePaul, earning All-Big East Second Team honors twice, and went on to play professionally in Hungary. She is also an assistant coach for the Team USA 16U National team, and resides in Shorewood with husband Greg and sons Cooper (4), Jackson (1) and newborn Logan.

Honorary Alumna of the Year: Karen Tyrell – Wife of Tom Tyrell (JCHS '79) and

mother of Ian ('10), Spencer ('13), Keegan ('15) and Aidan ('18). Karen is a tireless supporter of JCA and the JCA family at student and school events. Along with the Tyrell and Giaudrone families, she is a co-founder and organizer of the "Remembering G" fundraiser, which has gone on to raise over \$100,000 and provide over 70 scholarships in the name of Andrew Giaudrone (JCA '10) since its inception. Karen is a JT West ('79) graduate who truly exemplifies and shares the JCA spirit and values.

Sister Anna Marie Becker Service to JCA Award: Doug Giaudrone, JCHS '81 – A constant supporter of JCA and father of Andrew ('10), Adam ('14) and Eric ('16), Doug is the Co-Creator (with the Tyrell and Giaudrone families) of the "Remembering G" fundraiser and scholarship in the name of his eldest son Andrew, who passed away suddenly in 2011 due to an undiscovered heart ailment. Ardent supporter and collaborator in Young Hearts for Life ("YH4L"), who, with support from Team Podz, facilitates free cardiac screening for all JCA students. Doug has been a long-time participant on multiple JCA boards and committees, including the JCA Board of Directors, JCA Alumni Board, Jubilate and others. Through Doug's resiliency and spirit, the annual celebration of Andrew's life strengthens the JCA community and shines a light to those experiencing it for the first time.



Spring Athletic Roundup



The spring athletic season was highlighted by a Cinderella run to the IHSA Class 1A Supersectional by the girls soccer program. The Angels upset before dropping a 4-1 decision to Normal University High. Led by seniors **Emma Ehram** (midfielder) and **Grace Whalen** (goalkeeper) both All-

East Suburban Catholic Conference honorees, the Angels are primed for future success with several talented underclassmen. Ehram will continue her collegiate soccer career at SIU-Edwardsville, while fellow senior **Alyson Egizio** will play at Webster University.

JCA softball senior **Reilly Jo Swanson** was named Herald News first-team all-area and second-team all-state in IHSA Class 3A. She led the Angels with a .451 batting average, 16 doubles, three triples, 27 RBIs, and 33 runs scored. Swanson will continue her softball career on an academic and athletic scholarship at Drexel University. She's joined by teammates **Paige Callans** (Lindenwood University) and **Kailey Kovas** (Cornell College) who will continue their softball playing career at the collegiate level.

JCA athletic director Mr. Dan Sharp is proud to announce the hiring of **Ryan Cumbee** as its new associate head wrestling coach. Cumbee is no stranger to the Joliet area in wrestling, capturing a state title in high school at Providence Catholic, wrestling collegiately in the Big Ten at Northwestern, and leading Marmion Academy to three consecutive state finals berths as head coach from 2012-2015.



Two recent JCA baseball graduates were selected in the 2017 Major League Baseball Draft. 2017 graduate **Antonio Saldana**, a second-team Herald News All-Area and ESCC All-Conference selection, was selected in the 38th round by the San Francisco Giants. Saldana is a 6-foot-7 lefthanded pitcher with a fastball clocked up to 92 mph this spring. 2014 graduate **Rylan Bannon** was selected in the 8th round by the Los Angeles Dodgers out of Xavier University. Bannon was named the Big East Conference Player of the Year this spring after hitting .332 with 14 homers and 125 total bases. Notre Dame-bound junior pitcher **Aidan Tyrell** was named first-team all-area and ESCC Conference Pitcher of the Year. Lewis University-bound senior **Michael O'Brien** was named first-team all-area and ESCC Offensive Player of the Year, leading the conference champion Hilltoppers with a .463 batting average.





LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

IRA Required Mandatory Distribution charitable tax break becomes permanent

Dear alumni, families, and friends



If you're required to take a minimum distribution from your IRA, you'll again have the option to make that distribution tax free by directing it to the charity of your choice.

These distributions can be a convenient way to support charitable causes and get a tax break while meeting tax requirements for IRAs.

You may have your Required Mandatory Distribution made payable directly to Joliet Catholic Academy as we meet the IRS definition of a qualified charity, and then designate it as a qualified charitable distribution on your tax return. You'll have satisfied your distribution requirement, and you won't have to pay income taxes on that money.

So if you're 70½ or older, you can transfer your 2017 RMD to charity at any time. The donation counts as your required minimum distribution but doesn't increase your adjusted gross income, which can be particularly helpful if you don't itemize and can't deduct charitable contributions. Also, keeping some or all of your RMD out of your adjusted gross income could help you avoid the Medicare high-income surcharge or help make less of your Social Security benefits taxable. (You can't double-dip tax breaks and deduct the charitable contribution if you make the tax-free transfer to charity.)

The money needs to be transferred directly from the IRA to JCA in order to be tax-free. If you withdraw it from the IRA first and then give it to JCA, you can deduct the gift as a charitable contribution (if you itemize), but the withdrawal will be included in your adjusted gross income.

Gifts can be directed to fund anything the donor would like to support at JCA including but not limited to scholarships, capital campaigns, individual sports, band, etc.

Please contact JCA Director of Development Mr. John Horn at jhorn@jca-online.org or 815.741.0500, ext.

Thank you in advance for considering a gift to JCA through your IRA RMD.

Sincerely in Christ,

John T. Horn ('91)
Director of Development

Online Giving



JCA has updated our Online Giving webpage, making it easier than ever for JCA alumni, families, and friends to give. Secure transactions are processed through Acceptiva. Simply visit www.jca-online.org/donate to make a donation. Friends of JCA can select from several different donation designations, including but not limited to the Annual Appeal, Tuition Assistance, School's Greatest Need, and the Phase II Capital Campaign "Building our Future". Check the JCA website for more information on ways to give and specific fundraisers put on throughout the school year.



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In Memoriam

Sadly we acknowledge the passing of the following members of our JCA family:

1939

Dorothy (Hasse) Murphy

1940

*Mary (Bartley) Draper
Mary (Pubentz) Williams*

1943

Edward F. Vercelli

1946

Anne E. Bannon

1947

*Kathleen (Williams) Adams
Helen (Vogrin) Lambert
Richard M. McGrath
William M. Smith, Jr.*

1948

*Elizabeth (Avsec) Picco
Robert W. Piercy*

1949

*Patricia (Campbell) Johnston
Anthony L. Kestel
John B. Lux
Mary (Gleason) Petro*

1950

*Alvin R. Bokoski
Marilyn (Borio) Gregory
Paul R. Kula Sr.
Mary Ann (Sila) Shinneman*

1951

*Eugene C. Dolasin
Mary Lou (Perona) Niznik
Clyde A. Schreiner*

1952

*Robert L. Bokoski
Joan (McLinden) Kulig
Charlene (Lehmann) Schreiner*

1953

Richard E. Juricic

1954

*Patricia (Midlock) Frieders
Thomas M. Nasenbeny*

1955

*Joseph E. Gregorich
Bernard J. Kestel
Stephen B. Luzbetak*

1956

*Robert M. Kane, D.D.S
Charles E. Wilda*

1957

*Joseph L. Cassani Jr.
Janet (Garavalia) Hintz
Suzanne D. Lyons
John T. Walker*

1958

*Mary Fran (Senffner) Dedin
Mark E. Schoener
John L. Spreitzer*

1959

James W. Embling

1960

*Mary Ann (Dillon) Cornelius
Bonita (Rozman) Kozak
John J. Matoura
John T. Nannemann
Victor M. Stachelski, II
Sandra (Rub) Wojcik*

1961

*George R. Dehm
Nicholas M. Slimack*

1963

Diane (Winke) Burch

1964

*Trudy (Doran) Aschbrenner
Sharon (Ashamy) Skaggs*

1965

Richard J. Fahrner

1966

Irene (Wilda) Bakalar

1968

Mark L. Trella

1970

Dominick T. Cap

1973

Thomas M. Link

1974

Jay D. Zielinski

1975

Gregory M. Minarich

1977

David M. Short

1980

Darlene M. Searcy

1982

Clare (Meyer) Nelson

1987

Timothy A. Stachelski

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.

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