





Letter from the Abbot



The calendar poses a challenge for planning Night of Knights, the dinner and fundraiser for Mount Michael Benedictine School. Night of Knights typically takes place in late March or early April. Weather is a consideration. A blizzard is hardly ideal. The liturgical calendar imposes constraints. We try to avoid Holy Week and Easter. Another consideration is March Madness. The NCAA basketball tournament is a national obsession. Perhaps less so than in years past, hosting the Night of Knights on a weekend of the Final Four is like scheduling a Saturday wedding when the University of Nebraska hosts a home football game. It is fine if you do not mind that no one will show up.

Several factors make the NCAA tournament (the big dance as it is sometimes referred to) so compelling. It is truly national in scope. At least 68 teams begin the tournament. Every part of the country will be represented by at least one hometown favorite. You do not have to be a large school. Unlike football, which is a game of numbers, it only takes one or two great players to make a great basketball team. Witness Larry Bird and Indiana State. Only the most ardent fan will remember any Sycamore player other than Larry Bird when Indiana State made it to the finals of the 1979 tournament. In comparison to football, which can be prohibitively expensive, small schools also benefit financially from a basketball team. Then there is the element of unpredictability. Almost every year, one of the top seeds in the four regional brackets is upset in an early round. More than one fan has ripped up a bracket in frustration when an upset ruined a chance to hit a jackpot. No one has ever picked a perfect bracket. The odds are astronomically low. The outcome of many a contest is in doubt until the final few agonizing seconds of the game. It makes for great television.

Adopting the attitude that it can be beneficial to go with the flow rather than struggle upstream, the theme for this year's edition of the Night of Knights is Mount Madness. Those attending that

2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

NIGHT OF KNIGHTS MARCH 16TH

GOLF CLASSICJUNE 7TH

ALUMNI REUNIONJUNE 8TH

CAMP MT. MICHAEL

WEEK 1 JUNE 23-28 **WEEK 2** JULY 7-12

WEEK 3 JULY 14-19

WEEK 4 JULY 21-26

FALL FESTIVAL SEPTEMBER 15TH

NOVEMBER 19TH

evening are encouraged to wear something that honors their favorite basketball team. It might make for an interesting sartorial event.

The primary goal of a Benedictine education is the transformation of the human mind and heart. Not just to develop the intellect, but to form each student into a loving, caring, and giving human being. An education at Mount Michael enables students to attend a college that matches their abilities and their interests. As the cost of education has risen, we rely on the Night of Knights to help defer some of the cost to our families so that their sons can flourish and eventually be of assistance to others. From one perspective, the Night of Knights resembles the tournament. It allows those with less advantage to compete with those who might be gifted with more resources. Interestingly, like the tournament, you never know who will go on to do something remarkable, whether that is in the church, or in the business world, or in politics or in art or in some other facet of our world. You never know what part of the world they will touch through their work and their lives. I suspect that many people would assume that Mount Michael alumni go on to be doctors, dentists, lawyers, accountants, engineers, contractors, coaches, and teachers. I am not sure how many would know that Mount Michael alumnus Ryan Daly is a professional opera tenor. Or that Cardinal Blaise Cupich attended the school when it was still St John Seminary. Brian Britt is a professor in the Department of Religion and Culture at Virginia Tech earned membership into the Academy of Faculty Leadership. Nick Evans is an inventor responsible for the Tile, a Bluetooth device to keep track of easily lost items. (Apple thought so highly of his idea, that the AirTag is essentially a copy of the Tile.) Kevin Kennedy is a screenwriter. Many alumni could be named who uniquely contribute to our world. In whatever direction an alumnus chooses to strike out, we hope that they will carry the values of their Benedictine education in such a way as to serve others and honor God. It is a big dance. We are grateful to all who help make it a success.







HEAD OF SCHOOL:

Beginning in the spring of 2023, Mount Michael started looking for a new campus minister. We wanted this position to be both unique and different. The job description for this position went through several

alterations and changes. Eventually, the title of the new position was **Director of Mission and Ministry**. The Director of Mission and Ministry serves a vibrant and worshipping Catholic community, guided by the Rule of St Benedict and the monastic community of Mount Michael Abbey. The Director addresses the faith development needs of faculty, staff, and students. The Director develops programs and initiatives for sacramental worship, retreats, social justice, service immersion programs, and an active ministry presence in all areas of school life.



Eventually, this past October-November we hired our new Director of Mission and Ministry, Mrs. Amanda Schleimer. Mrs. Schleimer came to Mount Michael from the Archdiocese of Washington, D.C. Amanda's past position was working for the Archdiocese of Washington with the college campus ministry programs. Her title was Program Director of Campus and Young Adult Ministry. She supported the campus ministry programs on the campuses of the University of Maryland, George Washington University, American University, Howard University, Gallaudet University, and St. Mary's College of Maryland. All within the DC area.

Amanda holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Theology and Religious Studies from the Catholic University of America and a Master of Catechesis from the Catholic University of America. Her work on her master's degree concentrated on "catechesis in the Catholic Church, emphasis on pastoral leadership, and ministry to young adults with relevant course work in Liturgical Catechesis, Scripture and Diversity."

Amanda began her position at Mount Michael on January 10th, 2024. She is married to her husband, Frank, head of Creighton University's residential life program. We are extremely excited to have Amanda as part of our staff so join me in welcoming them both to our Mount Michael family.

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

Ol 9 Poter

ADVANCEMENT

With only 2 1/2 months left in the current academic year, it has been incredible to witness the momentum and impact your support has generated. The holiday season brought forth a wave of generosity, for which we are deeply grateful. Yet, the journey does not end here. As we approach the final stretch, the following opportunities are available to make a lasting difference in the lives of our current seniors and the Knights to come.

■ ELEVATE THE KNIGHT FUND:

Our fiscal year, running from July 1 to June 30, is a time of collective action to support, sustain, and elevate our campus and curriculum. The 2023-24 Knight Fund aims to raise \$500,000, with the goal of achieving a 10% alumni participation rate. This fund is pivotal in bridging the gap between tuition and the actual cost of operating the school, ensuring our year-to-year success.

SERVE ACES FOR THE TENNIS COMPLEX:

We are still actively seeking donations for our state-of-the-art tennis complex, a shining gem that hosted its inaugural season last Fall. Recognized as the finest high school tennis facility statewide, it proudly stands as the home court for one of our most decorated athletic programs. Your contribution will play a vital role in maintaining this top-tier facility.

SAVE THE DATE FOR NIGHT OF KNIGHTS - "MOUNT MADNESS":

Mark your calendars for March 16, 2024, as we gear up for the Night of Knights gala. This year's theme, "Mount Madness," is a playful nod to the NCAA Men's Basketball Tournament. Join us for an evening filled with camaraderie, entertainment, and the chance to support our mission through generous bidding. Whether you are buying a raffle ticket from afar or helping us "Raise the Paddle" in person, support for this event will be invaluable in helping us reach our fundraising goals.

To learn more about all these appeals, and make your gift online, visit www.mountmichael.com and click on the "ADVANCEMENT" tab. For direct inquiries,

feel free to contact me at cknauf@mountmichael.org or my office line at 402-253-0964. Thank you for the proud support of Mount Michael, and as always, GO KNIGHTS!

L. Chris Knauf Director of Advancement

mountmichael.com



Get the latest updates on Mount Michael!



Mount Michael Benedictine School







Mount Michael Benedicting



The best part of working in admissions for me has always been getting to know the students. Starting a new job, with new people, you always have to make new connections, but in admissions, you also have to get to know 220 students that you rely on for school visits, shadows, and events. What I thought would be a challenge, has turned into seeing what exceptional students Mount Michael has. From students applying to the college that they have been thinking of attending since before they could walk, to seeing students take a passion and start their own business, there is no shortage of proud moments at Mount Michael. The advantage that the admissions position has is that you not only get to see what the current students are achieving but you also get to see what the future of Mount Michael will look like and start to see those passions that will thrive during their four years at Mount Michael. Throughout the interview process I have been blown away by what these future freshmen are doing, from high-level math competitions to competitive sports and following in their families' footsteps, I know that the Class of 2028 will have a lot to offer Mount Michael.

As an additional note, with all the snow and the cold, it is nice to look forward to the warmth of summer. The pride of Mount Michael during the summer is Camp Mount Michael. Camp is back this year, and we are excited to incorporate more faith-based elements and provide new activities for this year's campers!



Scan if you are interested in registering or learning more about Camp Mount Michael



Go Knights!

Dani Kerin

Director of Enrollment
and Marketing



BASEBALL

Daniel Collins signed his letter of intent to play baseball at Dakota Wesleyan University.

Noah Seward signed his letter of intent to play baseball at William Penn University.





Daniel Collins

Noah Seward

FALL SPORTS ACADEMIC ALL-STATE MEMBERS



Oliver Sorensen CROSS COUNTRY

Peter Killeen **TENNIS**

John Mohs **TENNIS**

Nick Halpin FOOTBALL

Austin Danahay FOOTBALL

David Barkmeier CROSS COUNTRY (not pictured)



THE ACADEMIC DECATHLON TEAM finished as regional champs and are preparing for the state competition.



Mount Michael is thrilled to announce that Jay Landstrom will be our new head football coach!

Coach Landstrom comes to Mount Michael from Omaha Central High School where he led the Eagles football team for 5 seasons, from 2018-2022.

Coach Landstrom is originally from Lincoln, Nebraska and graduated from Northeast High School before attending and playing football at Hastings College. He has both his undergraduate degree and master's degrees from Nebraska Wesleyan University. Prior to the head coaching position at Omaha Central, he had been part of their coaching staff since 2006. This past season he was the run game and special team's coordinator at Papillion-LaVista High School.

We are excited for the experience and knowledge that Coach Landstrom will bring to the Knights football program and we are looking forward to the 2024 football season!

Go Knights, and welcome to Mount Michael Coach Landstrom!



Derrik Spooner
Dean of Students/Activities Director



Jay Landstrom
HEAD FOOTBALL
COACH

The Mount Runs on Versatility:

Multi-Sport Athletes Thrive

By Oliver Sorensen '25 (Previously written for the student newspaper)

As a child, playing multiple sports was easy, one practice a week, maybe a game or two on the weekends, rinse and repeat throughout the different sports seasons. Nowadays, this is no easy task. Morning workouts, afternoon practices, long school days, and homework that will keep you up past midnight all make participating in a sport, let alone multiple sports, challenging for students.

Because of the rigorous class loads, students have to learn how to best set themselves up for academic and athletic success. "Time management is very important to achieving success, and thanks to the study habits instilled in me during my time at Mount Michael, I was able to see success on the football and baseball fields along with in the classroom," Rocco Zimmerman '24 said.

To other schools competing as a dual sport athlete at a high level is "uncommon" or "rare," but to athletes at the Mount, it's like second nature. Due to the generally small class sizes and sports teams, there are many opportunities for students to show off their hard work. This is why nearly 70% of the 129 students who took The Mount's November survey find themselves participating in at least two sports.

Studies done by the National Strength and Conditioning Association show that being a multi-sport athlete has direct influence on the following: Improved health and wellness, decreased injury rates, improved athletic performance, improved leadership skills and teamwork, better attendance in school and better academic performance. "I like how my wrestling success can help translate to furthering my success in football," Brady Quinlivan '26 said.

Along with helping each athlete develop their athletic abilities, playing multiple sports can increase their longevity and athleticism. "Running cross country has prepared me both physically and mentally for soccer. Through running, I build up stamina and strength that I can use to transition to soccer while also setting a strong mentality I can use to fight through adversity," David Barkemeier '25 said.

Here at the Mount, each and every student has the opportunity to participate in the activities that they want to without sacrificing playing another. "At other schools to even have a chance to make a team you most likely need to specialize in one sport, however, here, we have the opportunity for everyone to play and excel in the sports they like," Barrett Sykora '25 said.



Not only does it help competitively to have multi-sport athletes but it helps supportively as well. An example of this is the cross country team, where most of the runners on the team wouldn't consider running their first sport, instead opting for basketball, baseball, or most commonly soccer. But they show up, practice, compete, and support each other. That's what makes multi-sport athletes so useful. Their competitive drive pushes themselves and their teammates to be the best they can be.

45% of STUDENTS

PLAY 2 SPORTS

24% of STUDENTS

PLAY 3 SPORTS

NIGHT OF KNIGHTS DINNER & AUCTION





Saturday, March 16, 2024 | View West Shores

110 S 243RD ST, WATERLOO, NE 68069

4:30 PM Mass in the Chapel on Mount Michael's Campus

5:00 PM Cocktail Reception, Silent Auction & Live Music

7:00 PM Dinner, Live Entertainment & Program

8:30 PM Raffle Drawing, Live Auction & Raise the Paddle

9:30 PM End of Evening Social Hour with Live Band Performance

TICKET PRICES

\$150 Individual Ticket

\$100 Young Alum Ticket (2016-2023)

\$100 Young Alumni Guest Ticket

\$3,000+ Corporate Tables

(Min. 8 Seats Included)

RESERVATIONS

Scan the QR code below OR

Head to www.nightofknights.org



PROGRAM INCLUDES:

KYLER ERICKSON | JACKIE "BLACKJACK" RYAN | THE DOWNTOWN COLLECTIVE BAND Wear your favorite jersey, grab a headband or dress in cocktail attire. Prize awarded for best dressed!

Email spierce@mountmichael.org or visit nightofknights.org for questions or info.

Film Studies

BY JOHN ELSTER '09

Mount Michael Benedictine School is known around the country, known around the world, for its academic prowess, especially in the areas of science, technology, engineering, and math. Students come from all around the world – Canada, South Korea, China, Germany, Jamaica – to enjoy the educational superiority the school offers. Built on a foundation going back to the 1950's, Mount Michael has produced a number of great engineers, doctors, biologists, architects, and businessmen. These are the "typical" Mount Michael alumni that we've built our reputation on and around for the last 70 years, and we're very proud of them. However, in another couple of years, I'd wager that that stereotype changes, or at least a new type of graduate is added and cemented to the "typical Mount Michael boy": the movie maker.

On December 20, 2023, under the purview of the Mount Michael English Department, I hosted the 3rd Mount Michael Film Festival, showcasing the movies *Doughboys* and *Project Omega* – two films written, directed, shot, designed, and edited by the students in the newly-formed Film Studies course. As a way to show off all the hard work and creativity the guys in the class put into their projects, the MMFF is the World Premiere of their movies. We invite the entire school, parents, friends, and anyone else who wants to come and see some true, youthful creativity and spirit.

The idea for the Film Studies course manifested in my brain in late 2021 – the English Department was thinking of offering different electives for the students to choose from. Initially, I thought I would run the class like a traditional English class – we'd watch movies, talk about them, take a test, and write a paper, and during the summer of 2022, that's what I spent my time planning for. But you know what they say about making plans and God laughing...

Within the first two weeks of school, all the plans I had made were in the trash. I could tell the guys were already bored while they furiously took notes on the artistic choices Orson Welles made in his masterpiece *Citizen Kane*. I thought, "Man, this isn't very fun," and the boys felt the same way.

Art isn't something you can be tested over in the same way as other academia. To really show you understand the creative process, you need to take part in it, so that's what I changed the class to. We switched from watching movies like they were textbooks full of information to memorize and recite to watching them as works of art from which we could pull inspiration, style, and technique. Instead of asking "What cinematic elements does the author use?" we were now asking "How can I do what they did in my movie?"

Don't get me wrong, there's still a lot of learning going on during class. Students dissect scenes, analyze the narrative, and explain how the mis-en-scene affects the greater themes of the auteur's film. Only instead of the end goal being to spew the details onto some multiple-choice test and immediately forgetting about it, the boys work together to partake in the creative experience and make a cohesive story using the scenes we dissected and narratives we analyzed as inspiration. They learn teamwork, leadership skills, scheduling and time management, and how to deal with impossible to predict situations. They HAVE to, or else the movie won't get finished, and what should be an A+ goes down as an F.

With three semesters of Film Studies classes in the books, and three film festivals to boot which have showcased seven films made by 36 students from the classes of 2022, 2023, and 2024, I'm more inspired than ever to see where these young men take the class.

Severing the cord from the bounds of a traditional academic classroom lets their imagination run wild, and there's nothing more fun than making something you can be proud of with your friends.

John Elster '09 English, Speech, and Film Teacher

We invite all of our alumni back to campus for the ALL-CLASS REUNION this Summer!

Saturday, June 8th, 2024

Join us for campus tours, BBQ dinner, live music, and a beer tent!

Alumni of all class years are encouraged to attend and help us give special recognition to those celebrating an anniversary that graduated with a class year ending in FOUR or NINE.

We hope to see Knights from all classes!

Coming to a city near you!

We will be gathering Knights in the following cities, check your inboxes soon for details.

Los Angeles, CA | San Francisco, CA | Minneapolis, MN | Denver, CO | Chicago, IL | Milwaukee, WI





2024 ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT

Dan Gard '04

TREASURER & SECRETARY

John Von Dollen '12

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Allely '81 Greg Beninato '89 Jim Clements '95 Rob Copenhaver '77 Mike Danahay '96 Matthew Dugick '16 Sam Fischer '86 Dan Hassing '02 Jeff Kosse '89 Tom Lewis '86 Nico Marasco '12 Cooper 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.

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEMBERS

Steve Allely '81 John Beckman '14 John Behrendt '05 Dan Beninato '91 Harry Bognich '63 Tim Carlson '10 James Clements '95 Andrew Collins '01 Rob Copenhaver '77 Eric Crawford '00 Mike Danahay '96 Matthew Davis '16 Josh Devereaux '10 Dan Digiacinto '85 Matthew Dugick '16 Andrew Dunlay '07 Nicholas Evans '01 Gilbert Fendrick '72 Michael Fischer '16 Sam Fischer '86 Patrick Flood '82 Dan Gard '04 Isaac Gart '21 Ron George '65 Matthew Gloeb '82 Ed Glotzbach '66 Chase Goddard '15 Matt Haas '05 Matt Hahn '01 David Hahn '69 Nick Hall '07 Rick Hannah '84 Daniel Hassing '02 Nathan Hazard '16 Bill Heller '62 Joe Hettinger '83 Doug Hettinger '80 Joe Hoeschen '04 David Hohman '83 Matthew Holt '02 Jeff Jaworski '87 Graham Jewell '12 Andy Jewell '08 Kevin Jewell '14 Max Kaster '20 Rick Kauten '88 William Keiderling '65 Martin Killeen '98 Scott Kmiecik '94 Chester Koza '65 John Kritenbrink '04 Jim Krone '68 Andrew Lanik '92 Joel Lanik '94 Paul Lanspa '86 Mark Lanspa '80 James Lehn '73

Brian Lenz '80 Chris Leonard '08 Tom Lewis '86 Fr. Ryan Lewis '91 Dennis Linse '81 Gregory Longacre '67 Matt Luettel '03 Colman Lynch '01 Sean Mahoney '01 Tommy Maliszewski '13 Nico Marasco '12 John Mayne '86 Cliff McEvoy '00 Curtis McKnight '01 Adam Michaelsen '05 Kevin Moline '99 Robert Mueller '96 Dan Mulhall '80 Brendan Nicholas '16 John Noble '86 Tim Noerrlinger '98 Kevin O'Donnell '70 Michael O'Donnell '10 John O'Hare '57 Matthew Okalebo '14 Luke Paladino '96 Brent Papek '98 Dylan Parlor '07 David Pecha '93 Hecto Perez '94 Greg Plank '82 Bob Recker '84 Garv Riedmann '64 Zach Rohweder '08 Peyton Rosenfel '20 Marty Sampson '96 Bryan Schrader '01 Kyle Sederstrom '09 Gary Slothower '65 David Spenner '63 Marvin Steffensmeier '69 David Tamisiea '83 Patrick Tefft '04 Erik Tighe '92 Mark Travis '99 Tim Vail '68 Zachary Voller '99 John Von Dollen '12 John Wagner '67 Brian Waldron '88 Nick Wessling '96 Tom White '64 Cody Wickham '97 BJ Wilson '84

Scott Wirges '92

Michael Youngblood '85

Matthew Zarybnicky '19



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JULIUS AGONOR '08

Written by Tom Horgan '08

Julius: A Remarkable Journey from Mount Michael to Chicago's Business and Philanthropic Circles

I first encountered Julius Agonor during a sweltering summer day at Mount Michael, a moment that's etched vividly in my memory. It was the freshman year, and we were gathered for our initial football practice before the school year officially commenced. I recall the mix of nervousness and anticipation as I stepped onto the field, about to meet those who would become my classmates and, eventually, my roommates.

There I was, seated on the sun-warmed grass, diligently lacing up my cleats, when suddenly the air was split by the sound of football pads clashing and a helmet unceremoniously hitting the ground. It was then that Julius took a seat beside me, silently beginning his own pre-practice ritual. I extended a greeting, met only with a curt sigh and an indifferent eyeroll. Undeterred, I attempted light conversation, only to be briskly cut off by Julius's first words to me, laden with dismissiveness, "Shut up, I'm not here to make friends..." With that, he sprinted onto the field, leaving a lasting impression.

Fast forward less than a year, and the narrative took an unexpected turn: Julius and I had formed a close bond with one another. Despite his initial resistance to camaraderie that day on the football field, a friendship, deep and enduring, was inadvertently forged. As a longtime friend and fellow Mount Michael alumnus, it's been a privilege to witness

Julius's remarkable evolution. Our journey together, from the academic and residential halls of Mount Michael to his inspiring ventures in the vibrant city of Chicago, tells a tale of ambition, resilience, and an unwavering dedication to community values. Julius's story, from our serendipitous and somewhat rocky start, stands as a testament to the unexpected paths friendship can take and the profound impact Mount Michael can have on our lives.

Julius graduated from Mount Michael in 2008, arguably the best graduating class in the history of Mount Michael in all respects. After graduating, he attended the University Nebraska at Lincoln where he received his undergraduate degree and MBA. Julius worked at large corporations throughout the United States, including HDR and Salesforce, while always focusing on his culture and giving back to society.

JULIUS'S PROFESSIONAL AND PHILANTHROPIC VENTURES:

Post-graduation, Julius took his Mount Michael values to Chicago, where he's made a name for himself in real estate and entrepreneurship. His real estate businesses, which include multifamily redevelopment and a cleaning service tailored to Airbnb properties, reflect the discipline and innovative thinking we learned at school. But it's not just about business for Julius. He's equally dedicated to philanthropy, leading initiatives like the McDonald's Red Shoe Society and participating in the Children's Research Fund Junior Board.

MOUNT MICHAEL: THE FOUNDATION OF SUCCESS

Reflecting on our time at Mount Michael, I recall Julius's early demonstration of the qualities that have defined his success. While Julius would be the first to admit that we both did not fully embrace the school's disciplined structure or diligently adhere to study hours, he would also be the first to tell you that these learned habits have been the cornerstone of his academic and professional achievements. Julius often shares how these practices, rooted in our Mount Michael experience, have been instrumental throughout his journey.

THE ENDURING BONDS OF FRIENDSHIP:

One of Julius's most cherished aspects of his time at Mount Michael is the lasting friendships he formed. He often says that while many find their lifelong friends in college, the bonds he formed at Mount Michael have remained unbreakable. It's a testament to the unique environment of our alma mater, where relationships run deep and last a lifetime.

A WORD TO PROSPECTIVE MOUNT MICHAEL FAMILIES:

To families considering Mount Michael for their sons, Julius always highlights the invaluable life lessons the school offers. He talks about how the boarding experience, distinct from typical day schooling, fosters independence and nurtures deeper connections among students. Julius credits Mount Michael, with its faculty, staff, and brethren, for providing an educational experience that is both unique and transformative. When asked about what stood out during Julius' time at Mount Michael he stated the following "the Benedictine monks are a part of the fabric of MM's identity who bring a different perspective to the learning process that compliments the remarkable teachers in such a unique way that really provides an impactful learning and growing experience."

RECONNECTING WITH MOUNT MICHAEL:

Though Julius admits he could have been more involved with Mount Michael as an alum, his recent experiences have rekindled his connection to our school. A conversation with Fr. John, a cherished mentor from Mount Michael, provided Julius with guidance at a critical moment in his life. Julius speaks of this moment often, stating that he would not be where he is today without going back to his roots and speaking with his most trusted mentor, Fr. John.

This reconnection with the school has inspired him, and he hopes to encourage other alumni to engage with the Mount Michael community.

CONCLUSION:

Writing about Julius for the Michaeleen fills me with immense pride. His journey from the corridors of Mount Michael to the avenues of Chicago's business and philanthropic sectors is not just a story of personal success. It's a narrative about carrying forward the values and lessons of our beloved alma mater. Julius's life is a beacon, showing how the foundations laid at Mount Michael can lead to remarkable achievements, underscored by a deep commitment to community and service. As a friend and fellow alumnus, I am excited to see what the future holds for Julius, knowing that the seeds planted during our Mount Michael days will continue to bear fruit in his endeavors.

In hindsight, Julius's blunt declaration of "Shut up, I'm not here to make friends" at our first football practice might well have been the most ineffective way to avoid making a friend. Ironically, it sparked the beginning of a friendship that has lasted two decades and counting. It's amusing to think that his attempt to keep a distance was the very thing that drew us closer. Perhaps in some alternate universe, a more cordial first interaction would have led us down different paths, but in this one, his gruff dismissal was the cornerstone of our enduring bond.

Over the years, I've often ribbed Julius about his less-thanwelcoming introduction. He usually responds with the same eyeroll that I was greeted with on that first day of practice, but now it's accompanied by a knowing smile. Our friendship, borne out of a comically gruff encounter on a football field,

has become a cherished part of both our lives. So, to anyone out there who's been told to "shut up" on a football field or that someone "doesn't want to be your friend", take heart – you might just be talking to your future best friend.



Alumni News



Chase Goddard '15 graduated with his Master's degree in Engineering Management from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.



Jackson Thompson '16 recently took on a new role as President of Bulldog Solutions in Omaha, NE.



Matt Akromis '87 started a new position as Vice President of Sales at AssureCare in Denver, CO.



Jordan Goldsmith '09 started a new position as a Clinical Dietitian at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Denver, CO.



Wade Kim '09 started a new position as Sr. Associate -Transaction at Warren Equity Partners in New York, NY.





In December, former wrestlers came to a varsity practice and shared wisdom with the team followed by a social.

On November 29th, alumni living in and near NYC gathered at the home of **Mark Lanspa '80**.



Chris Knauf, Dr. Peters, John Von Dollen '12, Matt Mahoney '92, Mark Lanspa '80, Mason Matukewicz '20, Byron Stigge '95, Teah Hwang '12, Michael Sojka '12, Wade Kim '09, Colman Lynch '01, Dash Wedergren '18, Mahammad Camara '15.

Alumni News





Alumni competed in a 3v3 basketball tournament in December. The Class of 2021 were the tournament champions!

Airan Lopez '21, Matthew Collins '21, and Aaron Karnish '21

WEDDINGS



Tom Walter '12 married Kendra Samuelson on January 6th, 2024.

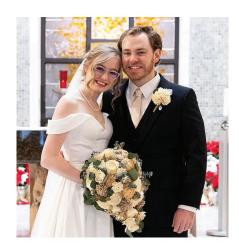


Nate Evans '10 married Sarah Stephenson on December 22nd, 2023.



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



Grant Ramm '13 married Monica Schroll on Dec. 29th, 2023.

BIRTHS



Jackson Taylor '14 and his wife Ofelia welcomed their son, Mateo David Taylor, on December 24th, 2023.

IN REMEMBRANCE



Anne Mularoni

grandmother of Tony Newton ('25)

Alice Compitello

great aunt of John Farrell ('25)

Peter "Pete" Stec

grandfather of Keaton Stec ('20)

Silvia Wolff

sister-in-law of Abbot Theodore

Wanda Hudson

grandmother of JT ('16) and John ('18) Hudson

Ragnhild Bretsen

grandmother of Cameron Bretsen ('15)

Anna Manuell

mother of Ed Manuell ('80); grandmother of Sebastian Cardenas ('19); aunt of William ('98) and Eric Crawford ('00) **Honorable Lyle Strom**

father of Bryan Strom ('86)

Paul Jansen

father of Jim Jansen ('95)

Fr. Stephen Gutgsell

brother of Fr. Michael ('66) and of Thomas ('70) Gutgsell

Kevin Stormberg

cousin of Adam Glow ('24)

Debra Houghton

grandmother of Luke ('21) and Trevor Gutschewski

Peggy Dugick

grandmother of Matthew Dugick ('16)

Steven "Steve" Bauwens

brother of Dr. Greg Bauwens ('84)

Robert "Bob" Brady

father of Kevin ('79) and Steve ('81) Brady **Deacon Franklin "Frank" Mascarello** father of Anthony Mascarello ('95)

Georgia Osborne

mother of former staff member Brian Osborne

Dr. Ravinder "Ravi" Nath

former School Board member

Alan Biniamow

grandfather of Augie Knobbe ('25)

Marshall Evans

former Mount Michael staff member

Ronald Stoesz

father of alumnus Stephen Stoesz ('96)

John McCann

brother of Shane McCann ('83) and brother-in-law of Dave Laughlin ('84)



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
 FAMILY

 One Year \$50
 One Year \$100

 Five Years . . . \$200
 Five Years . . . \$200

 Lifetime \$50
 Lifetime \$500



22520 Mount Michael Road | Elkhorn, NE 68022-3400 402-289-2541 | www.mountmichael.com

Non-Profit Org. U.S. Postage Paid Omaha. NE Permit No. 6565

Michaeleen

A Quarterly Publication of MOUNT MICHAEL BENEDICTINE ABBEY & SCHOOL

Rt. Rev. Michael Liebl, O.S.B.

Head of School Dr. David J. Peters

Director of Advancement Chris Knauf

Michaeleen Staff

Editor

John Von Dollen '12

Contributing Editor Melissa Gathje

School Board Members

Fr. Dan Andrews '89 Mr. Tim Connolly '83 Mr. Eric Crawford '00 Mrs. Pat Drahota

Mr. Ron Feuerbach

Mr. Feng Gao

Mr. Tom Hastings 'SJS Dr. Ryan Hendrickson '87 Mrs. Linda Hitzemann Mr. Marty Hosking

Mr. Dave Laughlin '84 Abbot Michael Liebl, O.S.B. '68 Dr. David Peters Fr. Stephen Plank, O.S.B. '81 Mr. Todd Rohweder Ms. Tanya Santos Br. August Schaefer, O.S.B.

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

School Admissions

Danika Kerin, 402-238-1457, admissions@mountmichael.org

Advancement Office

Chris Knauf, 402-253-0964, cknauf@mountmichael.org

Caskets & Urns

Fr. John Hagemann, O.S.B, 402-270-9026



Fr. Louis Sojka, O.S.B. '81

Dr. B.J. Wilson '84



