Alumni Giving Back

As I speak with those who are interested in learning more about Xavier Catholic Schools, I am quick to say that we judge the success of our schools not on test scores or athletic achievement, but rather on the individuals that our graduates become as they leave their mark on the world around them. Since Xavier High School opened its doors in 1959, we have graduated thousands of young men and women who are leaders in business, education, government, media, athletics, law, science, the military, and their faith communities.

I’d like to focus on those many alumni who chose to give back and become leaders in a special way – as teachers, staff members, and volunteers in the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System.

Twenty eight Xavier High School alumni are current staff members in our System: 12 at the elementary level; eight in middle school; seven in high school; and one in our central office. They teach preschool through high school theology, and everything in between. They are athletic directors, musicians, and coordinate our learning centers. They are instructional aides, food service workers, and technology gurus. So many of our graduates’ stories involve service: their own, and that of their students. I’d like to focus on just a few examples.

Sarah Simon (’86) and Kelly Wilda (’00). Both women are religion teachers at the high school. For many years Sarah coordinated the annual ten-day mission trip to the diocesan mission at Elias Pina, Dominican Republic, and passed the torch to Kelly, who has now coordinated three trips. At the mission, often without electricity or running water, the students work on building projects, painting, and most important of all, spend time with the children of Elias Pina.

Maureen Milbach (’87). In addition to her full teaching schedule in theatre, media, speech, and cultural diversity, Mo is the production stage manager for Christmas Stars and director of the Children’s Theatre productions at Xavier. Every other summer, she leads a motivated group of students on a service/cultural trip to the De La Salle Blackfeet School in Montana.

Chip (’82) and Patti (’84) Seidler. Using an abundance of personal time, talent, energy, and commitment, Chip and Patti coordinate the Xavier International Food Fair. This annual Spring event brings together families and friends of Xavier to enjoy “Food from around the World” and reconnect with friends and alumni while supporting Catholic education. It draws hundreds of people from the community and is the largest single fundraiser for tuition assistance for Xavier students.

Eric (’88) and Amy Pfefferle-Oelhafen (’91). Combining a love for cycling with a love for their alma mater, Eric and Amy are founding members of the organizing committee for the inaugural Tour de Francis bicycle ride! This new event takes place the morning of Sunday, May 3rd, and all participants are encouraged to ride first, then at the conclusion head to Food Fair for lunch and entertainment! There will be three options for the ride including a 10 mile family ride, 25 mile ride and 62 mile ride (metric century). Proceeds from the ride will benefit Xavier Catholic Schools.

These men and women exemplify the mission and vision of Xavier Catholic Schools as they live out their commitment to Catholic education through an ongoing involvement in the activities and events that make Xavier unique. Each of these XHS graduates is living proof of what we try to instill in each of our students today: that together we build… faith in our future.
Director of Foundation Giving: Brian Wallace

The St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System Foundation is pleased to announce that Brian Wallace ’86 has been named Director of Foundation Giving. Brian began his new position on April 13, and will focus on development of foundation endowment sources and planned giving programs. This is a newly created position. Brian is eager to begin working on increasing support for Xavier Catholic Schools through the Foundation.

“We are extremely fortunate to add Brian to our team,” said Glenn Higgins ’73, president of the Foundation. “His extensive professional achievements, passionate belief in the value of Catholic school education, and strong commitment to community participation are key factors in our renewed emphasis on developing our foundation resources.”

A graduate of Xavier High School and Marquette University, Wallace is leaving a 24-year career of providing banking and wealth management solutions to join the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System. He and his wife Catherine (Colling) ’88 have six children, including four current students and two graduates of Xavier Catholic Schools.

Wallace reports to Deacon Ray DuBois, president of Xavier Catholic Schools, and is responsible to the board of directors of the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System Foundation, Inc. He can be reached at (920) 735-9380 or bwallace@XavierCatholicSchools.org.

Alumni Updates

Thomas Feavel ’62
Thomas has joined the Development Team of SPIRITUS/Mount Tabor Center in Menasha, WI. SPIRITUS is young adults giving retreats for students and evangelizing today’s youth. Having been a homeowner in the Oshkosh area for 35 years, Thomas has begun working with the Lourdes Academy Development Committee with the goal of helping build a new elementary school on the Lourdes campus, and eventually building a Fine Arts Center and Chapel. Thomas and his wife, Margaret, have been supporters of the Fine Arts at Xavier Catholic Schools in Appleton and St. Mary’s Catholic Schools in Menasha.

Rita Sachs Engel ’63
Rita passed away on September 6, 2014. She had been diagnosed with ALS about 17 months earlier. Even though she lost her speech and was dependent on a feeding tube for the prior year, she remained positive and continued to communicate well with all of her and Tom’s (her husband, also class of 1963) friends and relatives, welcoming visitors regularly. She was able to stay home until the end and died with a rosary blessed at Holy Hill in her hands while Tom prayed the rosary for her. Jenny McClone Lally ’63 and her husband Rob Lally ’63 emailed their classmates in April prior to Rita’s 69th birthday informing them of her situation and then notified all of her passing. Almost a dozen classmates from all over the state were able to join over 100 friends and relatives at her funeral. Interestingly, the Engel’s (and the Lally’s) were two of five couples who married a fellow classmate from the 1963 graduating class. Tom and Rita celebrated 46 happy years together on August 24, 2014.

Mark Miller ’81
Entering its 30th year of publication this fall, Mark began the Wisconsin Basketball Yearbook in 1985. The Yearbook previews teams and players for upcoming high school and collegiate basketball throughout the state. He has also been an important contributor to WisSports.net, the premier source for high school sports news in the state. He is the boys’ basketball editor and profiles standout players, high school teams, and AAU and amateur athletic events. Mark was inducted into the Wisconsin Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame September 27, 2014.

Jim Zuleger ’95
Jim was nominated and chosen to be one of the Fox Cities Future 15 Young Professionals. Jim Zuleger is Vice President-Investments, Robert W. Baird & Co. He is one of two Xavier High School Alumni among the 2015 Future 15. The top 15 individuals are chosen due to their professional dedication, strong sense of vision for the future of the Fox Cities and personal commitment to philanthropy in the community they call home and beyond. Jim was recognized at an event on Thursday, February 26th, 2015.

Karen Iverson Riggers ’97
Karen was nominated and chosen to be one of the Fox Cities Future 15 Young Professionals. Karen is Peer-Run Respite Director, NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Fox Valley. She is one of two Xavier High School Alumni among the Future 15. The top 15 individuals are chosen due to their professional dedication, strong sense of vision for the future of the Fox Cities and personal commitment to philanthropy in the community they call home and beyond. Karen was recognized at an event on Thursday, February 26th, 2015.

Jeff Witthuhn ’99
Jeff was thoroughly excited to have worked for the Grammy’s for his second year. Highlights of the event included seeing (and even sometimes escorting) an abundance of music celebrities, including Madonna, Paul McCartney, Prince, Keith Urban, and Pentatonix. He even had the chance to catch up with classmate, Tricia Engelbert, at the ceremony.

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Crystal Chariton ’05
While not fully decided on what she “wants to be when she grows up,” Crystal accepted an internship as a Strength and Conditioning Coach at UW-Madison. She will be working with the Men’s Basketball and Hockey teams, assisting in pre-game readiness and post-game recovery, as well as supporting other teams in the weight room as needed. Pictured with Matt Ferris ’14.

Nick Reider ’07
Nick graduated from Barry University School of Law in Orlando, FL in May of 2014. Having passed the bar exam later that year, he currently lives in Florida and is employed by the Lake County Circuit Court as a public defender.

Casey Carroll ’12
Casey is Junior at St. Louis University. She is in her second year as a director for Camp Kesem SLU. Camp Kesem is a nationwide organization of college students working to support children through and beyond a parent’s cancer. Camp is entirely free for the kids to attend and completely funded by the college student leaders. She is helping to increase the number of campers from 27 last year to 50 this year.
Alumni - U.S. Veterans

Charles Schreiter ’62 – US Army  
Daniel VanDinter ’62 – US Army  
*Jerry Hurley ’62 – US Air Force  
Michael Helser ’62 – US Army  
Patrick Toal ’62 – US Army  
Ronald French ’62 – US Navy  
Terry Hurley ’62 – US Army  
Thomas Hickinbotham ’62 – US Army  
Tom Roemer ’62 – US Army  
Claire McCann Kindschi ’63 – US Navy  
Daniel Kreutzberg ’63 – US Army  
George Knapestein ’63 – US Army  
James Rather ’63 – US Navy, US Naval Reserve  
James Thielman ’63 – US Air Force  
John Heinritz ’63 – US Army  
Thomas Davis ’63 – US Army Reserve  
Thomas Engel ’63 – US Air Force  
Thomas Schueppert ’63 – US Navy  
Daniel Muntnier ’64 – US Navy  
Dave Christenson ’64 – US Navy  
Ronald Weber ’64 – US Army  
Thomas Crawford ’64 – US Air Force  
Thomas Flood ’64 – US Navy  
Walter Wochos ’64 – US Army  
William Busch ’64 – US Army  
William Mitchell ’64 – US Army  
*Barry Schmidt ’65 – US Army  
James Schwallier ’65 – US Army  
Peter Vandenberg ’65 – US Marine Corps  
Richard Bartosic ’65 – US Army Reserve  
Richard Van Sistine ’65 – US Navy  
Thomas Heegemann ’65 – US Army  
William Panke ’65 – US Air Force  
*Michael Gregorius ’66 – US Marine Corps  
*Bob Hegner ’66 – US Air Force  
Lawrence Mitchler ’66 – US Marine Corps  
Michael Siddall ’66 – US Army  
Steven Collins ’66 – US Army  
Wade VanRyzin ’66 – US Army  
David Kettenhofen ’67 – US Air Force  
David Schmidt ’67 – US Naval Reserve  
David West ’67 – US Army  
James Hendricks ’67 – US Navy  
Joseph Schmidt ’67 – US Air Force  
Michael Baer ’67 – US Navy  
Paul Roberts ’67 – US Navy  
Daniel Kennedy ’68 – US Army  
James Wachtendonk ’68 – US Army  
John Meyers ’68 – US Coast Guard  
Mark Piette ’68 – US Army  
Thomas Freeman ’68 – US Air Force  
Dan Laux ’69 – US Navy  
David Gage, Ph.D. ’69 – US Navy  
Debra Lethen Patterson ’69 – US Army  
James Gloudemans ’69 – US Army  
Dick Hein ’70 – US Army  
John Stafford ’70 – US Air Force  
Michael Baisden ’70 – US Army  
Richard Marion ’70 – US Navy  
Gerald Stoll ’72 – US Navy  
Mark Ebben ’73 – US Air Force  
Paul Krysak ’76 – US Navy, WI National Guard  
Sarah Hooyman Ramos ’76 – US Army  
Michael Callahan ’78 – US Army, US Coast Guard  
Russell Skall ’78 – US Marine Corps  
Anne Pechotta-Knapp ’79 – US Air Force  
William Dwyer ’79 – US Marine Corps  
Karen Hooyman ’80 – US Army  
Patrick Burns ’80 – US Marine Corps  
Sam O’Hearn ’81 – US Navy  
Jon Schlafer ’82 – US Army  
Kenneth Zilisch ’82 – US Marine Corps  
Paul Heuring ’84 – US Army  
John Jorgensen ’86 – US Army Reserve  
Pete Valitchka ’87 – US Army Reserve  
Richard V. Schmerhorn ’87 – US Navy  
Shane Lathrop ’90 – US Navy  
Jim Nienhaus ’91 – US Navy  
Andrew Wong ’99 – US Army  
Mark Sier ’99 – US Army, WI National Guard  
Nicholas Scotch ’99 – US Air Force  
Patrick Faudree ’99 – US Air National Guard  
Mark Larson ’00 – US Army  
James Overesch ’02 – US Marine Corps  
John Pierre ’02 – US Marine Corps  
Stephanie Sievers ’06 – WI National Guard  
Nicholas Lockhart ’07 – US Air Force  

* Deceased

Thank you to the alumni who have responded to our request for veteran information! We are grateful for your service. If you do not see your name on the list, please let Janet Wagner know. We want to continue to gather information about our alumni veterans.

Where in the World is the Hawk?

The Hawk, pictured with Chris Burch ’65 entering Saudi Arabia from Kuwait this past February. This is the second time Chris and his wife have been to Saudi Arabia to see his son and family who were also traveling to Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain and Dubai while in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia is not your typical tourist destination - visas to enter the country are only allowed as a guest or as an employee of Saudi Aramco (his son’s employer).

The Hawk in Oranjestad, Aruba with Sue Kurth Matta, ’65, Mary Jo Kurth Hannemann, ’69, and Carol Kurth Otten, ’72.

David Van Lieshout ’64 pictured at San Xavier Mission which is one of oldest missions in the United States.
43rd Annual International Food Fair

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2015
9:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m. at Xavier High School
1600 W. Prospect Ave., Appleton WI 54914

Food from Around the World
Dutch · German · Italian · French
Latin American · British · Mid-Eastern
Asian · Yankee Grill · Hawaiian

Other Attractions
Worlds’ Greatest 50/50 Raffle · Hawk Treasure Bag Sale
Silent Auction · International Baskets · Garden Shop
Cookie & Bakery Shop · Coffee Bar · Student Art Show
Book Shop · Children’s Fair · Musical Entertainment

Don’t miss seeing Salsa Manzana band playing from 12:30-3:00 p.m.,
plus other great entertainment in the gym this year!

Xavier’s Largest Fundraiser!

What secret prize will your bag hold?
• Every bag contains secret items or certificates with total retail values
total retail values between $25 and $500.
• Plus, each bag has a chance to win two (2) Packer Tickets to a regular
season game, Microsoft tablet, $500 tuition voucher or other prizes……
• The Hawk Treasure Bag is a navy blue tote bag with the Xavier hawk
logo proudly imprinted in white.
• A limited supply of bags will be sold and given out on the day of Food Fair
after all bags have been purchased.
• You do not need to be present for “bag pick-up”.
• Major prizes will be on display at Food Fair.

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• Major prizes will be on display at Food Fair.

Winner was over $14,000 last year!!

FROZEN TUNDRA
Pre-orders are being taken for the following frozen food items:
• Matt Reynebeau’s Chocolate Chip Cookie Dough
• Nick Tseffos’ Cinnamon Rolls
• Reinke’s Homerun Frozen Pizza

Order forms are available online.
Your order may be picked up at Food Fair on May 3rd.
It’s a Great Day to be a Hawk!

Wisconsin State High School Mock Trial Champions. The team will compete at the National Competition in May in Raleigh, NC.

The Xavier Girls’ Basketball team earned the program’s first trip to the WIAA state girls’ basketball tournament. The team was the second-place finisher in the Eastern Valley Conference. They placed 2nd in the Division 3 State Championship tournament.

Senior Peyton Ufi is an honorable mention on the Associated Press all-state team. She finished in 4th place on the all-time Xavier Girls Basketball scoring list, with 987 points in her 4-year career for the Hawks.

Freshmen performed in “Bigger than Life” at the end of February.

The Xavier Girls’ Basketball team earned its second trip to the WIAA state boy’s basketball tournament. They came home with the Silver Ball trophy, finishing in second place in the Division 3 State Championship tournament.

The 14th annual key club homeless vigil was held on February 21st to raise money and awareness for the homeless in the Fox Valley. During the vigil, students participated in a variety of prayer and service activities.

All six Xavier Robots qualified for the Wisconsin VEX Robotics High School State Championship and performed very well. 536C represented Xavier at the CREATE US Open in Council Bluffs, IA in early April.

The Varsity Bowling team competed at State for the first-time in February.
Over 40 alumni were in attendance at the 2nd Annual Alumni Basketball Night held on January 31st as the Hawks beat the Zephyrs in the Torchy Clark gym. The 1995 WISAA state championship team was honored at halftime with a recognition ceremony. Bob Biebel, coach of the championship team, shared great remarks about the team and experience. It was a celebratory night for all in attendance and brought back fond memories for the 1995 team and their families, many of whom were also at the game. Pictured are the 1995 championship team members in attendance and alumni in attendance.

TOUR de FRANCIS 2015

SUNDAY, MAY 3, 2015

The Tour de Francis is a ride benefiting the St. Francis Xavier Catholic School System

The Tour de Francis will have 3 Routes to choose from:

10-MILE FAMILY ROUTE will use the Friendship trail and will be going to Fritse Park in Neenah and back. Fritse Park is located next to the Trestle Trail Bridge.

25-MILE ROUTE will take you through the Neenah countryside.

62-MILE (METRIC CENTURY) ROUTE will go through the towns of Menasha and Clayton, Winchester and Larsen eventually making your way to Boom Bay and back to Appleton.

Rest stops along each of the 3 routes will feature baked goods, fresh fruits, and beverages.

Tour de Francis will begin and end at the Renaissance Building - located across from the College Ave entrance of the Fox River Mall (Concordia University is located in this building): 4351 West College Ave, Appleton WI 54914.

Are you a less experienced rider? No problem!

We will have a number of bike ambassadors on hand from the Fox Cities Cycling Association (FCCA) that will be leaving throughout the morning and will follow the 10-mile Family ride to beautiful Fritse Park in Neenah.

Questions? Contact Eric or Mike.

Eric: eo@new.rr.com | 920.450.0801 – OR – Mike: laemm@att.net | 920.284.8700

Visit us on Facebook: Tour de Francis | Or at: www.tourdefrancis.com

$30/adult, $10/child (12 & under). A limited number of t-shirts will be available on the day of the ride.

Register the day of the event beginning at 6:30 a.m.
Attention Parents of Alumni

Are you still receiving your son or daughter’s alumni newsletter? Please send updated contact information for your Xavier High School graduate to Janet Wagner at jwagner@XavierCatholicSchools.org. Please include current email as well as mailing address and graduation year.

2015 Class Reunions – Save the Date

Class of 1965 - 50th Reunion
Saturday, October 3, 2015 – Stone Toad Bar and Grill in Menasha. Invitations will be mailed in August. To update your contact information or if you have any questions contact: Linda VanGroll Kruse at kruse044@yahoo.com.

Class of 1970 - 45th Reunion
Saturday, August 1, 2015 - Appleton Yacht Club Questions or current contact information can be sent to Mary Krause Marx at mpmarx52@new.rr.com.

Class of 1975 - 40th Reunion
Saturday, August 15, 2014 - Appleton Yacht Club Information and details will be mailed out soon. Questions or current contact information can be sent to Cathy Krause DeLuca at cdeluca@new.rr.com.

Class of 1980 – 35th Reunion
Saturday, July 18th – Gameday Sports Bar, outdoor tiki bar Reunion will be combined with Appleton East and West class of 1980 graduates. Questions or current contact information can be sent to Corrine Walburn Dahlk at dahlk7@aol.com.

Class of 1985 - 30th Reunion
Friday, July 10, 2015 - Greene’s Pour House For more information, please contact Kate Sabish Geenen at kgeenen@new.rr.com.

Class of 1995 – 20th Reunion
For more information, please contact Alicia Lange Oberg at Aliciaoberg@gmail.com or Jason Van Hoof at jasonvanhoof@gmail.com.

Class of 2000 – 15th Reunion
Saturday, June 13, 2015 – Tanner’s Bar and Grill in Kimberly at 6:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Beth Zuleger Dunphy at bethannzoo@yahoo.com.

Class of 2005 – 10th Reunion
Class reunion will take place this summer. John Thornton, Barry Gill, Josh Sanders and Brandon Barlow are all assisting in the planning of the reunion. To get involved, update your contact information or share ideas for the reunion, please contact Josh Sanders at SandersJoshua@asd.k12.wi.us.

Other classes that will be celebrating a reunion in 2015 are: 1990 and 2005. Please contact Janet Wagner at jwagner@XavierCatholicSchools.org if you have questions about your class reunion.

Mass Intentions Now Offered

We want to pray for you and those you love. Please send your Mass intention to Kelly Wilda, campus minister, with a suggested $10 donation and indicate your preferred month/week. Requests will be honored as close as possible and be confirmed with you. All-school Masses are held monthly at the high school. The high school also has Mass every Friday morning. You are welcome to join us for any of our Masses.

Kelly can be reached at kwilda@XavierCatholicSchools.org. Please make checks payable to Xavier Catholic Schools and mail to Kelly’s attention at 1600 W. Prospect St. Appleton, WI 54914. Please include email address and preferred month/week for the Mass.

Thank you!

Thank you to everyone who supported Celebrate 2015! More than $260,000 was raised in net proceeds to benefit the students and staff of Xavier Catholic Schools. Over 50 alumni were in attendance. Save the Date for next year’s event – January 23, 2016. For more information or to get involved, contact Lisa Pfaff at lpfaff@XavierCatholicSchools.org

Class Reps Needed

Thank you to the alumni who have stepped forward to serve as a class rep for your graduating class! Many class reps are still needed. Class reps serve as a resource to the alumni office when finding lost classmates, promoting both high school and alumni events and identifying contact people for class reunions. It is an easy way to get involved! If you are interested in finding out more about serving as a class rep, please contact Janet Wagner at jwagner@XavierCatholicSchools.org.
Alumni Hall of Fame

Nominations Due June 1st

The purpose of this award is to recognize those distinguished alumni who, through their performance and achievement in their chosen fields and communities, bring honor and distinction to the heritage of Xavier High School and provide a positive role model to the current and future students attending St. Francis Xavier High School.

Honorees are recognized each fall during Homecoming weekend. Past Hall of Fame inductees include graduates from the 1960's through the 1990's and include alumni living in:

- Massachusetts
- Pennsylvania
- Colorado
- Ohio
- Arizona
- Wisconsin

Nomination information can be found online at http://xaviercatholicschools.org/Alumni/Hall-of-Fame.aspx or by contacting Lisa Pfaff at lpfaff@XavierCatholicSchools.org.