Class of 2017
Ready to Make a Difference

Waldron (L97), Downey (R85)
& Feldmann (R98) inducted
into Hall of Fame

Parish, Business & Alumni
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Alumni News & More
XHS Class of 2017: Ready to Take Their Candle and Light the World!

On May 21, 2017, Xavier High School Board of Education president, Mike Schueller, presented diplomas to 173 graduating seniors from the Xavier High School Class of 2017.

The invocation was offered by Very Rev. Mark Ressler of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish while the benediction was offered by Rev. Kenneth Glaser of St. Ludmila Parish. Xavier principal, Tom Keating, addressed the graduates, recalling the many memories and accomplishments attributed to the Class of 2017 before telling them that now is the time for them to “take their gifts and share them with the world.”

Student body president, Jackson Schuster (X17), delivered the student address. Schuster also was the recipient of the “Outstanding Academic Achievement” award.

Continuing a recent tradition, graduates assembled on the main entrance stairs for their celebratory “hat toss.”

A New Tradition...

Earlier in May, the seniors established a new tradition of the “Senior Walk.” For The Walk, seniors returned to their Xavier Catholic School elementary schools in their caps and gowns to walk the halls, shake the hands of the elementary students, and visit with kindergarteners. The Senior Walk, which is done in conjunction with Xavier’s Senior Retreat, allows seniors to celebrate this special milestone. The Walk also inspires younger students and gives former teachers a chance to congratulate their former students before the seniors head off to begin the next chapter of their lives.

Worth the Investment...

The four-year combined total of scholarships offered to the Class of 2017 was more than $14.2 million.
The Legacy Lives On!

Each spring, we post our annual Legacy Board which celebrates our graduating seniors who are from families that have been a part of LaSalle, Regis, St. Wenceslaus, St. Patrick’s, Immaculate Conception, St. Patrick’s (Fairfax) and Xavier High Schools for multiple generations. The display demonstrates the family commitment to Catholic education in the Cedar Rapids area and the rich history from which Xavier High School was developed.

The physical display is posted outside of the Guidance Office at Xavier High School.

View the Legacy Board!
The online version of the complete 2017 Legacy Board can be found at XavierFoundation.org.

Thank you 2017 Business Appeal Donors!

"Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better, it’s not."
- Dr. Seuss

Thank you to our donors and volunteers for caring and donating their time and treasure to support the 2017 Business Appeal. Under the leadership of Duane Jasper, owner operator of Destinations Unlimited, and Dave Wright, owner operator of Dave Wright Nissan and Subaru Dealership, Xavier volunteers raised more than $140,000 for Xavier High School. It is because of the generosity of our community that we are able to provide quality education to our students. Thank you for caring a whole awful lot!
In May, the Xavier Foundation, bid a fond farewell to its executive director, Jody Pellerin, who is moving on to serve as the Director of Endowed and Planned Giving at the Kirkwood Foundation. The Xavier Foundation and Xavier High School thank Jody for her 18 years of service (13 with the Xavier Foundation and five with the Regis-LaSalle Foundation). Jody is only the fourth executive director to serve in the role since it was established in the mid-1970’s. Under her leadership, the Foundation has garnered much support, via its campaigns and various events, making it possible for Xavier to continue its mission of developing the total person in a Catholic environment.

As I prepare to end my tenure as Executive Director of the Xavier Foundation, I feel so blessed to have been a part of this incredible community for nearly two decades. I began my professional career as the Assistant Director of the Regis-LaSalle Foundation. I was so fortunate to be able to combine my newly acquired skills with my passion for Catholic education in a warm and welcoming community. Having the opportunity to work on the capital campaign to build Xavier High School and to be part of that exciting time in the history of our community has been a highlight of my career.

Blessings abound when after leaving the Regis-LaSalle Foundation to pursue other career opportunities, I was able to join the Xavier Foundation in 2004 as the Executive Director. It was the best Homecoming I have ever experienced. Since that time I have had the honor of working with outstanding staff, faculty, board members, parents, pastors and supporters. I have made friendships that will last forever, and together we have advanced the mission of the Xavier High School and provided thousands of students an outstanding education in a Catholic environment.

As I leave Xavier to take the role of Director Endowed and Planned Giving with the Kirkwood Community College Foundation, my prayers for continued success of this outstanding school and wonderful community of people are with you always.

-Jody Pellerin

On February 10, 2017, we welcomed three alumni into the LaSalle-Regis-Xavier Alumni Hall of Fame (pictured left to right): Matthew Feldmann (R98), Grady Waldron (L97), and Dave Downey (R85).

2017 Grandparents Mass

More than 350 grandparents joined us on April 21, for our annual Grandparents Day Mass. Mass was celebrated by Fr. David O’Connor from St. Joseph Catholic Church in Marion. This year, paper chains adorned our gymnasium with the names of grandparents of XHS students on them. Each link represented a grandparent who either joined us this morning in person or a grandparent who was with us in spirit.

Grandparents were treated to coffee and breakfast by Xavier Parents for Xcellence before joining their grandchildren for Mass.
Xavier Athletic Programs
Notch Three More State Titles

Xavier High School’s athletic programs have enjoyed much success during the 2016-2017 school year with team state qualifiers across many of its programs. The Saints added to the school’s rich history of success with three additional state championships in boys’ basketball, boys’ tennis and Jon Lansing and Charlie Esker claimed the 2017 Class 1A Doubles State Championship. The team titles represent the 31st and 32nd state championships for Xavier since the school opened in 1998. Since 2003, Xavier has won at least one IHSAA/IHSGAU state championship every year. Additionally, the Xavier band program earned Division I ratings at state competitions in all three facets (marching, jazz, concert) and the Xavier Dance Team was crowned state champions in the Class XI Pom Division at the Iowa State Dance Team Championships.
The Xavier Foundation’s first ever “Alumni Challenge” is nearing its conclusion, but it’s not too late for alumni to help their class win! Every LaSalle, Regis and Xavier High School graduating class was asked to “compete” against each other to see which class can have the highest percentage of classmates who contribute to the challenge. Funds raised through their generosity go directly to support the current students of Xavier High School.

We will crown our challenge champions on June 30, 2017. Follow Xavier on Facebook (facebook.com/XavierSaints), Twitter (@XavierSaints) or Instagram (“Xavier Saints”) or visit XavierFoundation.org to see who our winning class will be. The winning class will be treated to a reception at Xavier’s Homecoming football game on Friday, Oct. 6, 2017.

REMEMBER:
This challenge is for your class to have the highest percentage of classmates who give (not which class gives the most in total dollars). Gifts of every size make a difference!

ALUMNI: It’s NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!
Gifts may be made online at XavierFoundation.org/Donate, over the phone, by calling the Xavier Foundation at 319-378-4571 OR by mail, sending your gift to Xavier Foundation P.O. Box 10956 Cedar Rapids, IA 52410 (Alumni were mailed a return envelope/card earlier this year.)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHTS

**Tom Drish - R89**
Regis High School alumnus, Tom Drish (R89), was named the new Xavier High School Controller during the 2016-2017 school year. Drish comes to Xavier after serving as the Business Manager with REM Iowa and as the Controller with the Cedar Valley Catholic Schools prior to that.

**Fr. Dennis Conway (X09) & Jacob Rouse (X09)**
Fr. Dennis Conway (X09) (left) received the sacrament of Holy Orders and was ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, May 27th at St. Raphael’s Cathedral in Dubuque. Jacob Rouse (X09) (right) was ordained as a transitional deacon on Friday, May 26th.

**Josh Giles - X12**
Josh Giles (X12), recently opened “Total Rejuvenation” in Cedar Rapids as its owner. Total Rejuvenation features a variety of therapies for the mind, body and soul including flotation therapy, cryotherapy, and halotherapy. Total Rejuvenation is located at 1501 51st St NE.
 MORE ALUMNI NEWS...

Theresa Mally (L77) recently completed Boeing 777 training and is now flying internationally as a first officer for American Airlines.

Marty Hoeger (L91) recently announced plans to run for the Cedar Rapids City Council seat in the 1st District. Hoeger has been the president of the Cedar Rapids Neighborhood Development Corp. since 2010 and was a founding owner of the Sag Wagon Deli & Brew along Cedar Lake.

Dave Schulte (R79) was inducted into the Alerian Energy Hall of Fame in March for his work as co-founder of Tortoise Capital Advisors LLC. Schulte is currently the CEO for the Kansas City-based CorEnergy Infrastructure Trust.

Daniel Blank (R81) recently completed 26 years in public service and accepted the call to serve as the Director of Administrative Services for the Diocese of Superior, WI.

Ryan Jacobs (R94), University of Northern Iowa head softball coach, and his staff were named the 2017 Missouri Valley Conference “Coaching Staff of the Year” after leading the Panthers to a 33-19 record and the MVC Tournament title game.

Erik Seaton (R94) was recently engaged to Sara Engledow. The couple plan to be married on November 4, 2017 in Shueyville, IA.

Ellie Leonhart (R97) and Andrew Hughes were united in marriage on September 17, 2016 in Harrisburg, PA.

John Seidl (X02) and Kari Junginger were united in marriage on November 19, 2016 at St. Patrick’s Catholic Church in Iowa City, IA.

Levi Bridge (X04) is a current instructor of business administration and the director of the Master of Business Administration program at Southwest Baptist University. Levi earned his Ph.D. in April.

Matthew Smith (X04) and Margaret Glavinich were united in marriage on November 12, 2016 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Shawnee, KS.

Andrew Arp (X06) and Jessie Glenn were united in marriage on November 16, 2016 in Iowa City, IA.

Kristen Scholer (X07) is currently the senior anchor for Cheddar, Inc., a news network based in New York, covering business, tech, media, entertainment and culture.

Rachel (Gibson) Hanken (X08) was awarded the Iowa “Non-Masters Photographer of the Year Award” in January at the Professional Photographers of Iowa convention for her photos in the “Animal” and “Seniors” (in high school) categories.

Beth Siegel (X08) and Aaron Quinby were united in marriage on April 16, 2016 at St. Jude Catholic Church in Cedar Rapids, IA.

Kristin Soukup (X09) is currently at theology teacher at Xavier High School and plans to walk a portion of the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage this summer in Spain.

Corbin Woods (X13), senior baseball student-athlete at the University of Iowa was named Iowa’s 2017 “Sportsmanship Award” honoree. Woods hit a game-tying home run on Mother’s Day/Senior Day to help the Hawkeyes complete a comeback victory over Ohio State.

HAD A MAJOR UPDATE IN YOUR LIFE RECENTLY?
WE WOULD LOVE TO SHARE YOUR GOOD NEWS IN OUR NEWSLETTER!

If you’ve recently experienced a major positive event in your life such as a wedding, anniversary, birth of a child, promotion at work, retirement or other special announcement, please submit it for inclusion in our newsletter by calling us at 319-378-4571 or emailing nick.ireland@xaversaints.org.

IN MEMORY OF ALUMNI & FRIENDS

Richard Erlenbaugh (Former LaSalle faculty/coach) passed away on March 23, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Patti; son, Mark (Cason); daughter, Ann (Matt); and five grandchildren.

Bonnie (Houlahan) Schmelzer (L64) passed away on January 20, 2017. She is survived by her husband, Butch; daughters, Vicki & Julie (Eric); siblings, Robert (L65) (Judy) and Rose (R78) (James) Hammill; foster son, Sang (Ngoc); daughter-in-law, Kolby; 14 grandchildren; and many nephews & nieces.

Thomas Malloy (L67) passed away on February 10, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Sharon; children, Gerald (X03), James (Lisa), and Michael (X08); siblings, Gene (L71) (Marge McAleeer- R71), Kevin (L73) (Pam Smith - L79), Teresa (L74) (Bud) Fuller; Pam Miller (L76), Denise (L78) (Steve) Leas, Daniel (L79) (nanette), and Anthony (L81) (Becky); and many uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

Patrick Stallman (L69) passed away on March 2, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Linda; children, Michelle and Tracey (rev); siblings, Michael (L65), Jeff (Pam), Jim (L72) (Sheryl), Mary Rita (L67) (Andy) Meyers, Sandy (L75) (Gary) Cain, and Peggy (L79) (Nick) Sleichter; five grandchildren; and many uncles, nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Sue Ellen (Drew) Cooling (L80) passed away on March 1, 2017. She is survived by her husband, Kevin; children, Nick (X06) (Cassie), Chris (X07) (Becca - X07), and Lauren (X17); parents, Walt & Mary Ellen; siblings, Clark (Sandy), Kevin (Terri), Craig (Kris), Beth (L81) (Gus) Hartauer, Kurt (L86), and Kelly (Jill) (L87).

Mary Susan (Long) Ruckiza (R59) passed away on April 22, 2017. She is survived by children, Cathy (L80) (Mike) Gross, Chris (L82), Kevin (L83) (Debi), Melissa (L86) (Dave - L86) Dostal; siblings, Diane, Joan, Pam Kane (R61), Cindy Walker (63), Cathy Capra (R65), Pat Aziere (R64), Carol Martin (R67), Debbie Wilkinson, John, Lisa Farley, Mike, and Bridget Long.

Robert Barrett (R61) passed away on May 13, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Anita; daughter, Katherine (Dan) Hines; siblings, Anne (R63) (Phil) Haworth, and Patrick; four grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

RANDY Dvorak (R70) passed away on May 6, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Melinda; daughter, Theresa; stepchildren, Brad (Jackie), Matt, Amy (Tim), Todd (Holly), and John (Kelly); mother, Angelina (Trenda); siblings, Carla (Ed Neuhaus - L68), Gwen, June, and Cindy; and several nephews.

Kelly (Roberg) May (R73) passed away on April 13, 2017. She is survived by her husband & children; siblings, John, Mary Kay Lenzo, Jim (R62) (Carolyn), and Kevin (R69) (Cindy); and many nieces, nephews, in-laws, and friends.

Edward Shea (R75) passed away on January 28, 2017. He is survived by his mother; siblings, Kevin (R71) (Cathy), Gary (R74) (Sharon), Rob (R79) (Kristine), and John (R83) (Lara); and two nieces and four nephews.

Ronald Bennett (R77) passed away on March 12, 2017. He is survived by his mother, Ruth; siblings, Shawn (R76) West, Mark (Sarah), Dale (Anne), Kelley McNees, and Jeffery (Stacey); and many extended aunts, uncles, extended family and friends.

Mike Wright (R77) passed away on February 20, 2017. He is survived by his wife, Donna; children, Mikayla (Ryan) and Brandon; mother, Barbara; siblings, Jon (R75) (Mary), Jamie (R80) (Kris); and two nephews and three nieces.

June 2017 Issue
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Parents: If this issue of the Common Thread is addressed to your son or daughter who has established a permanent residence, please notify us of that new address.

Jody Ruff Pellerin  
Executive Director

Lynn Jump  
Annual Fund Director

Nick Ireland  
Director of Marketing

Officers  
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Ellen Bouchard  
Tom Hoffmann  
Barb Schmall  
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Michele Busse  
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Mike Gannon  
Tom Keating  
William McCartan  
Greg Neumeyer  
Jill Reicks  
David Schimberg  
Cynthia Sueppel

Board Emeritus  
Michael Stallman  
Gary Streit

LaSalle 1967 - 50th Reunion  
Saturday, August 12th, 2017  
St. Patrick Parish Center  
Contact Dan Sullivan  
dan.sullivan1@usbank.com

LaSalle 1977 - 30th Reunion  
Contact: Joni (English) Throlson  
jthrolson@mercare.org

LaSalle 1997 - 20th Reunion  
Save the Date: July 15, 2017  
Contact: Katie (Nelson) Dall-Winther  
Dq4katie@gmail.com

Regis 1967 - 50th Reunion  
Save the Date: September 22 & 23, 2017  
Website: regishighschoolclassof67  
https://sites.google.com/site/regishighschoolclassof67/

Regis 1972 - 45th Reunion  
September 29 & 30 2017  
Indian Creek Country Club  
If interested contact: Mike Corrigan - mikeandjerrecorrigan@gmail.com  
Jill Kach - teeth626@yahoo.com or  
319-560-4542  
Class Email - Regis Royals72@gmail.com  
Facebook - CR Regis Class of ’72

Regis 1977 - 40th Reunion  
Saturday September 2, 2017  
3:00 pm at the Ausadie Building  
845 First Avenue SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403  
Friday night pre-party  
6:00pm, Iowa Brewing Company  
708 3rd Street SE  
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403  
Email address: RegisHS1977@yahoo.com  
Facebook: Regis Royals Class of 1977