

MOUNT  MICHAEL  
BENEDICTINE ABBEY AND SCHOOL



# Michaeleen

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2024

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# Letter from the Abbot

**In Chapter 48 of the Rule, St Benedict writes “for then are they truly monks, when they live by the work of their own hands, as did our fathers and the apostles.” In the first chapter of the Rule, St Benedict describes four kinds of monks. In his estimation, those who live in community with a vow of stability, who gather to pray and who support themselves by their own labor are the best. Hence, the unofficial motto of Benedictines, ora et labora – prayer and work.**

To pray daily, to advance in grace before God, monks needed books. Illustrations of monks laboriously copying texts by hand populate all manner of books about monastic life. When much of Europe plunged into disarray following barbarian invasions, Benedictine monasteries were instrumental in the recovery from the Dark Ages. Books could be found there. Mount Michael sails in the wake of the tradition of Benedictine monks providing education for the young.

Throughout its existence, Mount Michael has relied on the generosity of donors to make its apostolate of education a reality. An article which appeared on CNN’s news page reported that Cabrini University, a small Catholic liberal arts college in Pennsylvania was forced to close. Cabrini was one of a growing number of US colleges and universities facing financial strain – often due to increasing operating costs, inadequate fund raising and declining enrollment. Challenges with which we are familiar.

When monks from Conception Abbey first came to the Omaha area, they were given land near Elkhorn by Rex Olson, a local businessman who had planned to retire to a farm he appropriately named Journey’s End. The school could not have been built without his gift. As Omaha has grown to envelop the Elkhorn area, land values have risen. Mr. Olson’s gift is worth many times what it must have been when he donated it.

Some years ago, I received a phone call one day from Nancy Arp, a name I did not recognize. She said that she represented an Omaha man who had died. His name was Harvey Decker, another name I did not recognize. Harvey and his wife Lucille had left a gift to the monastery from their estate. Nancy wanted to stop by the next day to leave a check. As it happened, I had a full schedule the next day but told her that I could steal a few minutes in the morning. With nothing to go on, I guessed that the check would range in the thousands of dollars. Or if we were quite fortunate, it might be in the tens of thousands of dollars. Just as I was leaving the next day, Nancy arrived and handed me the check. I could hardly conceal my shock. The check was for more than four hundred thousand dollars.

In the decade of the 90s, a small religious group took root in Des Moines. Desiring a recognized monastic way of life, that group associated itself with Mount Michael Abbey. Among the monks from that group that eventually made its way to Mount Michael was Br Patrick Harris. Br Patrick died a few years ago. His siblings had also passed away. But his mother, Jeane Knapp, outlived all her children. In 1942, she had married Dr Dale Harris. He served as a medical officer in the U.S. Navy for five years. Dr. Harris was a surgeon on the U.S.S. St. Louis when Pearl Harbor was bombed. Jeane was on Oahu then, and she and her husband survived the bombing. Despite having to bury all her children, it was noted in her obituary that she “will always be remembered for her spirited and fun-loving outlook on life. She was positive, optimistic, adventurous, and always willing to try new things. Her resilience was inspiring to all. When asked her secret to longevity, she replied, ‘enjoying people!’” She genuinely loved everyone around her, and her love was felt deeply by her family and





friends. Even though her son had only been a member of Mount Michael Abbey for a brief time, she left the monastery with a gift of one hundred and forty thousand dollars.

Roughly two years ago, a woman named Sally Stancavage came along with friends to visit the guest house Br Jerome uses to host a variety of groups. Sally's father headed the creation of a massive Western Electric plant built in 1958 near Millard to produce dial equipment and telephone cable. Sally herself was a long-time employee of the facility. Sally returned to Br Jerome's guest house to attend some retreats. She heard the story of Maurus and Placid, two young boys entrusted to St Benedict for education. Sally was so impressed with the story and with Br Jerome, that she decided to leave a memorial in the name of the Stancavage family to help those in need receive a Benedictine education. She had initially intended to leave her estate to another religious group. Without any suggestion from Br Jerome, she completely re-wrote her will. When she died, she left the monastery and school assets worth over a million dollars.

I recount these stories because we have been blessed throughout our history with generous donors. Although many monks have worked long, hard hours to forge a home at Mount Michael Abbey and School, none of it would have happened without the support of donors. To borrow words from the Rule, we try to treat all gifts, whether material or spiritual, as vessels of the altar.

I am never sure from what direction the next unexpected gift might come. We hope to continue educating young men into the future. Europe owed its emergence from the Dark Ages to Benedictine monasteries which preserved books needed for education; monasteries that trained youth to assume positions of influence and responsibility. Mount Michael wants to continue producing leaders for our church and our society. We will work and pray to make that a reality. But a little help along the way is certainly needed and always welcome.

*J Michael Liebl, OSB*



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on Mount Michael!*



Mount Michael Benedictine School



@Mount\_Michael



Mount Michael Benedictine

## 2024 UPCOMING EVENTS

### GRADUATION

MAY 19TH

### GOLF CLASSIC

JUNE 7TH

### ALUMNI REUNION

JUNE 8TH

### CAMP MT. MICHAEL

WEEK 1 JUNE 23-28

WEEK 2 JULY 7-12

WEEK 3 JULY 14-19

WEEK 4 JULY 21-26

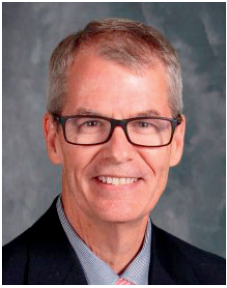
### FALL FESTIVAL

SEPTEMBER 15TH

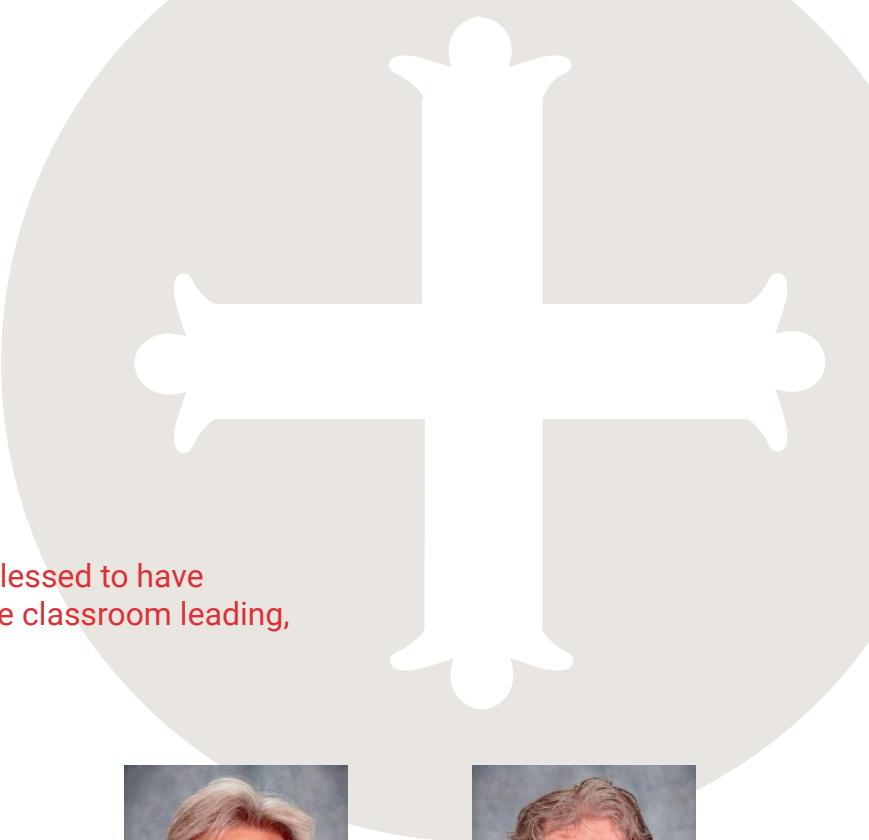
### HALL OF FAME

NOVEMBER 19TH





# HEAD OF SCHOOL:

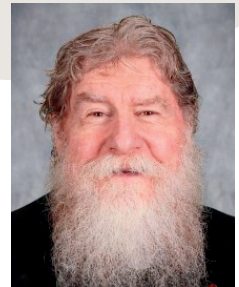


At Mount Michael Benedictine School, we are blessed to have members of our monastic community still in the classroom leading, teaching, and educating our young men.

Abbot Michael Liebl, OSB, teaches two courses every day. These courses are reserved for our upper classmen. One is AP (advanced placement) Calculus I and the other class is Honors Physics. The Honors Physics course is taught in conjunction with Creighton University and is a dual enrollment course. The students in that class receive university credit for the course from Creighton. The AP Calculus course culminates in an AP exam given at the end of the school year in May. Abbot Michael has been teaching at Mount Michael since the fall of 1977. He was a seminary student when we were St. John Vianny minor seminary and graduated from the high school in 1968. He has impacted a tremendous number of our alumni over the years. He holds a BS degree from Creighton University, an MA from St. John's University, and an MS from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Abbot Michael holds certification to teach Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics in the state of Nebraska.



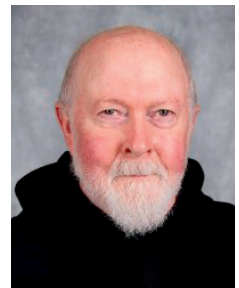
Abbot Michael Liebl, OSB '68



Fr. Daniel Lenz, OSB '76



Br. Luke Clinton, OSB '77



Br. Roger Mangels, OSB

Fr. Daniel Lenz, OSB, teaches five sections of Art here at Mount Michael. He has students at every grade level. Fr. Dan graduated from Mount Michael and attended Creighton University. He holds a BA degree from Creighton and an MA from St. John's University. He is certified to teach PK-12th Art and 7-12th Social Studies. Fr. Dan started teaching here in the fall of 1978.

Br. Luke Clinton, OSB, teaches three sections of Pottery each week to all grade levels at Mount Michael. There are four different class offerings from Pottery I through Pottery IV. Br. Luke is a graduate from Mount Michael. He holds a BA from Creighton University and graduate work from the University of Nebraska at Omaha. He is certified and

endorsed to teach K-12th Art, K-12th Librarian and 7-12th Social Studies. Br. Luke has been teaching here since 1984.

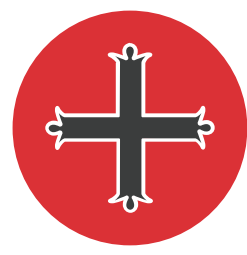
Br. Roger Mangels, OSB is responsible for teaching introduction to theater and putting on our annual play productions. He holds a BA from St. Stephen College in Missouri and an MA from Penn State University. He has been on staff since the fall of 2013.



# STUDENT NEWS

**The Knights are the 23-24 NSAA Multi-Activity Student Award Winners.**

**This award recognizes our students who participate in multiple NSAA events. Congratulations to our entire student body and our many coaches that make this possible.**



## WINTER SPORTS ACADEMIC ALL-STATE MEMBERS

- |                                      |                                 |  |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Xavier Zimmerman</b><br>Wrestling | <b>Henry Stanek</b><br>Speech   | <b>Jack Skahan</b><br>Basketball       |
| <b>Brady Quinlavin</b><br>Wrestling  | <b>Antonio Stanco</b><br>Speech | <b>Callaway Deffenbaugh</b><br>Bowling |
| <b>Kyle Oldehoft</b><br>Basketball   | <b>Thadenewel</b><br>Bowling    |  |







**Thaden Wewel '24**, who was the runner-up at State Bowling



**Aiden Farrell '24** named NISCA Academic Swimming All-American



**Rocco Zimmerman '24** was named an NCEA (National Catholic Educational Association) Youth Virtues, Valor, and Vision Award recipient.

### ACADEMIC DECATHLON

Congratulations to the Academic Decathlon team and coaches Dave Cormier and Eileen Sullivan for placing first in the Small School Division at the state competition. This is the teams 11th straight state championship. Team members include **Blase Bosilevac '25**, **Timur Guliev '26**, **John Kelly '26**, **Henry L'Heureux '24**, **Isaak Meysenburg '26**, **Nathan Mullin '26**, **Josh Palmer '24**, **Clemens Pavlish '25**, **Jaxson Pigg '26**, **Connor Smith '25**, **Cole Storch '25**, and **Rocco Zimmerman '24**. The team will travel to the national competition in Pittsburgh at the end of April.



### NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY

Congratulations to the newest members of Mount Michael's National Honor Society.

Sophomores: **Perry Anderson**, **Derek Brewer**, **Paxton Chamblerrlain**, **Connor Chen**, **Garrett Fogle**, **Callan Guthmiller**, **Tennyson Kelsay**, **Holden Kutash**, **Charlie L'Heureux**, **Isaak Meysenburg**, **Joshua Morgan**, **Nathan Mullin**, **Preston Peatrowsky**, **Alex Pekny**, **Jaxson Pigg**, **Cole Poutre**, **Brady Quinlivan**, **Jedd Ramold**, **Sam Rankin**, **Nathaniel Roepke**, **Cole Rogge**, **Lawson Scheppers**, **Noah Stricklett**, **Gabe Sus**, **Peter Trautman** and **Xavier Zimmerman**. Juniors: **Stefano Anzalone**, **Ethan Bell**, **Sam Beninato**, **Jack Dewhurst**, **Leo Dustin**, **Drew Hoeft**, **Augie Knobbe**, **Terry Le**, **Finn Mutchie**, **Mason Nick**, **Clemens Pavlish**, **Syler Sennett**, **John Sitz**, **Jacob Spencer**, **Jack Stanek** and **Harry Vondrak**. Seniors: **Callaway Deffenbaugh** and **Gower Gillespie**.



### MUSIC AWARDS

The Mount Michael saxophone section competed at the 44th annual Elkhorn Band Olympics, a solo and small ensemble competition for freshman and sophomores. Accompanied by Kathleen Griffin and **Tony Tang '16**, the Knights performed well and will continue to prepare these solos and ensemble pieces for the District Music Contest in April. Those who participated include:

**Caleb Utterback '26**  
2 "Excellent" rating

**Liam Kicken '27**  
2 "Excellent" rating

**Bradley Carstensen '27**  
2 "Excellent" rating

**Tyler Tuetken '27**  
2 "Excellent" rating

The Mount Michael Saxophone Quartet received a 2 "Excellent" rating

# ADVANCEMENT

## Night Of Knights 2024 Recap

Mount Michael's Night of Knights 2024 theme was Mount Madness! Omaha hosted 1st and 2nd round games of the NCAA Men's Division 1 Basketball Tournament right here at CHI Health Center. Mount Madness is a fun play on words for our school, Mount Michael, and the tournament, March Madness! Our event, Mount Madness, *tipped off* on Saturday, March 16, 2024! This year's Night of Knights also saw a change in venue as it was hosted at A View West Shores and 450 tickets were sold!

A special shoutout goes to this year's general chairs, Lesley Brandt and JJ Crouse. The advancement team was excited to launch a brand new role with the introduction of the inaugural alumni chairs. This year's inaugural alumni chairs were Jeff '83 and Connie Jamrog. Serving in a vice chair role and spearheading the sponsorships committee were Beth and Charlie Boone. Beth and Charlie will be general chairs for next year's event. There are many volunteers on the various

committees to thank for all that the time and effort they put in to help bring Mount Madness to life. Without the help of the 60+ volunteers, this event could not happen!

This year's event helped raise north of \$365,000 to support Mount Michael Benedictine School. Raise the Paddle to support the Fellowship of Knights program was a huge success as well - bringing in \$72,000 that will provide students who come from difficult family situations that have great financial need the opportunity to find the stability and nurturing atmosphere of Mount Michael.

Through all of the generous support from the Mount Michael community - including current parents, alumni, alumni parents, current and alumni grandparents, area businesses and other various connections, Night of Knights - Mount Madness was a rousing success! Thank you for your continued support of Mount Michael Benedictine School.



**\$365,000+**

RAISED TO SUPPORT  
MOUNT MICHAEL  
BENEDICTINE SCHOOL

**\$72,000**

OF THAT WENT TO  
RAISE THE PADDLE  
TO SUPPORT THE  
FELLOWSHIP OF KNIGHTS  
PROGRAM

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



**Sunday, September 15, 2024**

**NIGHT OF  
KNIGHTS  
2025**

**Saturday, March 29  
at A View West Shores**



# HALL OF FAME

## ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

### Rev. Daniel Hendrickson, S.J., PhD, '89



After graduating from Mount Michael and attending Marquette University for his BA, Rev. Hendrickson returned to Mount Michael as a residential dean, yearbook advisor, and theology teacher. While teaching at Mount Michael it was noted that he was an exceptional young teacher who could

command the attention and respect of seniors despite his not being too much older than the seniors.

Rev. Hendrickson currently serves as the 25th president of Creighton University. His priorities since becoming president in 2015 include bolstering the role of humanities in higher education; embracing a global focus; and enlarging Creighton's health sciences educational reach. During Hendrickson's tenure, Creighton has seen enrollment grow to more than 8,700 undergraduate, graduate, and professional students; achieved greater national recognition; and opened a \$100 million health sciences campus in Phoenix, making it one of the largest Catholic health professions educators in the U.S. Creighton has also achieved recognition for undergraduate teaching, research, and internship opportunities. With Hendrickson's leadership, Creighton recently launched its most ambitious fundraising campaign, Forward Blue, to raise \$650 million in support of scholarships, campus improvements, and mission-driven services and programs.

Hendrickson's other achievements include authoring *Jesuit Higher Education in a Secular Age: A Response to Charles Taylor and the Crisis of Fullness*, published in 2022. The book explores the history and relevance of the liberal arts and humanities and how Jesuit education aids students' self-awareness, sense of global solidarity, and aptitude for inspiration, awe, and gratitude.

Rev. Hendrickson truly embodies what it means to be a Mount Michael graduate. He has excelled academically, been a conduit for advancing the minds of the younger generations, and a passionate advocate of the Catholic faith. We are honored to recognize him as our Alumnus of the Year.

## ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

### Coach John Gathje



John has been both a coach and teacher at Mount Michael since 1991, inspiring and helping students in the classroom and on the trails. In cross country, his teams have qualified for state 25 times with five third-place team finishes, three state runner-up finishes and six state titles. 3rd place 5 times, 3 times runners-up and 6

state titles! In addition to his team's success, he has coached over 35 top fifteen finishes. In track and field, Gathje has helped coach the sprinters, throwers, jumpers, middle distance and distance runners. He has had several athletes qualify for the state meet and numerous medal at the state meet including 5 school record holders and two all class gold medalists.

## ALUMNI APPRECIATION AWARD

### David Spenner '63



For years, the Mount Michael School and Abbey kitchens were run by Dave Spenner. Dave joined the monastery after his graduation in 1963 and was assigned to work in the kitchen to oversee operations. He would leave the monastery only to return in the 80's to work in the kitchen again and was given the title Kitchen

Master. As Kitchen Master he would often work 12-14 hour days to make sure that all of the students and monastic community members have food. In addition to the long days, Dave had a very lean budget so he had to be creative and organized to make sure that he could provide all the food necessary for the Mount Michael Community.

As many alumni know, preparing and keeping everyone satisfied can be challenging. Dave not only kept the Mount Michael kitchen running for over 40 years, but he was always pleasant, open minded, and willing to change things to help make others happy. Upon retirement from the kitchen Dave continued to assist with the Fall Festival and mowing the grounds at Mount Michael. He is someone who truly gave their life to Mount Michael and he is incredibly deserving of this honor.



SCAN FOR MORE INFORMATION AND FOR REGISTRATION

# CAMP

MOUNT + MICHAEL

# BRING YOUR SUMMER TO LIFE

## A TYPICAL DAY AT CAMP



Wake up and grab something to eat! Learn how to shoot archery, play a fun game, or go on a hike with your group.



All you can eat lunch!

Go to the pool, participate in Olympic Day, or play capture the flag.



Pile your plate high at dinner with hot dogs, hamburgers, and pizza – then play warball or have a campfire.



Watch a movie on the big screen and have canteen (snacks).



**SIGN UP**

Sign up online at  
[mountmichael.com/  
camp-mount-michael](http://mountmichael.com/camp-mount-michael)



## SAFETY



We welcome your son to join us this summer as the tradition continues. They will achieve goals, build self-confidence, and have memorable new experiences. Working with your son is a responsibility we take very seriously, and our most important priority is the safety of your child. All of our activities are under the supervision of our Camp Counselors. These are dedicated individuals, who offer their leadership skills and mentorship to the campers. Swimming activities are also only done with multiple lifeguards on duty.

## FEES

**Overnight fee for attending Camp Mount Michael is \$400 per one week session.** This includes all lodging, meals, snacks, a camp t-shirt, stationary and postage, and art supplies. The \$50 deposit applies towards the \$400 camp fee and is nonrefundable. If a camper leaves during the weekly session, no refund is made. Financial assistance is available upon request.

**NEW**

**Day session is \$350 for the week of June 23-28 only.** This includes meals, snacks, a camp t-shirt, stationary and postage, and art supplies. The \$50 deposit applies towards the \$350 camp fee and is nonrefundable. If a camper leaves during the weekly session, no refund is made. Financial assistance is available upon request.

# 2024

- SESSION 1 | JUNE 23-28**
- SESSION 2 | JULY 7-12**
- SESSION 3 | JULY 14-19**
- SESSION 4 | JULY 21-26**

**Camp runs for one week.** Each boy can attend any of the available weeks. Each session of camp begins with **check-in** on **Sunday from 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.** and concludes with an **awards ceremony** on **Friday at 5:00 p.m.**

**For day camp drop off is at 8:00 AM and pick up is at 4:30 PM**



# THE COLLINS DYNASTY

Written by Dr. Charlie Collins '85

One of the consequences of having a background in Math and Science, as I do, is that I am always looking for ways to measure things, to quantify them. For example, should we measure my sons' experience at Mt. Michael in Wednesday Night Visits (roughly 480)? Miles driven to and from school (39,168)? Oh, I left out trips to activities. Shoot. Better double that estimate. Loads of laundry (about 1440)? Maybe we could think in terms of tuit- . . . umm, on second thought, better to leave that one un-thunk.

This is starting to sound like a Broadway musical. What would we call a musical about Mt. Michael? Maybe "Ment".

78,336 miles

78,336 miles, so dear

78,336 miles

How do you measure, measure a Mt. Michael career?

There are other numbers which are really important, as well. Perhaps we could think in terms of hours spent in class (30,000)? Or perhaps credits earned would be a better gauge (1400). As a college preparatory school, perhaps college credits would be a good measure (80)? Or since boys love to compete, sports seasons played (46)?

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**While it is fun to talk about the numbers, though, the things which really matter cannot be measured, cannot be quantified. The most important thing that my boys – and their parents and sisters – have gained is a sense of community. We have built lasting friendships, and we have become connected to a good, wholesome community which extends beyond what we would be able to reach on our own.**

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In addition to that, my boys have grown as men, have learned to be responsible for themselves, and to embrace the freedom which flows from that development. They have developed their sense of honor, learning to carry themselves in ways which will make the world around them better.

I can see the evidence of that. All five of them are in the midst of pursuing things they love to do, from nursing, to teaching, to continuing to play sports. Mt. Michael gave them opportunities to explore those things, and helped them find ways to work their lifelong loves into their lives.



Seeing the last of our sons graduate from Mt. Michael this spring is going to have an impact on me and my wife. It is difficult for us to remember a time when we were not working to coordinate our schedules around Wednesdays and weekends. However, there is a lot of comfort for us in the knowledge that this is a chapter – well, maybe several chapters – in a larger story.

After all, my boys' father first fell in love with Mt. Michael during the Summer of 1979, during his first week of what was then called Camp St. John. I know it gives them a sense of pride to know they have expanded, have strengthened,

From the time my son Michael, '12, spent his first night in the dorm as a freshman in August of 2008, he and his brothers – Jonathan, '15, Patrick, '19, Matthew, '21, and Daniel, '24, – have spent 16 continuous years out at Mt. Michael. That is a long time no matter what unit of measurement you use.

the bonds formed by me and their uncles. And I know they are eager to have their cousins, nephews, and sons continue to strengthen those bonds in the future.

I am sorry, Mt. Michael, but I am afraid you are stuck with Collinses forever.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## BRYAN STROM '86

Written by Ted Mikuls '86

In late August and early September of 1982, beanie infractions were a 'big thing' at Mount Michael.

Though infractions were universally minor or, more often, completely fabricated – tilted, unclean or not worn as required for all freshmen at all times - punishment was swift and enforced enthusiastically by the Class of 1983, meted out in the form of creative decoration. There were beanie windmills, an oversized sombrero, a dunce cap, a jester cap complete with bells and many, many more. But when the time came for the big beanie bonfire, Bryan Strom's Mickey Mouse hat was nearly in mint condition, his first and last name still completely legible on the ears. Unphased and unbothered. Bryan Strom.

These many years later, when I think of Bryan, I think of that – unphased, unbothered and life being more about the 'journey' and not so much the 'destination'. Though an Eagle Scout and son of a federal judge, 'rule follower' does not come to mind. The youngest of seven, Bryan came to the Mount by way of St. Agnes and Sunset Hills in Omaha. In addition to the usual rigors of high school, Bryan was on the

speech and debate teams, played golf and tennis, and was selected MVP of the 1986 Suntanning Team. When I asked Bryan to reflect on that period, he said "It was a special time really, when I began to really find my voice as young adult. We all boarded back then, so there was a lot of time to ruminate on life's 'big questions' and it is where the person I have become began to take shape. I was an idiot back then, and I think many of my classmates can relate to that sentiment."

When I asked Bryan to consider the journey vs. destination question, he admitted "My path in life has been anything but straight." After high school, Bryan went to college to study literature, only to find his heart wasn't really in it. After two years of college, he took an extended leave of absence from school and spent 14 months traveling through Europe, including time working as a bar back sleeping above the London pub where, he says, his initial appreciation for Guinness was born. His winding path ultimately brought him back stateside where his curiosity led him to architectural school in Chicago. His post high school years included stents in North Carolina as a both a student and part time "Party Picture Man" as well as time in Omaha before venturing back to the U.K. where he has lived and worked as an architect for the past 20 years.

After working for different practices in London, Bryan started his own private firm in 2009, SLAB Architects (<https://www.slabarchitects.com>). Bryan's professional interests focus on sustainable building, the influence of Japanese and Scandinavian design, and working with small spaces – his fondness for the latter, he admits, may stem from his years in 'spacious' Mount Michael dormitory rooms. Bryan currently lives in South East London with his wife (Liz), twin boys (Alex and Lucas), and dog Ziggy (yes, named for Ziggy Stardust). In his spare time, he is a Parent Governor at his children's school, a Scout Leader, and he sits on the Children and Young Persons committee for Lewisham Council. Bryan likes to surf the brisk waters off the beaches in Cornwall and ski in the Alps.

Living more than 4,000 miles away, staying connected with Mount Michael has posed a challenge although Bryan does his best to keep up with the Michaelaean. In September of 2022, several members of the class of 1986 - including Bryan - met in Dublin for the Nebraska-Northwestern football game. As it turned out, the reminiscing and fellowship in Dublin that extended through the night and into the early hours of the next morning went far better than the football.



As part of our email correspondence leading to this, Bryan said “So much has changed since we were at the Mount. I struggle to imagine what it is like having or being a day student or not having to wait hours to use one of the four student payphones in the Student Union to call home.” Like other alumni, Bryan doesn’t hesitate in identifying the lifelong relationships established, and friendships with classmates in particular, as a major selling point for parents considering Mount Michael for their sons.

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“ During my time in high school, I was able to establish some amazing friendships. They have been my best friends now for more than 40 years. For me, these friendships have been one of the most important things in my life next to my family and I have the Mount to thank for that. ”

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Ted Mikuls '86, Bryan Strom '86, Sam Fischer '86, Randy Connelly '86 and John Puente '86 in Dublin.



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).

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

**John Von Dollen '12**  
**402-238-1447**  
[jvondollen@mountmichael.org](mailto:jvondollen@mountmichael.org)

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





MOUNT MICHAEL  
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

# ALUMNI WEEKEND

## Friday, June 7th GOLF CLASSIC

Stone Creek Golf Course  
6220 N. 160th Ave

7am: Registration / Check-in

8am: Shotgun Start

1:30pm - 3pm:  
Lunch, Raffle, and Awards

ENTRY FEE Includes:  
18-hole green fee  
Cart rental  
Driving range and balls  
Drink Tickets  
Post round meal  
Prizes and awards  
Lunch & Reception

There will be a post-round award ceremony with pin prizes and awards at Tanner's Bar & Grill  
15505 Ruggles St #106, Omaha



## Saturday, June 8th ALUMNI REUNION

Sokol Building Atrium  
on MM Campus

5pm: Mass in Chapel and  
self-guided campus tours

6pm: BBQ Dinner, Beer Tent,  
Live Music

All alumni are encouraged to come back for the All-Class Reunion, especially our 4's and 9's who are celebrating an anniversary year. We hope to see Knights from all classes!



Scan for more information  
and to register

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



# Alumni News

**Rev. Daniel S. Hendrickson, SJ, PhD '89** professed final vows as a Jesuit priest at St. John's Church on the Creighton University campus alongside local and global Jesuit leaders, including the Superior General of the Jesuits Global, the Very Reverend Arturo Sosa.



**Sylvester Schieber '64**, was recently awarded the Lumen Vitae (Light of Life) award by St Benedict's Abbey in Atchison. After graduation from Benedictine College, Syl received a PhD from Notre Dame. He was appointed to be on a Social Security Advisory Council by the Clinton Administration and then to the Social Security Advisory Board. He served on the latter for 12 years. President George W. Bush appointed him chair of the Advisory Board for an additional three years. None of this illustrious work was the reason for the award. While living in the DC area, Shannon Schieber, the daughter of Sylvester and his wife Vicki, was murdered. The person responsible was eventually tried and convicted. But both Sylvester and his wife refused to seek the death penalty. They have spent many years since campaigning to end capital punishment in states where it is still a possibility. The Lumen Vitae award was presented to Sylvester and Vicki for their untiring efforts to honor and preserve human life.



Each year, the Archdiocese of Omaha recognizes the priests who celebrate jubilees, Golden (50 years) and Silver (25 years). This year, Abbot Michael is pictured with six jubilarians: Fr. David Liewer, Fr. James Tiegs, Fr. Michael Gutsell, Fr. Gerald Gonderinger, and Fr. Gerald Leise, all of whom graduated in 1966 from St. John Seminary (Mount Michael Benedictine). Together, they represent 250 years of service to the people of God. Additionally, Fr. Ryan Lewis, class of 1991, was recognized as a silver jubilarian. We are grateful for their dedication to the people of God and appreciate the work they have done on behalf of us all.



The Heart Ministry Center announced that **Dr. Dave Levy '02** has joined the organization's Monen Healthcare Clinic as a pediatrician. Dr. Levy will provide free, comprehensive health care for children who visit Heart Ministry Center's Monen Healthcare Clinic.



**Dr. John Puente '86** has recently launched his own practice, Fremont Neurology Specialists, in Fremont, NE.



**Justin Lytle '14** obtained his FSA credentials, becoming a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries.

# Alumni News



**Jacob Connealy '11** was named Benedictine College's Director of Cross Country and Track & Field this past August. In just his first year as

head coach of the Ravens, Connealy led Benedictine to their first Heart Women's Indoor Track & Field Conference Championship since 2016. He was also awarded 2024 Heart Women's Indoor Track & Field Co-Coach of the Year.



**Paul West '94** was announced to be one of the Greater Omaha Chamber Elects for 2025 and 2026.



**Joe Sobczyk '12** was promoted to Financial Reporting Manager at Cboe Global Markets in Kansas City, KS.



**Daniel Sjostedt '12** was promoted to Government Relations Director at ArentFox Schiff in Washington, D.C.



**Kyle Svingen '07** Kyle was promoted to Senior Advisor at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington,

D.C. There, he works on grant programs and policies that increase the housing supply, alleviate homelessness, help communities recover from natural disasters, and protect fair housing.



**Dylan Venteicher '11** was promoted to Manager of Sales Operations at Buildertrend in Omaha, NE.



**Jacob Gathje '20**, now a senior at Saint John's University majoring in both math and English who is scheduled to graduate this May,

was recently recognized by the university for his service with the Benedictine Volunteer Corps. He will be serving at Saint Maur's Hanga Abbey in Hanga, Tanzania.



**Michael Mullin '22**, currently studying physics and computer science at Georgetown University, will be spending this coming summer at

the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UC San Diego as an intern in their Marine Physical Laboratory Summer Internship Program. The internship is a 10-week research program in marine science and technology. Research initiatives at the Scripps Institution include various areas such as climate change impacts and adaptation, human health and the oceans, and national security.

For this year's Catholic Schools Week, four of our alumni addressed the student body at morning assemblies in chapel to start each day. Each spoke on their experiences as Mount Michael students from their unique perspectives. Thank you to **Alex Engelkamp '11**, **Jim Clements '95**, **Grant Ramm '13**, and **Sam Fischer '86**. We are grateful for the time and effort you took to share your thoughts and experiences with all of us!

## CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK



**Alex Engelkamp '11**



**Jim Clements '95**



**Grant Ramm '13**



**Sam Fischer '86**



## WEDDINGS



**Dan Sjostedt '23** married Jessica Woronick on Oct 6, 2023 in Washington, D.C.



**Nick Akers '19** married Megan Mayernick on December 9th, 2023 in Clarkston, MI

## BIRTHS



**Oliver Jarosik '15** and his wife Sarah welcomed their son, Trenton Joseph Jarosik, on March 18th, 2024.



**David Jergovic '03** and his wife Kate welcomed their daughter, Francesca Joy Jergovic, on March 10th, 2024.

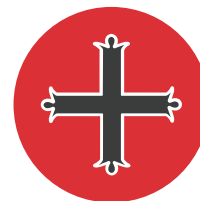


**Luke Krajewski '16** and his wife Abbie welcomed their daughter, Leah Jeanette Krajewski, on March 3rd, 2024.



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)**



## 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







## IN REMEMBRANCE

**Patricia "Pat" Travis**, mother of Andy ('96) and Mark ('99) Travis

**Karen Jahn**, mother-in-law of Tim Huffman ('89)

**Elmer McCann**, father of Shane McCann ('83) and father-in-law of Dave Laughlin ('84)

**Dr. Duane Kraus**, father of Tom Kraus

**Leo Eskey**, father of Joseph Eskey ('90)

**Dr. Terrence "Terry" Ciurej**, brother of Jeff Ciurej ('83)

**Joan Schroeder**, mother-in-law of Brian Morrissey ('84) and grandmother of Jack Morrissey ('16)

**Ward Lingo**, grandfather of Matt Lingo ('13)

**Deacon George Elster, Jr.**, father of John Elster ('09)

**Madonna "Donna" Pick**, grandmother of Matt ('95), Michael ('04), and Patrick Pick ('07)

**Nancy Cerone**, grandmother of Camden Cerone ('27)

**John Zimmer '64**

**Matthew "Matey" Goltl**, grandfather of Ryan Fuxa ('11)

**Wilma Denton**, mother of William ('10) and Matthew ('12) Denton

**Beverly Bruce**, grandmother of Aaron Karnish ('21)

**Anthony Beard**, father of staff member Scott Beard

**Esther Delgado**, aunt of Paul Delgado ('96)

**Terry Winkler**, uncle of Dr. Thomas ('86) and Fr. Ryan ('91) Lewis

**Rita Ramm**, grandmother of Grant Ramm ('13)

**Kevin Rupiper**, brother of Lisa and Danny ('78) Loeffelholz; uncle of Matt ('09), Zach ('11) and Mark ('13) Loeffelholz

**Patricia and Leroy Rupiper**, parents of Lisa and Danny ('78) Loeffelholz; grandparents of Matt ('09), Zach ('11) and Mark ('13) Loeffelholz

**Delbert John Uhlik Sr.**, father of Joe Uhlik ('73)

# MOUNT MICHAEL

BENEDICTINE ABBEY AND SCHOOL

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## Michaeleen

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

### 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)

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

**Caskets & Urns**  
Fr. John Hagemann, O.S.B., 402-270-9026

