

SUMMER 2024



# DOMINICAN

TRUTH | COMPASSION | JUSTICE | COMMUNITY | PARTNERSHIP

## CONNECTIONS RUN DEEP

*AT THE HEART OF DOMINICAN  
IS RELATIONSHIPS*



DOMINICAN  
HIGH SCHOOL

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**OUR MISSION:** Dominican High School provides young adults with a co-educational, Catholic, college-preparatory experience based on the teachings of Jesus. Our faith-driven school community fosters spirituality and creativity, respects uniqueness and diversity, and encourages intellectual, social, physical, and artistic development. We commission our students to develop a heightened sense of social responsibility and respect for human dignity based on the values articulated by the Sinsinawa Dominicans: Truth, Compassion, Justice, Community and Partnership.

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Dominican High School publishes Dominican Magazine for alumni, past parents, current families and friends. Please contact Amanda Kirmse, Marketing and Communications Manager at 414-332-1170 ext. 174 or [akirmse@dominicanhighschool.com](mailto:akirmse@dominicanhighschool.com) with any comments or updates to share.

*On Cover (from back left): Leo Ketterbgen and Susan Rozga '83 Ketterbagen, Gabrielle Almond and Frank (Katherine '87) Almond, Luke Saari and Rachel Sutter '81 Sarri, Donovan Harwood and James Harwood '86 with Bety Krizek '60 Harwood, Garrett Bennett and Kyontab Veasy-Bennett '93, Teagen Powers and Nicole Powers '01, Madisyn Thoma and Jeffrey Thoma '94, Charles Wahlen and Jamie Skocir '95 Wahlen.*



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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dominican Family and Friends,

On May 24th, I presided over my 12th commencement ceremony as President and proudly celebrated our 93 graduates as they walked across the Dominican stage for the final time as students. It is always so difficult to say goodbye to our beautiful seniors whom we have been blessed to serve over the past four years. In my heart, I know that Dominican has prepared them to be successful in their next academic journey, their faith foundation is solid and they are ready to soar.

Dominican has been celebrating its graduates for 65 years, and every alum I meet shares a personal story about someone at this school who made a positive impact on their life. I love these stories because they reinforce my belief that Dominican graduates receive so much more than a Catholic, college-preparatory education over their four years. They receive an experience filled with authentic, caring relationships, the development of life-long friends, and leadership opportunities that truly set them up to be successful adults. Alums and past parents alike develop bonds within this community that connect them forever. I always tell our new faculty, staff, and parents that if they wear Dominican apparel in public to remember they are representing the school, because most likely they will run into someone with Dominican connections. It happens to me every time, and I love it! Dominican connections run deep, and we are just getting started at making our mark in the world as the best and most formative Catholic high school!

In June, I attended the Dominican Veritas Ministries Conference, which included the DVM Trustees and Board, as well as the Presidents and Board Chairpersons from their 13 sponsored schools. The theme, Stewarding the Dominican Charism

Together, was poignant because very few of our schools have Dominican Sisters still present daily, making our responsibility to carry on their mission, passion, and love for ministry so vital. Sr. M. Paul, Prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Springfield shared in her presentation, "Every Dominican school has the blood, sweat, and tears of the Sisters who founded them embedded in the brick and mortar, and the Board, leaders, educators, and alumni must do everything possible to ensure the Dominican charism and mission live on for generations to come."

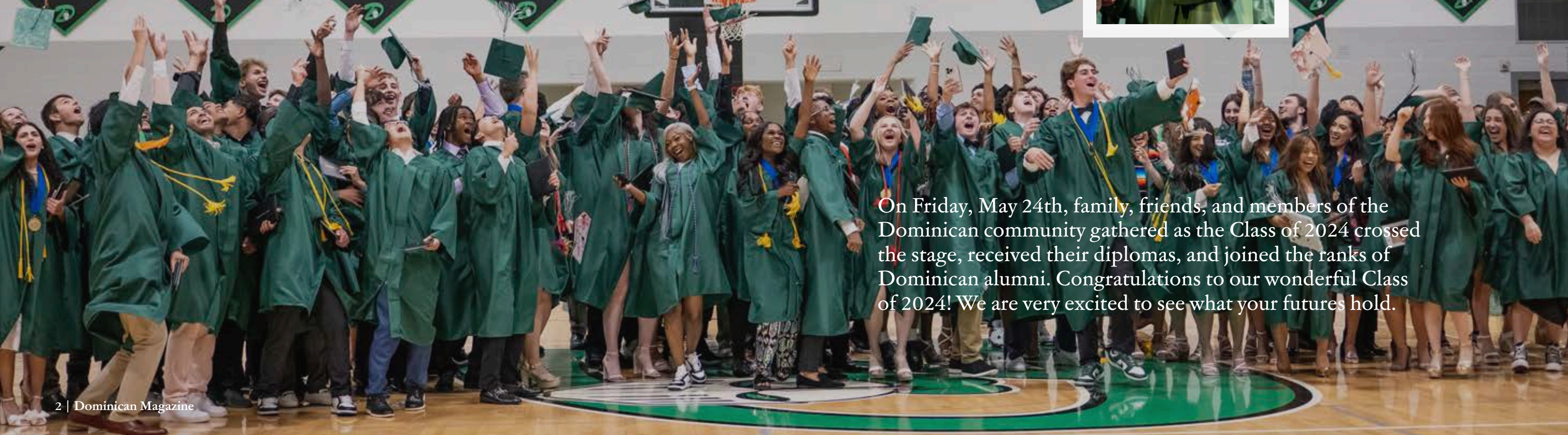
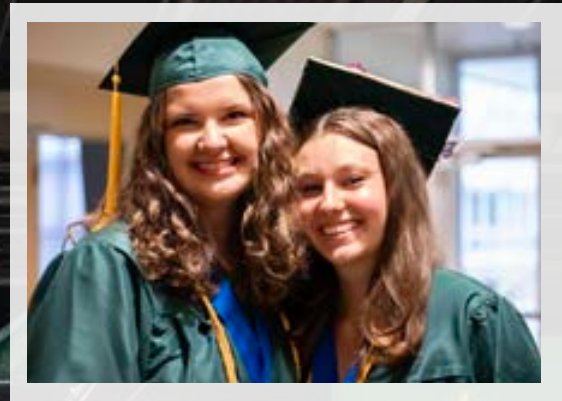
Being part of Dominican High School is incredibly special, and I hope you are proud of your heritage and honored to belong to such a truly wonderful community. This magazine highlights some phenomenal people and amazing Dominican connections which you will enjoy. And if you decide to wear Dominican apparel the next time you go out, let me know how many fellow Knights you meet while wearing it. I think you will be amazed!

My sincere thanks for your love, support, and promotion of Dominican High School.

God Bless and Go Knights!

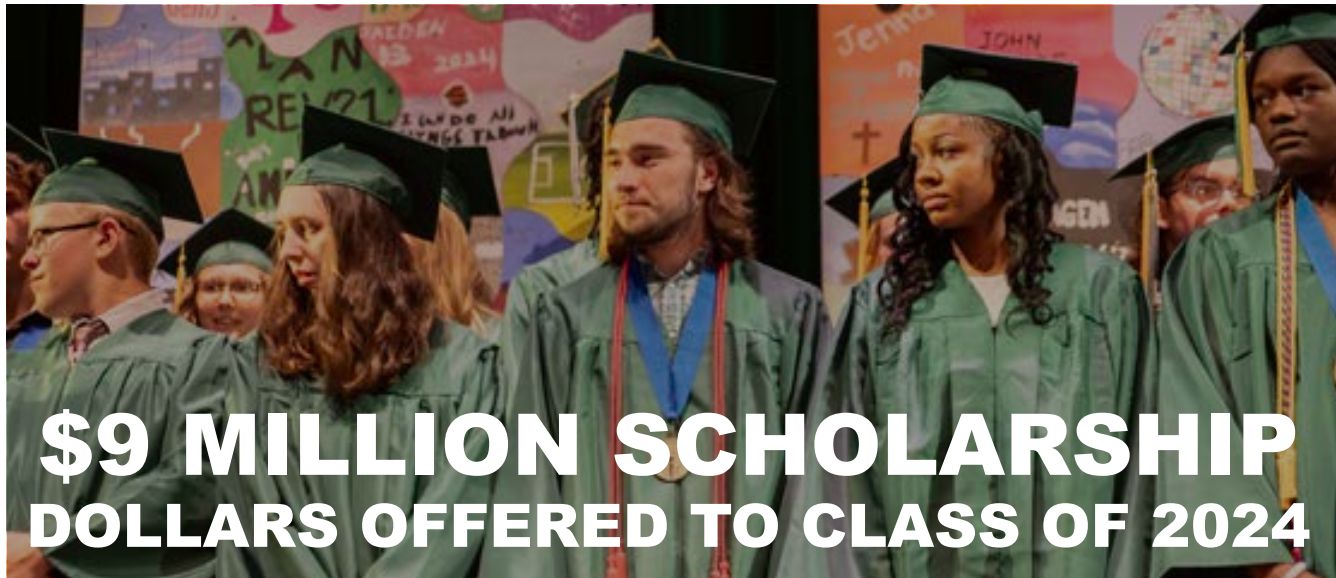
Leanne Giese  
President

# DOMINICAN CLASS OF 2024



On Friday, May 24th, family, friends, and members of the Dominican community gathered as the Class of 2024 crossed the stage, received their diplomas, and joined the ranks of Dominican alumni. Congratulations to our wonderful Class of 2024! We are very excited to see what your futures hold.

# BY THE NUMBERS



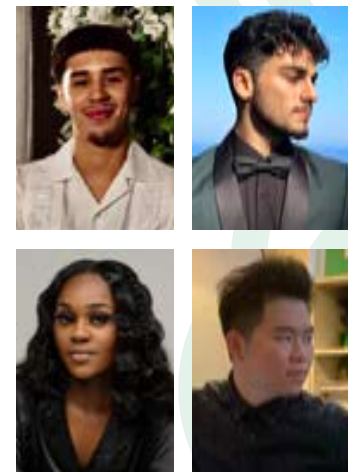
*Alex Salud*  
GPA: 4.375



*Ellie Murray*  
GPA: 4.306

## NOTABLE FULL SCHOLARSHIPS

**FOUR**  
*All-In Milwaukee Scholars*



*Elian Cabán, Mitchell Madi, Takia Epps, Patrick Jiang*

**ONE**  
*Burke Scholarship Recipient*



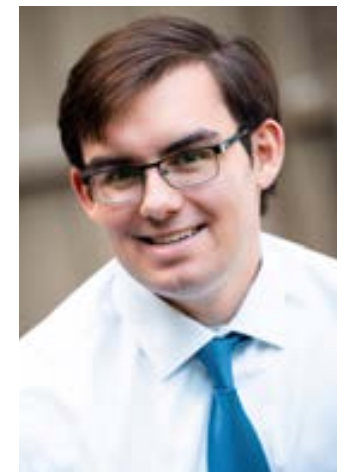
*Dayanara Sanchez*

**ONE**  
*Evans Scholar Recipient*



*Josh Gebrke*

**ONE**  
*National Merit Finalist*



*Anthony Smith*

# AROUND CAMPUS



## SERVICE DAY

Dominican students visited Kinship Farm to prepare an entire greenhouse for a new round of planting. On average, 6,500 community service hours are completed by each class per year.



## MULTICULTURAL DAY AT DOMINICAN

On April 26th, our Knights celebrated Multicultural Day by attending a variety of sessions that focused on topics like world cuisine, dance instruction, beading, world music, and more. We even welcomed extraordinary current student performances at this year's event!



# DOMINICAN HOSTS 66TH ANNUAL PADRE SERRA TOURNAMENT



Dominican proudly hosted the 66th Annual Padre Serra Tournament in March! Congratulations to our 8th grade champions: Holy Apostles Girls Basketball and St. Mary Parish School Boys Basketball.



## SINSINAWA CORE VALUE AWARDS

The Sinsinawa Core Value Awards recognize seniors who symbolize the culture of excellence at Dominican. Congrats to the Class of 2024 recipients (from left):

- Elian Cabán, Partnership
- Grace Foy, Truth
- Ellie Murray, Justice
- Donovan Harwood, Compassion
- Mitchell Madi, Community



## MATTHEW 25 AWARD

Congratulations to Dayanara Sanchez, this year's Matthew 25 Award recipient!





AT THE HEART OF  
**DOMINICAN**  
 IS RELATIONSHIPS

**D**ominican High School is a generational revolving door of relationships. We gather communities of current students, involved alumni, and legacy families who have sent multiple generations to be educated at Dominican. Our staff and faculty include current parents, past parents, alumni, legacy family members and everything in-between. Each student feeds into the development of every alumni, just as every alumni supports the future creation of another legacy family, and every legacy family's support then enables another future Dominican student/graduate. But these aren't solely hypothetical scenarios, we have the authentic Dominican relationships that fuel our school.

When each student begins their journey at Dominican, they're forming connections that may very well carry throughout their lives. Students at Dominican matriculate from 70+ feeder schools through the greater Milwaukee area with differing education and family backgrounds, personal interests, communities, and more. We welcome students whose parents walked these very halls as teens themselves, and students who are starting with a clean slate at a school that's entirely new to them.

Within the Class of 2024, Jocelyn Rivera is an example of a student who was not connected to Dominican before beginning her freshman year in 2020. Before Jocelyn found her way to becoming a Dominican Knight, there were a lot of obstacles to get here. Transportation, school tuition, and brand new classmates in an entirely different



environment can feel overstimulating for an incoming freshman. In a school of 330 students, it's safe to say our students all know one another deeper than a first name basis. In order for Jocelyn to attend Dominican for four years, graduate with a 3.8 GPA, enter our circle of alumni, and be attending Marquette University in the Fall of 2024, she first needed to enter the halls of Dominican. In 2019, Jocelyn did just that and came into Dominican as a 7th grader for a Shadow Day. During a Shadow Day, our Admissions Department pairs a prospective student with a current Dominican student to experience a regular school day. Fast forward to her Senior Year at Dominican, Jocelyn wove herself into the school culture by joining and serving in leadership roles in Multicultural Club, Fuego Latino Club, National Honor Society, and she was voted 2023 Prom Queen too. It's safe to say that a simple first connection to Dominican, like a 7th grade Shadow Day, can cause a ripple effect through a student's success.

As each student moves beyond their high school years at Dominican, they enter our very accomplished group of alumni. Within the larger circle of alumni is a rare instance of a current teacher, future legacy parent, and alumni all wrapped into one. Bryn Hesidorf '97 Van Beek currently runs the Tech Department for the Theatre Program here at Dominican. Her expertise has graced our staff and students for 27 years, through 95 theatre productions, and her personal connection to Dominican is continuing to strengthen through her children. In the Fall of 2024, Bryn's son Caleb, a new graduate of St. Sebastian School,



*My time at Dominican surpassed all expectations. I eagerly anticipate staying connected with Dominican as a proud alumna, forever grateful for the foundation it has provided me.*

- Jocelyn Rivera

will begin his freshman year at the very school his mom attended during her high school years. Bryn's long-lasting connection to Dominican couldn't have been formed without those transformative years she spent here as a student.

Her time spent here helped establish the road to her future career back at Dominican, and her decision to send her kids to experience what she once did. This weaves her through each cycle of the Dominican experience, to then hopefully generate a similar outcome with her children's futures.



Bryn is one of the 19 of 50 current staff members who have chosen Dominican for their own children. Our leaders not only support and believe the mission of our school, but choose to weave it through their interpersonal relationships. As each of those connections builds a stronger tie to Dominican, their passion and drive act as a magnet. In the 2023-2024 school year, Dominican's graduating class held eight strong legacy families. Specifically, the Almond, Bennett, Harwood, Ketterhagen, Power, Saari, Thoma, and Wahlen families (pictured on right). Each of these newly graduated legacy students is experiencing the cycle of Dominican relationships forming their futures. They each understand first-hand the impact meaningful relationships have on a person and how it comes back full circle. Without their parents having once been a Dominican student, learning our core values and four pillars, forming close-knit relationships with their former teachers and peers, this cycle would never begin. As legacy students graduate, we hope for two things. First, that this student will choose to send their own children here to receive an equally meaningful high school experience. And second, that they realize the impact of Dominican relationships and will consider supporting a student who's looking for that same thing.



An exciting Dominican connection is a man who taught biology for 38 years, coached Dominican Boys Varsity Basketball for 11 years, started the Dominican Girls Basketball program and coached for

12 years, started the Annual Bill Crowley Golf Outing, enrolled all four of his kids, had two of his grandchildren graduate from Dominican, and still stays in contact through alumni events, fundraisers, and merely stopping by weekly to chat. Mr. Dominican himself, Bill Crowley! Bill has a 65-year long and still going strong relationship with Dominican High School and is an extremely rare gem within our collection of Knights. He drove his own fate of forming a legacy

family, becoming a coach, and more by simply being welcomed into the halls of Dominican as a teacher in 1959 by the Sinsinawa Dominicans. Bill's relationship to Dominican has formed countless connections through roughly 5,700 students, including his own children.

Eamon O'Keeffe, former Principal and past parent describes Bill as someone, "dedicated to the intellectual, human and spiritual formation of young people." Bill's ability to lead by example and instill those philosophies



Bill Crowley, 2024

within the thousands of lives he's influenced strengthens his already deep connection to Dominican. Bill's dedication to our school has driven the success of our students, invoked inspiration for our alumni, and fueled the formation of further legacy families. His ability to foster long and meaningful relationships is on full display through his heart being so embedded into our Dominican culture.

When we consider our connection with Dominican, it comes down to the relationships formed by lives intertwined here. You can enter school as a new student looking for a place to belong and find yourself one day sending kids of your own here. We build rich histories and heart-warming stories of those involved with Dominican and we plan to continue being a place for these relationships to bloom.



Coach Bill Crowley (top left), Varsity Boys Basketball 1968



Bill Crowley, Biology Class 1968



Coach Bill Crowley, Varsity Girls Basketball 1979



# FAMILY TESTIMONIALS



*Sam Starke '12, Mary Yadgir '12 Starke, Hayley and Simon Yadgir, Rosa Yadgir '24, Daniel Yadgir '15, Sarah Jablonowski '16 Yadgir*



*Daniel Yadgir '15 and Sarah Jablonowski '16 Yadgir*

*We fell into Dominican High School by surprise and it's been a love story ever since, literally, since two of our children met their spouses at Dominican. It was barely on our radar as a choice of schools when our oldest daughter was led to go there. We couldn't be happier with the connections we've made with teachers, staff, friends, and families in the Dominican community. This community has invested themselves in our children's lives and we, in turn, are invested in Dominican. There is a special place in our hearts for Dominican High School!*

- Amy Yadgir, Mother of Mary '12, Simon, Daniel '15, and Rosa '24

*My time at Dominican helped shape who I am today and it was important that my two sons, Breon '23 and Garrett '24, receive the same rigorous high school experience that I did. I know they will excel in college and beyond because of how Dominican prepared them.*

- Kyontah Veasy-Bennett '93



*Garrett Bennett '24 and Kyontah Veasy-Bennett '93*



*The O'Connell Family*

*When our oldest son Andy was looking at high schools in 2000, Dominican wasn't on our radar. Our niece Caitlin Feiereisen Klister '01 was in theater, and her experience introduced Andy and our family to the DHS community and the many opportunities for involvement. Andy chose Dominican as did his three siblings: Dan '06 (meeting his wife Margaret Cope '06), Ben '09 and Tim '10. All were involved in sports and theater. My husband John and I got involved in supporting those programs, meeting life-long friends. I was president of FAB (Fine Arts Boosters). The moms from this group still gather monthly! My sister Joan, niece Caitlin, and I served as auction chairs, and to this day, the family attends in force. John, whose aunt was a Dominican Sister, spent many years on boards and committees, lending his expertise.*

*Our children's wonderful Dominican experience led my siblings to send their children to Dominican: Chris Feiereisen '05, Erin '15, Annie '17, Jack '20, Eleanor '20, Nathan '21, and Vincent '23 Desing. The Desings became involved at Dominican through volunteering and leadership roles. The connection to Dominican and service continues today with Tim serving as the Assistant Knights baseball coach. He loves the students and his role in their development. Our niece Annie is the Director of Dominican's Summer Theater Camp. Our oldest grandchild Ella, currently a 7th grader at Holy Family, will be the start of a new generation to share in the blessings of the Dominican community which has given so much to us.*

- Patty O'Connell, Mother of Dominican Alumni

# CAMPUS MINISTRY UPDATES

## ST. DOMINIC MURAL

The mural of St. Dominic proudly displayed in our new Campus Ministry Center, includes multiple symbols reflecting his life and teachings. The rosary represents his devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The star above his head depicts his vision from God of where he would build his first convent. The inclusion of white lilies honor his chastity, and the dog with a torch reflects his mother's dream while pregnant with Dominic, envisioning her child as "setting the world on fire."



## KAIROS PLAQUES

Every junior student attends one of the two yearly Kairos retreats. Dominican seniors lead this very powerful 3-day, 2-night faith experience for our juniors. Following the retreat, students sign their names to their Kairos poster, signifying a commitment to their faith and to "living the 4th!"



## PEACEFUL SPACE

The St. Dominic Ministry Center was renovated in October thanks to a very generous donor. This new meeting space seats 50 people and is used daily by our Campus Ministry Team for retreat planning, guest speakers, liturgical celebrations, and middle school retreats. It also serves as a meeting space for faculty and students, and as a space to host additional gatherings at Dominican.



## CRUCIFIX

The crucifix that hangs among the Kairos plaques is a smaller replica of the crucifix hanging behind the altar in the St. Dominic Chapel.

# ATHLETICS



## GIRLS SOFTBALL

To say that the 2024 softball season for Dominican High School was a special one is a major understatement, just ask long-time Head Coach, Ben Weiler. In the Wisconsin Interscholastic Athletic Association (WIAA) Sectional semifinal softball game, the team nearly upended a very talented Shoreland Lutheran team.

After an opening Regional semifinal win, starting pitcher Lily Weiler struck out 17 batters and threw a no-hitter, helping the team take on – and take down – the #1 Seed Brookfield Academy. Shoreland Lutheran would then prove to be just a bit too much for our Knights, who battled to the very last out. We are proud of our Knights and the season they shared, the Regional Championship they earned, and the resiliency and grit that they showed!



*Their success this year has established a new standard of excellence for future Dominican teams and our softball program.*

- Coach Ben Weiler

## GIRLS BASKETBALL

Facing Oostburg, the #1 Seed in the WIAA Regional Playoffs, was a daunting task for our Dominican Knights girls' basketball team at the conclusion of their season. But, when you've recently won the Conference Championship, three consecutive Regional Championships, and earned a trip to the State Tournament – it's not a mountain too high to climb.

Our entire Dominican High School community celebrates the contributions of every member of our Knights' Regional Championship team! Most especially, we thank our Seniors, including Chicago State basketball-bound Keona McGee, and All-State Academic selection, Dana McFarlane – for their lasting program impact.



*Watching these wonderful young ladies develop not only as players but also as individuals has been the most rewarding part of this season.*

- Coach Kevin Schramka

## BOYS BASEBALL

When new Dominican High School baseball Head Coach Jordan Shutta took the reins this year from his predecessor, he knew he had a talented bunch of student-athletes ready to compete for the Metro Classic Conference crown.

The Knights had six Metro Classic Conference All-Conference honorees, including Senior Charlie Wahlen, who eclipsed both 100 hit and 200 strikeout marks for his career, as well as Junior pitching ace Tyler Feldbruegge. Both Wahlen and Feldbruegge were named All-District by the Wisconsin Baseball Coaches Association (WBCA), with Wahlen also being named to the WBCA All-Academic Team AND to the All-State Team.



*As a team, we competed relentlessly and represented Dominican with class – and I honestly couldn't be prouder of each and every one of them.*

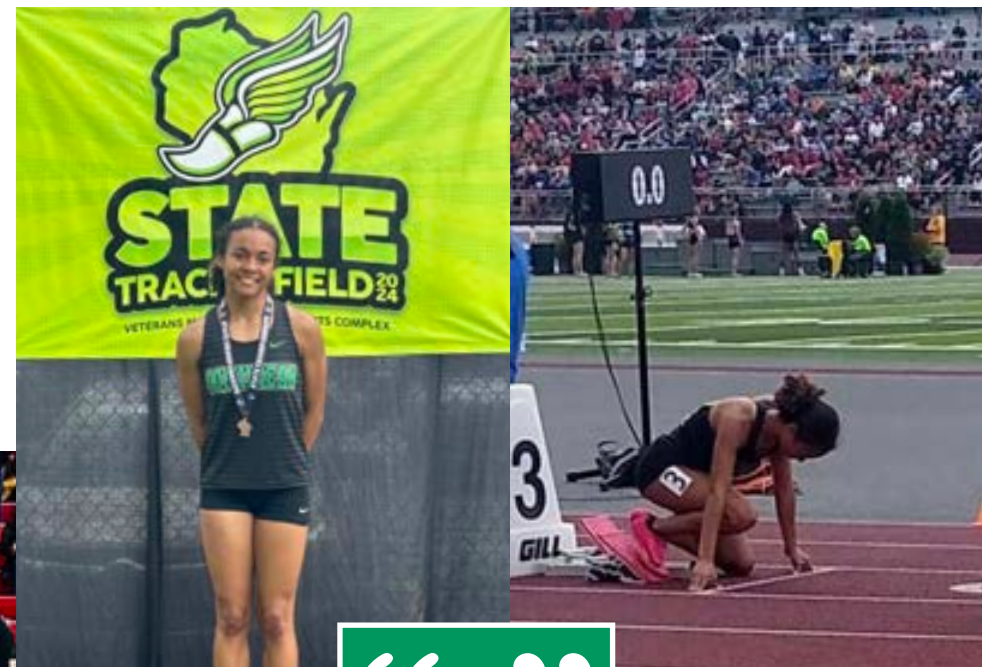
- Coach Jordan Shutta

## TRACK & FIELD

It was a banner year for our Dominican High School Track & Field Team, which saw 19 student-athletes qualify to compete at Sectionals. There, two Knights, Senior Kaelyn Lockett (2nd in the Triple Jump) and Sophomore Sydney Knautz – earned trips to State!

At the WIAA State Track & Field competition in LaCrosse on Saturday, June 1st, our Dominican High School 2023-2024 sport season closed in a very exciting and successful fashion when Sydney Knautz earned a 6th place finish, and a place on the Winner's Podium in the 200m Finals. Impressively, she also finished 8th in the 100m Finals!

Congratulations to Sydney, Kaelyn, and all our Sectional-qualifying Track & Field team members!



*I wanted to build upon last season's trip to State and get to the Winner's Podium. I'm so grateful for this opportunity.*

- Sydney Knautz '24



1



2



3



4

## KNIGHTS IN ACTION

### 1. KATE BOETTINGER

Kate Boettinger certainly digs volleyball, and to the tune of over 1,000 recorded digs during her athletic career at Dominican High School! Boettinger often served as the Knights' libero, reflecting her defensive prowess and excellent passing skills. It's easy to see why she was a two-time Metro Classic All-Conference honoree, and a two-time team Captain.

### 3. CLAIRE EMMERICH

On April 10th, Senior Claire Emmerich netted five goals, the final one counting as her 100th career goal! Claire will play NCAA Division 1 Soccer at Drake University in the fall. Finishing up her Senior year, Emmerich was recognized as the *Female Scholar Athlete* of her graduating class, a nod to her 4.29 GPA.

### 2. AARON WOMACK III

In Crowley Gymnasium on November 30th, Junior Aaron Womack III scored his 1,000th point, hitting a clutch three-point victory shot. That next week, he was voted the Wisconsin High School *Athlete of the Week*. Womack is garnering interest from numerous NCAA Division 1 schools, but first, he has some business to take care of during the Knights' 2024-2025 season!

### 4. JACK GIESE

Jack was a four-sport athlete, but his most notable success was in lacrosse, playing for the high school co-op team which includes Dominican, Whitefish Bay, Nicolet, and Shorewood. Jack surpassed an impressive 100 goals scored, breaking the teams 23-year record, and was named MVP for 2024. He earned the USA Lacrosse 2024 All Academic Award for the state of Wisconsin. Jack also received the 2024 Mark Kasprzak Award at Dominican.

## ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS

### SOCCER - BOYS

*First Team*  
Sebastian von Bohlen  
*Honorable Mention*  
Tyler Feldbruegge  
Sean Melloch  
Nate Agostino

### VOLLEYBALL - GIRLS

*First Team*  
Kate Boettinger  
*Second Team*  
Marlee Hills  
*Honorable Mention*  
Maddie Pickart  
Bella Stecker  
Madisyn Thoma

### FOOTBALL

*First Team*  
Demitrius Taylor, Jr.  
*Honorable Mention*  
Amare Nixon

### BASEBALL

*First Team*  
Tyler Feldbruegge (Pitcher)  
Charlie Wahlen (Infield)\*+  
Cristian Murillo (Outfield)  
*Honorable Mention*  
Leo Saavedra  
Michael Cruz  
Gavin Olen

### VOLLEYBALL - BOYS

*First Team*  
Jai Berrios-Schroeder\*  
*Second Team*  
Oliver Wilms  
*Honorable Mention*  
Mitchell Madi

### TENNIS - GIRLS

*First Team*  
Tatum Cook/Margo Meyer (Doubles)  
*Honorable Mention*  
Jada Newman (Singles)  
Eleanor Hancox (Singles)

### GOLF

*First Team*  
Mitchell Madi  
*Second Team*  
Harris Burgos  
Donovan Harwood

### SOCCER - GIRLS

*First Team*  
Claire Emmerich  
*Second Team*  
Emma Hubbard  
*Honorable Mention*  
Kate Boettinger  
Tessa Goll  
Maria Emmerich

### CROSS COUNTRY

*First Team*  
Addison Drifka  
Fabian Wakanabo

### TRACK & FIELD - BOYS

*Second Team*  
800m: Sean Melloch  
High Jump: Demitrius Taylor Jr.

### SOFTBALL

*First Team*  
Lily Weiler  
*Second Team*  
Maddie Pickart  
*Honorable Mention*  
Ceci Parlier  
Sophia Ayala  
Cate Wahlen  
Vivian Snyder

### BASKETBALL - GIRLS

*First Team*  
Keona McGee\*  
*Second Team*  
Brooklyn Love  
*Honorable Mention*  
Laylah Bly  
*All-Defensive Team*  
Keona McGee\*  
Dana McFarlane+

### BASKETBALL - BOYS

*First Team*  
Aaron Womack III\*  
Jaiden Martin\*  
*Second Team*  
Markel Webb\*  
Derrick Johnson\*  
*Honorable Mention*  
Jeremiah Mitchell  
*All-Defensive Team*  
Aaron Womack III\*

### TRACK & FIELD - GIRLS

*First Team*  
100m: Sydney Knautz  
200m: Sydney Knautz  
Triple Jump: Kaelyn Lockett  
*Second Team*  
4x100m: Sydney Knautz,  
Kaelyn Lockett, Laylah Bly,  
Brooklyn Love  
Long Jump: Keona McGee  
*Third Team*  
3200m: Addison Drifka

\*All-State Selection  
+All-State Academic

# STUDENT INVOLVEMENT



## FORENSICS

Dominican's Forensics team, led by teacher Pam Mueller, experienced great success in the 2023-2024 season. Every member medaled and the team won Third Place among all smaller teams at the West Bend Tournament.

**Mia Holl:** First Place, *Solo Acting Humorous*

**Mia Holl, Ellie Murray and Ara Garguilo:** First Place, *Play Acting*

**Cate Naffah:** Fourth Place, *Solo Acting Serious*

**Henry Grassl:** Fifth Place, *Expository*

**Evelyn Bleything:** Fourth Place, *Extemporaneous*



## LEGO LEAGUE

Dominican's Robotics Team, the TermiKnights, lead a LEGO League through our JuniorKnights group of middle school students. LEGO League provides the JuniorKnights with hands-on experience in the STEM field with Dominican Robotics members. They participated in their first Regionals Competition this year!

## NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY

On March 19th, the St. Dominic Chapter of the National Honor Society inducted 25 Dominican High School students who have earned a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher. Congrats, Knights!



## ROBOTICS

The TermiKnights, led by teacher Brandon Rindfleisch, took a byte out of the competition at Seven Rivers Regionals! Congrats to the TermiKnights for winning four total matches and receiving four ranking points based on team harmony.



## INTERNATIONAL TRIPS

This summer, Dominican students enrolled in Spanish III-V visited Spain and those enrolled in French III-V visited France. Their experiences included visiting several cities, attending a school day, and staying with a host family.

# THAT'S A WRAP!

*Matilda, the Musical*



*Jane Austen's Sense and Sensibility*

## 2023-2024 Dominican Theatre Recap

Dominican Theatre's 2023-24 season showcased our students' talent, versatility, creativity, and commitment to excellence. 70 students were involved in our productions this year, making lifelong memories both onstage and off.

Our theatre season kicked off in October with playwright Kate Hamill's fresh take on Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility*. This show was full of challenging ensemble work, delightful characters, silly energy, emotional depth with a comedic edge, modern music, and spirited performances, all in front of a stunning backdrop painted by Dominican's Stage Crew.

In February, we performed our second and final show of the season: *Matilda, the Musical*. This was a huge show from both an artistic and technical standpoint that brought larger-than-life sets and characters, an exciting story, dynamic dancing, catchy melodies and gorgeous harmonies, more than a little magic, and even a trapeze on the Dominican stage. *Matilda* received 22 Jerry Award nominations and won the following awards: Outstanding Leading Performance (Dayanara Sanchez '24), Outstanding Dance Performance (Elle Holtey '26), Spirit Award (Anna Bechtel '24), and Outstanding Musical!

These shows wouldn't have been possible without an incredible stage crew and technical department that built, paint, lit, amplified, designed, costumed, and ran both beautiful productions. Bravo Dominican Theatre on a wonderful season!

*Photos by Kate Jurgens/PaxPhoto*

# FACULTY AND STAFF ANNIVERSARIES

Dominican would not be the incredible and very special Catholic high school that it is without the dedication and passion of its faculty and staff members. Congratulations to our employees who achieved milestone anniversaries this year! We are so grateful for their commitment to Dominican.



**65 YEARS**  
Bill Crowley  
*Historian*



**20 YEARS**  
Rachel Garry  
*Registrar*



**15 YEARS**  
Vinnie Murray  
*Principal*



**10 YEARS**  
Christine Hudak  
*Database Manager*



**10 YEARS**  
Emily Naczek  
*Campus Minister,  
Religious Studies Teacher*



**5 YEARS**  
Julie Dlugopolski  
*Alumni Manager*



**5 YEARS**  
Susan Eoloff  
*English Teacher*



**5 YEARS**  
Shelley Hall  
*Spanish Teacher*



**5 YEARS**  
Michael Mueller  
*Admissions Director*



**5 YEARS**  
Sarah Parlier  
*Choir Director*



**5 YEARS**  
Brandon Rindfleisch  
*Science Teacher,  
Robotics Head Coach*



*Pictured: Alia '20, Marc, Myles '22 and Sean '24 Melloch*

## SR. DUCHESNE MAXWELL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

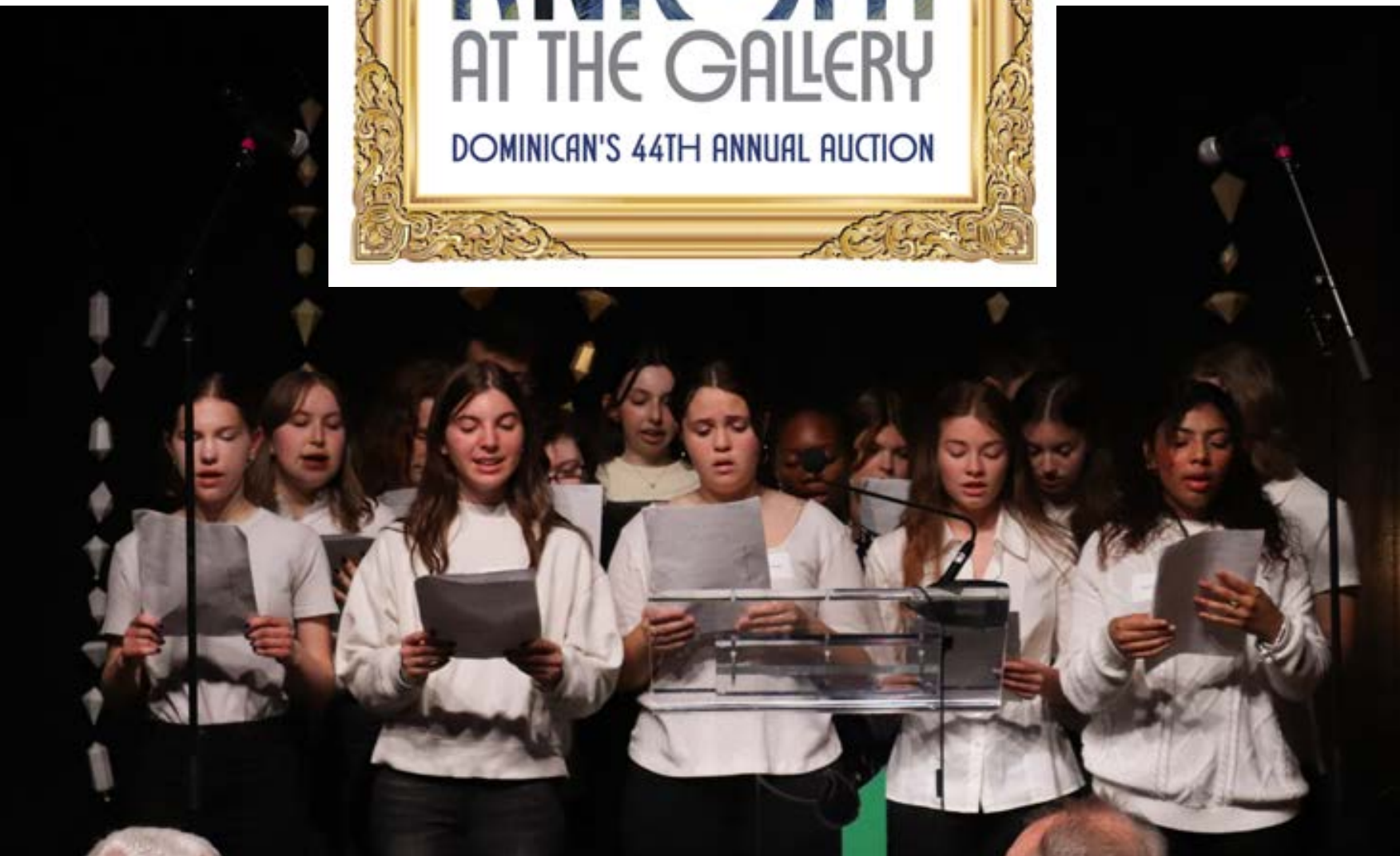
If you've attended an event at Dominican in the last eight years then you surely would have seen Marc or Christine Melloch volunteering and working hard behind the scenes to make sure that event was successful. Marc and Christine have three Dominican graduates; Alia '20, Myles '22, and Sean '24, all of whom also graduated from St. Eugene School in Fox Point.

Their time at Dominican began when Alia joined the theatre program during her freshman year. Of course, Christine and Marc immediately joined the Fine Arts Booster (FAB) so they could get to know other families and help out at the new school their oldest was attending. Supporting community and giving back are priorities for the Melloch family.

Once Myles began his freshman year in 2018, Christine and Marc joined the Athletic Booster Club (ABC) and spent countless hours setting up for events, working at games, and selling concessions. Christine was known as the "concessions guru," and Marc was selected to become an ABC Board Member.

Marc and Christine's volunteering also spans the hallways of Dominican. The Mellochs served as a host family for Admissions, have volunteered their time at Dominican Open Houses, and have been valuable spokespeople for Dominican, especially at St. Eugene, their home parish. Marc values Dominican and it shines when he shares his personal experience. No matter what he's doing at Dominican, Marc is always smiling and is a selfless servant.

Christine passed away in the spring of 2021, and she is remembered for her endless devotion to her family, faith and community. In Marc's acceptance speech for the Sr. Duchesne Maxwell Award, he said, "Christine was always the bigger volunteer between the two of us, and I just followed her lead. I continue to volunteer at Dominican because I love the community, but also to continue Christine's beautiful legacy of servant leadership. I want to role model the importance of service for our children and for all students at Dominican."



DOMINICAN'S SHOWSTOPPER

# A Knight at the Gallery

enjoyed by alumnus Jim Domach '86 and past parents Tom and Susie Popalisky.

The pièce de résistance of our evening was scholarship speaker, Huitzi Garcia '24 who courageously shared his story of how Dominican helped him through family struggles and personal hardships so that he could be successful not only in high school, but beyond. Student stories like Huitzi's remind us why we raise our paddles on auction night; students at Dominican are known not only by name but by need and gift. This year we raised a record-setting \$245,000 during the paddle raise including a remarkable \$50,000 donation in response to our scholarship speaker.

Finally, thank you to our amazing sponsors and volunteers for helping us curate the perfect evening. The auction wouldn't be a success without our extensive crews of volunteers, vendors, and sponsors that make the evening run smoothly. A special thank you to Mary Pesich '78 for the absolutely stunning decor for the evening.

Thank you to our wonderful 2024 Auction Co-Chairs, past parent, Theresa Barry and alumna, Jenny McMahon-Varick '84, for hosting a showstopping event, which raised a record-high \$400,000 for Dominican High School. The evening of April 20 was truly an evening of philanthropy, culture, and community. This year's attendance included 290 guests, with over 90 alumni, and a strong showing of 20 guests from the class of 1984. Not only were our alumni present at the auction, but the evening showcased many of them in our art gallery. The Dominican community continues to impress not only with strong alumni presence but the wide talent of the group.

Our big winners of the evening were Susan Stolz '79 and Mary Linn '67 who both went home with Samsung Frame TVs as our Golden Ticket and Knight-Of Raffle winners respectively. Heads and Tails winner, taking home \$500 cash, was Patrick Feerick '71 while Giacomo Faullucca '79 won the rare Old Fitzgerald Bourbon. Lastly, our big winners of the Buck's courtside ticket raffle donated by Palermo's was





# ALUMNI UPDATES

## The '60s



**Margaret Fleming '67 Schultz** and her husband, Gordon celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary this past December with their four children and spouses and eleven grandchildren. The photo is from a "Longest Couple Married" dance contest from a recent wedding they attended.

## The '70s



**Jeff Bekos '77** will be embarking on a remarkable 4,600-mile bike ride across the country beginning July 29th with planned stops at 26 Ronald McDonald Houses along the way. Jeff's passion for RMHC comes out of gratitude after spending 254 days in 2013 at a Ronald McDonald House in Philadelphia when his daughter was undergoing treatments for a rare autoimmune disease. Fortunately, today she is a healthy 24-year-old! The experience ignited a profound sense of gratitude and a steadfast commitment to giving back, so on this 50th anniversary of RMHC, Jeff has launched One Dad's Mission, an organization that gives back and raises awareness, volunteerism, and money to help the houses help families for the next 50 years. Jeff will be arriving at the Milwaukee house on September 18th. Go to [onedadmission.org](http://onedadmission.org) for more information.

**Beth Giese '73**, after suffering with diabetes for many years, received a kidney and pancreas transplant in 2008, and after 15 years, is still going strong. Although she continues to have complications with her health, she attributes conquering each setback to her close relationship with God.



**David Stack '72** and three companions walked 300 miles along the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage route in Spain last September. They spent the entire month on the Camino, sleeping in albergue dormitories that they found in the small towns along the path. This pilgrimage was featured in the 2010 movie "The Way."

## The '80s



**Steve Quant '80** was recently promoted to IT Manager for Denali Ingredients, a Dairy and Ice Cream ingredient manufacturer based in New Berlin, Wis. Denali Ingredients signature product which is found nationwide at leading grocery stores is Moose Tracks Fudge ice cream.

## The '90s



**Ileana Rivera '98**, COO of the European-inspired Lowlands restaurant group, was inducted into the Knighthood of the Brewer's Paddle as an honorary knight in recognition for her efforts to spread authentic Belgian bier culture in Wisconsin at Lowlands' restaurants. Ileana is the first Wisconsin woman and first Latina to be knighted by the organization, which dates back centuries.

## The '00s

**Molly Brauer '09** recently started working as the Executive Assistant to the CEO at Reinhart Boerner Van Deuren S.C. in Milwaukee.



**Nate Friday '09** has been named the Director of Formation for Dominican Veritas Ministries, Dominican High School's official sponsoring body. Since 2015, Nate has served as Dominican's Campus Minister, Dean of Students, Mission Integration Coordinator, and Religious Studies teacher. In his new role which began on July 1st, he is supporting and connecting the mission leaders within the schools sponsored by Dominican Veritas Ministries and developing programming and collaboration within the Dominican educators learning community.



**N'Jameh Russell-Camara '09** has been appointed to the Wisconsin Humanities Council by Governor Tony Evers. This appointment recognizes her skills as a performer, community engager and her belief in the power of the arts and humanities to transform the health of communities.

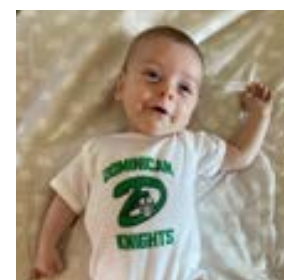


**Katie Simon '04** married Peter McQuaid on August 26th, 2023 at the Hotel Monaco in Washington, D.C. The photo was taken at the Smithsonian American Art Museum. Katie works for the U.S. Senate and the couple resides in D.C.

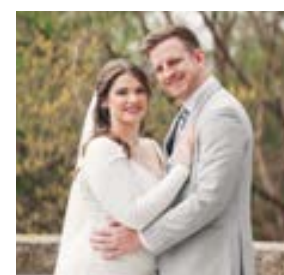
## The '10s



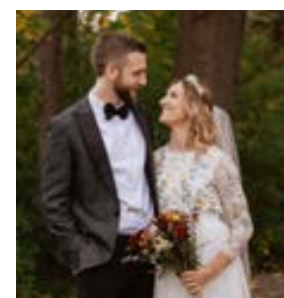
**Drew Doring '11** and his wife Angie, welcomed daughter, Shea Addison, on September 25, 2023. The family resides in Roswell, Ga.



**Patrick Feldmeier '13** and his wife, Kilee, welcomed son, Callahan Barry, on January 10, 2024. The family lives in Minneapolis, Minn.



**Tim Jurgens '14** married Alyssa Strzyzewski on April 27, 2024 at St. Robert Parish in Shorewood, followed by a reception at The Atrium. Members of the wedding party included siblings Mo Jurgens '13, Charlie Jurgens '11, Brigid Jurgens '19 and friend, Sam LeMense '11. The couple resides in Port Washington, Wis.



**Patrick Linn '10 and Gabriella Badran '13** were married on Oct 28, 2023 at the Fox Point Beach Club in Fox Point, Wis. The couple resides in Milwaukee.



**Danny Mitchell '19** will be entering the Norbertine Order at St. Norbert Abbey in De Pere, Wis. in August. He will have a two-year novitiate living and studying at the Abbey, and then will move to Chicago to attend the Catholic Theological Union where he will be pursuing his Masters of Divinity, working towards priestly ordination in 2029.



**Chris Topp '14** married Sarah Sepanski on October 21, 2023 at Diamond Creek Farms in White Creek, Tenn. Members of the wedding party included siblings, Emily Topp '06 Roth, Sara Topp '08, Elle Topp '11, Laura Topp '16 and friend, Kyle Dlugopolski '14. The couple resides in Hermitage, Tenn.



**Sam '12 and Mary Yadgir '12 Starke** welcomed their daughter, Josephine Rose on February 19, 2024. The family resides in Chicago.

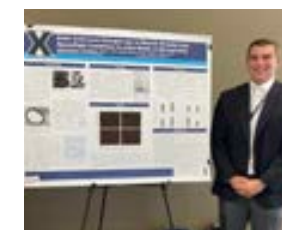


**Jojo Wyklendt '12 Reardon** and husband Michael, welcomed daughter Jane, born in January. The family now has four children and live in Shorewood.

## The '20s



**Joshea Davis-Joiner '20** was selected as the Senior undergraduate speaker for Marquette University's EOP-SSS graduation ceremony which took place on May 1st. Joshea graduated with a BSN, and will be working as an RN on the Sickle Cell Anemia floor at Froedtert Hospital.



**Nate Mazza '20**, a recent Xavier University graduate with a major in biology and minor in chemistry, participated in a pilot project focusing on muscle atrophy in space. The study yielded key insights that led to the University's receipt of a one-year \$150,000 NASA Human Research Program grant to explore how spaceflight affects the human body. Nate, his professor, and fellow classmate presented their work at the Ohio Academy of Science Annual Meeting last spring. Nate currently works as a Clinical Laboratory Technician at Prevention Genetics in Marshfield, Wis.

# SOMEONE TO KNOW



SUSAN HALE

**Currently Lives:** Cedarburg, Wisconsin

**Current Job:** Fine art artist with my own Studio in Cedarburg. I've been making and selling art since 1970.

**Role Models:** Sophie Grochowski, my mother. David Hockney, artist.

**Favorite Dominican Memory:** Intramural sports and making art in the art room with Sister Philomena.

**How did Dominican shape the person you are today:** As graduation day approached in 1965, Sister Athanasia (my homeroom teacher) asked me about my plans after graduation. I really didn't have any except maybe getting a job somewhere. She said to me "Susan, you are a smart girl and really should consider going to college". That encouragement changed my life's direction! I went to UWM and pursued my degree.

**What are some ways you've been able to give back to Dominican:** Sharing with others my positive experience at Dominican.

**Words of advice for current Dominican students:** Enjoy life!



BARRY BOWEN

**Currently Lives:** Chicago Area

**Current Job:** Treasurer of Tootsie Roll Industries in Chicago for 33 years. We make Tootsie Rolls, Tootsie Pops, Blow Pops, Jr Mints, Charleston Chew, Sugar Baby, Sugar Daddy, Dubble Bubble and Andes Mints (the ones you get at Olive Garden).

**Role Models:** My parents. They emphasized honesty, integrity and diligence which are quite pertinent to my job responsibilities.

**Favorite Dominican Memory:** Winning the state basketball championship was fantastic; but also wonderful, caring staff, great friends and lots of opportunities to try different things (school play, variety show, student government). So many great opportunities in a small school environment.

**How did Dominican shape the person you are today:** Tootsie Roll is a public company traded on the NYSE but controlled by the Gordon family. Mrs. Gordon often says we have the rigor of a public company but the heart of a family business. That sums up my view of Dominican: rigor and heart. I aspire to those attributes as well.

**What are some ways you've been able to give back to Dominican:** Since I don't live in the area and work full time, I have mainly been able to give financial support, which has been a great privilege.

**Words of advice for current Dominican students:** Try as many things as possible since you never know what might click for you. And be nice to each other; adolescence is a difficult time for many and a little kindness can mean a lot.

65



**Currently Lives:** Glendale, Wisconsin

**Current Job:** I became principal owner of Roy's Plumbing, Inc. in 2016. My parents established the company in 1983. I'm a Managing Member of Real Estate Protection Group, LLC, and JV Assistant Girls Basketball Coach at Whitefish Bay High School.

**Role Models:** God and my parents.

**Favorite Dominican Memory:** My favorite memories are the road trips on the bus with my basketball teammates and playing at the Mecca during the state tournament. And anytime Mr. Crowley and Mr. Schreiner brought donuts to our Saturday morning practices!

**How did Dominican shape the person you are today:** Dominican reinforced my family values, which were to be grateful, respectful, and have integrity. Also, to appreciate and embrace the gifts and talents God has given you.

**What are some ways you've been able to give back to Dominican:** I volunteered to be a focus group participant for the renovation campaign, I have enjoyed attending sporting and alumni events, theatre performances and meeting current students and faculty. I had the pleasure of being the freshman girls basketball coach from 1995-2005.

**Words of advice for current Dominican students:** Dominican is a great community to learn and grow on all levels. Enjoy your high school experience. Create great memories with your peers and your teachers.



**Currently Lives:** Grafton, Wisconsin

**Current Job:** Sales Engineering Manager for KMC Stampings which is in Port Washington, WI, and I've been there for ten years. My team works with our customers on new part design collaborations and then provides those sample or prototype parts.

**Role Models:** My dad and uncles. At a young age I saw how successful they became and wanted to be just like them.

**Favorite Dominican Memory:** Attending the football and boys basketball state championships in 1990-91 school year.

**How did Dominican shape the person you are today:** Dominican helped to prepare me as an adult and gave me the confidence to begin the next phases of my life.

**What are some ways you've been able to give back to Dominican:** Through donations and serving on the Athletic Booster Club.

**Words of advice for current Dominican students:** Follow your dreams and don't let anyone tell you no or it can't be done and if you work hard, you will be rewarded.



**Currently Lives:** Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin

**Current Job:** I am a program director for a health outcomes research platform called OTO Clinomics at the Medical College of Wisconsin in the department of Otolaryngology and Communication Sciences. I have been in this position for about 4 years.

**Role Models:** My role model for work is Ellora Derenoncourt, PhD., and my role model for life is Tracee Ellis-Ross

**Favorite Dominican Memory:** The Kairos retreat is definitely my favorite memory.

**How did Dominican shape the person you are today:** Dominican gave me the space to truly understand the person that I wanted to become. I was able to try new things without judgement. I didn't feel like I had to ascribe to a certain crowd and activity that would define me and my interests. Because of this freedom, I became very comfortable with my identity and confident in my self-expression.

**What are some ways you've been able to give back to Dominican:** I have had the pleasure of participating on the Alumni Advisory Board as well as Alumni Career Day.

**Words of advice for current Dominican students:** Remain steadfast in your own sense of purpose and direction. Take time to reflect on your values, passions, and what makes you unique. Focus on your strengths, interests, and goals and remember, you are your only competition.



**Currently Lives:** Cleveland, Ohio

**Current Job:** I am a co-founder of The Franchise Dept.

**Role Models:** My parents (John and Jeni Luy), my wife, and my close-knit group of Dominican friends have been my role models. I was blessed to have two amazing parents, both with different strengths and skill sets, that they passed along to me but also showed me the pathway to happiness and success.

**Favorite Dominican Memory:** It's really so hard to choose, I could go on and on about so many great memories. A highlight though was when Charlie Sparrow and I hosted the talent show my Junior year. The faculty gave us free reign to have fun with the show and it was an incredible experience all around.

**How did Dominican shape the person you are today:** Dominican allowed me the opportunity to break out of my comfort zone and try new things, without judgement, on an incredibly frequent basis. I learned how, and was encouraged by my teachers, coaches, and peers to try new things and was able to fail at those things, improve upon them, and round myself into a relatively interesting person. Without the freedom to take those risks, I wouldn't be a fraction of the person that I am today.

**Reasons to support Dominican:** Dominican has always given its full support to the community in each and every way it's been asked of them. That generosity and support deserves to be reciprocated.

**Words of advice for current Dominican students:** Take advantage of the resources that this school provides you. The sky is the limit at Dominican, you can try new things, meet new people, and do anything you set your mind to.

# ALUMNI IN MEMORIUM

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.  
Eternal rest grant unto them, Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them.



DISTINGUISHED  
ALUMNI  
AWARDS

The Dominican High School Distinguished Alumni Awards honor graduates who exemplify our five core values of Truth, Compassion, Justice, Community, and Partnership. Recognition is awarded to individuals who carry forth and support the Dominican mission through professional, leadership and service achievements.

## 2024 DISTINGUISHED ALUM OF THE YEAR



HENRY HAMILTON '84

## 2024 YOUNG ALUM OF THE YEAR



KEVIN FALK '14

Elizabeth "Betsy" Gehl '60 Hoke  
May 1, 2024

Patricia Kaczmarek '83 Schmidt  
August 1, 2023

Donald Cook '61  
November 4, 2023

Thomas Wieseler '83  
December 21, 2023

Marilyn Geldreich '62  
June 26, 2023

Steve Italiano '84  
February 20, 2024

Karen Kowalski '62 Hickmann  
August 21, 2023

Michelle Berry '87  
March 8, 2024

Thomas Harrigan '63  
March 14, 2024

Nicole Gottschalk '01  
September 12, 2023

Jim Wesson '63  
October 4, 2023

Anna Herzfeld '07  
September 17, 2023

Lawrence (Larry) Burt '69  
November 16, 2023

Patricia Bolan '13  
May 7, 2024

David Westley '70  
November 18, 2023

Patricia Ash, Physics Teacher  
May 19, 2024

Theresa Socha '75  
December 18, 2023

*\*All names as of Sept 16, 2023 - May 31, 2024*

## SAVE THE DATE

### 8/9 ALUMNI & FRIENDS REUNION



Friday, August 9th  
Dominican High School  
Join us from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. for food, drinks, tours, raffles, and the Distinguished & Young Alumni Awards. Scan to register!

### 8/12 41ST ANNUAL BILL CROWLEY GOLF OUTING

Monday, August 12th  
Ozaukee Country Club, Mequon  
Not a golfer? Join us afterward for dinner. Visit [bcgo2024.givesmart.com](http://bcgo2024.givesmart.com) for more info.

### 9/20 KNIGHTWALK

Friday, September 20th  
Dominican's annual fundraiser culminates in a six-mile walk where students show off their Dominican spirit.

### 9/21 KNIGHTRUN



Saturday, September 21st  
Dominican/Whitefish Bay Area  
Dominican's Fun Run is back! Join in on the fun with this 5K run/walk through the streets of Whitefish Bay. Scan to register!

### 9/23-9/28 HOMECOMING WEEK

Stay updated via Facebook and our monthly eblast for a list of everything happening at Dominican during Homecoming Week!

### 10/13 OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, October 13th  
Dominican High School  
Bring your middle or grade school student for a tour of Dominican, or visit your alma mater and see what's new. Mass will begin at 8:30am and tours will run from 9:30am-12:30pm.

We celebrate the lives of Dominican Alumni, current and past faculty & staff, and Sinsinawa Dominican sisters, whose deaths were recently shared with us. We rely on the information available to us and sincerely apologize for any names we have inadvertently omitted.

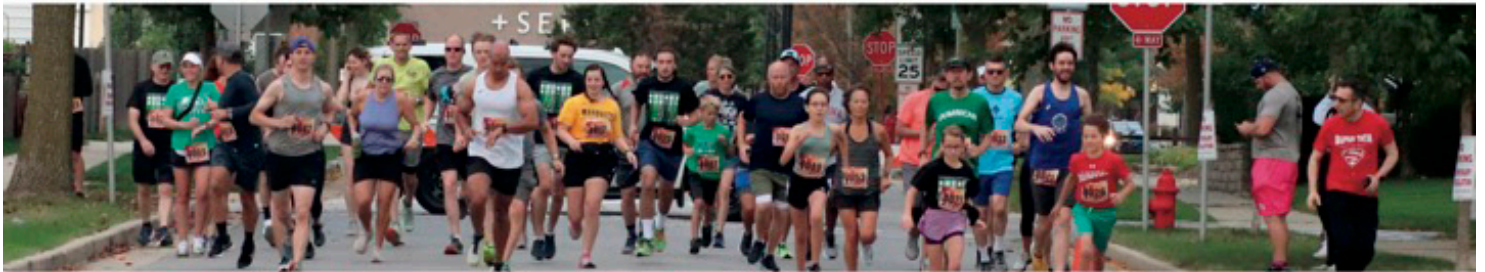
Please contact Alumni Manager, Julie Dlugopolski at [jdlugopolski@dominicanhighschool.com](mailto:jdlugopolski@dominicanhighschool.com) for any memorial notifications.



120 E Silver Spring Drive  
Whitefish Bay, WI 53217

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