

For Alumni of St. Patrick, St. Patrick Central, Bishop McNamara High School,  
and Bishop McNamara Catholic School

# Irish Update



VOLUME 39, NO. 2 • SPRING 2021

## WE ♥ OUR TEACHERS



On behalf of the student body of Bishop McNamara Catholic School seniors, Patrick O'Brien '21 (son of Mike '92 and Nikki Hoevet '92 O'Brien); Adriana Lade '21 (daughter of Shawn '95 and Chasity Statler '95 Lade); Jessica Vickery '21 (daughter of Mike '85 and Sondra Vickery); along with President/Principal, Terry Granger '76, would like to express an extreme heart-felt thank you to all of our teachers! Educating our students during a global pandemic has been no small feat. The impact our teachers have goes well beyond the four walls of our school. We value all that they do, and we are all stronger because of their hard work and dedication.

## IRISH UPDATE

is published semi-annually  
(spring and fall)

### ALUMNI BOARD MEMBERS

#### **President**

Annie Provost '07 Rorabaugh

#### **Vice President**

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#### **Secretary**

Beth Olsen '75 Provost

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Tyler Provost '99 Pallissard

Tyler Boerschig '09

Mitchell Gerth '11

Emily Olszewski '12

Dave Roney '12

Kelsey Curwick '13 McGrath

#### **School Liaison**

Sandy LaMotte '82 Malpasuto

*Coordinator of Alumni*

*Special Events*

*Editor of the Irish Update*

## MISSION STATEMENT

The Irish Alumni Association unites more than 9500 alumni of St. Patrick, St. Patrick Central, Bishop McNamara High School, and Bishop McNamara Catholic School.

Our mission is to preserve the heritage that shaped our school, to foster the spirit of camaraderie among alumni and to support the mission and development of Bishop McNamara Catholic School.

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT/PRINCIPAL **Terry Granger '76**

Bishop McNamara Alumni and Friends,

Back in March of 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic caused us to close our schools and pivot to remote learning, we were challenged to figure out how to educate our students in a new way. Our faculty's dedication ensured that our students continued to receive an education of high academic standards even in a different environment. Then, as we prepared for the start of the 2020-21 academic year, our main goal and total focus was getting our students back in the building in a face-to-face learning environment. We achieved that goal which would not have been possible if it were not for the faculty and staff of Bishop McNamara Catholic School who have been nothing short of heroic.

The faculty began preparation in July by engaging with a new and comprehensive educational platform, Canvas, a web-based learning management system used for remote communication and access to online course learning materials. Even with extensive preparation, our teachers were still ready for challenges such as adapting their lesson plans to reach students in multiple situations - in-person or remote due to quarantine. Despite various learning environments, our teachers were still able to motivate and engage their students in new ways. Many teachers indicated that it felt like their first year of teaching again. This realization would have caused many to falter, but not our faculty.

There is no doubt that teaching in 2020-21 has been different. Our faculty has proven to the entire Bishop McNamara family that they are here for one reason and one reason only, the students. Our faculty understands that in-person learning is what is best for our students and it is exactly what our students need which is why they work so hard to make it happen. The Bishop McNamara faculty epitomizes what it means when someone says they went into teaching to influence the lives of their students because that is what they do on a daily basis.

On behalf of the Bishop McNamara Catholic School administration, I would like to publicly thank and recognize the faculty as well as the staff of Bishop McNamara for their tremendous commitment and dedication to our students. I would encourage all of you to do the same in your own personal way for without them we could not do the amazing things we do each and every day.

Peace and good health,

**Terry Granger '76**

President/Principal



## FROM OUR ALUMNI ASSOCIATION BOARD PRESIDENT **Annie Provost '07 Rorabaugh**

Dear Fellow Alums,

I hope this edition of the Irish Update finds you healthy and well. Since we last connected in the fall, our world and community have continued to be impacted by the COVID-19 global pandemic. At this time, we want to recognize and show our support for the teachers here at Bishop McNamara for the incredible job you have done with our students over the past year. Your flexibility, patience, and dedication have been remarkable. The Bishop McNamara community feels so blessed to have such committed individuals educating our children.

As an alum, I will never forget the relationships I built with my teachers at Bishop McNamara. Every single teacher was not only there to expand my academic knowledge but to teach me valuable life lessons. I look back on my high school days and appreciate all that my teachers did to prepare me personally and academically. Now, as I finish up my graduate degree, I have continued to utilize and benefit from the academic foundation I received while I was a student at Bishop McNamara. So, thank you, to the teachers at Bishop McNamara Catholic School who grace our classrooms. You positively impact the lives of your students every day.

On behalf of the Irish Alumni Association Board, we will continue to pray for the entire administration, faculty, staff and students at Bishop McNamara. We will pray for our fellow alums who are essential and frontline workers across the country. We will pray for all who have faced hardship or suffered loss this past year.

We look forward to crossing paths with many of you again soon.

Thank You and Go Irish!

**Annie Provost '07 Rorabaugh**

President, Irish Alumni Association



# WE OUR STUDENTS



**Terra Czako, 3rd Grade Teacher, Bourbonnais Site; Becky Poole '93 Williams, 2nd Grade Teacher, Bradley Site; Rebecca Czernik '94, Literature Teacher - Grades 7 and 8, Kankakee Site; Jack Roney, PE Teacher - Grades 8 through 12 and Guidance Counselor, Kankakee Site**

***The teachers and administration at Bishop McNamara Catholic School express extreme thanks to the students for their resilience, hard work, and positive attitudes displayed this past year!***

Terry Granger '76 ..... BMCS President  
Principal - High School and Jr. High

## **HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS, KANKAKEE SITE**

Tim Annis ..... Chemistry, Physics, Anatomy  
Amy Nelson '80 Bovie ..... Religion  
Grades 9, 10, 11  
Curtis Crossley '99 ..... Dean of Students  
Grades 6-12  
Diana Crowley ..... Art - Grades 7-12,  
Religion - Grade 9  
Jacqueline DesLauriers ..... Religion  
Grades 10, 12  
Eileen Eichelkraut ..... Honors Spanish 2,  
Spanish 2, 3, 4  
Sr. Maureen Fallon ..... Chemistry  
Asst. Principal of Curriculum and Instruction  
Bret Frazier ..... System Substitute Teacher  
Jim Giacchino '80 ..... World History,  
Honors World History, AP US History  
Elaine Gralak ..... English, Honors English  
Grades 9, 10  
George Hagemaster ..... Government, Economics,  
Sociology, US History, Accounting  
Aaron Hamilton ..... Athletic Director - High School  
April Heinrich ..... Social Worker - Grades 6-12  
Barbara Ikins ..... English - Grade 9, Resource  
Mary Johnson ..... Biology, Honors Biology  
Caitlin Malm ..... Honors Robotics,  
Honors Science and Engineering,  
Honors Chemistry, AP Physics, AP Chemistry  
Monica Nugent ..... Intro To Psych,  
Social Psychology, First Year College Experience,  
Guidance Counselor  
Heidi Ostrowski ..... Algebra 1, Honors Geometry,  
Math Analysis  
Jacob Quigley '16 ..... Algebra 1, Geometry,  
Algebra 2  
Jack Roney ..... PE - Grades 8-12  
Guidance Counselor

Alan Rood '98 ..... PE - Grades 6-12,  
Health Education - Grade 9,  
Athletic Director - Jr. High  
Patty Sullivan ..... English Lit, American Lit,  
Honors American Lit, AP English Lit  
Shelli Trevino ..... Spanish I, SNS, SNS II,  
Honors Spanish III, AP Spanish IV and V  
Tracey Valant ..... Honors Algebra 2,  
Honors Precalculus, AP Calculus, Honors Botony

## **JUNIOR HIGH TEACHERS, KANKAKEE SITE**

Nikki Bennett ..... Math, Science, Social Studies  
Grade 6  
Jamie Fender '97 Menard ..... Language Arts,  
Literature, Religion - Grade 6  
Bridget Bassett ..... Religion - Grades 7, 8  
Laura Contreras ..... Math - Grades 7, 8  
Resource  
Rebecca Czernik '94 ..... Literature - Grades 7, 8  
Cheryl Gaca ..... Writing, Language Arts  
Grades 7, 8  
April Langelett ..... Math - Grades 6, 7, 8  
Tammie Mesenbring ..... Science - Grades 7, 8  
Bradie Vaubel '13 ..... Social Studies  
Grades 6, 7, 8, Intro to Spanish - Grade 8  
Sue Goselin ..... Assistant Principal  
**PREK-3 - GRADE 5 TEACHERS, BOURBONNAIS SITE**  
Holly Laneville ..... PreK 3  
Mary Dorsey ..... Aide - PreK 3  
Jennifer Yeates ..... PreK 4  
Stephanie McGrath ..... Aide - PreK 4  
Sharon Skelly ..... Kindergarten  
Kimberley Horn ..... Aide - Kindergarten  
Kayleigh Malloy ..... 1st Grade  
Meghan Martin '82 Downey ..... Aide - 1st Grade  
Sharon Clark ..... 2nd Grade  
Terra Czako ..... 3rd Grade  
Cheryl Bevis ..... Aide - 3rd Grade

Andrea Riordan ..... 4th & 5th Grade  
Ehrin Villalobos ..... 4th & 5th Grade  
Laura Mroz '03 Moran ..... PE  
Ellyn Barzantrny ..... RTI, Resource  
Olivia Sproul '14 ..... RTI, Resource

Dana Berg ..... Principal  
**PREK-3 - GRADE 5 TEACHERS, BRADLEY SITE**  
Brenda Soukup ..... PreK 3  
Julie Meyr ..... Aide - PreK 3  
Danielle Martin '01 Shervino ..... PreK 4  
Pamela Krawiec ..... Aide - PreK 4  
Joy Watson ..... Kindergarten  
Ashley Segovia ..... Aide - Kindergarten  
Mary Palmer ..... 1st Grade  
Rebecca Poole '93 Williams ..... 2nd Grade  
Judythe Cotsones ..... Aide - 2nd Grade  
Brenda Patrick ..... 3rd Grade  
Esmeralda Elvir ..... 4th Grade  
Ashley Tetter ..... 5th Grade  
Kim Haigh ..... PE  
Amanda Fierce ..... RTI, Resource  
Dianne Klimchuk ..... RTI, Resource

## **TEACHERS AT MULTIPLE SITES**

Steve Langelett ..... Technology - Grades 7, 8  
Systemwide Director of Technology  
Amy Schinabarger ..... Band - Grades 4-12  
Stacie Knefelkamp ..... Choir - Bourbonnais Site,  
Jr. High, High School,  
Classroom Music - Grades 7, 8  
Leigh Ann McKenzie ..... Music  
Bradley Site and Grade 6  
Jennifer Stevens ..... Art  
Bourbonnais and Bradley Sites  
Jana Wunder ..... Technology  
Bourbonnais and Bradley Sites  
Molly Siniawski ..... Social Worker  
Bourbonnais and Bradley Sites



# THE ROARING 20s

## BISHOP MCNAMARA CATHOLIC SCHOOL 37TH ANNUAL DINNER AUCTION



**Chairpersons, Jeremy and Laura Breault '97 Andersen**



**Emcee, Shawn Sullivan '97**

The 37th Annual Dinner Auction, *The Roaring 20s*, was held on Friday, November 6, 2020. While it was a bit different than previous years, at-home guests were still able to bring the auction to life in a new (and virtual!) way.

Over 500 participants chose their virtual experience, one of which included a multi-course meal from Crème of the Crop and components for our make-at-home signature drink, the “Machattan.” All participants enjoyed weeklong bidding on unique experiences and items and a live virtual segment featuring various premier auction items, the “Raise the Paddle” initiative, and the first Progressive Raffle drawing of the year.

Our Honorary Chairpersons, Dr. John and Carol Vallone, have truly carried out our mission and vision of Catholic education by making a significant difference in the lives of many of our students through their gracious and cheerful generosity of serving Bishop McNamara.

Chairpersons Jeremy and Laura Breault '97 Andersen hosted the evening with Shawn Sullivan '97 who drove in from Indianapolis just to bring the live virtual segment of the auction to life.

On behalf of the students, faculty, and administration, the BMCS Annual Dinner Auction Steering Committee would like to thank the guests, BMCS major sponsors, Annual Dinner Auction program sponsors, item donors, Progressive Raffle team, and volunteers. It was a huge success!

Cheers to the Roaring 20s!



**Jason '01 and Angie Phillips enjoying the dinner auction at home!**



**Honorary Chairpersons Dr. John and Carol Vallone**

Shawn Sullivan '97, served as the emcee for the 37th Annual Bishop McNamara Dinner Auction that was held virtually. On that evening, Shawn reflected, "We're celebrating the Roaring 20s and I can't believe it's been more than 20 years since I graduated from Bishop McNamara. I am grateful every day for that experience. That experience included a wonderful class and groups of classes, many who have stayed connected in the area with close-knit relationships or, on social media simply following individuals and families evolve. That experience included many role models: teachers who were impactful instructors; coaches who were legends - most significantly to me was Ken Klipp who was one of the most important figures in my life; and administrators and Kairos retreat



**Shawn Sullivan '97 sitting in the press box at Wrigley Field**

pioneers who were dynamic and foundational in their approach. That experience also included spending free periods licking envelopes in the development office (now called the advancement office) which was an early exposure for me on how critical gratitude was to Bishop McNamara and how lucky we were as students. I learned how hard people worked behind the scenes to make the engine roar and how many donors contributed to keep it thriving."

Shawn added that on this evening, emceeing at the virtual dinner auction, he was thinking about his parents who made the decision and sacrifice to send him first to St. Patrick Grade School then St. Martin of Tours Grade School and on to Bishop McNamara High School. A decision that he believes set him on a terrific path for the rest of his life as he and his wife, Molly, are sending their four children to a place that reminds him of home, St. Joan of Arc in Indianapolis, bringing this full circle for him.

Since graduating from Bishop McNamara, Shawn has made an amazing career for himself.

He earned a degree in communications from the University of Illinois-Chicago where he also ran cross country and track. He went on to hold various positions at his alma mater and Northwestern before obtaining his current position as the Associate Athletics Director for Marketing and Fan Engagement at Ball State University. In addition, On October 10, 2020, Shawn launched The Voice for Good, LLC, which serves as the umbrella organization for his professional voice work. Currently, he performs public address duties for the USL's Indy Eleven, WNBA's Indiana Fever and the NBA's Indiana Pacers. Additionally, he provides event announcing for local and regional triathlon/road racing events along with various voiceover opportunities. Sullivan also serves as an adjunct faculty member at Roosevelt University in Chicago. He and his wife Molly reside in Indianapolis and have four children, Liam, Quinn, Mary Kate and James.

**We Are  
Right At  
Your  
Fingertips!**

**bishopmac.com**

**Facebook:** @ Bishop McNamara  
@ Bishop McNamara Alumni

**Twitter:** @ bishopmcnamara  
@ bishopmacalumni

**Instagram:** @ bishopmcnamara



**Virtual  
Vegas**

WELCOME  
TO Fabulous  
**LAS VEGAS**  
IN BRADLEY



The casino-themed event and final Progressive Raffle was held virtually in March and offered all of the fun and energy of a Las Vegas experience. The event was chaired by Michael and Michelle McTaggart, parents of James (PK), Joseph (K) and Anna (Gr3) all who attend the BMCS Bradley Site. Over 350 logged in to participate virtually in various games that can be found in actual Las Vegas casinos. The event was hosted by Todd Arseneau '86, Andy Purcell '92, and Bradie Vaubel '13. Guest BINGO callers were Dana Berg, Principal, BMCS Bradley Site, and Sue Goselin, Asst. Principal, BMCS Bourbonnais Site. Laura Harre was the top chip holder at the event and won a trip to Las Vegas for 2 people. The night capped off with our Co-Chairpersons Mike '93 and Tera Gerber '93 Edwards announcing the winners of the final Progressive Raffle drawing pulled by our BMCS Executive Pastor, Fr. John Peeters, CSV. The 2021-22 tuition raffle winners were also drawn and awarded to Mark and Brandi Bennett '00 Kaner. Thank you to all who joined our Virtual Las Vegas in Bradley and final Progressive Raffle drawing event to make it a success!

Bishop McNamara  
**PROGRESSIVE  
RAFFLE  
WINNERS**

November

6

2020

**\$25,000 Grand Prize**

Jean Fuerst

**\$5,000**

Sue Gianotti '76 Hodak

Mike '83 & Tina Brown '88 O'Connor

**\$1,000**

Mary Clancy '79 Hall

Neil '98 & Courtney Piggush

Beth Collier

**\$500**

Debbie Shipley

Matthew Munoz

Elvira Alvarez

George and Carol Blank '57 Berg

March

6

2021

**\$50,000 Grand Prize**

Steve Wunder

**\$5,000**

Jim & Dolly LaRocque

Group Ticket: Anna Stewart & Brittany VadeBocouver

Peter Christie '94 Family

**\$1,000**

Judy Surprenant

Chris Shires

Andy '91 & Sherri Cryer

Jim '68 & Maggie Hansen '68 Frogge

Carolyn Worby '83 Koerner

Jeremy Silcox '93

Rebecca Wainwright

Chris Ekhoft

Group Ticket:

Kim Osenga '01 Piggush

Jane Devine '74 Alger

Laura Breault '94 Andersen

Colleen Wood

Erin Darling

Melody McGowen

Vicki Stroo

Kyle Bukowski

Steve Langelett

Tricia Surprenant

**\$500**

Rob & Sharon Casino

Julianne Stauffenberg '84 Post

Ed DeMarah '70

Group Ticket:

Heather Johnson

Laura Longtin '01 Rewerts

Betsy Yohnka '98 Benoit

Komal Gujarathi

Betsy Keller

Jeff Arseneau '83

Joseph Mulligan '90

Rick Gilbert

Maria Blanchette

Daniel Stanfa

Dan & Mary Sammons

Ryan Brosseau '94

Kevin Panizzi Family

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

Bishop McNamara

# PROGRESSIVE RAFFLE



Scott Piggush '01



Kim Osenga '01 Piggush



Mike Edwards '93



Tera Gerber '93 Edwards

As Bishop McNamara's largest fundraiser, the Progressive Raffle relies on the leadership of a dedicated and hardworking team to organize it, bring it to life, and see it through.

The Progressive Raffle committee was led by co-chairs, Mike '93 and Tera Gerber '93 Edwards, Scott '01 and Kim Osenga '01 Piggush. The committee was made up of over 20 school parents – many of whom are fellow Bishop McNamara alumni. Because of its progressive nature with two separate drawings, one on November 6, 2020, and one on March 6, 2021, the chairpersons and committee work hard all year long to make sure it's a success.

Speaking of success, the 2020-2021 Progressive Raffle was the most successful year yet! With a total cash payout of \$120,000 awarded to a total of 35 winners, the Progressive Raffle has become a community-wide event that draws much anticipation and excitement – including from alumni near and far.

*Thank you to the chairs, committee, and all who participated  
in this important fundraiser!*



## FIGHTIN' IRISH KEN KLIPP CLASSIC

MONDAY, MAY 31, 2021

8:00AM START TIME

BISHOP McNAMARA KANKAKEE SITE, 550 W BROOKMONT BLVD.

THE 5K RUN AND 2 MILE WALK BEGINS AT BISHOP McNAMARA AND RUNS THROUGH THE VILLAGE OF BRADLEY.

REGISTRATION: 7:00AM

PRE-RACE WELCOME: 7:45AM

RACE BEGINS: 8:00AM

QUESTIONS? CALL 815-933-7620

Virtual option available!

\$20 Registration fee (\$25 after May 7)

Commemorative t-shirt  
(must register by May 7 to be guaranteed a t-shirt)

Prizes for 5K age group winners

Prizes for top five 2 mile walkers

Post-race Leprechaun Dash  
(ages 9 and under: no fee, no registration required)

Post-race awards presentation

REGISTER ONLINE  
[BISHOPMAC.COM/5K](http://BISHOPMAC.COM/5K)

Or complete the form and mail with payment to:

Bishop McNamara Catholic School C/O 5K  
550 W Brookmont Blvd., Kankakee, IL 60901

### 5K REGISTRATION FORM

One entry form per person must be completed.

\$20 Registration fee (\$25 after May 7)

Name: ☐ Male ☐ Female Age on May 31, 2021:

Address:

City: State: Zip:

Phone: Email:

Course Choice: ☐ 5K Run ☐ 2 Mile Walk ☐ Virtual 5K Run ☐ Virtual 2 Mile Walk

☐ As a participant in the Fightin' Irish 5K Ken Klipp Classic, I understand and assume the potential risk for injury. I hereby release Bishop McNamara Catholic School, and its employees, volunteers, and sponsors from any and all liability and I waive any potential claims that could be made by me or on my behalf for any potential injury I might suffer as a result of my voluntary participation.

Signature: Date: Shirt Size: ☐ YXS ☐ YS ☐ YM ☐ YL

Parent Signature: Date: ☐ AXS ☐ AS ☐ AM ☐ AL ☐ AXL ☐ AXXL

(if under 18 years of age)



# Bishop Ronald Hicks Visits Bishop McNamara

On Wednesday, March 17th Bishop Ronald Hicks made his first visit to Bishop McNamara Catholic School where he celebrated Mass with the freshmen class. We were excited to have Bishop Hicks here on our very special St. Patrick's Day as we celebrated being Irish!

Several pastors from our local parishes were here to concelebrate the Mass. Our freshmen were escorted to Mass by a bagpiper continuing with this annual tradition for our freshmen students.

Bishop Ronald Hicks, a native of Harvey, IL grew up in South Holland, IL where he attended St. Jude the Apostle Parish and Grade School. He graduated from Quigley Seminary South in 1985. He received his B.A. in Philosophy from Niles College of Loyola University Chicago in 1989 and his Master of Divinity degree in 1994 and his Doctor of Ministry degree in 2003, both from the University of St. Mary of the Lake in Mundelein, IL.

Bishop Hicks served as an Associate Pastor at Our Lady of Mercy Parish in Chicago from 1994 to 1996 and then at St. Elizabeth Seton Parish in Orland Hills, IL from 1996 to 1999. From 1999 to 2005, he lived and ministered at St.

Joseph College Seminary as the Dean of Formation.

In July 2005, with permission from Cardinal Francis George, Bishop Hicks moved from Chicago to El Salvador to begin his five-year term as Regional Director of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) in Central America. NPH is a home dedicated to caring for more than 3,400 orphaned and abandoned children in nine Latin American and Caribbean countries.

From 2010 to 2014, Bishop Hicks served as the Dean of Formation at Mundelein Seminary. During that time, he assisted with weekend Masses at St. Jerome Parish in Rogers Park, Chicago, IL.

Bishop Hicks was appointed Vicar General of the Archdiocese by Cardinal Cupich on January 1, 2015. On September 17, 2018 he was ordained an Auxiliary Bishop at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago.

On July 17, 2020, Pope Francis announced that he had named Bishop Hicks as the sixth Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Joliet, IL. He was installed at the Cathedral of St. Raymond Nonnatus in Joliet, IL on September 29, 2020.

*(Press Release from the Diocese of Joliet)*



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## DOROTHY AND ROMY HAMMES

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### FALL OF 2021 HALL OF HONOR

#### Hall of Honor Nominations

The Irish Alumni Association is accepting nominations for the Dorothy and Romy Hammes Hall of Honor at Bishop McNamara. Nominations must be received in the Advancement Office by June 1, 2021. Nomination forms are available on our website at [bishopmac.com/alumni/hammes-hall-of-honor](http://bishopmac.com/alumni/hammes-hall-of-honor). You may also call the Advancement Office at (815) 933-7620 and they will email or mail you a copy.

Eligibility Criteria includes – Alumni, Faculty/Staff, Administrators, Parents, and/or Friends who have:

- Performed outstanding service to our school
- Achieved an outstanding accomplishment or achievement in their profession
- Significantly contributed to society, education, or public service
- Must be/have a positive role model of Catholic/Christian faith and values
- Maintained an ongoing relationship with our school

**IRISH  
ALUMNI**

# Golf Classic

**Start your  
4th of July  
Weekend Celebration  
at the 35th Anniversary  
of the  
Irish Golf Classic**

## Friday

## July 2, 2021

### Oak Springs Golf Course

**Lunch and Registration at 10 AM**

**Shotgun Start at 11 AM**

**(note new start time)**

- **Best ball scramble**
- **\$100 per person package includes lunch, greens fee and cart, beverages, prizes and post-golf dining**
- **Golfers must be at least 21 years of age**
- **Back by popular demand... Margaritas at the half-way stop!**

**All golfers must be pre-registered with payment by June 18th.**

**This is due to continued COVID-19 precautions that will take place on the day of the outing.**

**Proceeds from the  
Irish Golf Classic  
support all of the  
Irish Alumni  
Association Board  
initiatives throughout  
the year as follows:**

- Sr. LaMarre freshmen student scholarships
- Parting gifts for each senior student upon graduation
- An appreciation lunch for our faculty and staff during the school year
- The Irish Update magazine - production and postage each spring and fall
- The alumni tent & post-game gathering at homecoming
- Sponsorship of the biennial Hall of Honor induction ceremony and reception



**Members of the Class of '98 at the 2019 Irish Golf Classic:**

**Rob Gernon, Neil Piggush, Matt Douglas, Todd Lindsay, Justin Dole, Alan Rood, Joe Quigley, Jason Dole**





## Registration and Sponsorship Form

Please fill out form and put a check by your sponsorship level.

- ☐ **\$100 GOLF REGISTRATION FEE**  
Includes Green Fees, Cart, Lunch, Post-Golf Dining, Beverages of Beer, Pop and Water (maximum 132 golfers; all golfers must be pre-registered with payment by June 18th)
- ☐ **\$100 HOLE SPONSOR**  
Get Your Business or Family Name on a Hole Sign
- ☐ **\$250 TEE PRIZE SPONSOR**  
Tee Prizes for all Registered Golfers Includes business or family name on a hole sign.
- ☐ **\$300 MARGARITA SPONSOR**  
Margaritas, Chips, Salsa at The Half-Way Stop Includes business or family name on a sign placed at the margarita stop.
- ☐ **\$500 BEVERAGE SPONSOR**  
Beer, Pop, Water Cart Includes business or family name on a sign placed on a beverage cart.
- ☐ **\$750 LUNCH SPONSOR**  
Fuel Up Before Teeing-Off Includes golf registration fee for 1 golfer and business or family name on a banner by the clubhouse.
- ☐ **\$1000 POST-GOLF DINING SPONSOR**  
Eat, Relax, Reminisce Includes golf registration fee for 2 golfers and business or family name on a banner by the clubhouse.
- ☐ **Sr. LaMarre Scholarship**  
See below to make a donation of any size toward the alumni sponsored Sr. LaMarre Scholarship.

**All sponsors business or family names will appear on an event hand-out the day of the outing, on the alumni page on the school website, and in the fall edition of the Irish Update.**

**Reserve your spot by June 18, 2021.**

**All golfers must be pre-registered with payment due to continued Covid precautions on the day of event.**

**Register online at [bishopmac.com/alumni/irish-golf-classic](http://bishopmac.com/alumni/irish-golf-classic) or, make checks payable to Bishop McNamara and mail to:**

**Bishop McNamara – Attn: Irish Golf Classic  
500 W Brookmont Blvd, Kankakee, IL 60901**

**Any questions, contact Sandy Malpasuto at (815) 263-2120 or [smalpasuto@bmcss.org](mailto:smalpasuto@bmcss.org)**

### 35th Irish Alumni Golf Classic

\$  \$100 Per Golfer Registration Fee

\$  Sponsor Level

I would like to donate \$  for the alumni sponsored Sr. LaMarre Scholarship.

Total Amount Enclosed: \$

Name:

Email:

Primary Phone Number:

Put me in a foursome with: 1.

2.

3.

Hole and Special Sponsors: indicate your business OR family name for signage.



# Additional Summer Golf Events



## The Denny 2021

Golf Outing  
& Fun Day

The Denny Golf Outing and Fun Day" sponsored by The Dennis J. Smith Legacy Foundation is scheduled for Monday, July 26, 2021 at the Kankakee Country Club. A vast amount of the proceeds from The Denny fund scholarships for Bishop McNamara students who demonstrate their commitment to community service and leadership. Contact Mike O'Brien at [mobrien@midlandsb.com](mailto:mobrien@midlandsb.com) to learn more about The Denny!



The Jackie Keller Memorial Golf outing is being planned for Friday, August 6th at Shamrock Golf Course in St. Anne. The golf outing is named after Bishop McNamara's beloved Alumna, the late Jackie Martin '75 Keller. Jackie's dedication to her family, students, fellow colleagues, Bishop McNamara and her faith was unwavering. Honoring Jackie's memory at this event makes it a very special day for all. For more information about this golf outing, please contact the advancement office at (815) 933-7620 or email Peggy Purcell '90 Mayer at [pmayer@bmcss.org](mailto:pmayer@bmcss.org).



## St. George Church Golf Outing

The St. George Church Golf Outing will be held on Sunday, June 13th at Aspen Ridge Golf Course in Bourbonnais. Event cost is \$75 and includes greens fee, cart, and lunch. Proceeds provide scholarships to Bishop McNamara students. Please contact Bobby Lampley at [roblampley@gmail.com](mailto:roblampley@gmail.com) or (815) 955-2497 with any questions or for additional information.

## Homecoming Celebration of Alumni



### Homecoming will be celebrated on Friday, September 24, 2021

At this time, specific details are pending. Please continue to visit the school website at [bishopmac.com/alumni/homecoming](http://bishopmac.com/alumni/homecoming) as updates will be made as details are confirmed.

## Upcoming Reunions



**The Class of 1976** is planning their 45th Reunion celebration during homecoming weekend on September 24th and 25th. Activities will include pre-game and post-game get-togethers on Friday, the 24th. A Mass at St. Patrick Church in Kankakee, followed by a dinner at the Manteno Golf Club will be held on Saturday, the 25th. For updates and more information: Email: [MAC76reunion@gmail.com](mailto:MAC76reunion@gmail.com); Website: <https://sites.google.com/view/mac76/home>; Facebook: Bishop McNamara Class of 1976

**If your graduation year ends in '1 or '6 then 2021 is a reunion year for you! If you graduated in years ending in '0 or '5 and had a reunion planned last year that got cancelled, please let us know if you are rescheduling for this year!**

**If you are planning a class reunion, let us know and we will add your information to the school website. Visit [bishopmac.com/alumni/reunions](http://bishopmac.com/alumni/reunions) to fill out and submit your reunion form.**

## Kankakee County 40 Under Forty Awardees



**Tyler Provost '99**  
**Pallissard**  
Manager Clinical  
Claims Review  
Cigna Health Care



**Brandi Bennett '00**  
**Kaner**  
Community Relations  
Coordinator - AMITA  
Health St. Mary's  
Hospital, Kankakee

Congratulations to our nine Bishop McNamara alums who were recognized by the Kankakee County Chamber of Commerce as 40 Under Forty Awardees in 2020!

The Kankakee County 40 under Forty Award was created to identify young professionals throughout Kankakee County who excel at their profession, give back to our community and are passionate about Kankakee County.

The awards celebrate the successes of local community standouts who create a powerful network of young leaders from all areas of Kankakee County.

*Photo credit – Brian Prairie '96  
Chief Creative Officer of Pathfinder, Kankakee, IL*



**Claire**  
**Chaplinski '02**  
Attorney at Law  
Private Practice,  
Kankakee



**Emily Zirkle '03**  
**Bertrand**  
Kindergarten  
Teacher - Alan B.  
Shepard School,  
Bourbonnais



**Joia Crossley '04**  
Assistant Principal  
King Middle School,  
Kankakee



**Grant Girard '05**  
Manager - Girard's  
Ace Hardware,  
Bourbonnais



**Frank Hasik IV '06**  
Fire Chief - Kankakee  
Township Fire  
Protection District



**Michael Curren '07**  
Sports Director  
Kankakee Area  
YMCA



**Jonathan**  
**Keigher '13**  
Human Resources  
Department - Urban  
Farmer, Manteno

## Richard Schmidt '75 – Deacon at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, GA

Deacon Richard Schmidt '75 says his relationship with Jesus Christ, and the Catholic faith continues to guide his life. He felt called to the diaconate. After five



**Immediately following the ordination of Deacon Richard Schmidt '75, he administers the "laying of the hands" blessing upon his wife, Kathy.**

years of formation, he was ordained a deacon in the Archdiocese of Atlanta on February 3, 2018. Deacon Schmidt says, "Serving as a deacon has been an amazing journey with so many special moments, such as baptizing my grandson, Bennett, the day after my ordination. What a great joy and honor it is to share the presence of Christ in His word and sacraments."

Richard is a deacon at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, a large parish of over 3,000 families, located in Peachtree City, GA. He is active in a number of social justice ministries, including a leadership role for Fortunate and Faithful Families, a Catholic group of parents of LGBT kids; teaching a "dad's class" at the Pregnancy Aid Clinic; and serving the homeless of Atlanta.

Deacon Schmidt shares a story that he attended Saint Martin's Grade School in Kankakee (currently St. John Paul II Catholic Church) for grades 1 through 8 with classmate Maureen Johnson. Coin-

cidentally, Maureen also lives in Peachtree City and is an active member of Holy Trinity. She surprised him with a special gift for his ordination, a framed picture of their First Communion class.

Richard has a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Science from Parks College of Saint Louis University and a master's degree in homeland security. He worked for Eastern Airlines, and their computer division, SystemOne, for many years. Since the 9/11 attacks on our country, his career path has followed IT program management for federal projects for the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). He works full time as a program manager for one of the other DHS agencies.

Richard married Kathy Quigley on June 6, 1981. They have three grown children and two grandchildren. He says, "The grands are minutes away, so there is plenty of opportunity to spoil!"



## Jan Powers '78 Glazar – Women in Business Honoree



**Jan Powers '78 Glazar**

Jan Powers '78 Glazar was selected as a 2020 Women in Business Honoree sponsored by *Lifestyles of Kankakee County* magazine. Jan was recognized for her works at Harvest View Senior Living in Herscher, IL. She began a new career

there in 2015 and became the Executive Director two years later. Over one hundred nominations were submitted and ten selected as honorees.

Jan has a true passion for art. In 1997 she started Art Start Studio in Manteno, which she still owns and operates today but when the opportunity arose to be a part of Harvest View, she took it. Although it might not have been a life path she anticipated, Jan followed her heart and embraced the chance to fulfill a new mission. She is able to incorporate her art background with the residents at Harvest View as there is an art studio there. Residents participate in classes and are continually engaged in the arts which Jan says is beneficial to them – spiritually, mentally and emotionally. She credits the success of Harvest View to her team. Jan is the leader but believes that a good leader is only as good as her team. Her motto is to empower others, mentor them... celebrate them. Harvest View Senior Living was voted best in assisted living and best senior living facility through *The Daily*

*Journal's* 2020 Reader's Choice Awards.

Jan earned an associate degree from Kankakee Community College and a Bachelor of Fine Arts with a minor in business from Illinois State University. Her combined education in art and business has helped her run her own art studio as well as Harvest View.

Jan is very active in the community. She is a past Director of the Gretchen Charlton Art Gallery in Kankakee; Past President of Kiwanis Club of Kankakee County; Member of the Regional Alzheimer's Association Walk to Remember Committee; active in the Kankakee County, Herscher, and Manteno Chambers of Commerce; currently serves on the Arts and Environment Committee for John Paul II Parish, Kankakee; and is an active artist and juried artist member of Tall Grass Arts Association in Park Forest.

Jan and her husband, Ed, live in Kankakee. They have two daughters. Annie '09 Long and her husband Joe live in Springfield, IL. Jillian '11 resides in Scotts Valley, CA.

## Steve Bertrand '81 – WGN Radio

On September 4, 2020, WGN Radio announced a new weekday programming schedule that included the debut of an afternoon drive news program titled *Chicago Afternoon News*. The new schedule began on September 28th. WGN Radio's press release stated, *Chicago's Afternoon News* will feature both topical and breaking news and will air from 4pm to 7pm. The show will be hosted by veteran journalist Steve Bertrand whose career at the station has spanned more than 35 years. "I am thrilled to get a chance to help create a show that will be equal parts informative and entertaining. With any luck, we'll end the day a little smarter and have a good time getting there," said Steve Bertrand. WGN Radio General Manager, Mary Boyle, goes on to say, "The importance of local news and information being shared by someone who is trusted by our audience is paramount during these challenging times. Steve has always been committed to reporting the news in a fair and thoughtful way. The afternoon news-oriented program led by Steve is a welcome addition to our WGN Radio weekday lineup."

In June of 2020, Steve celebrated his 35th anniversary at WGN Radio. Steve has earned several honors, including multiple Lisagor awards from the Chi-

cago Headline Club which recognize the best of Chicago journalism and are named for Peter Lisagor, the Chicago Daily News' Washington bureau chief from 1959 to 1976. In 2012, Steve was named the Marquette University School of Communications "Communicator of the Year." In 2015, he was inducted into the WGN Radio Walk of Fame. The Walk of Fame was established in conjunction with WGN's 90th anniversary celebration in 2014 to honor the station's legendary personalities.

In addition to being a radio host, Steve loves to travel. He started a travel business with a couple of trips to Ireland in 2013. His group tours typically consist of about 40 people, but he also builds custom tours for smaller groups and families. He can create a European tour for any group of six or more. These tours can be nice fundraisers for charities or other groups interested in fundraising. They are also great community builders for businesses and their clients.

Steve says, "We've had some fantastic tours: traveling the fjords of Norway, hiking to glaciers in Iceland and riding cable cars through the Alps in Switzerland. My favorite memories of the trips are usually just sitting in a cafe with an afternoon beer and taking in the surrounding culture. Last



**Steve Bertrand '81**

year was a tough one. We were wiped out. I planned to take a group to see the Cubs play in London. I also had trips planned with groups in Columbus and Nashville to see the NHL games planned for Europe. There is a pent-up demand for travel, and I'm hoping we can get back on track later this year. We currently have tours planned for Ireland, France and Spain in the fall. Fingers crossed!" See all about Steve's travels at [SteveBertrandTravel.com](http://SteveBertrandTravel.com).

Steve lives in Deerfield, IL with his wife, Sharon. They have 2 daughters, Lily who lives in Chicago and Emma in Los Angeles, CA.



## Jackie LaMotte '84 Haas – Illinois State Representative

Jackie LaMotte '84 Haas (R-Kankakee) was elected in November 2020 for a two-year term as the Illinois State Representative for the 79th House District serving residents in Kankakee, Will, and Grundy Counties. As a State Representative of the 102nd General Assembly, Jackie says, "I am excited to share that I have secured positions on key committees that play a vital oversight role for health care, human services, and K-12 education. I will proudly serve on the following Illinois House committees for the next two years: Prescription Drug Affordability, Mental Health & Addiction, Immigration & Human Rights, Human Services, Health Care Availability & Accessibility, and the Appropriations Committees for Elementary & Secondary Education and Human Services."

Jackie is currently the President and CEO of the Helen Wheeler Center for Community Mental Health in Kankakee where she has held this position since 2000. She is a licensed clinical social worker since 1992. Jackie has 30 years of work experience in mental health, both

clinical and administrative, consisting of work in the areas of inpatient and private practice with a focus on youth and families; and in the community setting focusing on the treatment of persons suffering from chronic and persistent mental illness. She strives to expand healthcare, economic opportunity, and early childhood development throughout her community.

Jackie holds a bachelor's degree in social work from Valparaiso University and a master's degree with a specialization in mental health from the University of Illinois at Chicago, Jane Addams School of Social Work. She is a certified instructor of Mental Health First Aid and credentialed to instruct the adult, youth, public safety, Fire/EMS and higher education modules of this course.

Jackie served on the Kankakee County Board from 2018 to 2020. She is actively involved in several community-based coalitions, local board of directors, and community and state collaboration groups. She is a past board member and board president of the Community Behavioral Healthcare Association. She is actively



**Jackie LaMotte '84 Haas**

involved in numerous local projects to include the Partnership for Healthy Communities, Project SUN, Pledge for Life, Kankakee County Mental Health Council, Kankakee County Renewed Opportunities, as well as many of the specialty court programs.

Jackie and her husband, Bill, reside in Bourbonnais. They have two children, Nicole '13 of Chicago, and Ben of Peoria, IL.

## Haley Gubbins '13 – Pre-School Teacher of the Deaf at Child's Voice



**Haley Gubbins '13**

focuses on developing speech and language because a child with hearing loss may also be delayed in language development. She works on all things language (vocabulary development, language structures, speech errors) in hopes that her preschool students can be in a general education setting. The mission of Child's Voice is to empower children with hearing loss to be successful in all educational and social settings by

Haley Gubbins '13 is a preschool teacher of the deaf at Child's Voice in Wood Dale, IL. Her focus is on listening and spoken language. All of Haley's students have hearing aids or cochlear implants. She

optimizing their listening, speaking, and academic skills.

Haley LOVES working with her preschool kids. Her favorite part is advocating for her students. She says, "Just because they have a hearing loss does not mean they are any less capable of doing amazing things. These are some of the most resilient children I have ever met, and they have so much to offer this world!"

Because of the pandemic, Haley had to navigate teaching preschoolers with hearing loss virtually. It took months to fine tune the way she delivered instruction over the computer that was engaging, still met her student's needs, and wasn't too overwhelming. She is glad to be back to teaching in person! Haley adds, "One thing I learned about teaching during a pandemic is that we need to give children a lot of credit. Their schedules and routines are disrupted. They don't fully grasp what has happened and they've had to adapt in a big way. It's taught me to have a deeper understanding of my student's behaviors

and how it is impacting their little minds and emotions."

Haley earned her bachelor's degree in deaf education with a minor in communication sciences and disorders at Illinois State University and is continuing her studies there, getting her master's in special education with behavior interventionist endorsements so she can teach students with both hearing loss and an additional disability.

Through her work, Haley will be a co-host of a podcast, *All Ears at Child's Voice: A Hearing Loss*, where topics covered relate to hearing loss and aim to connect parents of children with hearing loss to the professionals that serve them.

Haley lives in Chicago. She is on the Associate Board of the Foundation for Hearing and Speech Rehabilitation where they work to connect families of children with hearing loss in the Chicagoland area by putting on fun events as a way for the kids to socialize and for parents to network with one another.

## Melanie Stuckmaier '00 Selmi – New Catholic School Principal



**Melanie Stuckmaier '00 Selmi**

Melanie Stuckmaier '00 Selmi began this school year as the new principal at St. Mary's School, in Sterling, IL.

Melanie attended Maternity BVM and Bishop McNamara from Kindergarten through grade 12. Melanie says that she has always had a place in her heart for Catholic education and immediately enrolled their children at St. Mary's School when they were ready for school.

She spent the first four years of her career as a classroom teacher and twelve years working as a reading specialist for public schools. It was in that role that she was given many leadership opportunities and fell in love with helping teachers just as much as she loved helping students. She was encouraged by friends who were in administration to go back for another master's degree in educational leadership.

Melanie says, "Throughout my graduate studies, I never saw myself as a principal. I had dreams of becoming a curriculum director. As time passed throughout my master's studies, I felt pulled away from my family and I craved more balance in my life. I prayed hard about what I was to do with my degree and what could bring me balance and peace. Suddenly, the principal position at my children's school became vacant. This seemed like it could be the balance I was looking for! I interviewed for the position and was offered the job. Every homily I listened to, every inspirational quote I read, seemed to be pointing me in the direction of principal at St. Mary's School. I accepted the job and now I like to consider myself a stay-at-work-mom. I bring all 3 kids with me to work each day!"

Melanie adds, "The COVID-19 pandemic brought about a new twist. Sometimes I laugh about the work/life balance now as I navigate through my first year as a principal during a global pandemic. Upon taking this new position, tensions were high, and fears were very real. Many of the teachers at St. Mary's School resigned due to health concerns. I was suddenly faced with restaffing half the building. We developed a reopening team and plans began to take shape for how we might make in-person learning a reality. We opened St. Mary's School in August and we've never had to shut down. We've only had four household cases of COVID-19 all year and none of them originated at school. We are very proud of this accom-

plishment and are convinced that the power of prayer (and masking, distancing, cohorting, and cleaning) had something to do with it!"

Melanie says that even through all the stress of leading a school during a pandemic, she has found great joy in what she does. She gets to be with her kids each day and help shape the school that they've always loved. She is able to mentor the teachers and reassure them that what they do is appreciated and needed. She loves building relationships with the students and enjoys working with the families. She is able to attend Mass, listen to songs and participate in traditions that literally bring her right back to her Catholic school days each time. Melanie says, "I am thrilled to be planning for the future of Catholic education in our town and look forward to seeing our school grow each year moving forward."

Melanie earned her undergraduate degree in elementary education with endorsements in reading, language arts, and social studies from Illinois State University, in Normal, IL. She received a Master of Arts degree in education - reading specialist, from Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, IL. She holds a Master of Arts degree in educational leadership from Western Illinois University in Macomb, IL.

Melanie and her husband, Matt, live in Rock Falls, IL and have three children attending St. Mary's School, Anthony, age 11, is in 5th grade; Kellen, age 9, is in 3rd grade; and Aria, age 4, is in PreK-3.

## Brandi Branka '08 Sets Illinois Women's Bowling Record



**Brandi Branka '08 at Bel-Air Bowl in Belleville, IL just after she set the new Illinois women's three-game bowling record**

On Wednesday, November 18th, 2020, Brandi Branka '08 set a new Illinois women's three-game bowling record scoring an 868 with games consisting of 290, 279, and a near perfect 299. She achieved this record at Bel-Air Bowl in Belleville, IL during her women's bowling league play, while using a brand-new bowling ball. That night, she became the best women's bowler in Illinois history. Two days after she achieved this title, her league play was shut down due to restrictions that were put in place due to COVID-19.

Brandi currently bowls on the Professional Women's Bowling Association (PWBA) Tour which will start back up at the end of April. She has been bowling on the PWBA Tour for the past five years and has been on a bowling contract with Columbia 300 the past four years. She has

earned two second place trophies and has placed in the top ten several times while playing on the Tour.

Brandi is in her 6th year as head women's bowling coach at Division II Maryville University of St. Louis in Town and Country, MO. She was named their inaugural head coach during the 2015-16 academic year. The team is currently ranked 9th in the nation between Division I - Division III schools.

During college, Brandi bowled at McKendree University in Lebanon, IL for four years where she was named first team All-American in 2010-11 and 2011-12. She was on the 2009-10 McKendree team that finished second at the Intercollegiate Team Championships in El Paso, Texas. She collected all-tournament honors individually. In 2010-



## Jeremy Wilkey '92 – MX-TECH



**Jeremy Wilkey '92**

Jeremy Wilkey '92 founded his business, MX-TECH, located on Schuyler Ave. in Bradley, IL in 1992, the year he graduated from Bishop McNamara and started college at Olivet Nazarene University. Jeremy turned his personal love of racing motorcycles, talents in the field of science, and entrepreneurial spirit into a successful business while completing his Bachelor of Science degree in geological sciences. Jeremy says, "I enjoyed racing motorcycles from a young age and developed an interest in the set-up and modification of the suspension systems as a way to improve my results as a racer." MX-TECH engineers and produces shock absorber and suspension systems

for competition off-road motorcycles. They support a wide range of riders and competitors from around the world and distribute their products to every corner of the globe. Jeremy has continued to develop his business and embrace the ongoing opportunities that are presented to him over the past 28+ years.

Jeremy adds, "The most enjoyable thing about my work is the connection between research and development and end use products. We dedicate enormous amounts of resources for the development of our suspension systems. Taking rough ideas, improving and refining them over time, and eventually seeing them perform at the highest levels of professional and amateur racing is incredibly satisfying. Saying it more simply... as a company we dream, build, refine, and produce those improvements in a continuous process."

In the world of dirt bike racing, Motocross (MX) are outdoor races where racers have to endure the elements that Mother Nature dishes out taking place primarily in the summer months. Supercross (SX) takes place inside stadiums and arenas on short, tight courses during the springtime. MX-TECH currently supports the PRMX Kawasaki Racing Team, Team Faith, and several Privateer racers in Monster Energy Supercross and in American Motocross Association (AMA MX) Nationals, along with individuals such as Red Bull's David Leonov in the World Enduro Championships.



**Jeremy Wilkey '92 doing development testing at the Joliet MX in Channahon, IL**

As with all sports this past year, the COVID-19 pandemic has been disruptive to the racing environment and competitions that are fan-supported such as at the SX and AMA MX Nationals. Jeremy shares that not being able to interact with fans and riders along with difficulty in international travel and shortened schedules has been challenging. He adds, "On a positive note, there have been some unexpected silver linings to the disruptions we've faced. My industry is very heavily based on participation. The same fans who fill stadiums, tune in on Saturday evenings to watch live, or head outside to the grassy hills for the MX Nationals are also participants in the sport. The societal changes we've experienced this past year have positively resulted in more riders going outside to ride and rediscover the outdoors by way of off-road motorcycling."

MX-TECH is featured regularly in Motocross Action Magazine. They have appeared on the cover at least once per year over the last four years, and their feature articles can be found at [motocrossactionmag.com](http://motocrossactionmag.com). Visit MX-TECH on social media to see all of their latest events, competitions, and business happenings.

Jeremy and his wife, Kim Mancuso '90 Wilkey, a licensed clinical social worker for the Kankakee School District, have three daughters who are students at Bishop McNamara Catholic School, Isabella is in 6th grade (class of 2027), Olivia in 4th grade (class of 2029) and Zoe in 1st grade (class of 2032)!

## Brandi Branka (cont)

11, she won an NAIA Championship and was named Most Valuable Player. In 2011-12, she was an Intercollegiate Singles Finalist and made the All-Tournament team at the Intercollegiate Team Championships.

Brandi earned a bachelor's degree in health and wellness and a double minor in coaching and sport psychology from McKendree University. Last August, she started a master's program in management and leadership with a concentration in marketing at Maryville University with plans of completing that degree this December.

Brandi currently resides in Belleville, IL and is getting married this July to her fiancé, Andrew Kordelewski, whom she met while at McKendree University where he also bowled.



**Jeremy '92 with wife, Kim Mancuso '90 Wilkey, and daughters Isabella '27, Olivia '29, and Zoe '32**



## Theo James '08 and Jack Malpasuto '12 Working For Peloton

Theo James '08 and Jack Malpasuto '12 have both found their niche working for Peloton.

For reference, Peloton is an exercise equipment and media company founded in 2012. Their main products are a stationary bike and treadmill that allow monthly subscribers to remotely participate in live classes that are streamed from the company's fitness studio in New York City. Because the Peloton Bike and Tread are situated remotely, primarily in people's homes, Peloton has become the de facto replacement for gyms due to the country's lockdown measures during the COVID-19 pandemic and has seen huge growth over the course of the past year.

Theo James '08 began working for Peloton two and a half years ago. Theo is Peloton's assistant showroom manager at the Plaza Frontenac in St. Louis, MO where they sell the Bike, Tread, and apparel. Typically, customers come to the store in person to test out the equipment and receive one-on-one customer service that is second to none. When the showrooms closed due to the pandemic, Theo began working from home moving from in-person sales to remote sales. Theo says, "It was crazy! My phone was ringing non-stop!" As gyms closed across the country, people were looking for ways



**Theo James '08 and dog, Harley, at the Peloton Showroom at Plaza Frontenac in St. Louis, MO**

to keep up with their workouts and stay in shape and many turned to Peloton. Needless to say, Theo stayed very busy working with people through virtual appointments. The showrooms have recently started to open back up. Theo is glad to be back with his team where they are working with customers in-person by appointment as well as virtually.

Theo earned a bachelor's degree in exercise science with a minor in psychology from North Central College in Naperville, IL. After graduating college, he completed a certification process with the National Academy of Sports Medicine (NASM) which is renowned for the quality of the development of their personal trainers along with the scientific rigor of their program.

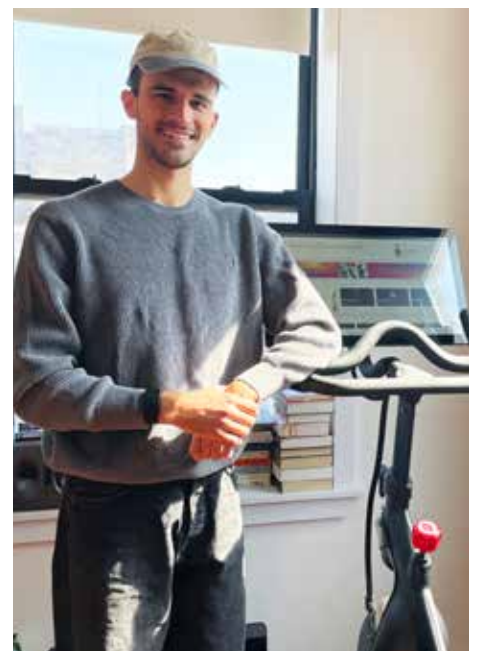
While a student at Bishop McNamara, Theo was on the track team, and he still holds the school record in the 400-meter dash set at 49.96 seconds. He continued to run track while in college at North Central and later got involved in powerlifting. Theo lives in St. Louis where he says, "The pizza is thin, but the town has a great restaurant scene. It's a great small city!"

Jack Malpasuto '12, began working for Peloton in New York City a little over a year ago. In fact, his first day in the office was on March 10, 2020 and three days later, everyone went to working remotely due to

the pandemic. Jack earned a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science from Belmont University in Nashville, TN and works at Peloton as a software engineer. The Peloton App he works on is similar to a smartphone app, scaled up to fit on a large tablet that is attached to the Bike and Tread. He primarily works on writing the software that brings the features of Peloton's bikes and treadmills to life.

Jack says, "It's been an interesting experience getting to know and work closely with people that I've never actually met in person. We've scheduled 'Zoom Hangouts' where we hang out as a team after work and get to know each other since there have been so many new people that have joined the team in the past year. We will occasionally do some 'Team Rides' where we all hop into a ride on our Pelotons together and compete for fun."

Although everyone is eager to get back into the office, Jack believes he will continue to work remotely for a large part of this year. Living and working from his compact apartment in Brooklyn, Jack gets outside and runs to get some exercise and fresh air. Although Jack was not a runner in high school, he has since picked up the sport. In October of 2019 he ran his first marathon in Portland, OR and if all goes well, he is scheduled to run in the Chicago marathon this fall.



**Jack Malpasuto '12 working at his apartment in Brooklyn, NY**

**Halle Nugent '22, daughter of Chad '91 and Mary Nugent, is riding the Peloton that their family won at the 37th Annual Dinner Auction, The Roaring 20s, on Friday, November 6, 2020. Chad and Mary purchased a \$100 Live Item Raffle ticket. Their name was chosen, and they got to select any item on the live auction block. Their choice... the Peloton!**



## Shelby Stauffenberg '17, Tonya Faulkner '18, Jaelyn Vickery '19 – U of I Softball Team



**Shelby Stauffenberg '17**

Seeing three of our Bishop McNamara alums playing together on a top tier Division 1 team is pretty rare and exciting. Shelby Stauffenberg '17, Tonya Faulkner '18, and Jaelyn Vickery '19 are teammates on the 2021 Fighting Illini Big Ten softball team. Their dedication to the sport and extreme work ethic got them to where they are today. Sharing in this experience together as Bishop McNamara alums is very special.

Shelby Stauffenberg '17 is in her senior year, majoring in farm management. She wears Illini's jersey #10. Her position is behind the plate as catcher, and she assists the team as a pinch hitter. She started seeing playing time beginning her freshman year and progressively earned her spot as the team's designated catcher. Shelby knocked out 2, 3-run home runs her sophomore year and added another her junior year. She has seen 29 career starts with playing time in 32+ additional games and has amassed 23 RBI's. Shelby's junior



**Tonya Faulkner '18**

year, the 2020 season, got cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. She is grateful to be back in action her senior year and is a respected leader on the team.

Tonya Faulkner '18 joined the Fighting Illini softball team this year as a junior, majoring in communications, and wearing jersey #28. She is an infielder but is currently sidelined with an injury. Tonya played her freshman and sophomore years at Danville Area Community College with her sophomore year also getting cut short due to the COVID-19 pandemic. While playing at DACC as a middle infielder, she saw 46 starts, accrued 3 home runs and 33 RBI's. Her hard work paid off as she earned a position at the next level at U of I.

Jaelyn Vickery '19 is a redshirt freshman majoring in psychology. She wears jersey #48 and is a utility player. She made her Illini debut this season and started in their first 16 games playing centerfield. She scored the winning run in one of the 2



**Jaelyn Vickery '19**

games during the Illini sweep of Michigan in Big Ten play. Jaelyn's collegiate softball career is getting started fast with 16 hits, 13 runs, and 5 RBI's.

The ladies kicked off their season the weekend of February 28th playing at the Sleepy Hollow Sports Complex in Leesburg, FL and returned to the same field the weekend of March 11th for more conference-only play. The Illini opened up their 2021 home slate with a four-game series with Minnesota at Eichelberger Field the weekend of March 26th. As of this writing, the team has 11 conference wins and 5 losses, ranking #4 in the Big Ten Conference. They've seen series sweeps against Rutgers, Michigan, and Penn State along with wins over Maryland, Michigan State, and Minnesota. Follow Shelby, Tonya, and Jaelyn on social media at Fighting Illini Softball and at [fightingillini.com/sports/softball](http://fightingillini.com/sports/softball).

*(photo credit Illinois Athletics)*

## Jonathan Ward '16 – Arizona Cardinals

In the fall 2020 edition of the Irish Update, we reported that Jonathan Ward '16 signed with the Arizona Cardinals in the offseason as an undrafted rookie free agent from Central Michigan and joined Arizona's practice squad following training camp. As the season progressed, Jonathan was elevated to the Cardinals' active roster on October 6, 2020 as a running back, wearing jersey #38. In week 17, the Cardinals final game of the 2020 season against the Los Angeles Rams, Jonathan recorded his first career reception for an 11-yard touchdown.

To recap, Jonathan finished his college career at Central Michigan with 2,539

rushing yards and 28 touchdowns on 473 carries (5.4-yard average) in 42 games while also catching 98 passes for 909 yards and four touchdowns. He ran for a career-high 1,108 yards and 15 touchdowns while starting all 12 games as a senior in 2019.

While at Bishop McNamara, Jonathan was a three-year starter. He set school career records with 83 touchdowns and 5,689 rushing yards and has single-season records with 2,400 rushing yards and 36 touchdowns. He earned All-State honors and led the team to a 13-1 finish and Class 3A state title during his senior year.



**Jonathan Ward '16**



# I'm an Irish fan!

## Leo Petersen



Leo John Petersen was born on March 10, 2020 at Riverside Hospital in Kankakee. Parents are Matt and Erica Lehnus '07 Petersen. They reside in Manteo, IL along with big sister, Addison.

## Elliot Yohnka

Elliot Brooks Yohnka was born September 12, 2020 at AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. Parents are Tim and Kaliegh Wheeler '11 Yohnka. They reside in Momence, IL.



## Ezra Wheeler



Ezra Donald Wheeler was born July 8, 2020 at Riverside Hospital in Kankakee. Parents are Kayla and Tyler '08 Wheeler. They reside in Kankakee, IL along with big brother, Xander who is in PreK-4 at the BMCS Bradley Site.

## Pierce McGrath

Pierce James McGrath was born on January 23, 2021 at AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee. Parents are Ethan and Kelsey Curwick '13 McGrath. Kelsey is Bishop McNamara Catholic School's Coordinator of Marketing & Enrollment. They reside in Manteo, IL.



## Annual Fund Phonathon

The annual Phonathon took place earlier this year during the weeks of February 1st and February 8th. The Phonathon is part of our yearly Annual Fund initiative. Every day, Bishop McNamara students immediately experience the benefit that Annual Fund gifts from alumni, parents, friends, faculty and staff provide. Gifts received support our school day in and day out.

Your donation to the Annual Fund provides unrestricted gifts which strengthens the mission, vision, and traditions of Bishop McNamara Catholic School; provides a challenging curriculum that is infused with Catholic values, taught by highly-trained faculty members; enhances programs not supported by other sources of income; helps to meet operating expenses and maintain upgrades and safety measures for our facility; supports the tuition assistance program that benefits numerous Bishop McNamara families; and enhances the 98 years of our Irish legacy.

If we missed you during the Phonathon,



**Riley Mayer '22, daughter of Scott and Peggy Purcell '90 Mayer, helping make phone calls at the annual Phonathon**

it's not too late! Make your gift today to ensure that each of our students at Bishop McNamara Catholic School have the necessary tools to be successful.

## You may make a gift in the following ways:

VISIT  
[bishopmac.com/support/annualfund](http://bishopmac.com/support/annualfund)

MAIL TO  
BMCS  
550 W Brookmont Blvd  
Kankakee, IL 60901

Scan this QR Code



## Matching Funds

Many companies sponsor matching fund programs and will match charitable donations made by their employees.

## Planned Gifts

Gift of securities, trusts, life insurance, and gift annuities are alternative forms of support.

## Tax Deductibility

Your gift is deductible to the full extent of current tax laws.

Any questions, please contact Areca Van Mill, Director of Advancement at (815) 933-7620 or [avanmill@bmcss.org](mailto:avanmill@bmcss.org).

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THE ANNUAL FUND PHONATHON! YOUR GENEROSITY HAS HELPED KEEP OUR MISSION STRONG FOR 98 YEARS!**





Joshua Shirley '08 and Abigail Young '11, were married on October 10, 2020 at St. George Catholic Church in Bourbonnais, IL. A small celebration was held afterward with a reception planned for later this year in October. Parents of the bride are Ron '79 and Deanne Dupuis '81 Young. Parents of the groom are Walter and Kim Stauffenberg '81 Shirley.

Joshua earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Illinois State University in Bloomington, IL. He is a state trooper with the Illinois State Police. Abigail received a certificate in surgical technology at Elgin Community College in Elgin, IL. She is a surgical technologist at AMITA Health St. Mary's Hospital in Kankakee, IL.

Joshua and Abigail reside in Bourbonnais, IL.



Jared O'Connor '12 and Courtney Woelfel were married on October 24, 2020 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bradley, IL. A reception is being held this April. Parents of the bride are Scott & Melissa Woelfel. Parents of the groom are Ryan '86 and Tonya O'Connor.

Jared and Courtney are both graduates of Millikin University in Decatur, IL. Jared earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business with a specialization in marketing. He is an account manager for Aerotek in Tinley Park, IL. Courtney earned a

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Bachelor of Arts degree in political science and history. She is also a graduate of UIC John Marshall Law School earning a juris doctorate. Courtney successfully completed the bar exam in October of 2020. She is an assistant appellate prosecutor for the Illinois Office of the States Appellate Prosecutor in the 4th District.

Jared and Courtney reside in Bourbonnais, IL.



Zane Duffield '14 and Lauren Jurkovic '13, were married on November 21, 2020 at Maternity BVM Catholic Church in Bourbonnais, IL. A reception will be held later this year in November.

Parents of the bride are Dr. Ed and Laura Jurkovic. Parents of the groom are Gary and Carmen Duffield.

Zane earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and sociology from Benedictine University in Lisle, IL. He is a probation officer at the Kankakee County Probation Department. Lauren received her cosmetology license from Paul Mitchell the School in Bradley, IL. She is a cosmetologist at Rumors Salon & Day Spa in Bradley, IL.

Zane and Lauren reside in Bourbonnais, IL.



Kyle Hendrix '14 and Madeline Hagan were married on Saturday December 5, 2020 at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at

Notre Dame, with a small celebration held afterward. Parents of the bride are Jim and Annie Hagan. Parents of the groom are Myron and Renee Hendrix.

Kyle and Madeline are both graduates of the University of Notre Dame. Kyle earned a Bachelor of Science degree in business. He is currently a 3rd year medical student at The Ohio State University College of Medicine. Madeline earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in marketing and a Master of Arts degree in teaching. She teaches theology and business literacy at Bishop Hartley High School in Columbus, Ohio.

Kyle and Madeline reside in Columbus, OH.



Joshua Ramirez '14 and Emily Smith were married on October 29, 2020 at a private home on the Kankakee River with an outdoor reception held afterward. Parents of the bride are Bryan and Kelly Semlow. Parents of the groom are James and Charlotte Ramirez.

Joshua earned a bachelor's degree in criminal justice at Aurora University, in Aurora, IL where he played four years of football, winning a conference championship in 2016. He is a police officer with the Kankakee Police Department. Emily attended Judson University, in Elgin, IL and Kankakee Community College. She is a special education job coach in the transition program at BBCHS.

Joshua and Emily reside in Kankakee, IL.



# IRISH UPDATE CONTRIBUTORS

Susan Marlaire Cotter.....1945	Eleanor Small .....1956	Catherine Sederstrand Miedema ....1962
Robert Dionne .....1948	James Mathews .....1957	Dr. Frank Murry .....1964
Donald Houde .....1950	Paul Keigher .....1958	Michael Ohrt.....1965
Dennis Savoie.....1950	Madonna Dionne Lane .....1958	Mary Pat Taylor Barney .....1966
Justin Cyrier .....1951	Ellen Bertrand Harshbarger .....1959	Janet Girard Giroux .....1966
Sharon Draude .....1953	Edith Bratton Ramirez .....1959	Thomas Ohrt.....1968
Jean Sells Hartman .....1953	Kathryn Schmidt Burge .....1960	Pat Martin .....1978
Bruce 1954 and Pat Kilgos Huot.....1955	Joseph Donovan .....1960	Diana Montague .....1979
Rosella Prince.....1955	Joseph and	Madelyn O'Brien.....Friend
Monica Benoit Ruder.....1955	Mary Lagesse Donovan.....1960	
Richard Skelly.....1955	Don Mackey .....1960	

We love putting the  
*Irish Update*  
together!

A big THANK YOU to everyone who made a donation toward production and mailing costs for the Irish Update. We want to keep our alumni connected to their alma mater and the Irish Update is our best tool to do so!

## MEMORIALS

Memorials were established for  
Bishop McNamara  
Catholic School for  
these deceased alums  
and friends.

We are truly grateful for all gifts  
received in honor of these  
wonderful people.

Monies received directly benefit  
the students of  
Bishop McNamara.

Mose Arseneau '54  
Harold Frechette '54  
Chuck Woyahn '64  
Steve Siemsen '65  
Adelia Loiselle,  
Friend of McNamara  
Dennis Shear,  
Friend of McNamara

## Rest In Peace

Bettyjane Styck Bertrand.....1947	John Lambert.....1969
Paul Boudreau .....1947	Steve Schmidt.....1971
Rita Ortman Desmarteau .....1948	Dona Miller Adams.....1976
Phyllis Benoit Hendron .....1950	Joe Anthony .....1976
Lawrence Walsh.....1952	Dan Brown .....1976
Michelle LaMarre Donnelly .....1953	Anthony DeLong .....1987
Mose Arseneau .....1954	Ginnie Morgan.....1987
Harold Frechette .....1954	Kent Boudreau .....1991
Rose Mary Gulczynski Devine .....1955	Fr. James Fanale, CSV ...Former Faculty
Thomas Schlenz .....1958	Carl Ridenour .....Former Faculty and Coach
John Sederstrand .....1960	Ed Schwenke ... Former Athletic Trainer
Janice Brosseau Sims .....1960	Donald Green.....Friend of McNamara
Kenneth Granger.....1961	Adelia Loiselle .....Friend of McNamara
Jacquelyn Cyrier Field .....1963	Dennis Shear.....Friend of McNamara
Michael Irlle .....1963	Darci Mills.....Parent of Current Students
John Nolan .....1965	
Steve Siemsen .....1965	
Jean Suprenant.....1967	Cameron Wells, Sr.....Parent of Current Students
Thomas Beirne.....1969	

# *Alumni* Staying in touch...

**There are a few ways you can help us keep up-to-date with your information:**

1. You may visit [bishopmac.com/alumni/stay-in-touch](http://bishopmac.com/alumni/stay-in-touch) and update your information online.
2. You may email Lisa Azzarelli '80 Gerth, our Advancement Office Administrative Assistant at [lgerth@bmcss.org](mailto:lgerth@bmcss.org) or call her at (815) 933-7620 to update your address, email, and phone number.
3. You may email Sandy LaMotte '82 Malpasuto, our Irish Update Editor at [smalpasuto@bmcss.org](mailto:smalpasuto@bmcss.org) to update your address, email, and phone number. In addition, you may send her your photos and stories for the Irish Update.
4. You may fill out the below form and mail it in the envelope provided in this edition of the Irish Update.

**Please share this information with any alums you know of that are not receiving the Irish Update or alumni communications.**

Name (Including Maiden)

Graduation Year

Mailing Address

Phone (Home)

Phone (Cell)

Email

Seasonal Address

Dates of Seasonal Address: From

To

College or University Attended

Highest Degree Attained

Major

Profession

Title

Employer

Is this a matching fund company? ☐ Yes ☐ No

In addition to the above, please let us know about your career, awards, honors, marriages, births, or memorial information that you would like featured in the Irish Update. Include a photo too if you wish!





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**CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

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## Irish 100 Year Celebration

During the academic year 2022-2023, Bishop McNamara Catholic School will celebrate its 100th anniversary! From 1922 as St. Patrick High School, in 1956 as St. Patrick Central High School, in 1965 as Bishop McNamara High School, to present day Bishop McNamara Catholic School, we have been the Irish! During these 100 years Bishop McNamara has been serving the greater Kankakee community as a Catholic school providing a quality, Catholic education to the youth of our community!

We encourage you to share in the celebration by sending us photos and stories. When sharing these please include your graduation year along with your best memories or quip to be shared in this year of celebration.

Please submit photos and stories at [bishopmac.com/100years](http://bishopmac.com/100years)

Watch for the Fall Irish Update for more information on the 100 Year Celebration!

