

MOUNT  MICHAEL
BENEDICTINE ABBEY AND SCHOOL



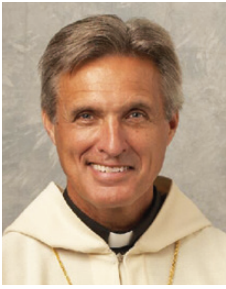
Michaeleen

SPRING
2023

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Spotlight



Letter from the Abbot

In June, Br August and I travel to Saint Meinrad Archabbey in southern Indiana for the general chapter of the Swiss-American congregation. Much information is packed into that sentence. I will try to provide some explanation.

After some experience with monastic life at Subiaco, Saint Benedict founded the monastery of Monte Cassino in 529. There he wrote a rule which formed the basis of monastic life in western Europe. Around 594, Pope Gregory the Great raised the profile of both the rule and its author with a work titled The Dialogues. In the early eighth century, English monks adopted Benedict's rule. About 816, a synod made Benedict's rule binding for monks in the Carolingian empire, which spanned France, Belgium, Holland Switzerland, Germany and parts of Italy and Austria. Monasteries flourished under the rule of Benedict throughout western Europe, blooming in size and wealth.

The prosperity of monasteries brought criticism, both internal and external. The Protestant reformation led to the suppression of many monasteries. In the decades after 1760, a combination of factors led to the disappearance of more than ninety percent of the monasteries in Europe. But monasticism continued to persevere, finding refuge in the Americas and other parts of the world. The monasteries filled important roles in the church, running major seminaries and schools, serving the needs of immigrants, and staffing foreign missions.

Through these centuries, Benedictine monasteries operated without any central organization. In 1893 Pope Leo XIII established a house of studies for Benedictines at Sant'Anselmo in Rome. He created a Benedictine confederation headed by an abbot primate. The confederation consists of more than 400 Benedictine monasteries grouped into congregations. The congregations are largely geographical in nature. The two largest congregations which call north America home are the American-Cassinense congregation and the Swiss-American congregation. The former owes its origins to Abbot Boniface Wimmer, a German monk from a monastery in Metten, Bavaria. Aware of the needs of German immigrants to the United States, in 1846 he established St Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. (Avid golfers will know that Latrobe is also the home of Arnold Palmer.) The Swiss-American congregation owes its origins to two Swiss abbeys, one at Einsiedeln, and the other at Engelberg. The monastery at Einsiedeln founded St Meinrad Archabbey. The monastery at Engelberg founded Conception Abbey in northwest Missouri. Mount Michael Abbey, founded in 1954, is a daughter house of Conception Abbey.

Get the latest updates on Mount Michael!



Mount Michael Benedictine School



@Mount_Michael



Mount Michael Benedictine

In the Swiss-American congregation there are 18 monasteries of various sizes with a variety of apostolates. Organizations need guidelines to effectively implement their missions. The first Constitution of the Swiss-American congregation was submitted to the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in 1894. It was revised to conform to the new Code of Canon Law in 1917. The congregation was placed under the patronage of the Immaculate Conception. In the wake of the second Vatican council, a new constitution was written for the congregation. The constitution addresses practical problems. For example, what steps are to be taken to admit a candidate to monastic life? What actions or commitments require the approval of the monks in the monastery? How much debt can a monastery incur? The abbots, priors, and elected delegates of all the monasteries in the congregation gather periodically to be sure the answers to such questions still make sense.

One order of business for the general chapter at Saint Meinrad in June will be to elect a new abbot president for the congregation. The term of the current abbot president, Abbot Vincent Bataille, will expire at this general chapter. The agenda especially includes issues that arise from fewer vocations. For example, at the present time, the abbot of a community must be ordained. That may change at this general chapter. Issues related to finances, Medicare and Medicaid will also be topics for discussion.

Aside from the business conducted at a general chapter, it is always refreshing to celebrate our common heritage, to share time with old friends, to trade tips about handling problems common to all monasteries, and to remind ourselves of the special vocation that God has given us as monastics in this world. Hopefully, we do justice to the gift God has entrusted to us.

Michael Liebl, OSB

UPCOMING EVENTS

**BACK TO SCHOOL
PICNIC AND MASS**

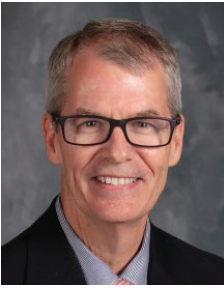
Aug. 13th

**HALL
OF FAME**

Sept. 14th

**FALL
FESTIVAL**

Sept. 17th



Head of School ● ●



The Class of 2023

The Mount Michael Benedictine School class of 2023 has **54 graduates**

27.0 | The average ACT test score for this class

2 National Merit Finalists
Will Brewster, Ryan Quinlan

1 Commended Student
Ryan Tillotson

The 54 boys of the class of 2023 were **accepted at 215 colleges and 81 different schools**

One student will have **33 college credits from AP scores**

The class of 2023 has earned **\$8 million+** in scholarship funds

OTHER RECOGNITIONS

Our valedictorian was **Will Brewster**; salutatorian was **Ryan Quinlan**

Mount Michael award (Mr. Mount Michael) went to **Conor Connealy**

Athlete of the Year award went to **Will Brewster**

Rotary Club Senior Student of the Year was **Drew Van Haute**

The following became Oblates of St. Benedict: **Will Brewster, Conor Connealy, Sebastian Duran, Jack Dustin, Sebastian Santa-Maria, Jacob Sykora, Drew Van Haute**

Academic Decathlon State Championship Senior team members: **Jude Storch, Ryan Tillotson**

Journalism State finalists: **Nolan Beller** (5th in Newspaper Feature Writing), **Ben Harris** (6th place in Newspaper Feature Writing) and **Jack Huber** (2nd place in Newspaper Sports Feature Writing)

Trap Team 5th place state finish: senior members **Matt Rogers** and **Andrew Tagel**

Robotics Worlds Competition Create Award Winners: **Nathanial Oehler, Ethan Rapoza, John Yu**

Tennis state meet the doubles team of **Jack Flott** and **Sam Kleinschmit** were state runners-up.

Swimming placing 7th in state in the 200 free style, 7th in the 200 free style relay and 6th in the 400 free style relay was **Leon Zhu**

Andrew Tagel deadlifted 550lbs breaking the State Meet record for his weight class (198lbs)

Wrestling State Finalist 6th place finish went to **John Balch**

I wish you all a wonderful and rewarding summer. Thank you for your constant support and dedication to Mount Michael. God bless you all.

Take care,



David J. Peters, Ed.D.
Head of School



ADMISSIONS



Tom Maliszewski '13 has started a new job as a Campaign Manager at Steier Group. He has served as the Director of Admissions at Mount Michael for the last five years. During his time at Mount Michael he was camp director, residential

dean, assistant basketball coach, assistant baseball coach, and bus driver.

During his tenure as Admissions Director, Tom played a crucial role in shaping the school's admissions policies and processes and led Mount Michael to its highest enrollment in its history in the 2021-22 school year. He worked tirelessly to ensure that Mount Michael attracted and admitted the most talented and deserving students. His dedication and hard work helped to build a strong and vibrant community at the school, and he will be greatly missed by his colleagues and students alike.

Now, with his new role as Campaign Manager at The Steier Group, Tom will be responsible for managing fundraising and outreach efforts for a variety of important causes and organizations. He will be drawing on his extensive experience in admissions and community building to help these organizations build strong and lasting relationships with their supporters and stakeholders.

While it is always difficult to say goodbye to a valued member of a community, Tom's departure from Mount Michael is an exciting opportunity for him to pursue new challenges and make a positive impact in his new role. We wish him all the best in his future endeavors and look forward to seeing the great things he will accomplish in his new position.

2023 SENIOR PLANS



***Aaron-Jed (AJ) Ayi Atayi** is the son of Luther and Anastasia Atayi of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from Creighton University, University of Nebraska-Omaha, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. AJ plans to attend the University of Nebraska-Omaha and is undecided on a major.

John Matthew Balch is the son of Eric and Jayne Balch of Elkhorn. John has received an offer of admission from South Dakota State University where he will be attending. He is currently undecided on a major.

Andrew Levi Becker is the son of Matthew and Andrea Becker of Omaha. Andrew plans to attend Maple Woods Community College in Kansas City where he will play baseball and study Business.

Nolan Claus Beller is the son of Dale Beller of Omaha and Shumain Beller of Elkhorn. Nolan has received offers of admission from Arizona State University, University of Arizona, Marquette University, Xavier University, Creighton University, and Iowa State University. He will attend Arizona State University and plans to major in Business Management.

Will Stephen Benson is the son of John and Gena Benson of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from Benedictine College, Grand Canyon University, Mount Marty University, Northwest Missouri State, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Missouri. He will attend Benedictine College and will major in Secondary Education. Will is also going to be a member of the Benedictine track team.

***^~William Robert Brewster** is the son of Joel and Lisa Brewster of Omaha. William has received offers of admission from Creighton University, Iowa State University, Purdue University, University of Alabama, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Illinois. He will attend the University of Alabama and plans on majoring in Civil Engineering.

***Aiden Michael Brink** is the son of Jason and Jacque Brink of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from Mississippi State University, University of Kansas, University of Mississippi, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Omaha, and the University of Oklahoma. Aiden will attend the University of Kansas and plans on majoring in Accounting.

Theodore Weily Bunawan is the son of Toni Bunawan and Bernadette Herm Susi Hermin Hartini of Jakarta, Indonesia. Theodore has received offers of admission from Arizona State University and Texas A & M University. He plans on attending Texas A & M University and will major in Mechanical Engineering.

Trevor John Christ is the son of Paula Moser and Mike Hesse of Bennington and Randall and Sheena Christ of Kirkville, NY. Trevor will attend Commonwealth University of Mansfield, New York. He plans to major in Business.

***Conor Martin Connealy** is the son of Terry and Lisa Connealy of Valley. He has received offers of admission from Montana State University, North Dakota State University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Wyoming. Conor will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Along with playing football, he plans to major in Engineering.

Taggart Thomas Crouse is the son of JJ Crouse and Lesley Brandt of Omaha. Taggart received offers of admission from Montana State University and the University of Wyoming. He will attend Montana State University where he is undecided on his major.



Alejandro Cueli Icazuriaga is the son of Alejandro Cueli and Maite Icazuriaga of Huixquilucan, Mexico. He has received offers of admission from Loyola University-Chicago and Trinity University San Antonio. He will attend Loyola University-Chicago where he will major in Finance.

John Paul Davis is the son of Richard and Jane Davis of Omaha. John has received offers of admission from Creighton University and Metropolitan Community College. He will attend Creighton University where his major is undecided.

Sebastian Duran is the son of Viridiana Duran and William Crawford of Columbus. He has received offers of admission from Creighton University, Loyola University-Chicago, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, University of Tennessee, and the University of Wyoming. Sebastian will attend Creighton University and will major in International Business.

Jack Raymond Dustin is the son of John and Colleen Dustin of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from Iowa State University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska-

Omaha. Jack will major in Software Engineering while attending Iowa State University.

Griffin Christopher Dyche is the son of Joseph and Katherine Dyche of Omaha. Griffin has received offers of admission from Avila University, Creighton University, Marquette University, Loyola University-Chicago, University of Nebraska-Omaha, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He will attend Creighton University while majoring in Computer Analytics.

***Joshua Matthew Else** is the son of Robert and Christina Else of Omaha. He received offers of admission from Kansas State University, University of Minnesota, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Wyoming. Joshua plans on majoring in Fisheries and Wildlife Conservation while attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

***Andrew Edward Fink** is the son of Edward and Mary Fink of Omaha. Andrew has received offers of admission from Benedictine College, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Omaha, and the University of South Dakota. He will attend the University of South Dakota and will major in Kinesiology.

***Jack Fitzgerald Flott** is the son of Timothy and Kristin Flott of Omaha. Jack has received offers of admission from Montana State University, University of Oklahoma, University of Nebraska-Kearney, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He will attend the University of Oklahoma and is undecided on his major.

***Ethan Christian Gallant** is the son of Derrick and Alicia Gallant of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from Auburn University, Creighton University, University of Alabama, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Omaha, and Saint Louis University. Ethan will attend Saint Louis University where he is undecided on a major.

Jacob James Goertz is the son of John and Kelly Goertz of Omaha. Jacob has received offers of admission from Creighton University, Kansas State University, and Texas Christian University. He will attend Kansas State University where he will major in Finance, while on a Pre-Law track.

*~**Cole Joseph Gustafson** is the son of John and Debra Gustafson of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from Creighton University, University of Iowa, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Cole will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln with a major in Exercise Science.

Benjamin William Harris is the son of Brent and Jennifer Harris of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Omaha, and Nebraska Wesleyan University. Benjamin plans to attend trade school and become a plumber.

Jake Tyler Harris is the son of Justin and Kirsten Harris of Lincoln. Jake has received offers of admission from Arizona State University, Clemson University, Creighton University, University of Kansas, University of Mississippi, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Jake will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is undecided on a major.

offers of admission from Grand Canyon University, University of San Diego, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He is planning to major in Business Entrepreneurship and will attend Grand Canyon University.

***Farhan Eyad Kakish** is the son of Eyad and Carol Kakish of Waterloo. He has received offers of admission from Baylor University, Creighton University, Loyola University-Maryland, Loyola University-New Orleans, Southwestern University, Texas Christian University, and the University of Denver. Farhan will study Biology at Texas Christian University.

***Andrew Starr Kirklin** is the son of Jenny and Darin Cook of Omaha and Ned Kirklin of Scottsdale, AZ. He has received offers of admission from Colorado School of Mines, Iowa State University, Montana State University, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Andrew will study Mechanical Engineering while attending Colorado School of Mines.

***Maxwell Eli McCoy** is the son of Stephen and Sandra McCoy of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from Creighton University, St. John's University-Minnesota, and St. Olaf College. Maxwell will attend St. John's University-Minnesota. He will be a member of the cross country and track teams and will major in Exercise Science.

Hunter Robert Miller is the son of Robert and Brenda Miller of Valley. He has been accepted to Grand Canyon University and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Hunter will be studying Business while attending Grand Canyon University.

***Shintaro Oda** is the son of Shigeru and Kinuyo Oda of Tokyo, Japan. He has received offers of admission from Drake University, Loyola University-Chicago, Keio University-Japan, and Waseda University-Japan. Shintaro will attend Waseda University - Japan where he plans to major in Business.

***Nathaniel Thomas Oehler** is the son of Thomas and Jaymie Oehler of Waterloo. Nathaniel has received offers of admission from Colorado School of Mines, Iowa State University, Marquette University, St. John's University - Minnesota, St. Thomas University, University of Iowa, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He will major in Electrical Engineering while attending Colorado School of Mines.

Chop Paljor is the son of Mayang Bakam of Omaha. He received offers of admission from the University of Nebraska-Omaha, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Nebraska Wesleyan University. Chop plans to attend Premier Prep Academy and is undecided on a major.

*^~**Ryan Edward Quinlan** is the son of Drs. Mark and Jennifer Quinlan of Omaha. Ryan has received offers of admission from Creighton University, Iowa State University, Nebraska Wesleyan University, University of Alabama, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Oklahoma. He will attend the University of Alabama and study Biology and Psychology.

***Matthew Christian Rodgers** is the son of Michael and Rachelle Rodgers of Elkhorn. Matthew has received offers of admission from Benedictine College, Creighton University, Grand Canyon University, University of Kansas, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of

Congratulations Class of 2023

***Harper Stephen Held** is the son of Stephen and Felicia Held of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from Benedictine College, Creighton University, Marquette University, Rockhurst University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Harper will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and is undecided on a major.

Shengkun (Eric) Hu is the son of Wei Hu and Lili Huang of Shanghai, China. He has received offers of admission from Creighton University and Iowa State University. Eric will attend Creighton University and will major in Nursing.

Jack Edward Huber is the son of Bret Huber of Aledo, TX and Elizabeth Lowndes of Valley. Jack has received

***Samuel Isaac Kleinschmit** is the son of Tyrone and Lori Kleinschmidt of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from Butler University, Loyola University-Chicago, Marquette University, University of Indiana, University of Iowa, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Nebraska-Omaha, University of South Dakota, and the University of Tulsa. Samuel will attend Butler University and will major in Biology.

Landon John Knobbe is the son of Michael and Shelly Knobbe of Elkhorn. Landon received offers of admission from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He will major in Business while attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Nebraska-Omaha. Matthew will study Sports Medicine and Communication while attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

***Ethan James Makoto Rapoza** is the son of Guy and Bridget Rapoza of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from Creighton University, Iowa State University, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, University of Wyoming, University of Utah, and the University of Colorado. Ethan will be attending Iowa State University and will major in Engineering.

***John Albert Edward Roland** is the son of Lawrence and Amy Roland of Omaha. He has received offers of admission from Colorado Mesa University, Dordt University, Marquette University, Mount Marty University, and Truman State University. Jack will be playing football while attending Mount Marty University and his plan of study is undecided.

***Sebastian Santa-Maria** is the son of Rafael Santa-Maria of Omaha and Mariana Santa-Maria of Omaha. Sebastian was accepted into Colorado School of Mines, Creighton University, Loyola University-Chicago, Marquette University, University of Colorado-Boulder, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and he is undecided on a major.

Lane Daniel Schroeder is the son of Cody and Christina Schroeder of Elkhorn. Lane was accepted to Clarkson College, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. He will attend Clarkson College and plans to major in Radiography.

Andrew Nicholas Shotbolt is the son of Jack Shotbolt of Omaha and Hope Shotbolt of Omaha. He has been accepted to the University of Nebraska-Omaha and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Andrew will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where he will major in Business.

***Elliott Andrew Simpson** is the son of Andrew and Jody Simpson of Omaha. Elliott has received offers of admission from Beloit College, Mount Marty University, and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Elliott will be playing baseball while attending Beloit College and working towards a major in Biology.

Jude Patrick Storch is the son of Lt. Colonel (retired) Steven and Michelle Storch of Kaiserslautern, Germany.

He received offers of admission from Benedictine College, Louisiana Tech University, and the University of Utah. Jude will attend Louisiana Tech University and will major in Mechanical Engineering.

***~Ryan Everett Stumpff** is the son of Craig and Wanda Stumpff of Elkhorn. Ryan has received offers of admission from Creighton University, Drake University, Iowa State University, Kansas State University, South Dakota State University, Saint Louis University, and the University of Nevada-Las Vegas. He will study Pre-Pharmacy while attending Drake University.

***Jacob Vincent Sykora** is the son of Paul and Toni Sykora of Omaha. Jacob has received offers of admission to Iowa State University, South Dakota School of Mines and Technology, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Jacob will attend the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and will major in Computer Engineering.

***Andrew Wallace Tagel** is the son of Michelle Tagel of Papillion. He has received offers of admission from Montana State University, University of Nebraska-Omaha, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and Wayne State College. Andrew will attend the University of Nebraska-Omaha and plans to study Information Science and Technology.

***~Ryan Charles Tillotson** is the son of Greg Tillotson and Kaye Fellows of Omaha. Ryan has received offers of admission from University of Nebraska-Kearney, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Miami-Ohio. He will study Economics while attending the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

***Andrew Nicholas Van Haute** is the son of Robert and Catherine Van Haute of La Vista. He has been accepted for admission to Creighton University, Grand Canyon University, University of Kansas, University of Nebraska-Kearney, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Andrew will attend the University of Kansas and will major in Business Marketing.

Brock Alden Wamsley is the son of Mark Wamsley of Omaha and Kathy Wamsley of Omaha. Brock will be studying Environmental Engineering while attending Iowa State University.

Ayden Glen Forrest Wright is the son of Rustin Wright of Texas and Ashley Womack of Texas. Ayden will be studying Computer Science and will attend the University of Gibraltar.

Cheng Han (John) Yu is the son of Hui Yu and Yu Shuang Lin of Shanghai, China. He has received offers of admission from Drake University, Iowa State University, Ohio State University, Penn State University, University of California-Santa Cruz, and the University of California – Irvine. John will attend the University of California – Irvine and plans to major in Physics.

Yu Ang (Leon) Zhu is the son of An Qiang Zhu and Zhen Qi Xu of Shanghai, China. He has received offers of admission from Creighton University, Texas A & M University, and University of California-Davis. Leon will attend the University of California-Davis and will major in Bio-Medical Science.

Class of 2023 Accomplishments

The Mount Michael Benedictine School Class of 2023 has 54 graduates. They were accepted to 215 colleges and 81 different colleges.

The class of 2023 has earned more than 8 million dollars in scholarship funds.

(*) Signifies a member of National Honor Society

(*) Signifies a National Merit Finalist-Top .5% or 8400 students out of 1.5 million entered into the competition.

(+) Signifies a National Merit Commended Student-Top 5% of 1.5 million students entered into the competition.

(~) Signifies a Recommended World Herald Scholar



2023 NIGHT OF KNIGHTS RECAP

Mount Michael’s Night of Knights 2023 theme was Saturday Knight Live! With support from so many dedicated volunteers on our NOK committees including this year’s co-chairs, Megan and Brian Busenbark as well as Erin and Steve Albers, we ran a successful event in a new venue! A special shoutout goes to the support provided from PlanitOmaha and the Advancement team here at Mount Michael. Saturday Knight Live brought 450+ guests to Relevant Center (we SOLD OUT!) and over 75 volunteers donated their time to help the night of!

This year’s event helped raise north of \$360,000 to support Mount Michael Benedictine School. Included in that is almost \$65,000 that went to Raise the Paddle which supports scholarships for the young men of Mount Michael.

Through all of the generous support from current parents, alumni parents, alumni, and area businesses, we can’t begin to thank you all enough for your dedication to providing the opportunity for a premium education that is helping mold our students into young men rooted in Benedictine values.

We are looking forward to Night of Knights 2024 and look forward to seeing you all there next year!

\$360,000+
raised to support
**Mount Michael
Benedictine School**

\$65,000
of that went to
Raise the Paddle,
scholarship support
for the young men
of Mount Michael

Thank you to our Host Sponsors that helped support our 2023 Night of Knights!
TSL Companies | McGill Asbestos | Moylan Kropp | Eide Bailly LLP

HALL OF FAME

ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

The Mount Michael Alumni Selection Committee selects an alumnus who embodies the core Benedictine values that Mount Michael instills in its students. The main consideration for this award is to recognize an individual who symbolizes what it means to be a Mount Michael Benedictine graduate. Hall of Fame members also include those who were Knighted into the Hall of Fame in coordination with the Annual Night of Knights.



THE ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

The Mount Michael Benedictine School Athletic Hall of Fame selects and gives lasting recognition to those individuals, teams, and coaches who have made exceptional contributions to the achievements and prestige of Mount Michael in the field of athletics and who have continued to demonstrate in their lives the values imparted by athletics. Those honored have contributed to the development of athletics at Mount Michael Benedictine School and its overall excellence. Teams, who by their record in their sport, have provided Mount Michael with an example of lasting leadership and success. The individuals and teams recognized must bring honor an positive recognition to Mount Michael Benedictine School through their sport, their service to the community, and for serving as an excellent representative of all that it means to be a Knight. This Hall of Fame recognition will maintain spirit, pride, and sense of community as well as serving as a historical account of the great athletic tradition that is Mount Michael Benedictine School Athletics.

ALUMNI APPRECIATION AWARD

Established in 2021, this award is given annually to a former faculty/staff member or a friend of the Mount Michael Alumni Association that has had a positive impact on current students and/or alumni. This award is a symbol of the alumni association's appreciation for this individual's commitment to the Mount Michael community and their dedication to both past and present students.

John Wagner '67
ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

Coach George Roshone
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Dave Hahn '69
ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

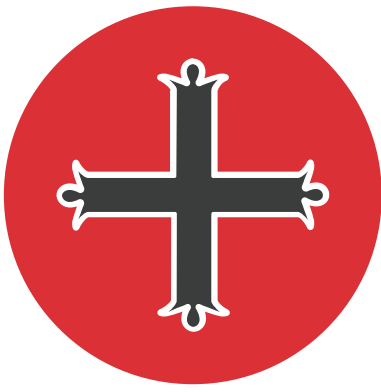
Sharleen Ball
ALUMNI APPRECIATION AWARD

HALL OF FAME

NIGHT

The Mount Michael Alumni Association
invites you to our second annual
Alumni Hall of Fame Night

Sept. 14th, 2023 | The Relevant Center



ATHLETICS

We've had two members of our staff express interest in altering their roles at Mount Michael to better grow themselves and also meet the needs of our students. Dave Cormier will be returning to having a more focused teaching role, including senior theology classes, will continue teaching Academic Decathlon, and will coach the bowling team (a position he previously held for twelve years when bowling was a club sport). However, he will still assist with some administrative duties. As Mr. Cormier transitions out of the Dean of Students role, Derrik Spooner will step in. Mr. Spooner will become our Dean of Students while also maintaining his role as Activities Director. He will step down as our Head Basketball coach at the conclusion of this season to allow him to focus on these two important roles.

These changes will happen this Spring Semester. We're grateful for all the work these men have done in their current positions and look forward to the opportunities these changes afford for both them and Mount Michael.



Mount Michael is excited to announce the hiring of Ryan Salsman as our new Head Basketball Coach! Salsman currently works as an educator in Omaha Public Schools as well as an instructor at Supreme Basketball. This past season Coach Salsman was an assistant varsity basketball coach at Lincoln Pius X high school.

Coach Salsman was born and raised in York, NE attending York High then receiving his receiving his bachelor's degree in Exercise Health Science from the University of Nebraska-Kearney.

Activities Director, Derrik Spooner said,

“ I am extremely excited to have Coach Salsman lead the Mount Michael Basketball program. Coach Salsman has great vision and is incredible with skill development. I am thrilled to watch the program continue in the right direction. ”

ATHLETICS

Mount Michael ESPY Awards

The Mount Michael ESPY awards highlighted the year we have had in athletics and activities. This event was student led so our students did the voting. The Activities Department put together a google doc with the description and 4 nominees chosen by each head coach for each award and our students took it from there. Each student that was nominated put together a short one-minute speech that they would give in front of the student body if they were selected. Our award ceremony started off with an inspiring speech from former athlete of the year, Matt Hahn '01. It was a great event for students that we will continue for many years to come.

NEWCOMER OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a first year (freshman, transfer, or first year playing sport) student-athlete who excelled in competition during their season

Jedd Ramold

STUDENT-MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Assigned to one athletic team manager for their career and assistance to the coaching staff during practices and games

Alejandro Cueli

PERFORMANCE OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a specific individual performance during the season

John Balch

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a team's accomplishments during their season

Football

ACTIVITY OF THE YEAR

Recognizes an activity's accomplishments during the year

Robotics

YELL LEADER OF THE YEAR

Recognizes a yell leader that showed consistency, sportsmanship, and team pride at games home and away

Ryan Quinlan

MOST IMPROVED

Athlete who displayed exemplary improvement at their respective sport

Kyle Oldehoeft

ACTIVITY MEMBER OF THE YEAR

Given to the most outstanding student involved in non-athletic activities

Rocco Zimmerman

BRICKLAYER

Recognizes a leader on and off the field during their time at Mount Michael

Conor Connealy

CAMP
MOUNT MICHAEL

YOUTH
SUMMER
CAMP



**A TRADITION
 FOR 7-14 YEAR
 OLD BOYS
 SINCE 1967!**



WEEK 1
June 25-30
2023

WEEK 2
July 9-14
2023

WEEK 3
July 16-21
2023

WEEK 4
July 23-28
2023

Activities

- ✓ Archery
- ✓ Outdoor games
- ✓ Drawing & painting
- ✓ Swimming
- ✓ Hiking
- ✓ Olympic Day!



Camp Mount Michael is a one week overnight summer camp on Mount Michael's campus- over 440 acres not far from the Elkhorn River. There are woods to explore, targets to shoot, and all kinds of other fun activities-- exactly how summer camp should be!

REGISTER ONLINE AT WWW.MOUNTMICHAEL.COM
 Questions? Contact Camp Director, Tom Maliszewski, at 402-238-1457 or tmaliszewski@mountmichael.com

STUDENT NEWS



ACT ACHIEVEMENT

Rocco Zimmerman '24 scored a perfect 36 on his ACT.



MOUNT MICHAEL AWARD

This award is given to a senior student who excels in academics, extra-curricular activities, service and attitude. This person exemplifies everything that Mount Michael Benedictine is about, living our Benedictine Values. This year **Conor Connealy '23** was the recipient of the Mount Michael Award.

Conor committed to walk-on at the University of Nebraska to play football.



John Mohs '25 has been selected for the Nebraska School Activities Association Student Advisory Committee.



Drew Van Haute '23 was honored as Mount Michael's Rotary Club of Omaha outstanding student citizen award.



ATHLETE OF THE YEAR AWARD

Is given to the year's outstanding senior athlete who is selected by the head coaches of all of Mount Michael's sports programs. This year's recipient is **Will Brewster '23**.



OBLATION

12 students made their oblation as Oblates of Saint Benedict.



Back Row: **Grant Barna, Hank Behrendt, John Mohs, Joe Trautman, Cody Torczon, Leo Ramsey.** Front Row: **Terry Le, John Davis, Aidan Balas, Abbot Michael, Finn Murphy, Peter Trautman, Alex Poole.**

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

MATT PLOOSTER '99

Written by John Levy '99



When Matt Plooster stepped foot on the Mount Michael campus in August 1995, he was certain of two facts. First, he had freakishly large calves. Second, he was ready to outwork anyone.

Over the course of the next four years, Matt's obnoxiously big calves and unrelenting work ethic were on full display. In regard to his work ethic, Matt was known to hide in his dorm room closet after lights out so he could finish an Abbot Michael physics assignment or proofread an essay for Mrs. Dowd. In addition to the good-natured teasing he endured, Matt's work ethic gained him the respect of students and teachers alike. Namely, Matt was elected class president as a freshman and sophomore, named Sophomore of the Year, awarded the Xerox scholarship for best humanities student as a junior, and graduated as class co-valedictorian. Regarding his calves/athletic ability, Matt was a multi-time state qualifier in track as well as the quarterback, leading rusher, and all-state defensive back on a football team that made it to the state semifinals his senior year.

Matt's athletic prowess combined with academic achievements resulted in him gaining admissions and receiving an offer to play football at Harvard University. Wanting to follow in the path of his close friend and boyhood idol Brook Berringer, Matt turned down the Ivy League to walk-on at the University of Nebraska. At Nebraska, Matt was a part of the team that was absolutely obliterated by the University of Miami in the national championship game. Perhaps due to this loss or more likely Matt realizing there was not much opportunity to make a living as the fourth string wedge buster on a practice squad, Matt began considering life after football.

Matt ultimately elected to transfer to the University of Chicago. Matt subsequently earned his bachelor's degree in economics. Matt then attended and is an alumnus of the Columbia Business School in New York. Over the course of the next six years, Matt worked in Morgan Stanley's Investment Banking Division and the Global Investment Banking Division at Deutsche Bank Securities in its Chicago and New York offices.

At this same time, Matt achieved his greatest success when he convinced a recent University of Michigan engineering graduate and Deutsche Bank analyst Natasha Valdes to date him. In reminiscing back, the Russian-born, Cuban-raised world traveler Natasha implausibly remembered being impressed by "Matt's charismatic charm and good looks." Eventually Matt and his much, much better half Natasha wed in June 2010.

Wanting to be closer to family, the Ploosters moved to Malcolm, Nebraska. Shortly thereafter, in 2010 Matt and Natasha started Bridgepoint Investment Banking, a boutique investment bank. Initially operating out of the couple's garage, Bridgepoint Investment has since experienced tremendous growth. With Matt and Natasha leading the company, Bridgepoint Investment has played a pivotal role in more than 450 transactions related to mergers and acquisitions; capital raises; and advisory and public equity transactions representing \$382 billion in value across their

team. The company also expanded to include offices in Omaha, Lincoln, Chicago, Denver, and New York. Matt also serves on numerous corporate boards.

Matt and Natasha also started a family with twins Theo and Grace (age 9) and William (age 8). Even with coaching his children's sports and participating in their activities, Matt became heavily involved in the community. The Ploosters' generosity provided critical support to organizations like the Heart Ministry Center, Matt Talbot Kitchen, and Compassion International among other charities ensuring children and families in need have food, shelter, and the opportunity to hopefully break the cycle of poverty.

Likewise, Matt has remained a strong supporter of Mount Michael. Matt has served on the school's and abbey's investment committee along with providing dollars for scholarships. In explaining his reasons for staying engaged with Mount Michael, Matt states,

“ Mount Michael was an incredible experience for me and allowed me opportunities and development I would have never otherwise received. Mount Michael was also hugely impactful in my faith journey. ”



John Levy '99 and Matt Plooster '99

Matt encourages current students “to lean into every opportunity, to build relationships with your classmates, teachers, and other students. The relationships you form during this period are often some of the most important ones in your lifetime.” Matt truly took advantage of every other opportunity Mount Michael offered and has achieved incredible professional success as a result. At the same time, he is a loving husband, engaged father, and caring son. For me personally, I feel blessed to call this big-calved kid from Malcolm with a never-ending drive one of my best friends.



If you have any ideas on future alumni events, would like to contact the alumni board, or would like to make a contribution to the Alumni Association, please email alumni@mountmichael.org.

If you would like to include an announcement in an upcoming issue of the Michaeleen, please contact

John Von Dollen '12
402-238-1447
jvondollen@mountmichael.org

mountmichael.com



**MOUNT MICHAEL
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION**

**2023 ALUMNI
BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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Dan Gard '04

TREASURER & SECRETARY

John Von Dollen '12

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Allely '81

Greg Beninato '89

Jim Clements '95

Rob Copenhaver '77

Eric Crawford '00

Mike Danahay '96

Matthew Dugick '16

Sam Fischer '86

Dan Hassing '02

Graham Jewell '12

Jeff Kosse '89

Tom Lewis '86

Tom Maliszewski '13

Nico Marasco '12

Cooper Wilson '14

Davis Wilson '14

The mission of the Mount Michael Alumni Association is to create lifelong, mutually beneficial relationships between Mount Michael alumni, future alumni, and the high school through scholarships, social programming, and networking. Operations of the Alumni Association fund the Fr. Benedict Dohle Alumni Scholarship and the Br. Mel Tichota Legacy Scholarship.



The Mount Michael Alumni Association is pleased to announce the appointment of 2004 graduate, Dan Gard, as the new President of the Mount Michael Alumni Association!

Dan brings a wealth of experience to his new role, he is the Director of Decision Support and Financial Analysis at Nebraska Medicine, has previously served on the alumni board of directors, and was named Top 5 All Time Pow Wow Medicine Men by CSJ Magazine in 2017. A Certified Public Accountant with nearly 20 years of experience in the finance industry, his dedication and passion for the association's mission and goals make him an excellent choice to lead the organization into the future.

He succeeds Eric Crawford '00, who has served as the President for the past two years. We are grateful for the time and talents that Eric has given to Mount Michael. He will remain on the board and serve as the chair for the Hall of Fame Banquet. During his tenure, Eric was instrumental in expanding the association's outreach, increasing membership, establishing a strategic plan, and initiating numerous programs that have benefited the alumni community.

The Michael Alumni Association is committed to creating lifelong, mutually beneficial relationships between Mount Michael alumni, future alumni, and the high school through scholarships, social programming, and networking. Dan Gard's appointment as the new President will enable the association to continue its mission and build on its continued success.

Alumni News



Cade Johnson '17 started a new position as a Communication Disorders Technician at Nebraska Medicine in Omaha.



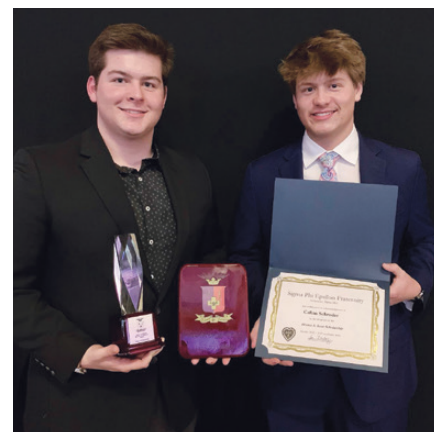
Zachary Harvat '09 was appointed Chair of the Upper School English Department at Sidwell Friends School in Washington, DC.



Tom Maliszewski '13 started a new job as a Campaign Manager at Steier Group.



Andrew Jewell '08 started a new position as a Product Manager at PenLink in Omaha.



Evan Schroder '20 (left) is double majoring in Biochemistry & Microbiology on the Pre-Medicine track and minoring in Chemistry and Mathematics at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He already has over two years of lab research and is a published author in the International Journal of Molecular Sciences.

Evan received the Pillar Award of Diligence for his Executive Board service as VP of the SigEp Learning Community and the VP of Membership Development.

Callan Schroder '22 (right) is majoring in Microbiology on the Pre-Medicine track and minoring in Business and Biochemistry at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Callan is a member of the student government, Association of Students of the University of Nebraska, and a cabinet member of Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity where he received the Homer A. Scott Scholarship for his contributions to his chapter, qualifying GPA, and presidential nomination.



We had a great turnout at our alumni gathering in Scottsdale, AZ!

Dan Ferguson '02, Bill Denton '10, John Von Dollen '12, Joey Bastian '12, Brent Papek '98, Eric Crawford '00, Curtis McKnight '01, George Buckler '87, Bryan Schrader '01, David Tamisiea '83 (not pictured)



Alumni News



Joe Hitzemann '19 has accepted a full-time position offer from Lockton Companies in Kansas City to become an Account

Administrator in the Peoples Solutions Department! Joe recently graduated from Rockhurst University, majoring in Business Administration and minoring in Sports Management.



Jake Batenhorst '15 was promoted to Senior Project Engineer at JE Dunn Construction in Colorado Springs, CO.



Sam Alessandro '18 accepted a job as a primary news producer at 6 NEWS WOWT OMAHA.



Mark Loeffelholz '13 started a new position as a Project Controller at Quanta Infrastructure Solutions Group in Overland Park, KS.



Dan Gard '04 started a new position as Director of Decision Support and Financial Analysis at Nebraska Medicine in Omaha.



Thomas Feichtinger '12 started a new position as a Paralegal at Meshbesh & Associates, P.A. in Minneapolis, MN.



Sebastian Alegrett '18 is starting a new position as a Full Stack Developer at Humanex Ventures in Lincoln, NE.



The Mount Michael Alumni Association welcomes 6 new members to the Board of Directors!



Greg Beninato '89



Matthew Dugick '16



Sam Fischer '86



Dan Gard '04



Nico Marasco '12



Tom Lewis '86

WEDDING



Cooper Wilson '14 married Brianna Geis on March 13th, 2023.



Jack Morrissey '16 married Camille Thompson on December 4, 2022.

BIRTHS



Dylan Venteicher '11 and Brittany welcomed their son, Milo James Venteicher, on Feb. 25, 2023.



Brandon Cople '01 and Michaela welcomed their son, Tommy Michael Cople, on March 2nd, 2023.



Matt Hahn '01 and Sarah welcomed their son, Langston Lee Hahn, on March 30th, 2023.



Matt Witt '09 and Megan welcomed their son, Liam Gary Witt, on March 30th 2023.



Tom Swanson '01 and Chasity welcomed their son, Grady Thomas Swanson, on April 11th, 2023.

If you would like to include an announcement in an upcoming issue of the Michaelen, please contact:



John Von Dollen '12
402-238-1447
jvondollen@mountmichael.org



IN REMEMBRANCE

Wanda Ortmeier

grandmother of Eric Ortmeier '25

Germano Mularoni

grandfather of Tony Newton '25

Judith "Judy" Mascarello

mother of Anthony Mascarello '95

Joseph "Joe" Radicia, Jr.

friend of Mount Michael

Eugene Gunther, Jr.

grandfather of Jacob Sykora '23

John "Jack" McEvoy

friend of Mount Michael

Fr. Jerome Spenner

friend of Mount Michael

Al Anthon

grandfather of Sam '08 and Ian Hasterlo'10

Jeff Cormier '95

Roger Dean Peterson, Jr. '83

Mary Lu Courtney

grandmother of Caleb Courtney '26

Mel Tomka

cousin of Fr. Daniel Lenz, O.S.B.

Margaret "Marjean" Lynch

grandmother of Dean Tiwald '11

Mildred "Millie" Moseman

grandmother of Thomas Moseman '26

John Furey

father of Patrick Furey '02 and brother-in-law of Dr. Peters

Eric Swanson '87

Cynthia "Cindy" Farmer

mother of Curtis Farmer '13

Jean Tiedje

former Abbey staff member

Becky Jo Elster

mother of John Elster '09

Diane Kauten

mother of Randy '85 and Rick Kauten '88

Dr. Philip Maschka

friend of Mount Michael

Honorable Thomas McQuade

father of Mark McQuade '87

Eldon "Charlie" Pape

grandfather of Jack '12 and Ben Pape '13

Larry Clinton

brother of Bro. Luke Clinton, O.S.B.



Mass Information

If you find that your pastor is unable to conveniently take care of Masses you wish to have celebrated for your particular intentions, Mount Michael Abbey welcomes the requests for such intentions. We will see to it that the Masses are celebrated as promptly as possible.

The offering you make should correspond with that suggested by the diocese in which you reside. Your pastor will be able to inform you of what the stipend of a particular diocese may be.

Mass Intentions: \$10.00

Please address such requests to:
Mass Intentions
Development Office
Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey
22520 Mount Michael Road
Elkhorn, NE 68022

Memorial & Tribute Information

Often, inquiries are made about our memorials and tributes for relatives and friends, living or deceased. At Mount Michael one can enroll families or friends in our memorial and tribute foundation. This consists of daily remembrance at the Eucharist and the Divine Office by the monks of Mount Michael Abbey. Upon enrollment, we will notify the family with a card.

The suggested offering for this memorial enrollment is:

INDIVIDUAL
One Year \$50
Five Years \$100
Lifetime \$250

FAMILY
One Year \$100
Five Years \$200
Lifetime \$500



MOUNT MICHAEL

BENEDICTINE ABBEY AND SCHOOL

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Dr. David J. Peters

Director of Advancement
Chris Knauf

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Mount Michael Directory

Mount Michael Chapel
Visitors are always welcome
Daily Mass 7:15am | Sunday Mass 9:30am | Saturday 8:00am

Liturgy of the Hours (Monday-Saturday)
Morning Praise 6:30am | Noon Day Prayer 11:45am
Vespers 5:15pm | Night Prayer (In the Abbey) 7:00pm

St. Benedict Guest House
Gift Shop/Lunches/Teas/Dessert | Day Retreats
Brother Jerome Kmiecik, O.S.B., 402-206-2069

Vocation Ministry
For information about monastic life:
Brother August Schaefer, O.S.B., vocations@mountmichael.org

Oblates of St. Benedict Director
Brother Jerome Kmiecik, O.S.B., 402-206-2069

Alumni Association
For information about meetings/events or to report news:
John Von Dollen, 402-238-1447, alumni@mountmichael.org

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admissions@mountmichael.org

Advancement Office
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