

# Michaeleen

SUMMER 2023

PHOTO BY RICHARD RADER

PAGE  
7

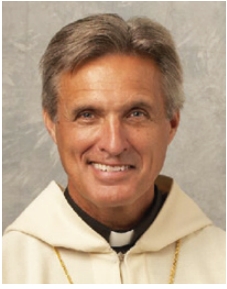
Hall of  
Fame

PAGE  
8

Fall  
Festival

PAGE  
10

Alumni  
Spotlight



# Letter from the Abbot



In many cultures, the end of summer and the beginning of autumn was celebrated in thanksgiving for blessings bestowed by God, especially abundant harvests which provided sustenance through long winters. After the monastic community opened its school, St John Seminary in 1956, a variety of people sought to contribute to its success. South Omaha had become a bastion of Catholic immigrants from Eastern Europe, both prior to and following World War II. Parishioners from those south Omaha parishes were eager to support the seminary. Mount Michael's Fall Festival was created in cooperation with groups from these parishes to provide financial support to the fledgling seminary. The Saint John Seminary Association was created both to organize and to recognize the volunteers who made the early festivals such a success. The Fall Festival was conceived as a harvest festival - a celebration of God's blessings. As with many parish festivals, the Fall Festival offered games of chance, food and entertainment to attract visitors. The booths used to stage the games and to offer the food were staffed by volunteers from the Association. Perhaps most importantly, the Fall Festival offered an opportunity for students, alumni, friends and families of Mount Michael to enjoy one another's company in a warm and relaxing setting.

To keep the festival fresh and interesting, the attractions to draw visitors changed through the years. In the late 1960s, a troop of sky divers entertained the crowds. I might add parenthetically that no monks were required to jump out of airplanes. One year, Fr Joseph Peters who was then the director of development boarded a hot air balloon to pass over the festival grounds. That particular year, it happened to be a rather miserable rainy day. So the balloon did not go very high and the ride did not last very long. But Fr Joseph, wet and chilly, gamely waved from the balloon as it sailed overhead. Probably the largest festival crowd showed up during the era of Evel Knievel. A motorcyclist jumped a large number of buses parked side by side. It was an impressive feat, requiring the cyclist to be traveling about 70 mph as his cycle left the ramp. Another large crowd appeared during the days of the CB (citizen band) radio craze. Truckers adopted aliases to identify themselves over the radio. The conversation would go something like, "This is Dust Devil. What's your handle, come on?" A commercial for Old Home Bread featured the waitress Mavis who served the truckers who stopped at her cafe. The commercial was backed by a song titled The Old Home Fill-er Keep on Trucking Cafe. Mavis, who was quite popular, signed autographs and greeted the

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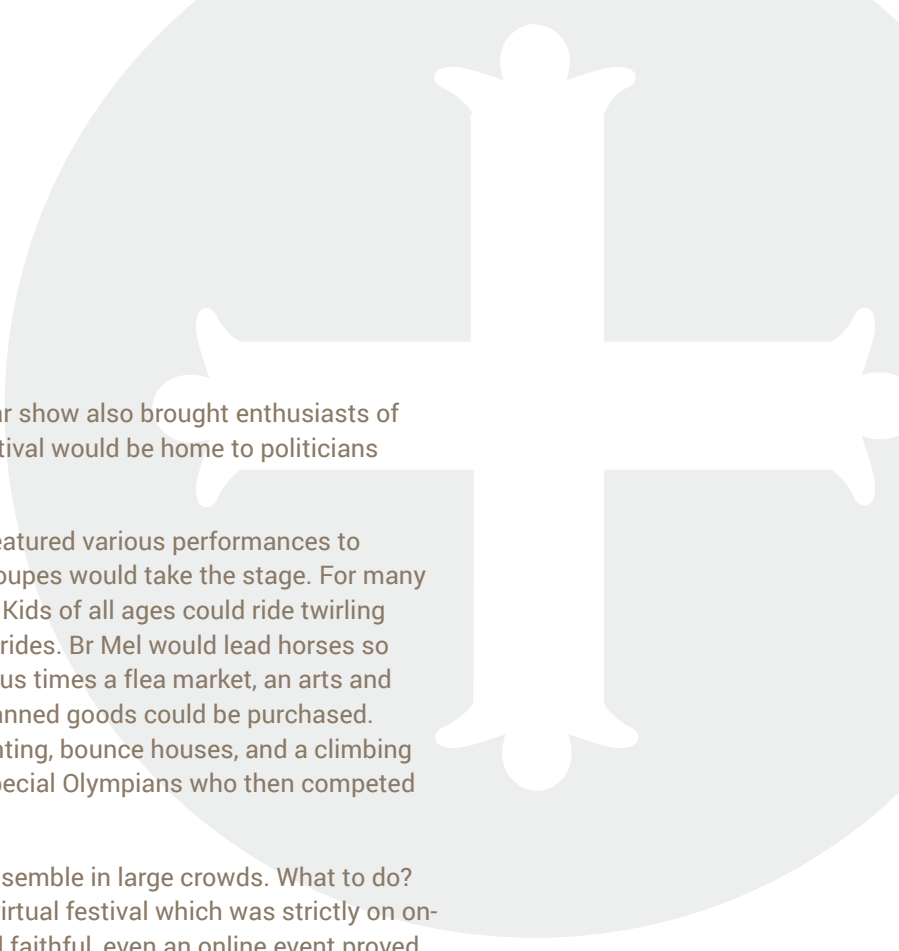
Mount Michael Benedictine School



@Mount\_Michael



Mount Michael Benedictine



crowds coming to enjoy the festival. For a few years, a car show also brought enthusiasts of vintage vehicles to the campus. In election years, the festival would be home to politicians shaking hands and kissing babies.

Aside from the major attraction, the festival commonly featured various performances to entertain the crowds. Small bands, soloists and dance troupes would take the stage. For many years, a small carnival would also contributed to the fun. Kids of all ages could ride twirling teapots, a small rollercoaster and a carousel along other rides. Br Mel would lead horses so that kids could enjoy a ride. The festival also had at various times a flea market, an arts and crafts show, and a farmer's market where produce and canned goods could be purchased. There was a petting zoo, hay rack rides, clowns, face painting, bounce houses, and a climbing wall. Some years the festival opened with a parade for special Olympians who then competed throughout the morning in flag football.

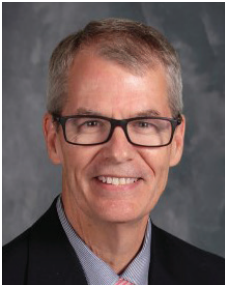
Then the coronavirus arrived. Impossible for people to assemble in large crowds. What to do? Fortunately, the development office was able to stage a virtual festival which was strictly on on-line affair. Thanks to the generosity of the Mount Michael faithful, even an online event proved to be successful. Last year, an abbreviated festival allowed people to return to campus. The festival began with a celebration of the Eucharist on the football field followed by a pancake breakfast in the gym. Br Jerome's flea market, Fr John's garden market, food and bounce houses provided activities for festival goers to enjoy. Even the limited event was a success. This year we are hoping to have a festival which more resembles those that people remember. The development office has tried to incorporate the most missed events of previous years. There will be a cake walk and a cake booth. There will be a beer garden. There will be more options for food. But most importantly there will be people there who love Mount Michael, who enjoy seeing the monks and other old friends, and who want to support our apostolates. For that we will be forever grateful. It is an occasion of celebration. A festival at the end of summer all the love and care we enjoy which will carry us through the winter. God bless you all. God has certainly blessed us through you.

*J Michael Liebl, OSB*

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**HALL  
OF FAME**  
Sept. 14th

**FALL  
FESTIVAL**  
Sept. 17th



## Head of School ●●

Over the summer of 2023 the Mount Michael campus saw a series of projects unlike what we have seen in some time. Many of these are the result of generous donors, committed staff, and a supportive monastic community!



**1** One major project that has been worked on all summer is the installation of six new tennis courts. These courts are located just north of the baseball field. These new courts will allow Mount Michael to host more tournaments, support our tremendous team and coaches, and be used for lessons all summer long. As of this writing our plan is to keep the older courts and use them for pickleball and recreational space for the students. These new courts are set to be completed by the time school starts.

We were able to start this project due to the generosity of several donors. Mount Michael has a strong history of a very successful tennis program. In gratitude, several donors, past players, and their families, have contributed. If you would like to contribute to the tennis court project please contact our director of advancement, Mr. Chris Knauf ([cknauf@mountmichael.org](mailto:cknauf@mountmichael.org)). Any donation you make will be greatly appreciated.

**2** The second major project that has been worked on all summer is a new track. For those of you who are familiar with our older track, you know that it was not an official-sized track. It lacked the proper surface, the number of lanes was limited to six, and we could not host meets. We also lacked the complete, and official, ancillary aspects like pole vault, shot put, discus, long jump, and high

jump areas. This track will have all those things and Mount Michael Benedictine School will now be able to host meets. This is going to offer an excellent opportunity to welcome schools and visitors to our campus as we plan these meets! Our track team will also be able to train and compete on an official sized track with all the amenities! This project is the result of two generous donors. The track will be ready for our spring season.

**3** Another project this summer has been some modifications and changes to the freshman dorm living area. For the past few years, the old library in the Benedict building has been used as the bunk room for the freshman. We are now going to use that space as the study area for the freshman. We are making a rec room out of the other space, moving in games and such, to allow for a place for the students to relax without having to go to the Armory. The freshman will be living in rooms of six down the hall from the bunk room. These rooms will be sparsely furnished with no desks. The idea is to retain the community aspect of still living and working together as a class.

**4** Moving our advancement/development office into the St. Benedict building is our last major, new project. Currently their offices are in the white building just south of our campus

entrance. They will now be located on the main floor of the Benedict building across from our business offices. This will bring them closer to the heart of the campus. Being proximate to the main school buildings and our offices will allow for easier communication and more efficiency.

In the fall of 2019, Mount Michael entered a contract with the consulting firm, Gonser Gerber, to work on a new strategic five-year plan. This firm had focus groups, surveys and meetings that resulted in hundreds of people giving input on the future of Mount Michael Benedictine School. The plan was delivered in February of 2020. Of course, in March of 2020 we were hit with a worldwide pandemic. Since that time, we have found some wonderful successes with the plan. But we have also found that, due to some changes and forces beyond our control, some of our priorities have shifted.

This summer our management team met with a consultant, Jim Cushing, from Des Moines. Jim is currently working with our team to reappraise, realign and refresh the strategic plan as we go into these next few years. We will keep you posted on any significant changes.

Lastly, I would like to welcome our newest staff members for the 2023-24 school year:

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**Mr. Craig Fullerton**

DIRECTOR OF TECHNOLOGY

**Ms. Danika Kerin**

DIRECTOR OF ENROLLMENT AND MARKETING

**Ms. Kelsey Genoways**

FRENCH AND TECHNOLOGY TEACHER

**Mr. Walt Mertz**

CHEMISTRY AND SCIENCE TEACHER

ASSISTANT CROSS COUNTRY AND TRACK COACH

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We are looking forward to a tremendous school year! I want to thank the faculty and staff who have worked all summer getting ready for this year. I especially want to thank our facility and maintenance staff for all their hard work getting our building and grounds ready. The campus really looks incredible and ready!

Thank you all for your constant support. We would not be here if it were not for you!

God bless,



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



**Mount Michael Benedictine Abbey and School is excited to introduce our new Director of Enrollment and Marketing, Danika Kerin!**



Danika (Dani) Kerin comes to Mount Michael from Creighton University where she served as the Associate Director, Website and Portal Management within the Enrollment Management department for two years. While at Creighton, Dani's experience was in undergraduate admissions

digital marketing. She was responsible for strategic direction, oversight and execution of student portals, web content and social media. She helped with the execution of print and email communications and strategy.

Prior to Creighton, Dani served as an Admissions Counselor at Midland University, ultimately being promoted to the Dual Enrollment Coordinator and Office Manager position. Dani's responsibilities as an admissions counselor included recruiting domestic and international students to different activities at Midland as well as representing Midland at recruiting events such as college fairs, high school visits and campus visits.

Dr. David Peters, Head of School for Mount Michael Benedictine adds,

**“ We firmly believe that Danika will be an invaluable asset to our community. In addition to the wealth of experience she brings, she embodies the Benedictine values of our Mount Michael community and is dedicated to ensuring that our institution continues to be a place of academic excellence and spiritual growth. ”**

Originally from Edina, Minnesota, Dani earned her bachelor's degree in political science and sociology from Creighton University in 2018 and has remained in the Omaha area since. In her free time, Dani enjoys teaching a fourth-grade faith formation class at St. Patrick's Church in Fremont, chasing around her daughter and spending as much time outside that she can.

We encourage you to extend a warm welcome to Danika as she transitions into this pivotal role. If you have any questions or wish to connect with Danika, please feel free to connect with her at [dkerin@mountmichael.org](mailto:dkerin@mountmichael.org).

# THE VAN HAUTE LEGACY

Written by Cathy Van Haute

I've always told my sons that life is a series of doors opened and closed by God, and it's their choice to decide which ones to step through. Faith gives us the strength to face whatever awaits us behind those doors, leading us to a life that is both rewarding and free of regret.

I had to embrace this belief myself on Sunday afternoon, August 19, 2007. It was our first picnic under the pines at Mount Michael, and my son Vince '11' was starting our family on a journey that would last for the next 16 years. If things panned out, our other sons—Nate '12, Sam '16, Luke '18, and Drew '23—would follow suit.

I'll never forget the fear, sadness, and uncertainty I experienced, questioning if I was making the right choice. My friends sending their boys elsewhere asked, "How could you send your son away for the next four years?" I didn't have a firm answer. Yet God had presented us with this opportunity, and we decided to collectively step through this new door—a journey that would last 16 years. The enthusiasm my boys showed to return each Sunday night confirmed we had made the right decision. Mount Michael became a second home for them.



The Van Haute's first Mount Michael picnic in 2007. (Vince's freshman year)



Current Family Photo (Vince's Wedding)

My husband Bob and I chose to go all in when it came to embracing the Benedictine values and the Mount Michael community. The boys I sent to Mount Michael at 14 graduated at 18 as young men with a strong moral backbone and the confidence to not only pursue their aspirations, but succeed in doing so. They also left the school with lifelong friends they still talk to daily. "Once a knight, always a knight" rings true, and the bonds forged at the Mount are strong.

I'm still in disbelief that I won't be moving one of my boys into the dorms at Mount Michael this August. Our Wednesday nights too will lose some of their charm. I'll miss our shared meals, the countless soccer games and cross country meets, and the camaraderie with other families. Bob and I cannot adequately thank the teachers, monks, coaches, and parents who have impacted our family. My hope is that future families fully engage with the spirit of Mount Michael, just as we did, and look back on their time with similar sentiments.

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**With a heavy heart, I must now close one of the most significant doors God opened for our family. Yet, I am eternally thankful that we chose to trust God's plan and walk through on that 2007 Sunday afternoon. Mount Michael will forever be a part of who we are, and we look forward to the future with hope, knowing that the values instilled here will continue to guide our family for generations to come. Thank you Mount Michael for an incredible eighteen years that were nothing short of rewarding and fulfilling.**

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Cathy Van Haute  
Mother of Vince '11, Nate '12,  
Sam '16, Luke '18, and Drew '23

# 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 and 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**



SCAN QR CODE OR VISIT  
[GIVEBUTTER.COM/MMHOF23](https://givebutter.com/MMHOF23)  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
AND TO REGISTER



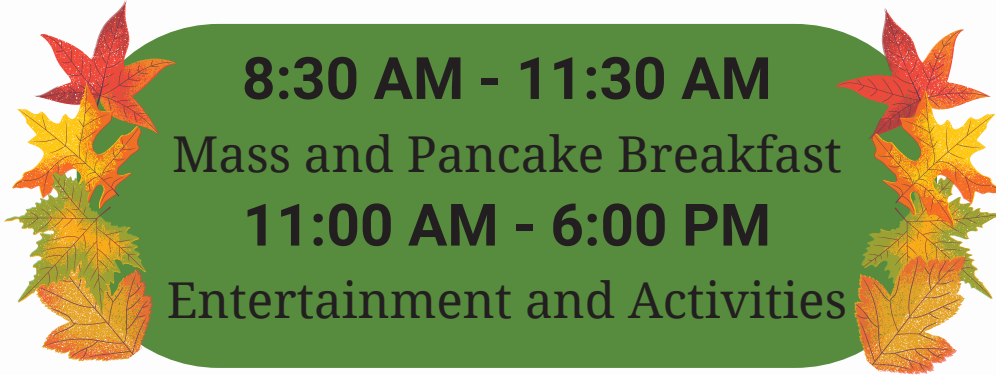

MOUNT MICHAEL BENEDICTINE ABBEY

# Fall FESTIVAL

2023 • OUR 68<sup>TH</sup> YEAR

## SEPTEMBER 17, 2023

22520 MOUNT MICHAEL ROAD ELKHORN, NE 68022



**8:30 AM - 11:30 AM**  
 Mass and Pancake Breakfast

**11:00 AM - 6:00 PM**  
 Entertainment and Activities

### MAIN STAGE ENTERTAINMENT ft.

Dixieland Band  
 The Rex Granite Band &  
 Diamond Empire Band  
**Dance team performances by  
 local Catholic high schools**

### ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Hayrack Rides  
 Beer & Wine Garden  
 Inflatables and Yard Games  
 Cornhole Tournament  
 Pumpkin Patch  
*the return of the Cake Walk*  
**and MORE!**



**SCAN TO LEARN MORE**





# Thomas Merton and Mount Michael

Written by Ryan C. Hendrickson '87

For Mount Michael alumni, we all have memories that will last a lifetime. My own memories include a lecture by Fr. Nicholas Nittler, which I believe occurred in a senior theology course, probably in 1986. Fr. Nicholas was an engaging lecturer, who brought tremendous life to the classroom. During one class meeting, he taught us about Thomas Merton, a Trappist monk from the Abbey of Gethsemani in Kentucky.

Trappist monks rise for prayer at 3:30 a.m., and pray six additional times per day, along with a mass in between. Like the Mount's Benedictines, Trappists take a vow of stability to live in their monastery, but they also practice silence most of the day. Their official religious affiliation is the Order of the Cistercian of the Strict Observance, which says a lot about this brand of monks.

Fr. Nicholas spoke with awe and fascination about Merton. Despite his strict and austere lifestyle, Merton was a prolific author, who wrote on race relations, economic issues, and international politics. He also had a welcoming ecumenical spirit, and thus sought to find commonalities between Catholicism and other religious practices. In many ways, he is considered the most important thinker in the 20th century about Catholic contemplation and prayer.

Despite his cloistered life, Merton maintained an expansive correspondence through letters with other scholars, poets, theologians and many friends. This is what especially intrigued Fr. Nicholas, who noted the paradox of Merton's cloistered life and simultaneously his long list of global correspondences.

Merton's most widely read book was his autobiography, *The Seven Story Mountain*, which speaks about his conversion to Catholicism and his decision to live as a Trappist monk. As an undergraduate at Marquette University, a friend of mine encouraged me to read this book, which I did, in part because Fr. Nicholas planted the seed and interest in Merton. Like many, I found the book fascinating and have since had a strong interest in Merton and the Trappists at Gethsemani.

This lifelong interest recently culminated with a visit to Gethsemani this spring. I have developed a correspondence with Br. Paul Quenon, a Trappist at Gethsemani, due in part to his own book, *In Praise of the Useless Life: A Monk's Memoir*. Br. Paul studied as a novice under Merton in the late 1950s and early 1960s, and oversees Merton's hermitage, right outside of the monastery. Members of my family joined me as Br. Paul showed us where Merton lived, and the simple and modest hermitage that Merton inhabited. It was a true joy to experience.

The foundation for these experiences were set at Mount Michael. Later in life, I also recall conversations about Merton with Mount Michael monks, Fr. Bernard and Fr. John, who too had strong interests in Merton. In this respect, my Mount Michael education continues to shape my life and steer my ongoing interests and development. What a priceless gift to receive from Mount Michael.

Ryan C. Hendrickson '87, is a member of the Board of Directors for Mount Michael High School.



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](mailto:alumni@mountmichael.org).

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](mailto:jvondollen@mountmichael.org)

[mountmichael.com](http://mountmichael.com)

Picture this: a wide-eyed, big-mouthed and slightly chubby incoming freshman with big shoes to fill. You're probably asking yourself, "who is that?" You guessed it, Kevin Jewell. Being the younger brother to none other than Andy '08 and Graham '12, there were obviously big expectations as the next Jewell.

# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## KEVIN JEWELL '14

Written by Cooper Wilson '14



I met Kevin for the first-time during preseason football workouts our freshman year. As soon as I met him, I was instantly unsure about him. His big personality, confidence and sarcastic wit didn't mesh well with my bigger personality, confidence, and sarcastic wit. We began to butt heads and lead to frustration as I was a first-string wide receiver, and he was third-string quarterback. The disdain was evident for a majority of our football season, until we played away at Roncalli under the Friday night lights. Late in the game with Kevin at the helm, the play call came in... "I-Pro Right, Sprint Pass Right." We got into formation, ran the play, and Kevin shocked the world and threw a 40-yard bomb and hit me in stride as I made my way into the endzone untouched. He never showed any of those skills during preseason workouts. Some might say we've been great friends ever since.

We had a great friendship during our time at The Mount. Kevin was as busy as ever there with a chip on his shoulder and seemingly something to prove. He played four years of football, basketball, and baseball in addition to extracurriculars. Ultimately, that propelled him to higher education at Creighton University where we'd spend the next four years of our lives together; again. I'm thankful we both ended up at Creighton where we became even better friends. It was there where I realized what type of impression he was really trying to make.

No matter what the crowd or audience, he made an impact on everyone. Kevin gave about every ounce he had to his sports teams and to the classroom. Everyone that knows Kevin understands how important sports are to him, especially basketball. "After Mount Michael, I was a student manager for the men's basketball team at Creighton for four years. I

helped at practice and around the office doing whatever the team needed from laundry and rebounding as a freshman and sophomore to, by the time I was a senior, being able to help with scouting opponents and recruiting. I also got to go on a good majority of our road trips and help the team, as well

as see some of the great basketball venues across the country. It was a very special experience to be around such a high-level basketball program and high-level people."

Although he only scored 12 points on 6/51 shot attempts in his high school varsity basketball career, he continued to press on with his love for the game. "During my summers, I also worked a bunch of different basketball camps at schools across the United States. It ended up being seven different schools - Wisconsin, Oregon, South Dakota State, Missouri, Oklahoma, Purdue, and Notre Dame.

Through all those different camps, as well as my time at Creighton hosting visiting teams for shoot arounds and practices, I was able to make enough connections to land as a graduate assistant at Wisconsin. I spent two seasons up there in a similar capacity to Creighton - helping the team with whatever they needed but spent a lot of my time on graphics, recruiting, as well as some analytical work. I also pursued a master's degree in educational leadership and policy analysis. My second year, we were fortunate enough to win the Big Ten Regular Season Championship. Unfortunately, less than a week later, our season and the world were shut down due to COVID-19. I moved home for a few months and again thanks to some previous connections, was able to land at the University of Nebraska-Omaha as the Director of Operations. I handled all our travel, scheduling, and logistical issues for the team and staff. It was an incredible learning experience especially given the challenges of COVID-19."

## Q&A

### What are you doing now?

Again leaning back on my previous connections, I was able to move on from UNO to work for a former boss of mine, Steve Lutz. Coach Lutz was an assistant coach my first three years at Creighton, and we formed a good enough relationship to have him ask me to come be his video coordinator at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi, in the Southland Conference. I spent my first season here as the video coordinator, handling all our practice and game film, as well as overseeing all our scouting efforts. After my first year, I made the switch to being our Director of Operations which brought me back

to doing travel, meals, scheduling, as well as helping with academics, community service, equipment, and a whole litany of other things. We were fortunate in our two seasons here to win back-to-back Southland Conference Tournament Championships, as well as the Regular Season Championship in our second season here. We had back-to-back NCAA Tournament Appearances including our school's first ever win in the NCAA Tournament by defeating Southeast Missouri State. Being a part of that team will be a memory that I cherish for the rest of my life. I'm currently entering my third year here and continuing to oversee our operations.

### **What's next for you?**

The coaching profession can be a long and winding road without a ton of direction and clarity. I think beyond trying to plan my next move, I hope to continue to search for positions where I can grow and learn and use the gifts that I was given in a fun way. I obviously would love to stay in the basketball profession and hope that when the time is right, I am able to become a head coach somewhere.

### **What advice do you have for current students who want to make the most out of their experience at Mount Michael?**

Do not miss an opportunity to experience something Mount Michael provides. It is such a unique, yet fulfilling four years, and I think every chance one gets to participate in a Mount Michael event whether it be the Fall Festival or a home basketball game, you will be better for it. I tried to participate and do as much as possible in my four years and I cannot think of an experience that I was not better off for. Even something as simple as bringing home international students on the weekend is something that you rarely have the chance to do again in life. I am forever grateful for so many of the bonds and connections that I formed in my time there and I don't think that would have happened if I did not lean into everything that was going on out there. Four years that last a lifetime is truly the case.



**Davis Wilson '14, Kevin Jewell '14, and Cooper Wilson '14**

### **What would you say to a family considering MM for their son?**

I think there are few schools that truly care about the development of your son throughout their time in high school than Mount Michael. With smaller class sizes, those teachers, faculty, and staff can pour into their students not just over the course of a 45-minute class or semester, but over the course of four years. To be able to say that Mr. Gathje taught my brother Andy as a freshman in 2005 and my brother Daniel as a freshman in 2013 is a unique experience. Every person at the school makes an investment in your son to see them walk across the stage as well rounded as possible and ready to take on and better the world.

### **How are you involved with MM still, how would you like to be involved, and how would you inspire alumni to get involved?**

I unfortunately am somewhat limited on how I'm able to be involved at Mount Michael due to NCAA rules. I always keep up through all the different social media channels, reading the Michaelen and obviously keeping up with my classmates on a daily and weekly basis. I enjoyed being able to play in many alumni tournaments and even attending a few basketball games when I was back in Omaha. Next year will be my ten-year reunion and I hope to be able to get back to see some old classmates and participate in the golf outing again. I know my brothers have participated on the alumni board, coached some junior Knights, as well as some of the current teams since their graduation as well. I would try to inspire to alumni to become involved by taking the same attitude they did when they were at school - you want to leave something better than you found it.

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To this day, Kevin still has a passion for The Mount and continues to call on alumni to share in his efforts to see the school get better and better.

**“ Even though we no longer walk the halls, I think as alums, we all take a collective interest in wanting to see Mount Michael grow and become better and that only improves by having alums that contribute and take an active role in its growth. I know I would not be the person I am today without the Mount, and I would think the Mount would say the same about many of its alumni. ”**

Kevin truly takes each opportunity to become a better version of himself and seeks to better those people and places around him and has a one-of-a-kind resume to show for it. People like Kevin don't come around often, and for that I feel blessed have crossed paths with him when I did.

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# Alumni News



KC Gathering: Alumni residing in the Kansas City area were visited by Mount Michael administration and gathered at the local Topgolf to reconnect and learn about happenings at The Mount.



**Dan Jewell '17** recently graduated from Creighton University Medical Center School of Physical Therapy and has begun

his career at SERC Physical Therapy in Kansas City, MO.



**Greg Sullivan '06** was promoted to Strategic Planning Manager for Global Seed Operations at Corteva Agriscience in Johnston, IA.

## Class Reunions



1973



1978



1968



2003



1988



1983



2018



1963



2013

3's & 8's

# Alumni News



**Charlie Jarosik '14** is moving to Colorado Springs, CO to be a Postulant with the Capuchin-Franciscans.



**Alex Hotovy '15** is starting a new position as a Digital Marketing Strategist at The University of Chicago Graham School in Chicago, IL.



**Joe Hoeschen '04** was promoted to Senior Product Manager of Global Data Integration at Charles Schwab in Omaha, NE.



**Tim Hall '03** was promoted to CEO at Relation Insurance Services in Chicago, IL.



**Adam Tucker '10** was promoted to Director of Financial Communications at GE Vernova in Cambridge, MA.



**JT Cronin '13** has been promoted to Head Coach of the Mount Michael Soccer Team.



## ALUMNI WEEKEND Golf and Reunion



Over 200 alumni, family, and friends gathered on Friday, June 2nd for our 33rd Annual Mount Michael Alumni Golf Classic at Stone Creek Golf Course Presented by Nico Marasco '12 with BHHS Ambassador Real Estate.



We are so grateful for the help of our alumni association, advancement staff, volunteers, and generous sponsors! Proceeds from this event help us continue funding student scholarships.

# Alumni News

## WEDDING



**Joe Ernst '12** married Abbey Christensen on August 12th, 2023.



**Kevin Koch '11** married Selin Gündüz on July 14th, 2023.



**Andrew Whitaker '15** married Emily Kuwano on May 27th, 2023.

## BIRTHS



**Garrison Emsick '14** and Erica welcomed their son, Milo Dean Emsick, on August 15th, 2023.



**Greg Hall '04** and Elizabeth welcomed their daughter, Grace Elizabeth Hall, on March 3rd, 2023.



**Riley Lebbert '07** and Kate welcomed their daughter, Sloane Elizabeth Lebbert, on June 19th, 2023.



**Tristan Anzalone '10** and Annie welcomed their son, Quinn Matthew Anzalone on March 21st, 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



**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**

# IN REMEMBRANCE

**Rida Knutzen**  
 great-grandmother of Preston Peatrowsky '26

**Michael Housh**  
 grandfather of Ryan Kremer '24

**Sherry Christiansen**  
 grandmother of Nick Vetter '17

**Lt. Col. Terrance "Terry" Buschelman**  
 former staff member; father of Kyle Buschelman '06

**Daniel Beacom**  
 father of staff member Jonah Beacom

**Albert "Al" Zechmann**  
 father of Robert Zechmann '96

**Janet Trautman**  
 grandmother of Michael '01, David '03, and Marc Jergovic '06, and of Joseph '24 and Peter Trautman '26

**Ralph Latimer**  
 grandfather of Jack Giitter '22

**Mary Ann Reinhart-Williams**  
 friend of Mount Michael

**Mary "Mae" Horgan**  
 sister of Jack '07, Tom '08 and Joe Horgan '17

**John Dixon, II**  
 friend of Mount Michael

**Suzanne "Sue" Rohweder**  
 grandmother of Zach Rohweder '08

**Shirley A Lingo**  
 grandmother of Matthew Lingo '13

**Patrick Stricklett**  
 grandfather of Owen '24 and Noah Stricklett '26

**Jay Reichmuth**  
 friend of Mount Michael

**Margaret "Margie" Miksch**  
 sister of Fr. Joseph Miksch '58

**Patricia Ann Tripeny**  
 mother of John '78 and Paul Tripeny '82

**Michael Langenegger**  
 brother of Paul Langenegger '75

**Jeffrey "Jeff" Theis**  
 nephew of Marilyn Theis

**Frank Mancuso**  
 grandfather of Kyle Oldehoeft '25

**Mary Ann Blair**  
 friend of Mount Michael

**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

22520 Mount Michael Road | Elkhorn, NE 68022-3400  
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## Michaeleen

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MOUNT MICHAEL BENEDICTINE ABBEY & SCHOOL

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**Head of School**  
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**Director of Advancement**  
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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](mailto: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](mailto:alumni@mountmichael.org)

**School Admissions**  
Danika Kerin, 402-238-1457  
[admissions@mountmichael.org](mailto:admissions@mountmichael.org)

**Advancement Office**  
Chris Knauf, 402-253-0964  
[cknauf@mountmichael.org](mailto:cknauf@mountmichael.org)

