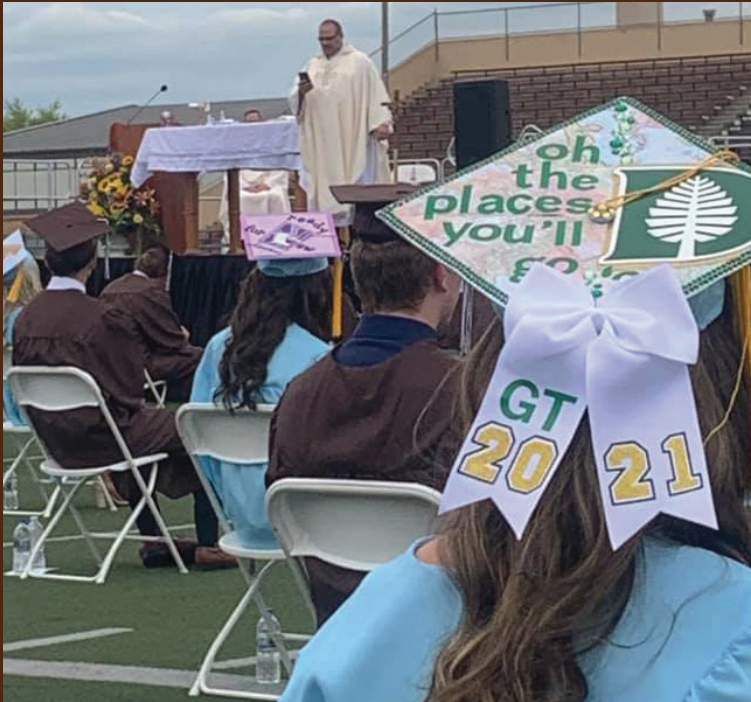




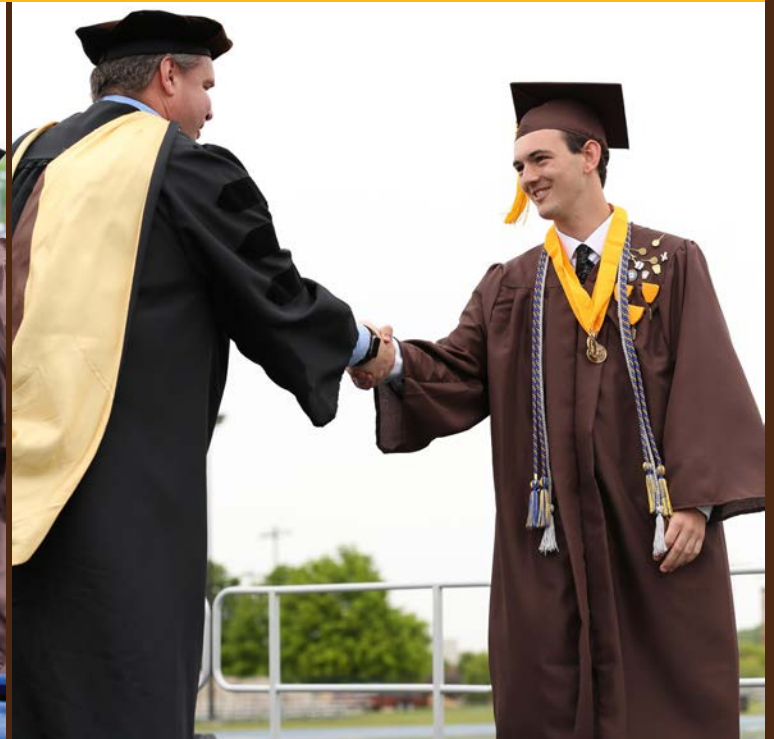
TRADITION

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

Fall 2021



CELEBRATING THE JCA CLASS OF 2021





Letter from the President/Principal



Dear JCA Alumni, Community and Friends,

I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome you to another school year where Angel and Hillmen pride permeate the hallways each day. We were able to end last year on some very positive notes with a successful graduation, completed athletic seasons – featuring two second place STATE finishes for our Girls Softball and Girls Soccer teams, and the near completion of our Warning Family Innovation Research Center. We truly look forward to many more successes for our students and school as we return to campus.

Like last year, we start the school under the unenviable umbrella of the COVID virus and the protocols and mandates that can be attributed to this global pandemic. However, we are trying our best to give our students, faculty and staff, and community the most “normal” experience possible considering all that is happening in our world. It's very important for you to know that our decision-making concerning COVID is guided in what we feel is best for our faculty and staff and our students- plus our visitors and the JCA community as a whole. All of our resources, and the discussions generated, have one goal in mind- the importance of the health of our JCA community.

This year we hit the ground running with excitement abounding on campus here at JCA. We have “softly” opened the IRC to rave reviews, and with a small amount of work to be done, we are anxious for our ribbon cutting ceremony and donor celebration. We celebrated the Hall of Champions for Athletics, and our Alumni Association hosted a wonderful golf outing at Cog Hill Country Club, which raised significant funds for our students and school. On top of these successes, JCA has been admitted to the Microsoft Showcase Incubator Program which puts us a step away from being a Microsoft Showcase School, which is difficult to achieve; JCA is only the second school statewide and 39th school nationwide to be accepted into this prestigious program.

I know that as we progress through the year, we will be sharing many blessings along the way. I pray each day for our school, our families, and our community and I ask that you do the same.

We are hoping for more normalcy, but if that can't be the case, we will still do our best to celebrate our students, our families and each other.

Blessings

Dr. Jeffrey Budz
JCA President/Principal

TRADITION MAGAZINE

*Published by the Joliet Catholic Academy
Communications Office*

Administration

President/Principal
Dr. Jeffrey Budz

Vice Principal, Faculty and Operations
William Pender

Vice Principal, Curriculum and Technology
Laura Pahl

Business Manager
Charlotte Turturillo

Admissions Office

Director of Admissions and Communications
Ryan Quigley, 2003

Assistant Director of Admissions
Mary Russell Ragusa, 1993

Alumni Relations Office

Director of Alumni Relations
Sue Ruettiger Bebar, 1990

Development Office

Development Coordinator
Sue Hansen

Special Events

Director of Special Events
Christine Voss

JCA Board of Members

Sister Jeanne Bessette, OSF, Ed.D.

Sister Peggy Quinn, OSF

Sister MJ Griffin, OSF

Fr. William Harry, O. Carm.

Fr. Carl Markelz ('80), O. Carm., Chair

Fr. John Welch ('56), O. Carm.

Joliet Catholic Academy
1200 N. Larkin Avenue
Joliet, IL 60435
815.741.0500
www.jca-online.org





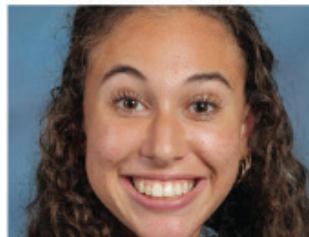
JCA announces September Students of the Month

Joliet Catholic Academy President/Principal Dr. Jeffrey Budz is pleased to announce the September Students of the Month: Alexis Mikuska (Kiwanis Club), Ella Farris (Rotary Club), and Matthew Ardaugh (Lions Club). JCA is proud of the success these students have exhibited both in the classroom and out in the community.

Alexis Mikuska, daughter of Daniel and Ramona Mikuska of Plainfield, currently has a 5.01 GPA in JCA Honors and AP classes. Mikuska is a member of National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, JCA Student Ambassadors, Respect Life Club, Habitat for Humanity Club, Big Buddies Little Buddies Club, and has also served as class president and vice president on the JCA Student Council. In addition, Mikuska is a member of the JCA Angels varsity soccer team and has helped the Angels capture 2nd and 4th places finishes at the IHSA state finals over the past three years. She is currently undecided on her college choice and plans on studying nursing.

Ella Farris, daughter of Scott and Alan Farris of Plainfield, currently has a 4.43 GPA in JCA Honors and AP classes. Farris is a member of National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, Habitat for Humanity Club, JCA Student Ambassadors, JCA Mentor program, and JCA Student Council. She has also

ELLA FARRIS
ROTARY CLUB



MATTHEW ARDAUGH
LIONS CLUB



ALEXIS MIKUSKA
KIWANIS CLUB



SEPTEMBER STUDENTS OF THE MONTH

served as the junior class officer for JCA's Key and Leo service clubs. In addition to her academic and service highlights, Farris was the captain of the JCA girls cross-country team that qualified for the IHSA state finals in 2020 (the competition wasn't held due to COVID-19). She also captained the spring 2021 JCA girls track team and ran at state in the 4x8 and 1-mile events. In her spare time, Farris works as a pharmacy technician, and plans to study pharmacy in college.

Matthew Ardaugh, son of Thomas and Ann Ardaugh of Lockport, currently has a 4.77 GPA in JCA Honors and AP classes. Ardaugh, a graduate of St. Joseph, Lockport, is a member of National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, and National Art Honor Society, German Club (president), JCA Student Council Executive Board, Math Team, Scholastic Bowl, Ping Pong Club, 41-88 Art & Literary Magazine (secretary), Broadcasting Club, Key and Leo Clubs, Respect Life Club, and JCA Student Ambassadors. Ardaugh also served as the freshman student council secretary, and treasurer for student council is sophomore and junior years. He works at Home Depot in Lockport as a lot associate, and plans on becoming a lawyer once he is finished studying finance and political science in college.

JCA selected Microsoft Edu Showcase Incubator School for 2021-2022

JCA started the year with the opening of the Warning Innovation Research Center, a brand-new technology center that would rival universities. The IRC boasts a robotics lab, broadcasting studio, two engineering labs, and five student collaboration pods.

Following the big start to the year, Joliet Catholic Academy was chosen, as one of two Illinois schools, to be an Incubator School in the Microsoft Showcase Schools program.

"Microsoft supports Schools in the Showcase School program with resources and ideas to turn their vision into reality. Building on our decades of work with policymakers, school leaders, and educators around the world, Showcase Schools create student-centered, immersive, and inclusive experiences that inspire lifelong learning, stimulating development of essential future-ready skills so students are empowered to achieve more." (From the Microsoft site)

Upon completing the MS Showcase School Incubator program, the elite list of Microsoft Showcase Schools will include JCA. There are currently two Showcase Schools in Illinois and 39 nationwide. As a full-fledged Showcase School, JCA will be an inspiration, example, and resource for other local schools.

JCA is one of three schools representing the US component of the Global Training Partners, Educational Collaborators, and the Microsoft Datacenter Community Development Program (the Microsoft Digital Transformation Project). Described as a "global project with a local flair," the project provides leadership and



training on developing students' 21st-century skills for a select number of schools in Dublin, Amsterdam, and Chicago.

Three JCA educators were accepted into Microsoft Innovative Educator Experts, proving their MS program knowledge, innovative technology techniques, and passion for teaching and learning. Congratulations to Tom Cranmer- History teacher, Aimee Schertz- Technology Integration Specialist, and Jennifer Szyal- Music teacher. They are three of 27 Illinois educators who are a part of the global MIEE program for 2021-2022.



News from around campus

The Tradition of Academic Excellence Continues

The Joliet Catholic Academy Class of 2021 was honored on Sunday, May 16 at Joliet Memorial Stadium during the annual Baccalaureate Liturgy and Commencement Ceremony. This year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, both events were combined in an outdoor setting. Graduates took part in a Mass led by Fr. Jeff Smialek, O.Carm. and then received awards highlighting the numerous accolades the Class of 2021 garnered during their high school careers. The day culminated in JCA's newest graduates walking the stage and receiving their diplomas.

To view the full list of announced awards earned by the JCA Class of 2021 visit www.jca-online.org and browse the news headlines.

JCA's most prestigious award recognizes the two students who have upheld the highest standards of honesty and reliability, courtesy, concern and respect for others, have carried out their accepted responsibilities with enthusiasm and dedication, influenced their peers by their positive attitudes, and have given witness to the Gospel values.

JCA Angel of the Year

Cameron Batis

JCA Hillman of the Year

Jachary Bertino

Each year the Administration of Joliet Catholic academy selects the Valedictorian and Salutatorian of the senior class. This year's outstanding nominees were:

Valedictorian

Isabelle Egizio

Salutatorian

Emma Oswalt

Each year the JCA Athletic Department honors students who demonstrated both academic and athletic achievement.

Scholar Athlete Award

Breanna Ciemny and John Ehram

The JCA Spirit Award recognizes students who have displayed academic excellence, school spirit, cooperation, loyalty, and service to the JCA community.

JCA Spirit Award

Grace Buss and Hope Daga

The Administration, Faculty, Staff, Board of Members, and Board of Directors of Joliet Catholic Academy offer the heartiest congratulations to all recipients, their parents, step-parents, guardians, grandparents, relatives, and friends.

Joliet Catholic Academy's Class of 2021 marked the 152nd year of Catholic education in Will County provided by the Carmelites and Franciscans between St. Francis Academy, De La Salle High School, Joliet Catholic High School, and Joliet Catholic Academy. Since the merger of JCHS and SFA in 1990, this marked the 31st graduating class at Joliet Catholic Academy.



Cameron Batis



Jachary Bertino



Isabelle Egizio



Emma Oswalt



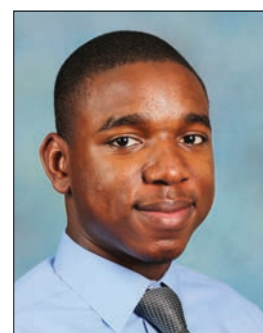
Breanna Ciemny



John Ehram



Grace Buss



Hope Daga



JCA inducts 7th Hall of Champions-Athletics Class



JCA's Hall of Champions pays tribute to the boys and girls athletes, coaches and contributors from the three schools that make up JCA: De La Salle (1920-1933), Joliet Catholic High School (1933-1989) and St. Francis Academy (1869-1989). JCA was established July 1, 1990. Joliet Catholic Academy recently inducted its seventh Hall of Champions class, which continues to speak to the depth of tradition and talent on and off the playing fields that the Angels and Hilltoppers have produced over the years.

This year's honorees were inducted with a lunch and ceremony in the Warning Family Innovation Research Center on Friday, September 17, 2021. They were also honored in front of a home capacity crowd during pregame of the JCA football game vs. Providence Catholic.

Congratulations to this year's honorees: Matt Cimo '79, Mike Goolsby '00, Christine Scheibe, and the late Tony Janc.

Matt Cimo '79 *Joliet Catholic High School* **Basketball** **Baseball**



Cimo is a graduate of JCHS' Class of 1979. On the hardcourt, he was a member of the first Hilltopper basketball team to make it to the Sweet Sixteen of the IHSA Playoffs. During an illustrious career at the Hill, Cimo was named All-State in basketball and All-Area in baseball. Cimo went on to play at Eastern Illinois, starring for the Panthers during their run to the NCAA Division II National Championship game in 1981, where they would finish as runner-up. At the end of his junior year at Eastern, Cimo was drafted by the San Francisco Giants in the 14th round of the 1982 draft.

Cimo played eight seasons in the minor leagues as an outfielder with the Giants, Cubs, Philadelphia Phillies and

Baltimore Orioles organizations, reaching as high as Triple-A before a back injury ended his playing days. In 1982 he was named a Pioneer League All-Star and in 1987 he was named the AA Southern League's "Best Hustler". That year, Cimo hit .308 with 18 home runs and 45 extra-base hits.

He began his teaching and coaching career at Auburn, Alabama in 1992. Has been to 10 Final Four's and has made six state championship game appearances, winning four overall state titles. Cimo also had the honor of coaching his son, Tanner, on two Auburn State Championship teams. He has been named Alabama Coach of the Year five times, National Federation Coach of the Year three times, and ABCA Southeast Coach of the Year once. In 2021, Cimo was inducted into the Alabama Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame and he is currently just shy of 600 wins as Auburn prepares for the spring 2022 season.

Son of Ernie and Earlene Cimo, brother to JCHS alums Brad and Jay Dee Cimo, Cimo is the proud father of Alissa (Nick) and Tanner (Perri) Cimo. He is a Lockport native.

Mike Goolsby '00 *Joliet Catholic Academy* **Football**



Hilltopper football legend Mike Goolsby ('00) was a member of the JCA 1999 IHSA Class 4A State Championship team under Dan Sharp, beginning a dominant era where JCA would go on to capture five state titles in a six-year period. Goolsby, a three-year starter in

football at JCA, was named the 1999 Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year, while also earning All-American honors from Parade, USA Today, and Reebok.

Goolsby went on to star at the University of Notre Dame, where he became one of three freshmen to letter during the 2000

season. In 2002, he became a starter at middle linebacker for the Irish, leading the team to 8-0 and 10-1 starts, ranking third on the team in tackles with 76, and leading the team in tackles for a loss at 13. Goolsby returned in 2004 after a labrum injury to lead the Irish with 97 tackles. He was named the Walter Camp National Defensive Player of the Week for his efforts in ND's upset victory at No. 9 Tennessee.

Goolsby signed with the Dallas Cowboys in 2005 and reportedly was the second-highest paid free agent that season. The following year he was with the St. Louis Rams, where he played in two NFL games.

In 2020, Goolsby accepted a position as an analyst/commentator with BlueandGold.com, a Rivals-network company offering Notre Dame football coverage. He currently works as a sales representative with Patterson Dental, while also providing private football instruction for recruits in Omaha, Neb., with Game Changers Academy.



Hall of Champions

Christine Scheibe *Joliet Catholic Academy Volleyball*

Recently retired, longtime Angel volleyball coach Christine Scheibe has a career record of 602-198-10 for a .753 winning percentage while playing one of the toughest schedules in the state. When Scheibe took over the program in 2000, the Angels had been to state three times under three different coaches, earning two state trophies.

Her teams won three state championships, including the first state title by a girls team in school history. That honor belongs to the 2003 team that went 39-2-1 and won the Class AA state championship. The Scheibe-led Angels also won back-to-back Class 3A state titles in 2008 and 2009, finishing with 39-3 and 41-1 records, respectively. Both teams were ranked among the best in the nation. The 2009 team went undefeated against teams from Illinois.



JCA also finished as the 3A state runners-up in 2010, 2014, 2015 and 2019, took third in Class AA in 2006 and in 3A in 2018, and finished fourth in Class AA in 2005 for a grand total of 10 state trophies in 20 seasons — a remarkable accomplishment.

Scheibe was selected Coach of the Year three times by the Daily Southtown (2002, 2014, 2018), once by the Joliet Herald-News (2011) and three times by the East Suburban Catholic Conference (2003, 2007, 2009).

The recipient of the Sr. Anna Marie Becker Award for service to JCA, Scheibe was inducted in 2019 into the East Suburban Catholic Conference Hall of Fame and in 2016 to the Joliet Catholic Academy Hall of Fame.

A three-sport athlete and high school valedictorian at Morris, Scheibe played basketball in college at Illinois Wesleyan, where she earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education.

Scheibe, who teaches freshman and sophomore English at JCA, resides in Joliet with her husband Bill, a senior content editor for the Chicago Tribune.

Tony Janc *Joliet Catholic High School Coach and Athletic Director*

Tony Janc served at Joliet Catholic High School for 27 years, from 1957 until 1984, where he taught Math, English, and Religion. Janc coordinated the Christian Service program at JCHS, and worked on Kairos Retreat for seniors.

Janc may be best known for serving as the Athletic Director at Joliet Catholic for 17 years, from 1967 to 1984. He was a part of the leadership team at Joliet Catholic during transition to the Illini 8 Conference in 1970, continuing until 1981. The conference offered a local opportunity for the Hilltopper athletic programs to shine



in Will County against several local public high schools. Janc also oversaw the transition to the East Suburban Catholic Conference, an affiliation JCA maintains to this day.

Janc wore many hats at JCHS, also coaching baseball, swimming, and track. He coached football for 15 seasons, including IHSA State Championship teams in 1976, 1977, 1978, 1979, and 1981. HE helped expand Joliet Catholic's athletic programs to a position of prominence throughout the state and country, while enhancing Joliet's reputation as the City of Champions.

Janc is also a member of the Lewis University Hall of Fame, inducted in 1982 for baseball and coaching. He finished his teaching and coaching career at St. Pius Catholic High School in Festus, MO. Janc passed away in June of 2020, preceded in death by his loving wife Mary Jo Janc; and son Michael Janc. He is survived by his daughter Mary Kristin "Kris" Elkins of Morgantown, WV.

Football Game



Induction Ceremony



New Faculty and Staff Spotlights



Mrs. Andrea Lampasona

Job Title/Classes Teaching

Chemistry, Physics, and Anatomy & Physiology

Biography/Educational Background

I grew up on the southwest side of Chicago and attended Maria High School. I earned my bachelor's degree from Illinois State University and a master's degree from University of Illinois. My husband Mike and I have three grown

children and a crazy black lab.

Why did you choose to work at Joliet Catholic Academy?

I believe in Catholic Education and I am passionate about science, so I am so very excited about the opportunity to teach science classes at Joliet Catholic Academy!

What is your favorite quote?

"I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel." – Maya Angelou



Miss Karlyn Budz

Job Title/Classes Teaching

Physics and Chemistry

Educational Background JCA '16;

Loras College '20

Why did you choose to work at JCA?

I chose to work at JCA because I love the

environment and the family aspect. When I started looking for teaching jobs my number one priority was a place that I can express creativity in the classroom but also collaborate with other teachers to give our students the best education and JCA was just the place.

Favorite Quote?

"I go to seek a great perhaps."

Fall Spirit Raffle

Joliet Catholic Academy wants to remind the community that the school will be holding its annual Spirit Raffle beginning on Wednesday, September 15. Tickets will be given to all students in their homerooms on that day.

The final raffle turn-in will take place on October 27. The drawing for cash prizes will be on Friday, October 29. Winners will be notified and announced on the JCA website. Tickets are \$10 each with cash prizes of \$15,000, \$5,000, and \$2,500.

IMPORTANT DATES

October 27, 2021 – One final homeroom turn-in (all raffle stubs & money)

STUDENTS: PLEASE RETURN MONEY AND STUBS IN WHITE RAFFLE PACKET

October 29, 2021 – Drawing at JCA

Contact Mrs. Chris Voss for additional tickets, assistance or questions

815-773-0784 (direct) or cvoss@jca-online.org

EXTRA INCENTIVE TICKETS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE JCA MAIN OFFICE

The student selling the 1st prize ticket will receive one semester PAID TUITION.



SPIRIT Raffle

TICKET
PRICE

\$10

Drawing date: October 29, 2021

WIN! 1st prize \$15,000 | 2nd prize \$5,000 | 3rd prize \$2,500

September 17, 2021 | Contact Christine Voss at 815-773-0784



JCA Assistant Athletic Director Dave Douglas inducted into the IHSFCA Hall of Fame

Longtime Joliet Catholic Academy assistant athletic director and associate head football coach Dave Douglas '75 was recently inducted into the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame. The IHSFCA Class of 2021 Hall of Fame induction ceremony took place on Saturday, June 19 at the Shirk Center on the campus of Illinois Wesleyan University. Douglas joins former Joliet Catholic Academy football coaches Gordie Gillespie '86, Bob Stone '14, and Dan Sharp '18 as Hilltopper coaches inducted into the IHSFCA Hall of Fame.

Dave Douglas has been employed at Joliet Catholic High School and Joliet Catholic Academy since 1985. Over an incredible 36-year coaching career, Douglas has been a part of nine IHSA Football State Championship coaching staffs ('87, '90, '99, '00, '01, '03, '04, '07, '18) and three IHSA State Runner-Up staffs ('96, '09, '11). Over that same time period, the Hilltoppers captured Douglas served as a lower-level assistant head coach from '85 to '86 and joined head coach Jim Boyter's varsity staff in 1987. From 1989 until 2012, he served as the offensive line coach for head coaches Bob Stone and Dan Sharp. In 2013, Douglas was elevated to associate head coach and has served in that capacity until now under current head coach Jake Jaworski.



His offensive lines have paved the way for one of the most formidable rushing attacks in IHSA history. The 2007 Hilltoppers set an IHSA record with 6,609 rushing yards in a season. He's coached offensive lines that produced two of the top 20 most total yards in a season in IHSA history (6,651 yards in 2007; 6,590 yards in 2011). The Hilltopper rushing attack also holds the single-game IHSA State Championship game rushing record with 747 yards on 64 attempts in 2011. The Hilltoppers routinely send multiple offensive linemen to the collegiate ranks, with over 100 former Douglas proteges continuing their careers at the NCAA,

NAIA, or NJCAA levels.

Douglas' career in education began as a math teacher at Custer Park Grade School in Braidwood in 1980. He joined the math department at Joliet Catholic High School in 1985. Throughout the years he has served in a variety of capacities, most recently as Assistant Athletic Director.

Not only has Douglas enjoyed a storied coaching career in football for the Hilltoppers, his service to the JCHS, St. Francis Academy, and JCA athletic departments may be unmatched in school history. Douglas has served as head girls basketball coach, sophomore head baseball coach, varsity badminton coach, and most notably head softball coach over this 36-year career at the three schools (JCHS and SFA combined to form Joliet Catholic Academy in 1990).

Douglas guided the JCA Angels softball program from 1990 to 2016, posting a 527-367 overall record. The Angels won nine regional titles, reached a sectional final, and won 20 or more games in 16 of his 26 seasons at the helm. He passed the reigns over to fellow JCA Assistant Athletic Director and Tina Kinsella in 2016.

Douglas credits several Hall of Famers that he had the opportunity to work with throughout his career including Gordie Gillespie, Bob Voss, Carl Hunckler, Mel Deskin, Bob Stone, and Dan Sharp.



Buy School Event Tickets Online
with the HomeTown Fan App



Available on the
App Store

GET IT ON
Google Play



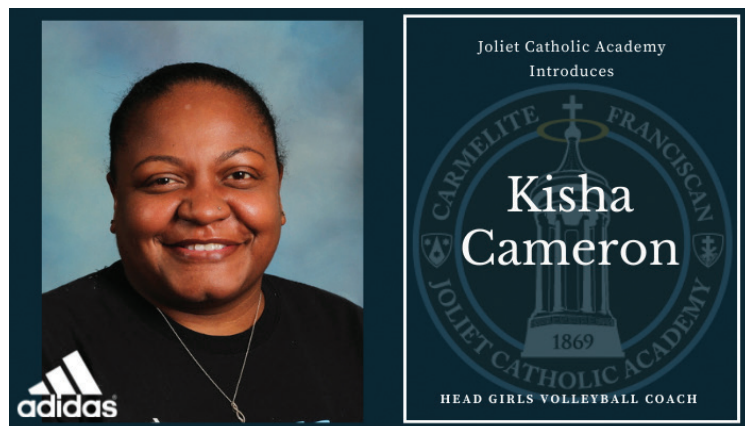
Download App Select School Choose Event Buy Tickets

Download the HomeTown Fan App to purchase tickets for all Joliet Catholic Academy Football, Volleyball, and Basketball home games for the 2021-2022 seasons

#GoHill #GoAngels



JCA names Kisha Cameron Head Girls Volleyball Coach



Joliet Catholic Academy's administration is proud to announce the hiring of Kisha Cameron as the next head varsity volleyball coach, succeeding Hall of Famer Christine Scheibe. JCA athletic director Jim O'Brien, also new to his position taking over for longtime athletic director Dan Sharp, said, "I am very excited to have Kisha lead the girls volleyball program. She has coached at the high school and college levels for years. She takes over a program rich in tradition and I know she will do an excellent job. Most importantly, she will have a great impact on student-athletes, just as she has for our students in the counseling department."

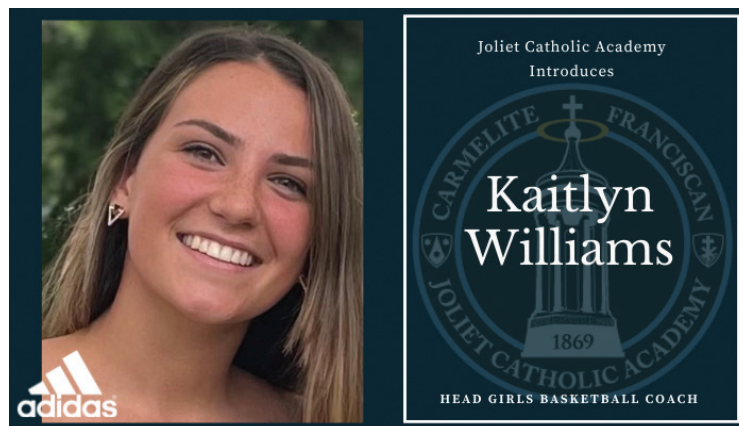
Cameron has spent the past three years as the head sophomore/junior varsity coach under Scheibe and was hired in August of 2020 as JCA's Director of Diversity. A native of Topeka, Kansas, Cameron graduated from the University of Illinois-Springfield, where she played collegiate volleyball and received a B.A. in Psychology. From there, she continued her education and completed her M.A. in Professional Counseling at Argosy University. Her work experience includes years of providing crisis and trauma informed counseling, substance abuse and addiction treatment, individual and family counseling, and victim advocacy. She spent nine years as a head women's collegiate volleyball coach at Joliet Junior College, an assistant women's volleyball coach at Harper College, and has also coached for eleven years in the boys' and girls' programs for Ultimate Volleyball Club and Sports Performance Volleyball Club.

Cameron said, "I'm excited to build upon the success and tradition of JCA Angel volleyball under Coach Scheibe. The future is bright with the talent in our hallways, and we are happy to have most of the program's staff returning. I'm also excited about some additions to the staff that will help us update our offensive and defensive systems."

Under Scheibe over the past 21 seasons, the Angels have compiled a 602-198-10 record, won three state championships, finished second four times, and have captured ten IHSA state trophies. The Angels won 11 sectional titles, including six in a row from 2005 to 2010 and have won 17 regional titles, including 15 straight from 2001 to 2015. The program has produced several Division-1 standouts, including two-time NCAA All-American and 2005 Big Ten Player of the Year Sam Tortorello (Penn State), Olympic bronze medalist Kelly Murphy (Florida), 2009 Gatorade Illinois Player of the Year Annemarie Hickey (Wisconsin), and three-time WNBA All-Star Allie Quigley (DePaul/WNBA's Chicago Sky) among the notables.

At press time, the Angels were off to yet another successful season, ranked No. 4 in the Daily Southtown Top 10 poll, and off to a 14-5 overall start. Look for the Angels to make a deep run yet again in the IHSA Class 2A state playoffs in late October/early November.

JCA names Kaitlyn Williams '16 Head Girls Basketball Coach



Joliet Catholic Academy's administration is proud to announce the hiring of Kaitlyn Williams '16 as the next head girls varsity basketball coach. Williams succeeds Jim O'Brien, who was recently named JCA's new athletic director. Williams recently graduated from Lewis University with a degree in accounting, and will work in the JCA business office in addition to her coaching duties.

O'Brien said, "Kaitlyn will be a great addition to our girls basketball program. The energy and knowledge she will bring every day to practice and games will be tremendous. She has surrounded herself with great basketball people during her playing career, such as Sam Quigley-Smith (former Lewis and now SIU-Edwardsville head coach)."

Williams recently completed a stellar collegiate playing career split between Division-I Loyola University Chicago and Lewis University, highlighted by a junior year where she averaged 9.3 points per game and shot a team-high 36% from the three-point line. A starter for most of her collegiate career, Williams helped lead Lewis to a 59-26 overall record over final three years, three NCAA Division-II tournament appearances, and a top-three national ranking in 2018-2019.

Known as a sharpshooter throughout her prep career, the 2016 JCA graduate averaged 15.0 points, 4.0 assists, and 4.0 rebounds per game for an Angels team that lost to top ranked Morgan Park in the sectional finals in 2016. All five of JCA's starters ended up playing collegiately. Williams also helped the Angels to a state runner-up finish in 2013-2014 as a sophomore.

Williams said, "I couldn't be more excited to start this new journey at my alma mater with all of these amazing young women. My passion to be involved in their process of growth and development on and off the court is what I am most grateful for. I can not wait to get started. Once and Angel, always an Angel!"

What others are saying about Williams' hire:

"Kaitlyn has had great success in every level of basketball. She also has a great desire to help others, which is a trait every coach needs. Her knowledge and passion will be a strong asset that the players at JCA will relish." – Nick Leonard, former JCA girls basketball head coach; Yorkville High school baseball coach

"Kaitlyn was a leader for us at JCA during one of our most successful runs in the girls basketball program's history. She was a gritty player with a high basketball I.Q., and I'm not surprised whatsoever that she has decided to enter into the coaching world, because she's been a coach on the court for years. I know she filled that same role at Lewis for my sister Sam (Quigley-Smith). Kaitlyn will be a great role model for the young women at JCA, and I look forward to the heights she can take this program to." – Ryan Quigley, JCA Director of Admissions



Athletics Update

Winter Sports

All Fall 2020 and Winter 2020-2021 IHSA playoff competitions were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Spring Sports

JCA girls softball and girls soccer both finish second in state

JCA has been known for years for baseball, football, dance and girls volleyball, but softball and girls soccer are two sports bringing attention to the rest of the girls sports.



This past spring, the **JCA girls softball team** finished 23-9 overall, placing second in state at the IHSA Class 2A finals in Peoria. The Angels lost 4-0 to undefeated Rockridge, who finished 29-0. Division-I Loyola-bound ace Andrea Broniewicz finished 18-7 overall on the mound and was named to the Herald News First Team All-Area Team, along with second baseman Morgan Bruno (.370 batting average). Freshman Wrigley Fanter was named Second Team All-Area, and UIC-bound catcher Jolee Santiago was named to the Honorable Mention All-Area Team.



The **JCA girls soccer program** capped an incredible multi-year run with an IHSA Class 2A runner-up finish as well, losing a heartbreaker in the final 1-0 to Troy Triad. The Angels, 16-2-1 overall, were led by senior Morgan Furmaniak, who scored 39 goals on the

season and was named Joliet Herald News Girls Soccer Player of the Year. Alaina Wildenradt scored 17 goals, and Emma Gruber added 13 for the high flying Angels offensive attack. Furmaniak, Kendall McLeod, and goalie Abby Pasternak were named First Team All-Area; Wildenradt, Kate Gerdes, and Gruber were named Second Team All-Area; and Breanna Ciemny, Brynn Higgins, and Kailyn Terry were named Honorable Mention All-Area.

"We put softball in the mix and I hope it stays in the mix for years to come. It was great having people come all the way out to Peoria to watch us," Charlie Kinsella said. "Girls soccer, softball, girls track, girls tennis, girls cross country – this has been a great year for JCA girls sports."

For Tina Kinsella, who serves as girls athletic director, it is something she is happy to see.

"We are a dominant school and we are showing that across our female sports," she said. "A lot of people know us as Catholic High and football and baseball, but now here come the Angels."

The JCA varsity dance team finished in 3rd place at the IHSA Class 1A State Dance Finals, which for the first time was held virtually. The Angels have become a regular at the state finals, after capturing the schools 32nd team championship in 2019. The Angels also finished fourth at the 2018 finals and were national semi-finalists in '15, '16, and '17 before joining the IHSA playoffs in 2018. The Angels varsity dance team was lead by head coach Kelsey Kunz and team members

JCA Wrestling finished in 3rd place at the IWCOA (Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association) Summer State Tournament. The IHSA State Tournament was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Third-Place trophy was the first-ever state trophy in program history. The Hillmen were led by IWCOA Class 2A Individual State Champions Shay Korhorn, Gylon Sims, and Dillan Johnson. Junior Owen O'Connor finished on the podium as well in

third place. JCA senior Dean Hamiti, Jr. was denied an opportunity to become one of only a handful of IHSA athletes to capture four-consecutive individual state championships. Hamiti was a three-time IHSA state wrestling champion, but reported early to the University of Wisconsin, where he is on scholarship, after the winter wrestling season was postponed. Hamiti was named the 2021 Illinois National Wrestling Hall of Fame Dave Schultz High School Excellence Award Winner, one of the most prestigious prep wrestling awards nationwide.

The Hilltopper Football program went a perfect 6-0 during the abbreviated COVID-19 high school spring season. The Hilltoppers were led by seniors Devean Washington (U.S. Naval Academy), Jabril Williams (West Point), Pat Strocchia (Drake), William Berry (Northern State), Ja'Arie Mack (Northern State), Anthony Kasper (Northern State), and Jake Dixon (Northern State). At press time the fall Hilltoppers were on a program 12-game winning streak at 6-0 and ranked No. 1 in several IHSA Class 4A polls, and in the top 3 regardless of class in several statewide polls.



Tax Credit Scholarships at JCA



A letter from Empower Illinois President Anthony Holter

There are few decisions parents and guardians make that are more important and more consequential than where they send their children to school. I know this is true for the families who carefully discern their enrollment at Joliet Catholic Academy. And for many of these families, the tax credit scholarship support they receive from Empower Illinois, thanks to many generous donors, is the difference between preparing for a new school year with certainty or with doubt, with joy or with trepidation, with a choice in where and how their kids are educated or without one.

At Empower Illinois, we believe like you do, that all kids should have access to their best-fit school regardless of family income or ZIP Code. And the Invest in Kids Act Tax Credit Scholarship Program is the exact kind of policy and program that can expand these quality education options at scale for students with the greatest need. None of this is possible, though, without great school partners like Joliet Catholic Academy. The work teachers, staff, and administrators do within the classroom and throughout the community is proof-positive that a caring school environment is making a profound impact in the lives of students—our future leaders—and in the world.

And we need your support, your voice, and your stories now more than ever to protect and expand the Invest in Kids Act Tax



Credit Scholarship Program for JCA Hilltoppers right now and for generations to come. You can make a difference in three easy steps:

1. Make a donation: All donations, no matter how small or big, make a difference and are eligible to receive a 75% state tax credit. Yes, a credit. So, if you make a gift of \$100 you get a \$75 credit against your state income tax liability. [www.empowerillinois.org/donate]

2. Tell a friend: A recommendation from a trusted friend or respected community member is the most effective way to grow the Tax Credit Scholarship Program. And feel free to contact us directly if you or your friend have questions about the program. [www.empowerillinois.org/contact-us]

3. Contact your legislator: Letting your elected officials know that you—a constituent, a neighbor, a community member—believe in and support this program is essential for building broad, bi-partisan support for the Invest in Kids Act. Nervous about taking the first step? Don't be. We have an easy template for you to complete in less than three minutes [www.empowerillinois.org/engage]

I want to personally thank our friends at Joliet Catholic Academy and the many generous donors who partner with us in support of the Tax Credit Scholarship Program. Our shared work and mission are making a difference for so many deserving students and their families.

With Gratitude,

Anthony Holter
President, Empower Illinois



KIDS ONLY GET ONE CHANCE AT A QUALITY EDUCATION

Empower Illinois expands quality education options for low-income and working-class families of Illinois by granting scholarships to students attending private schools.

Empower Illinois is the state's largest and most comprehensive Scholarship Granting Organization.

To date, Empower Illinois has raised more than \$100M and awarded more than 15,000 scholarships.

You can make charitable investment in kids through Illinois' Tax Credit Scholarship Program.

DONATE THROUGH EMPOWER ILLINOIS

- A Scholarship Granting Organization
- Eligible for a 75% state tax credit



SCHOLARSHIPS

- Donate to the school of your choice
- For low-income and working-class students
- More than 16,000 scholarships awarded

Who Your Donation Helps

- Low-income and working-class kids across the Joliet area
- Provide K-12 scholarships to quality, private schools
- 20 scholarships provided at JCA for over \$250,000 in 2019-2020
- 137 current and prospective JCA students on the Wait List qualified to receive scholarships

How It Works

- Donate through Empower Illinois, the state's leading Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO)
- By donating through an SGO, such as Empower Illinois, you earn a 75% STATE TAX CREDIT

Why Donate Through EI

- You can direct your donation to the school of your choice
- EI partners with more than 600 schools and the Diocese of Joliet Catholic Schools
- Increase your impact through a larger donation, as you receive a 75% tax credit to offset your tax liability

What's Next

- Contact Empower Illinois' Donor Helpline at 800-616-7606 or donors@empowerillinois.org
- Visit the Empower Illinois website: www.empowerillinois.org/donate



Tax Credit Scholarship and Donor Stories

Scott Dvorak

"I'm a father of eight kids. They range from like kindergarten to high school and there's really no way that we can afford to pay for eight kids in Catholic school. My wife is a teacher with the Diocese, and I work in sales, so the scholarships have really helped our family.

"They're smart kids and they do really well in that school environment. It's really good for them. It's helped help them really grow academically and personally as well."

"For our kids, Catholic schools are the best option available. So having the [Invest in Kids] scholarship has really helped us be able to afford it. We received it last year for Saint Andrews and that made it a little bit easier for us to be able to help get the other kids through Joliet Catholic this year."

"Two of our kids made National Honor Society at JCA, which is an achievement."

Scott Dvorak
Salesman
Joliet, Illinois



Karen Dvorak

"To be honest, I've taught in the public school system, private school system and we home school a little bit here and there as well. The best of all three of those worlds has been the Catholic school system in terms of the academics and the way they tend to care for our children in addition to their faith. It's important to us to keep them in that kind of environment where they're with other children who are comfortable to talk openly about their faith."

"We feel it's a secure environment for them to grow their faith surrounded by people who care about their growth academically, personally and spiritually. This is the best option for them, so we have them go through it as best as we can, and we're grateful for those opportunities to be able to do so."

"We have two sets of twins, so four that are in the same school. The scholarships are so important to us for the opportunities they afford us. It's a double whammy when we try to do things, so having the scholarships means more to us than people even realize."

"Especially with a family as large as ours, the scholarships are invaluable to provide us extra wiggle room not only for our day-

to-day expenses, but also the things that come with our children growing up, such as driver's educations or car insurance."

"They help us take care of those incidentals. For example, I broke my arm recently and fortunately we don't have to choose between paying for the recovery or our children's education. It does still get tight at times. But again, we're grateful that someone out there has made it a little bit easier for us to accomplish all this."

"When we're helped with scholarships, we see it as an opportunity and a gift and in turn we find ways to give back, not only to those schools but to the community however we can. So, we see the scholarships as an investment, too, because the kids are going to be good citizens beyond just schooling."

"Scholarships have a greater impact beyond investing in the tuition, but they teach the students valuable lessons about giving back to help others."

Karen Dvorak
Teacher
Joliet, Illinois

Allie Quigley - Donor Perspective

"When you get older, you talk about your education growing up and people ask, 'Did you go to Catholic School your whole life?' And I think, 'I did.' It's really cool. It's kind of rare."

"I literally went to Catholic school from third grade even through college. I went to DePaul. So, I think growing up, I took it for granted. I didn't realize how special it was, the family atmosphere and the lifelong friendships I got from going to a Catholic school. And I think a lot of people, you know, they don't get to experience that."

"I feel like we were lucky. My brothers and sister and I were able to get scholarships to have a Catholic education. We lost our dad when we were young and my mom, a young mom herself, took care of us four kids. I think we were all under 7 years old at that time."

"It was really important for her and my dad for us to go to a Catholic school. He was from a family of faith and all of them went to the same Catholic schools. I think it was just really special that we were able to still do that with the help of these donations. I think it's just something that I took for granted, and maybe I didn't even realize that we had help."

"When you're young, you don't ask these kinds of questions. You just think, 'This is life. I get to do this and have this opportunity.' So, being older, it just makes me appreciate that we had generous people that were able to help us get through those tough times and give me these memories that I will cherish forever."



Tax Credit Scholarship and Donor Stories



Allie Quigley- continued

"When thinking about my childhood and my experience at St. Pat's and Joliet Catholic, and even DePaul, I have so many great memories. And I think that's really centered around the traits of a Catholic school, whether it's a smaller atmosphere or that it's more family-oriented."

"I think it's really important to have that opportunity for families that may have the same kind of struggles that we had whether it's a single-parent household or maybe one of the parents lost a job or just be it the fact that wherever you grew up economically, I think it's important that everyone has that opportunity to have an amazing education."

"I started learning about [the Invest in Kids Scholarship Tax Credit Program] maybe a year or two ago. Once I learned what it was about, it kind of made me think back to my childhood, realizing how much scholarships helped me. So, the Empower Illinois tax credit program is something that really hits home for me, personally, and for my family and my brothers and sister."

"To be able to know that someone helped us, even if they gave just a little bit, giving however much you can give, I feel like it's so important to be able to help other families the way we were always helped. And it just feels really good to be able to give back in that way."

Alexandria "Allie" Quigley
Professional basketball player, Chicago Sky
Deerfield, Illinois

Bose Clodfelter

"We're a family of four: myself, my husband, Andre, and our boys, Aiden and Jordan. Jordan was in public school for four years, and it wasn't really a good experience for him. There was a lot of bullying going on and a lot of overcrowding in the classroom. Because of the larger-sized classroom, he wasn't given a lot of attention, and he didn't excel really well."

"That was a unique situation for me to handle because I really wasn't familiar with it. While I grew up in the inner city of Chicago, I went to Catholic schools."

"Some parents told me I didn't have to send my children to private school because they would still get the same education in public schools, but that was not accurate."

"I told my husband: 'I'm not going to [keep them in public school]. This is too important.' So we pulled him out and decided on private school. And immediately we saw the change in my son:



his grades, his personality, just everything improved."

"When Jordan went to St. Paul, he was given more attention because he was in a smaller class, and he was given that foundation of spirituality, which was very important for our family. Aiden, our youngest, he started out with that foundation which was really great, and we were able to kind of continue that culture and foundation at home. So, it was helpful for our family and our family bond to carry over the same values at home and in school."

"My husband went to public school, so this was something new for him to kind of learn about the meaning and the importance of religion and its usefulness when implemented into the school environment, as well as the benefits of the small classroom environment for our children."

"There was a lot of growth within our family and for my husband, also, through being able to experience that unique family system that was brought about with a family-integrated school system. Because of the small classroom sizes and family community, everyone is kind of familiar with everyone, and everyone does their best to kind of help everyone. So, that kind of system really helped my husband, too."

"Andre was laid off a few years ago and the same year my father was murdered. We went through a rough patch, and we were awarded the scholarship that year. That was the first year that we were awarded our scholarship. So, it actually came at the perfect time."

"Then we were recipients again the following year, which was really a blessing. We didn't really think that we were going to be able to get it. My son was nervous. We were all nervous, and we got on the computer and we were waiting in line. We prayed, and we were in shock when we managed to get it. [My son] said, 'Wow, we got it,' and I said, 'Yeah, we got it.'"

"With the scholarship, Jordan was able to attend high school at Joliet Catholic, which was his first choice. And that is something that he is looking forward to for his sophomore year, so we have applied again. But of course, high school is expensive. It's an expensive school to attend. Private school is very expensive, so we need all the help and support that we can get."

"I always say, we pay property taxes, but we don't attend the schools in our district and that's kind of unfair because I believe our money should go to wherever our kids go."

"We are investing in our children's education, and that money should be allocated where we choose for them to get the education that we would like for them to receive."

"I think that it's very important for people to have the ability to donate to the tax credit scholarship program because they care about the educational needs of the community and that people have the choice and a right to get the education that they want for their children. These schools need to remain in existence to allow families the freedom to select the best education for their child."

"It's very important that politicians allow this tax credit to continue so my family can have the opportunity to be a part of a school system where our children and my family as a unit thrives."

Bose Clodfelter
Physical therapist
Joliet, Illinois



Alumni Updates



JCA Alumni and Friends Golf Classic

Thank you to Cog Hill Golf & Country Club for playing host to another successful JCA Alumni and Friends Golf Classic. The weather was beautiful and the 19th hole barbecue was enjoyed by all 155 golfers.

The Jeff Rzasa, Jack Brascia, Scott Shannon and Krystal Wyss foursome took the high honors in a USGA scorecard playoff winning at 14-under par.

Longest Drive Men's went to Justin Boyter and Longest Drive Women's went to Krystal Wyss

Closest to the Pin Men's went to Brian Legan and Closest to the Pin Women's went to Krystal Wyss.

A big thanks to our major sponsors Edward Jones, Ed Dollinger '81, Mark Karner '83, Matt Schimanski '98 and Warren Lindsay '00 and The Laina and Tom Kennedy '83 Charitable Foundation. We appreciated the support from ALL our sponsors as well as the volunteers!

"It was really great to see our devoted alumni along with our parents and community supporters," said Sue Bebar, Director of Alumni. "Looking forward to next year already!"



Reunion Updates for the Fall of 2021



JCHS Class of 1956 – The gentlemen celebrated their 65th Class reunion on Saturday, August 7 at the Jacob Henry Mansion Estate. The event began with Mass at 4 pm celebrated by our very own Fr. Jack Welch O.Carm. and followed by a group photo and ended with cocktails and dinner. Lots of memories were shared and new ones made. Big thanks to Ralph Haldorsen for all his hard work in organizing the class reunion. Additionally the class made a very generous gift to JCA that will go towards tuition assistance.

Class Reunions are being held throughout the fall of 2021. Events that did not occur before the Tradition Magazine publication deadline will be included in the Spring 2022 mailing. Please contact JCA Director of Alumni Relations Mrs. Sue Bebar at sbebar@jca-online.org with reunion recaps or updates on future reunions. The most up-to-date reunion information can be found on the JCA website and social media channels.



SFA Class of 1959 – It was an 80 year-old CELEBRATION! The ladies met at their favorite spot, Al's Restaurant in Joliet on July 21, 2021 for lunch and laughs. Special thanks to Jan Gawenda for keeping her girls together year after year!

JCHS/SFA Class of 1980 – It was a 40 + 1 celebration!! And it did not disappoint. This incredible committee planned for a weekend beginning with the annual golf outing at Inwood Golf Course on Friday. The party continued on Saturday at the Joliet Moose Lodge #300. Many extra efforts were made to make this a very special and meaningful celebration. Well done 1980 planning committee! Well done.



Save the Date/Upcoming Events

JCA's 37th Annual Jubilate Derby

AND THEY'RE OFF

At Bolingbrook Golf Club in Bolingbrook, Illinois, the 37th running of the Jubilate Derby will fly out of the gate on **April 2, 2022**. The first leg of the Triple Crown races begins at 6:00 p.m. followed by dinner, dancing, bidding and betting.

Our 2022 Jubilate Chair-couples are:
Nicole & Mike Murray
Katie & Ed Michel

These winning jockeys will be "Chomping at the Bit" to show you a winning race and raise tons of money for our JCA students.

Treat yourself and be a part of this winning team by joining the Jubilate Committee. "Hands Down" you will have the time of your life making your JCA track appearance!!!!

Joliet Catholic Academy's annual Jubilate is a celebration of the JCA community and the largest annual fundraising event put on by the school, parents, alumni, and friends.

Please contact Trainer Chris Voss with questions (815-773-0784).

JCA Open House for Prospective Students and Families

Sunday, November 7, 2021

Thursday, November 11, 2021



JCA High School Placement Test For current 8th graders

Prospective students can register online to take the JCA HSPT at www.jca-online.org/apply.

Saturday, December 4, 2021



1200 N. Larkin Avenue
Joliet, Illinois 60435

In Memoriam

With heartfelt condolences, we acknowledge the passing of the following members of our JCA family:

1940

Marie J. (Juricic) Gulas

1942

Phyllis M. (Stukel) Bernhard

Glenn J. Masek

Leon D. Mowrer

1943

John F. Quigley

1944

Richard F. Kostelz

1945

Dolores M. (Terlep) Colabuono

Lloyd W. Schneider

Joseph J. Wallace

1946

Margaret T. (Scully) Futterer

1948

Roy E. Duchene

Richard J. Kuban

George L. Schmidt

1949

Christopher A. Lachowski

Herbert J. Moore

Olga (Czerkies) Schmidt

1950

Lorraine A. (Jakubczyk)

Jackinoski

George W. Lehman

Lois M. (Ernst) McCann

Phyllis M. (Buttles) Rapcan

1951

Richard A. Arambasich

Mary Ann (Wolf) Barton

Sr. Anna M. Konrath, O.S.F.

James E. McGuire

1952

Marilyn L. (Yackley) Arends-Twait

Genevieve E. (Klimek) Houck

1953

Emery J. Pisut

Frances (Jacksa) Schultz

1954

Sybella (Marso) Bajt

Richard T. Roach

Shirley A. (Restaino) Smith

Thomas J. Weberg

1955

Edward T. Ferretti

Joseph E. Kirin

Geraldine (Dunn) Leinenweber

1956

Robert A. Mandel

Rosemarie J. (Cambruzzi) Nickl

JoAnn (Planinc) Sak

Barbara A. (Mihelich) Yattoni

Barbara A. (Coppedge) Zelko

1957

Marianne C. (Bertino) Crater

Mary J. (Stalker) Knowles

Lynne M. (Gomora) Lichtenauer

1958

Rita C. (Kehlenbach) King

1959

Mary L. (DeSignor) Bozich

Catherine M. (Burns) Cavallero

Janice M. (Biegun) Latz

Richard J. Sako

Gerald F. Scholtes

Jacqueline L. (Rogers) Stukel

Joseph R. Stukel

1960

William R. Kinzler

Marlene M. (Spreitzer) Schwab

1961

Mary Joyce (Wolf) Curbis

Margaret O. Dockendorf

Lorraine A. (Barney) Galick

1962

Nancy J. (Vogt) Davies

Robert C. Freis

Roger T. Mammosser

Robert T. Spreitzer

1963

Kenneth M. Koletto

1964

Robert L. Baudek

Cathy A. (Zalar) Boyle

James J. Rogan

1965

Margaret A. Bogner

Donald C. Karcz

Mary A. Maloney

Robert J. Schultz

1966

William F. Blackburn

Paul J. Kennedy

Donald T. Kestel

Robert P. Puleo

Karen L. (McLaughlin) Thomas

Thomas R. Ziesmer

1967

James A. Melcher

1969

Jean A. (Fitzgerald) Hooks

Donna (Paul) O'Brien

Robert J. Stworzyjanek

1970

Marianne D. (Bartolomei) Colombo

Joseph C. O'Donnell

1971

William J. McKeon

Louise R. Murphy

1972

Joseph L. Stengele

1975

Judith A. (Donnelly) Lee

Jane (Riehl) Lopez

1977

Susan A. (Voitik) Horvat

John R. Jensen

1978

James M. Stratz

Kathleen M. Walsh

1979

Sharon R. Lawrence

Suzanne (Peyla) Aimaro

1980

Michael P. McQuillan

1982

Michael DiMaio

1984

Daniel J. McCanna

1985

Mark S. Plyer

1986

Amy J. Szczepaniak

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

STAY CONNECTED
www.jca-online.org • (815) 741-0500

