The fourth quarter closing last school year of our building and move to remote learning was a difficult experience for every school, but especially a Catholic school. As a Catholic school, we pride ourselves on building community and being present and engaged with each other. We know that we are STRONGER TOGETHER and that became our motto for the 20-21 school year. That bond has led to an outstanding start to this school year. In a time where some Catholic schools are closing around the country, we are experiencing great success. Enrollment has increased from last year and we are in the first year of a new career education program. Our campus ministry program is growing and having a positive impact on the faith lives of our students and our teachers. I am proud of the Catholic identity of our school and the outstanding academic and extra-curricular programs our school offers. We are determined to make sure our students have a great experience and not let COVID-19 derail us. That determination comes from knowing we are STRONGER TOGETHER!

Jeff Ohnoutka, Scotus President

I know you believe in our school and in our service to the Church and I ask you to support Scotus Central Catholic through our SEF 16 campaign, “Stronger Together.” As of October 15, the campaign has pledges and donations totaling $905,165 of the campaign goal of $1,275,000. Please consider joining me by offering a three-year pledge of support for our school and you will accomplish these important and essential goals:

A. **Main Goal**: Provide tuition assistance to every student attending Scotus over the next three school years.

B. **Stretch Goal #1**: Help us respond to the pandemic with important safety measures including touchless faucets, auto flushers, hot water heaters, stairwell windows that can be opened to improve ventilation, LED lighting and moving our attendance desk next to the school’s main entrance for screening everyone entering the school.

C. **Stretch Goal #2**: Install a new hardwood floor in the Dowd Activity Center. The original 1980 floor has only 2-3 years of usable service remaining and this will be a perfect time to recognize coach John Petersen and his former staff’s accomplishments by naming the floor the Coach John Petersen Court.

Our goals for SEF 16 really focus on continuing to provide an affordable Catholic education and improving the infrastructure of our building. Both of these goals are extremely important in helping us accomplish our mission as a Catholic school.

~ Jeff Ohnoutka, President
New Staff

Scotus welcomed six new staff members this fall and they are strong leaders in the classroom. Jill Brichacek is our new Guidance Counselor replacing Pam Weir, who retired last spring. Jill will also be an assistant coach for girls’ high school basketball and track. Brichacek grew up on a farm north of Schuyler, Nebraska and graduated from Schuyler Central High School. After high school, she attended Nebraska Wesleyan and earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology and a minor in coaching. Brichacek was attracted to Scotus because of our tight knit community. Jacob Duhey is a new English teacher. He teaches 8th grade literature and 11th grade English. He is also an assistant high school football coach and assistant junior high track coach. Duhey grew up in Mission Viejo, California and went to San Juan Hills High School. After high school, he attended Doane University and earned his bachelor’s degree in English. Additionally, he earned his Master’s in English from UNO. Duhey was attracted to Scotus because he learned to appreciate small classes while at Doane, and he said getting to know each student is an important aspect of education. Alex Meyer is a new Social Studies teacher. She teaches American History I and II. She is also an assistant high school volleyball and track coach. Meyer grew up in Superior, Nebraska and graduated from Superior High School. After high school, she attended UNL and earned her bachelor’s in secondary social science education. She was attracted to Scotus because of the teaching and coaching opportunities, along with the ability to live out and practice her Catholic faith.

Sam Rose is a new Math teacher, replacing Julie Blaser who retired last spring. He teaches 7th grade Math and Algebra I. He is also an assistant high school football coach and assistant junior high track coach. Rose grew up in Louisville, Nebraska and graduated from Louisville High School. After high school, he attended Concordia University and earned his bachelor’s in science and education with a math endorsement. Rose was attracted to Scotus Central Catholic because of its commitment to the success of students in academics and activities. Annie Sokol is a new Science teacher. She teaches 8th and 9th grade science. Sokol grew up in Duncan, Nebraska and went to Columbus High School. After high school, she attended UNL and earned her bachelor’s of science in animal science and also earned her master’s in secondary teaching with an emphasis in natural sciences. Sokol was attracted to Scotus because of the supportive staff, great student body and the ability to grow in her faith. Annie is married to Scotus graduate Pat Sokol ’96. Dana Ritzdorf is our new Campus Minister and she also teaches 8th grade Religion. Ritzdorf grew up in York, Nebraska and graduated from York High School. After high school, she attended Northwest Missouri State and earned her bachelor’s in elementary education. Ritzdorf was attracted to Scotus Central Catholic because of the strong community and the strong Catholic identity within the school.

Taylor Dahl, Marketing Director

Here and There...
-- Tell us What's Happening in Your Life!
E-mail to: jschueth@scotuscc.org Photos encouraged!

Worth Noting

- Seniors Benjamin Juarez Mendez, Camille Pelan, Madelyn Blaser and Emily Ferguson were named as this year’s Scotus Believers and Achievers. U.S. Bank® and the Nebraska School Activities Association sponsor this recognition program and the award winners at the state level will be announced later this fall.
- At half-time of the homecoming football game, l-r: Eugene “Geno” Williams, Monica Boeding ’10 and Ted Wemhoff, were introduced as this year’s new inductees of the Shamrock Athletic Hall of Fame.

BROOKE (OLMER) KRINGS ’14 – graduated on August 2, 2020 from the College of St. Mary, Omaha, with a Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies, MSPAS, PA-C. She is also certified by the National Commission of Certification of PAs. On September 18, 2020 Brooke married Tanner Krings and the couple now resides in rural Humphrey, NE.
Also at halftime of the homecoming game, Joe Puetz ’01 (left) and Nick Puetz ’97 (right) were recognized as this year’s Alumni of the Year. Shown with Joe and Nick are their parents Judy & Gary Puetz.

The Scotus boys had 2 medalists at the Class C UNK Cross Country Invite and won the team title. Michael Gasper finished 15th and Ross Thorson finished 18th. The Scotus girls finished in ninth place and were led by Olivia Fehringer who finished in 8th place.

At the Centennial Conference cross-country meet, the Scotus boys won the title with Nick Schultz finishing 5th, Ben Juarez – 7th, Ross Thorson – 8th, Michael Gasper – 11th and Caleb Schumacher – 27th. In the JV division, Scotus freshman Logan Erickson finished in 1st place, Alex Medina – 4th, Chris Adame – 22nd and Evan Ostdiek – 30th.


The Scotus girls’ golf team won the Centennial Conference Golf Meet in Lincoln with a team score of 372, just edging out Lincoln Christian by one stroke. Shamrock medalists included: freshman Cecilia Arndt - 1st; junior, Alaina Dierman - 6th; sophomore, Ella Nahorny - 11th; junior, Abee Hutchinson - 14th and senior, Jaelyn Podolak - 19th. Later in the season Cecilia Arndt was the first place finisher at the Scotus Invite and carded a score of 74. She tied Jacy Gasper's 2010 school record for 18 holes of golf. The team placed third at Districts and qualified for the state tourney where Cecilia finished in 9th place and as a team Scotus also finished in 9th place.

The 40th annual Gala dinner/auction will be held on Saturday, April 17, 2021. This is the school’s largest annual fundraiser and all proceeds are used to balance the annual budget and keep tuition expenses low for our school families. Shamrocks from around the world can participate by donating items for the auction, bidding online for silent and super silent auction items and purchasing a Gala lottery ticket for the $12,000 lottery first prize. If you have an item to donate, or wish to receive an invitation to attend the event, contact Janice Rosenquist in the Scotus development office: 402-564-7165 ext. 154 or jrosenquist@scotuscc.org.

Senior Ava Kuhl signed her letter of intent to play basketball at Doane University. Pictured above with Ava are her parents Rusty & Andrea and to her left is Doane women’s head coach Ryan Baumgartner.

The Scotus chapel’s pews were refinshed and fitted with kneelers late this summer and they are a beautiful part of the remodeled chapel. Remodeling also included new carpet and LED lighting.
• At halftime of the October 2nd game, former Scotus president, Wayne Morfeld was recognized with Scotus Central Catholic’s 2020 Outstanding Service Award.

• Last spring the officers of Shamrock Club and Scotus Mothers agreed to join forces and pool their resources to form the new Scotus Booster Club. This new organization will perform the functions of the past clubs and more. The Club is excited to welcome all parents and Scotus supporters as it begins this new venture together in support of our students

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**New Prayer Box**

Standing outside of the Scotus Central Catholic High School Chapel entrance is a beautiful bronze Prayer Box. It is a symbol of a community that will open their hearts to you in prayer. We extend a far reaching invitation to anyone seeking God’s love and mercy, grace and peace, to place a heartfelt prayer request inside the Prayer Box.

Whatever season of life or faith journey you may be experiencing, we will prayerfully embrace your prayer request. As the Prayer Box becomes full, we will place your prayer request in a sacred place and will continue to pray for you, always.

We offer a note of gratitude to Fred Hoppe, bronze sculptor, for designing and creating the prayer box. We are most appreciative for the financial support from the Scotus Class of 1999, the Scotus Booster Club and the Knights of Columbus Council 938.

A prayer community is forming and they invite all of you to pray for the intentions placed in the prayer box.

Karen (Gdowski) Mroczek ’73, Prayer Box Project

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**Striv**

Starting this fall Scotus Central Catholic home activities will be live streamed via Striv! We are excited to provide the Shamrock Nation another avenue of watching Scotus games and activities—especially for the alumni, supporters and families outside of Columbus! Striv provides an outstanding streaming service for over one hundred Nebraska high schools. Not only does this give our students competing in a basketball game or the band concert a larger audience, Striv also gives our students real life experiences working with different types of technology, learning elements of a broadcast, video production, media and so much more. This was a huge selling point for Scotus to join the #StrivCommunity. Scotus also plans to offer marketing benefits to our advertisers in the Dowd Center through our Striv events. Save this link and access our live streams of activities during the school year!

https://striv.tv/channel/columbus-scotus/

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• 129 Scotus Students participated in the 2020 Life Chain in Columbus on Respect Life Sunday.
The 13th Annual Shamrock Open was another success even with challenges presented by the pandemic. Originally set for June 6, 2020 the event was eventually moved by tourney organizers, Nick Puetz ’97 & Joe Puetz ’01 to July 25th. Fifteen foursomes competed for the tourney’s outstanding flight and flag prizes. An outdoor sack lunch dinner concluded the afternoon’s activities at Tiburon Golf Course in Omaha.

Capturing first place in the first flight and given the traditional honor of wearing the coveted Shamrock Open Jackets were, l-r: Jeff Herdzina ’94, Mike Shotkoski ’94, Shawn Reid and Jason Mielak ’94. Even with reduced participation, the tourney provided a day of entertainment and camaraderie and also raised $10,674 to support improvements for the Scotus athletic department.

Platinum Sponsors:
- Atlas Retirement Planning & Wealth Preservation (Joe Puetz ’01)
- BD Construction (Chris Langan ’96)
- Dignity Advisors (Dan Beller ’97)
- Exit Big (Jeff Herdzina ’94)
- First National Bank Omaha (Chad Gonka ’96)
- Fusion Medical (Tony Korth ’05)
- Malibu Homes (Mike Shotkoski ’94)
- Northwest Electric (Kyle Fritz ’03)
- Northwestern Mutual (Nate Karges’96)
- Gary & Judy Puetz Family
- Protiviti (Nick Puetz ’97)

Green Sponsors:
- Bull Moose (Neal Suess)
- Children’s Dentistry of Council Bluffs (Joe Quattrocchi ’91)
- Elks Country Club (Mike VunCannon)
- Gerry & Kathy Engelbert Family
- Lutz Financial (Justin & Nicole Sand ’93 Vossen)
- Mahan Family (Bill & Alex Mahan)
- Obrist & Company (John Obrist ’96)
- Scotus Alumni/Alumnae Soccer (Jon Brezenski ’98)

Shamrock Open

Memorials

(Received between 7/10/2020 and 10/14/2020)

- MM John Whitehead
- MM Vern Young
- MM Rick Zoucha
- MM Gary Zywiec
- Class of 1985

Mary (Kretz) Crumley ’71
- MM Dan Bowmaster
- MM John Clark
- MM Mary Feehan
- MM Dean Foltz
- MM Bob Kretz
- MM George Kretz
- Mary Kretz
- MM Richard Nosal
- MM Marv Papa
- MM Bill Wondra
- Nieces & Nephews

Don Gokie
- MM Rick Zoucha

Cecilia Heimann
- MM James Fehringer
- MM Ed Heimann
- MM Bob Rickert
- Friends & Family

Joseph Keiter
- MM John Schueth

Mary (Hughes) Mertz ’64
- MM Chuck Hagel
- MM Mike McCoy

George Pelster
- MM Gary Puetz
- MM Jack Young

Helen Podraza
- MM Dave Duren
- MM Larry Sleddens
- MM Rick Zoucha

MLM Leland “Bud” Sackett
- MM Pat Sackett
- MM Jeff Pekarek

Teresa (Tworek) Schwank ’45
- Janet Brezenski
- MM Mike Placzek
- MM Tom Zabawa

Carol (Starostka) Seim ’60
- MM Ted Starostka

Virginia (Miller) Sindelar ’54
- MM Larry Sleddens

Charles Stuart
- Gene Konwinski
- Edna (Stempek) Sutko
- Janet Brezenski
- MM Larry Dohmen

Chad Swierzek ’89
- MM Travis Bock
- MM Boyd Jones
- MM Greg Van Dyke

Jayne (Uphoff) Westering ’70
- Jolene Wojcik

Cec Williams
- MM Keith Brown
- Carroll Ebner
- MM Jim Feehan
- Loretta Feehan
- Mary Feehan
- Dave Harrington
- MM Henry Heimann
- Elaine Kuntenbach
- MM Jeff Pekarek
- MM Gary Zywiec

John Willis
- MM Al Beiermann
Alumni/nae Soccer Tourney

The 13th Annual Scotus Alumni Soccer tournament was held on August 7-8, 2020 at the Warren and Shirley McLaughlin Activity Field. There were 129 players in the men’s and women’s tournament (91 men and 38 women.) There were nine men’s teams - six in the Green Division and three in the Gold Division. The women fielded four teams.

This year’s winners were: Men’s Green Division – 2003/04/06, Sarah Henry, Kara (Kudron) Scotus Boys Head Coach PJ Miller.

Men’s Gold Division – 1992-95, Women’s Division – 1994-2002, 2020. The weekend concluded with an evening social at Sahara. A big thank you to our tournament sponsors, including Evan Trohholz (’98) Grounds Care, Runza and Joe Niedbalski ’97, Sahara and Jeff Thiele (’81) and Nicole Frauendorfer-Saalfeld (’04) and Mike and LaVonne Kaup. Next year’s tournament will be held August 6 and 7, 2021. Thank you to all who attended and participated in the weekend!

Green Division – Team of 2003-2012. Kip Kudron (’08), Austin Zach (’06), Wade Wemhoff (’03), Wes Zach (’04), Eric Puckett (’06), Kyle Fritz (’03), Joe Held (’04), Chad Trohholz (’04), Chris Schumacher (’06) and Jake Huss (’12)

Gold Division – 1992-95. Scott Rogers, Grace Diederich, Sam Diederich, Shawn Diederich (’92), Kyle Diederich (’95), Brian Wessel-Draper (’95), Matt Evans (’95), Michael Lange, Eric Beiermann (’94), Jason Brezenski (’95), Erik Hash (’94), Denny Sliva (’95) and Scotus Boys Head Coach PJ Miller.

Womens Division – 1994-02, 2020. Samantha Tonniges (’20), Scotus Girls Soccer Assistant Coach Bridget McPhillips, Kim (Codling) Brandenburg (’94), Katie (Korth) Severa (’02), Sarah Henry, Kara (Kudron) Perry (’98), Jordan Irisk, Amanda (Sackett) Sapcutt (’00), Lindsey Brezenski, Scotus Girls Soccer Head Coach Kristie (Korth) Brezenski (’98)

Chip Kaup Classic

The Fifth Annual Chip Kaup Classic was held on July 25th at The Elks Country Club. Nearly 100 golfers participated in the annual event that awards character based scholarships to both a senior boy and girl Scotus soccer player. Due to the generosity of the nearly 40 sponsors, the scholarships were increased for the fifth straight year to a total of $10,000. Congratulations to this year’s Chip Kaup Memorial Scholarship winners, Samantha Tonniges and Tyler Vaught, who were each awarded $5,000 to help with their college expenses! They are extremely deserving of the award and do a great job of representing the person for which the scholarships are named after. The tournament has three separate flights and the winners were:

- Chipper Flight - Fernando Nietfeld and Bryan Mecenthalberg
- Hacker Flight - Cabe Debower and Dalton Taylor ’17
- Ladies Flight - Shelby (Johnson) Schlautman ’10 and Steph (Levos) Johnson ’06

The Chip Kaup Classic committee continues to be humbled by the overwhelming support of the community and looks forward to carrying on this tradition well into the future. Next year’s tournament, also to be held at The Elks, is scheduled for April 24, 2021. To sign up or for more information, please e-mail ChipKaupClassic@gmail.com.

State Championship Celebrations

With the pandemic and because many Shamrocks played on both teams, it was decided to combine the individual 25-year celebrations for the 1995 volleyball team’s state championship and the 1995-96 girls’ basketball team state championships into a single recognition event. The combined celebration will be held on the evening of Friday, January 22, 2021 and both teams will be recognized at halftime of the Scotus girls’ varsity home basketball game with Fremont Bergan. Tip off time for the girls’ varsity game is 6:00 p.m. Come celebrate two chapters of the storied tradition of Shamrock athletics on this date and join the crowd as we chant, “Go Rocks!”

In Sympathy

We extend our sincere sympathy to the families of the following deceased alumni, alumnae and friends of Scotus Central Catholic.

Carolyn (Backes ’59) Cielocha - survived by daughter, Lisa ’85 (Todd ’85) Duren; sons, Mike ’79 (Kelli Lippstreu ’79), Tim ’81 (Caree), Darin ’88 (Sheila); sisters, Joan Kurtenbach, Joyce Wieser, Marilyn (Bill) Haney; brothers, Duane (Lois) Backes, Earl (Lenore) Backes, Ken ’58 (Jane) Backes, Bill ’61 (Ginny) Backes; sister-in-law, Sandy Backes; ten grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mary (Kretz ’71) Crumley – survived by her husband, Lester; son, Brian; sisters, Marge ’55 (Marvin) Papa, Marilyn ’60 (Bill) Wondra; brothers, George ’67 (Teresa), Robert ’69; sister-in-law, Mary Kretz; and many nieces and nephews.

Y’Vonne (Pfeifer ’48) Dineen – survived by daughters, Michele Stewart, Cheryl Dineen; sons Michael, John; six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Pictured above are tourney organizers and scholarship winners.

Fall 2020 SCOTUS ALUMNI NEWS
In Sympathy cont’d

Linda (Week) Galley – survived by her husband, Vincent ’54; daughters, Kim (Dan ’83) Korger, Lori Hall; sister, Karen Schumacher; brothers, Dennis (Dee), Jim; seven grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Cecilia (Pfeifer) Heimann – survived by daughters, Janet ’65 (Larry) Shriver, JoAnn ’69 (Jim) Spurgin, Mary Clare ’77 (Burry) Bruns, Laura ’83 (Bob) Laueneroth; sons, David ’71 (Tsuneiko), William ’73 (Teresa); sister, Mary Ann Tudy; sisters-in-law, Cathy (Henry) Pfeifer, Dee (Joe) Pfeifer, Pat (George) Heimann; brother and sister-in-law, Ben and Ethel Heimann; seventeen grandchildren and sixteen great-grandchildren.

Norma Konwinski – survived by her sister, Marian (Charles) Smith; sister-in-law, Elaine (Bierman ’58) Konwinski and several nieces and nephews.

David Moss ’66 honorary – survived by his wife, Mary (Kaltenbach); stepdaughter Kelly Reed; brothers, John (Stella), Robert ’70; many nieces, nephews, cousins; and two grandchildren.

Helen Podraza – survived by her husband, Ambrose; daughter, Stacey ’83 (Terry) Brockhaus; sisters, Lucille Beck, Collene (Richard) Murphy, Debra Carfield, Diane (Steve) Lickliter, Jaci (Mike) Peterson; brother, Ronald (Lue) Jensen; and sister-in-law, Patty Glidden.

Corrine (Sebek ’57) Rickner – survived by sons, Mike (Janelle) Rickner and Jim Rickner.

Teresa (Twork ’45) Schwank – survived by daughter, Jennifer (Marc) Desaulniers; sons, Todd (Diane), Tom (Jenny), Fred ’73 “Fritz” (Nancy); sister Angie ’40 Slovinski; nine grandchildren and eleven great-grandchildren.

Carol (Starostka ’60) Seim – survived by daughter, Michelle (Lance) Vines; sons, Price (Nancy), Wally (Stacey); sisters, Peggy ’67 (Ron) Pfeifer, Donna Wilch; brothers, Ted ’62 (Katie) Starostka, Wally (Lyn) Starostka, Tim (Arthd) Starostka; sister-in-law, Leslie (Steve) Jones; brother-in-law, Fred (Joanne) Seim; seven grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Wayne Seim – survived by his wife, Carol (Starostka ’60); daughter, Michelle (Lance) Vines; sons, Price (Nancy), Wally (Stacey); sister, Leslie (Steve) Jones; brother, Fred (Joanne); sisters-in-law, Peggy ’67 (Ron) Pfeifer, Donna Wilch; brothers-in-law, Ted ’62 (Katie) Starostka, Wally (Lyn) Starostka, Tim (Arthd) Starostka and seven grandchildren. Wayne passed on 7/14/2020 and Carol on 9/20/2020.

Virginia (Miller ’54) Sindelar – survived by daughters, Karen (Lee Kobza) Overturf, Connie (Tim) Foltz; sons, David (Christine Hennig), Mark (Tammy); sister, Janet (Norman) Zimmerman; nine grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

Jim Skalak – survived by his wife, Lois (Irwin ’66); daughter, Tracy (Jason) Lawrence; sons, Gregory, Steven (Donna), Daniel (Jill); brother, John; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In Memory of Chad Swierczek ’89

We wish to acknowledge with gratitude a gift from the estate of Chad Swierczek ’89. In his final plans Chad remembered his alma mater, Scotus Central Catholic High School with a gift in the amount of $9,000. Chad directed that half of his gift be invested in computer technology and half in athletic equipment. Chad’s support will touch the lives of every student at Scotus and we remember him and his family in our prayers. Chad’s parents are Dave ’70 & Mary (Murphy ’70) Swierczek and he is also survived by his children, Nicole (Kyer) Halpin, Natasha, Kaitlyn and Troy; his siblings, Stacy ’93 (Matt) Soward, Brett (Kim), JJ ’99 (Misty) and Adam ’02 (Ashley Bowns ’06), special friend, Becky Jorgenson, and many nieces and nephews.

Make your Scotus Investment the Easy Way!

Go to: www.scotuscc.org
Click on the “Donate” button

Complete the simple form and you’ve made your gift to accomplish so much for our students!
The 17th Biennial Shamrock Alumnae Volleyball Tourney Registration

The 17th Biennial Shamrock Alumnae Volleyball Tournament will be held on Saturday, November 28, 2020. Thanksgiving weekend.
Registration deadline is Monday, November 2. All Scotus alumnae are welcome & invited! Cost is $35 (checks may be made out to: Kim Dreesen or Venmo @Kim-Dreesen)

Please clip and send form to or contact for more information: Kim (Rickert) Dreesen, 362 S Deer Creek Pl, Columbus 402-290-6529 OR email: kkdreesen@yahoo.com Shanna (Melliger) Niedbalski, 3478 25th Ave, Columbus 402-276-4071 OR email: smniedbalski@gmail.com

Name: ____________________________________________ Year graduated __________

Address: ____________________________________________

Email: ______________________________________________

T-shirt size: S M L XL XXL (circle one)

At the conclusion of the tournament, a party will follow for all the players & significant others.

Class of 1980. The 40th reunion for the Scotus class of 1980 has been postponed to 2021. Please update your preferred e-mail and phone contact information by sending it to Mark Kurtenbach at: mark.kurtenbach@licor.com.

Class of 2010. Planning is still underway for this reunion.