

THE PADUAN

SPRING 2008
A PUBLICATION IN THE
FRANCISCAN TRADITION

Get There

Richard Kramer '82 is Helping
Goodyear Get There

INSIDE

- Padua's 2008 Strategic Plan
- Getting Our Seniors There
- Students Set 35-Year Record with *Christmas for Others*
- Alumnus Shines on Big Screen
- Bruin Wrestlers Winter in New Den



The Paduan

SPRING • 2008

The Paduan is a publication of Padua Franciscan High School Office for Institutional Advancement.

Editors:

Jerry Jindra '70,

Vice President for Institutional Advancement

Laurie Keco Grabowski '89,

Associate Director for Institutional Advancement

Rob Holz '90,

Assistant Director for Institutional Advancement & Alumni Director

Lillian Gathers,

Director of Admissions and Marketing

Cheryl Kuhn,

Administrative Assistant

Design & Layout • 427 Design

© 2008 Padua Franciscan High School
6740 State Road
Parma, Ohio 44134
440.845.2444
www.PaduaFranciscan.com



FEATURES

- 4 Helping Goodyear Get There
- 7 Padua's 2008 Strategic Plan
- 8 Keeping a Legacy Alive

STUDENT/FACULTY LIFE

- 12 Getting Our Seniors There
- 13 Padua's Religious Formation Program is Distinctively Franciscan
- 14 "We'll Get You There!" Marketing Campaign Wins Eight Local and National Awards
- 16 Students Set 35-Year Record with *Christmas for Others*
- 17 Padua Takes on (lots of) Water

ALUMNI NEWS STORIES

- 18 Alumnus Shines on Big Screen in *Never Back Down*

SPORTS UPDATE

- 20 Bruin Wrestlers Winter in New Den
- 21 Coach Doug Hauser Gains 500th Career Hockey Win
- 21 Bruins Grab Top Honors at Ohio Figure Skating Championships

SOMETHIN' BRUIN

- 23 Update on Our Padua Grads

CALENDAR

- 19 2008 Alumni Association Events

Attention, Alumni – We Need Your Input...Update via FAX or online! Alumni have two convenient ways to update their profile and submit news. Fill out and fax this sheet or go to our *online directory* at www.PaduaFranciscan.com/alumni.



Padua Alumni Update Information Sheet

We are
interested in
what you have
accomplished.

Now you can
update your
profile on-line!

Name _____ Class of _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Home Phone: () _____ Work Phone: () _____ Fax: () _____

E-mail: _____

College _____ Degree/Major _____

College _____ Degree/Major _____

Employment: Business/Position _____

If married, spouse's name: _____ Names/Ages of Children: _____

Do you have Somethin' Bruin? Write your news here: _____

Interested in participating in the Padua Alumni Assoc.? ☐ Yes, please send me an invitation to the next meeting.

Can we contact you to help organize your class reunion? ☐ Yes

Send to: Padua Franciscan Alumni Association, 6740 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

OR fax us at 440.845.5710 at any time, seven days a week, or go to www.PaduaFranciscan.com/alumni



From where I sit...

on a day not long ago, I looked out my office door and was reminded of a line from Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*: "Water, water, everywhere, Nor any drop to drink."

In this issue of *The Paduan*, you'll find a brief article about the flooding of the west wing which occurred during our Easter break. As noted there, sometime during Thursday night of that week, an automatic flush valve on a third-floor toilet malfunctioned, causing water to flow without anyone's knowledge until it finally broke through a first-floor ceiling – thereby triggering a motion detector, which then set off the building alarm. The damage done on all floors was considerable. And since that time, the west wing of the building has been in the process of being cleaned up and rebuilt.

Another line has also come to mind in recent days – not quite as classical as Coleridge, but probably more appropriate. Perhaps some of you may remember the first seasons of *Saturday Night Live* and a character created by one of the early cast members, Gilda Radner. That character was Roseanne Roseannadanna – whose catchphrase was "It's always something!" That phrase has been in my thoughts and on my lips a little more frequently lately... It's always something!

The flooding incident occurred as the Easter season was beginning – and I am writing this as the Easter season is coming to an end. In the daily scripture readings at morning Mass, we have been reading from the *Acts of the Apostles*. We hear about the joy and excitement, the energy and the enthusiasm which the early Church possessed and expressed as it lived out its new life in the Risen Christ and proclaimed the Good News with courage and confidence. But we also hear that living that life and proclaiming that Gospel was not without its challenges. These early Christians often encountered a great deal of resistance to the message they preached – as well as real and considerable persecution for their efforts. Moreover, the challenges were not only from the outside. There were conflicts and controversies within the community as well, as together they continued to discern and discover, from a variety of perspectives and opinions, how they were to live and what they were to do as disciples of Jesus. I'm sure that on their lips too, rather frequently, were the words "It's always something!"

Yet just as we hear these accounts in the *Acts of the Apostles*, we have also been reading those sections

from the *Gospel of John* in which we hear Jesus' final conversations with his disciples. These passages are full of encouragement and comfort – reminders of his unending love, his abiding presence, and his constant help. He tells his disciples: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you.... Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." And when "it's always something," it's especially so very good and so very important to hear and remember these words.

I suppose we shouldn't be surprised that "it's always something" – for Jesus certainly never promised us otherwise. Yet Jesus did promise us peace in the midst of those daily challenges – a peace that will abide in our own hearts and a peace that we can share with others. Our Franciscan theme this year is Peace – and we're continually reminded of the gift of peace that Jesus has given us, as well as our constant call to be instruments of his peace in our words and actions. That peace is no magical state that protects us from all that might be challenging or difficult. Rather it is the essential gift that strengthens us in such experiences – and the gift that we bring to those experiences and relationships each day. As the Franciscan *Peace Prayer* reminds us, it is precisely because there is hatred that we are called to bring love; it is precisely because there is injury that we must bring pardon. It is in the presence of doubt that we will know faith and to the reality of despair that we must bring hope. It is to the darkness that we shall bring light, and in the midst of sadness that we shall find joy.

For now, there is not so much "water, water everywhere"... Things are drying out and, slowly but surely, all is being rebuilt and restored. That is a good and hopeful thing. But there will be a day, probably in the not-too-distant future, when, once again, on my lips will be the words "It's always something!" I pray – for me and for you – that on such occasions we will remember the words of Jesus: "Peace I leave with you... Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid." And then may we also pray: "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace."

Blessings of peace and everything good – always!

Fr. Ted, O.F.M.

Fr. Ted Haag, O.F.M.

President, Padua Franciscan High School

Helping Goodyear Get There

Being on the fast track is nothing new to *Rich Kramer* '82. Even so, his acceleration from vice president of corporate finance to president of Goodyear North America within the past seven years is, well, really burning rubber. Yet that road to leadership would first require pumping all of his skill into saving the world's largest tire manufacturer from financial blowout.

Last year, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company rolled out its new ad campaign "Get There." For Rich Kramer, president of the company's North American unit, getting there has been the result of a personal drive to make best use of his talents and abilities. Reflecting on his experience from Goodyear's headquarters in Akron, Ohio, Rich recently commented on the tire maker and his role in its steady recovery. This is more than a story about a Padua alum's corporate journey. It is the essence of what Jim Collins called in his book, *Good to Great*, the making of a "level 5 leader."

Cleveland to Paris

As a Padua Franciscan student, Rich has fond memories of playing basketball and soccer. "Our soccer team went to 'the states' (playoffs) in '78," he says. "That was great fun." Following his graduation from Padua in 1982, Rich enrolled at John Carroll University in Cleveland, where he also played soccer. "I tore my knee in the last game of my junior year," he recalls, ending his soccer career. "But my greatest memory was of scoring two goals against the University of Notre Dame that year in an upset victory." Kramer received a bachelor of science degree in business administration from JCU in 1986, and has since been inducted into the school's sports hall of fame.

Recruited by Pricewaterhouse Coopers after college, he served with the firm as a certified public accountant and business consultant for the next 13 years. After his first four years with the firm's Cleveland office, Kramer was transferred to Paris, France, where he served until 1994. "My wife Chris and I moved to Paris with a six-month-old baby. Two of my boys were later born there." Among his assignments in Paris was managing Pricewaterhouse Cooper's IBM account for all of Europe, during some of the most difficult financial times for Big Blue.

Rich relished the challenge. "I am attracted to the harder problem to solve," he says. "I enjoy a tougher-versus-easier situation. But to do that, you have to be engaged and committed. In the end, solving problems brings a sense of satisfaction." He believes that public accounting was the best training ground for dealing with the challenges of business, including executives and lower management. "You learn time management, how to set priorities, solve



Rich Kramer addresses Goodyear dealers at a recent conference.

"I am attracted to the harder problem to solve. I enjoy a tougher-versus-easier situation. But to do that, you have to be engaged and committed. In the end, solving problems brings a sense of satisfaction." *Rich Kramer*

business problems, and discover that only the best move forward." He would soon be called to put that experience to the ultimate test.

Changing Lanes

Following his European stint, Kramer was brought back to the Cleveland office to manage several major accounts, including the likes of OfficeMax, IMG, and Goodyear. As a result of his work, Pricewaterhouse Coopers made him a partner in 1997. It was during this time that Goodyear made several overtures to Kramer to jump ship. "It was tempting, but I was reluctant," recalls Rich. "But when I was told I could always come back, I decided to take the offer," he says with a laugh. That was March 2000 and Goodyear appointed him vice president of corporate finance.

In quick succession, Rich became vice president of finance for the North American tire business (2002), senior vice president of strategic planning and restructuring (2003), and chief financial officer (2004). "It was always my goal to become CFO," says Kramer. In March 2007, he found himself promoted once again, this time as president of Goodyear, North America. It all happened in just seven short years, and he was just 43 years old.

Yet, coming over to Goodyear was a risk, and a huge career gamble. From his previous work on the Goodyear account, he knew that the tire maker was in the midst of a financial crisis. "What is going on in Detroit now (with American automakers) was us in 2002," he recalls. Goodyear's debt was thirteen times income. "The question was, how do we get back to being a stable company and create shareholder value? Our debt then was \$6 billion, and our stock was trading at about \$3 a share," says Kramer. Would the last American tire manufacturer survive? The problem was formidable, and altering the course of the corporate behemoth would be like turning the blimp around in a two-car garage.



Gaining Traction

Becoming CFO would put Kramer squarely in the middle of the problem. "Rich became our chief financial officer under very challenging circumstances, made courageous value-creating decisions, recruited top talent, and built a



Honoring the victor at a recent NASCAR banquet



Rich Kramer and wife Chris at Daytona. Goodyear has won more racing championships than any other tire company in the world. By the way, a racing team may use up to 14 sets of tires in a single race.

strong finance team,” said Robert J. Keegan, Goodyear’s chairman and chief executive officer in 2007.

When asked to explain Keegan’s remarks, Rich said that his assembled team refinanced the company’s debt six times in order to give Goodyear time and more liquidity. The Kramer team used that money to shore up the pension plan, which is today nearly fully funded. In 2006, they negotiated the creation of a VEBA (Voluntary Employees Beneficiary Association) trust with the United Steelworkers union that shifted much of Goodyear’s huge retiree healthcare liability to the USW. Last year, Goodyear issued an \$800 million stock offering to further pay down debt, and sold off the engineered products business. And the end result? “We did not go bankrupt,” smiled Kramer. ...It seemed that the solution to turning that blimp around was to simply make the garage bigger.

Frankly, what occurred under Kramer’s leadership was quite the opposite. Today, the company’s debt is under \$5 billion and decreasing. Stock is trading at more than ten times higher than it was in 2002. According to Rich, the turnaround goes beyond debt restructuring. “We have better products that are meeting consumer needs,” he says. “And we have launched more new products in the past five years than we did in the last ten.” Nevertheless, Kramer is the first to focus the success away from him, giving full credit to a team effort.

He also notes that Goodyear has all the elements of success and survival. “Goodyear is an iconic brand,” says Rich. “It is globally recognized, we are number one or two in all markets, we have the best distribution network, and the best technology.”



Kramer (in yellow vest) visits with workers at a Goodyear tire plant.

Manufacturing tires on a global scale, the tire maker must aggressively compete with many other brands, including those produced in more than 200 Chinese tire

factories. Goodyear has decided to compete on the basis of quality, a growing demand for high-end products, and innovation.

A sign of Goodyear’s determination is its planned \$900 million, state-of-the-art global headquarters project to be situated next to its technical center in Akron. Hotels, retail stores, restaurants, and other business space will be included. The former Goodyear Tire & Rubber headquarters buildings will be renovated and reused for other purposes. Together, these elements combine to be the largest such project

in Akron’s history. Commenting on the plan for a new HQ, Kramer said it is all about maintaining a quality work force. “It is our associates who make up our business, and we must have the best people. To do that, we need a better, more productive work environment,” he says.

Still, “there is no substitute for hard work,” he says. “At the end of the day, it is what the individual does with their skills that matters. It is a matter of opportunities taken.” He is also quick to point out that the success he and Goodyear have achieved resulted from combining those individual talents with a unified concept that drives the overall economic engine.

For Rich Kramer, most every problem can be solved by confronting the facts, reducing the complex to simple concepts, hard work, a single-minded resolve, and the humility to know that a person can’t do it alone. The latter includes the importance of personal spirituality. “You need to understand how important your Faith is as you go through life,” he is quick to point out.

After all, in the end, getting there *is* simply a matter of faith.

Editor’s note: Richard Kramer can be reached at Rich.Kramer@Goodyear.com ♦

“There is no substitute for hard work. At the end of the day, it is what the individual does with their skills that matters. It is a matter of opportunities taken.” *Rich Kramer*



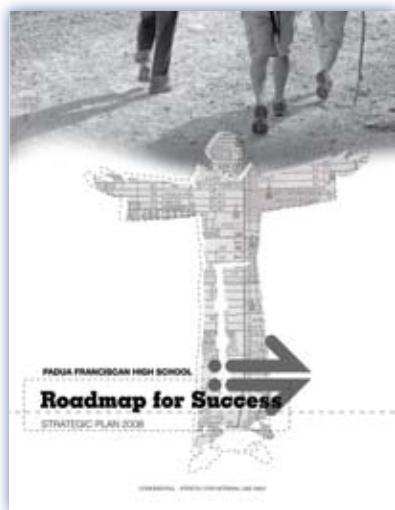
Won't You Join Our Journey?

Padua's 2008 Strategic Plan

Everybody needs a roadmap to get where they want to go, and Padua is no exception. During 2007, an integrated team comprised of members of the administration, faculty, staff, the Board of Trustees, alumni, parents, and students embarked on a journey to more clearly articulate the strategic priorities that will propel Padua Franciscan High School forward into the next decade and beyond. The Strategic Planning Committee reached out to this broad cross-section of constituencies because each represents a key stakeholder and change agent within the Padua community.

Entitled the Roadmap for Success, this strategic plan is merely the first step. Reaching our destination requires the combined effort of the entire Padua community. Padua Franciscan's continued success is dependent upon many different factors:

- The dedication of the administration, faculty, and staff toward delivering a high-quality education and becoming the living example of the teachings of Jesus Christ and Saint Francis, in both word and deed;
- The commitment and enthusiasm of the students to be challenged to grow in their academic and spiritual lives;
- The Board of Trustees' willingness to embrace the strategic plan and its influence on the school's direction;
- The active involvement by parents in the academic and spiritual lives of their children, and in the Padua community as a whole; and
- The unending loyalty demonstrated by our graduates – whether commitments of time, talents, or resources – to help Padua deliver an outstanding educational experience that is accessible to a wide range of students.



Padua's strategic plan encompasses the following major priorities:

Franciscan Values: Embrace the continuous education and living out of Franciscan values across all Padua communities;

Academic Success: Continually enhance the curriculum as well as co- and extra-curricular activities to expand available learning opportunities, enabling students to achieve their academic and individual potential;

Campus Improvements: Upgrade the Padua campus, based on the Master Facilities Plan, to better align with and support our core learning objectives and both co- and extra-curricular activities;

Consistent Padua Experience: Articulate, promote, and deliver a consistent Padua experience in all community interactions to strengthen our Franciscan identity; and

Active Engagement: Instill an on-going culture of personal involvement and professional development - for employees, alumni, parents, and students.

Padua is now formulating action plans related to these priorities which will often include teams of parents, alumni, and friends of Padua. Won't you consider joining us on the journey? Whether your contributions are of time, talent, or resources – whether big or small – Padua invites you to participate.

If you should have any questions regarding this Roadmap for Success or in ways you can become more involved in the Padua Franciscan community, please contact President Father Ted Haag, O.F.M., at 440.845.2444. Let us begin this journey together . . . ♦

Keeping a Legacy Alive

In many ways, **Nick Marra '76** and his wife Karen are typical Padua parents. While Nick manages Sugar Memories (readers may recall our Spring 2006 story on this web-based candy sensation), Karen coordinates a full schedule of home and school activities for their four daughters (**Jessica '02, Lisa '05, Julie '07, and Lindsay '09**). With the demands of work and family, including tuitions, you'd assume the last thing on their minds would be the future of Padua Franciscan – but you'd be wrong. The Marras have chosen to support Padua in ways that may be of interest to other alumni, parents, or friends of the school.

The Marras first joined the Friar Club – while in their early thirties when their kids were still young – through a gift of life insurance. “It was an inexpensive way to provide an important legacy to the school,” Nick emphasized. “Karen and I feel that if you are in a position to help others, you should consider doing so during your own lifetime so that you can see how much of a difference you are making in someone's life.”

More recently, the couple continued this tradition by establishing the Art Pekar Memorial Fund within the Padua Franciscan Endowment Trust following the death of Karen's uncle. “My uncle lived a very simple life, dedicating his time and resources to helping the less fortunate,” explains Karen. “We felt that his actions reflected Franciscan values, so it was natural to keep his legacy alive through a need-based scholarship fund.” Karen's parents, Leonard and Ruth Pekar, expanded the fund, which the entire family expects to increase in future years. Karen



and Nick express a hope that their daughters can continue to honor Uncle Art's memory when they are older.

The desire to support Padua was planted during the '70s while Nick was still a student. From the start, he recognized that Padua was reinforcing the values that were instilled in him by his parents – how to treat other people, how to push himself to meet challenges, and live up to his potential. He credits teachers such as Tony Kaniecki and Wayne Miller with helping him to work through difficult times through their patience and understanding. Nick still has a special emotional attachment to Padua, which is

bolstered to this day through personal connections to faculty and classmates.

Nick and Karen are both thrilled with how the school has continued to evolve and improve, providing an even richer experience to each new generation. They particularly notice the increased emphasis on the Franciscan aspect of the school, which is not only taught, but lived. “Our daughters are each leaving the school with a good understanding of their faith and a belief in self that will help launch them into adulthood,” said Nick. Won't you join this strong tradition of giving by considering a current or deferred gift to Padua Franciscan High School? You can review information on these topics at www.paduafranciscan.com/development. Your gift can be structured in a number of ways to meet your financial and charitable objectives. Contact Laurie Grabowski, associate director for Institutional Advancement, at 440.845.8224, to learn more. ♦

“If you are in a position to help others, you should consider doing so during your own lifetime so that you can see how much of a difference you are making in someone's life.”

Nick Marra

New Emphasis on Planned Giving

Laurie Keco Grabowski '89 recently joined the Office for Institutional Advancement to focus on fund development (primarily through major individual gifts), with an emphasis on planned giving. Prior to joining Padua's staff, Laurie spent 12 years at Ernst & Young, where she was most recently responsible for global internal communications for a division within its tax practice. She also volunteered extensively at Padua, including serving on the Board of Trustees and the Board of the Alumni Association. Laurie recently completed her term as the chairperson of the Board of Trustees and has played other key roles, including chairing or participating in the Institutional Advancement, Communications, Board Restructuring, Strategic Planning, and Board Development Committees.

After graduating from Padua as salutatorian, she majored in personnel management with a minor in political science at Miami University, graduating *magna cum laude* in December of 1992. Laurie then earned her law degree in 1996 from the Case Western Reserve University School of Law—again graduating *magna cum laude* and serving on the editorial board of the *Law Review* for two years. As a third-year student, she was published in the *Case Western Reserve Law Review*. Upon

graduation, she was admitted to the practice of law and joined Ernst & Young in a client-serving role until her switch into internal practice support in 1999.

Laurie will be cultivating new donor relationships and also supporting relationships with existing donors, including members of the Friar Club. If you are interested in exploring a major current or planned gift, please contact her at 440.845.8224 to learn more. ♦



Joining the Friar Club

The Friar Club was established to recognize individuals, corporations, and foundations who have made a significant commitment to the young people we serve. Membership is reserved for those who have demonstrated a desire to ensure the future of Franciscan education at Padua, either through present or deferred giving. The Friar Club is also comprised of friends like you who wish to become a major donor but whose cash resources are limited. You can become a member by:

A deferred gift of \$25,000 or more through a trust or a will; or

Assignment of an existing or new life insurance policy (\$25,000 minimum) naming Padua Franciscan as sole owner and beneficiary; or

A gift or pledge of \$10,000 or more (contributions for current needs, capital projects, as well as endowment qualify).

Note that your pledge, trust, bequest, or gift may be funded by cash, stock, or real property, subject to approval.



Padua is fortunate to report that membership in the Friar Club has grown to more than 80 individuals, couples, and entities, whose generous contributions are recognized in a number of ways. Would you like to learn more about how you can participate in the Friar Club community? Please contact Laurie Grabowski at 440.845.8224. ♦

April, 2008

I recently received the Padua 2008 Spring Appeal, which prompted me to write this open letter to my fellow alumni. My name is Jerry Koler, a 1986 graduate of Padua Franciscan High School. I am extensively involved at Padua because I enjoyed my four years at the school and want my kids to have the same opportunities. I was recently elected to the Padua Board of Trustees, I am a member of the Endowment Board, and I have served on the Alumni Association Board for more than 10 years, including three as chairperson.

I am writing to ask for your help in keeping Padua Franciscan High School a school of excellence. I assure you that presently Padua is in good financial health; but the trend among Catholic schools in the Diocese, and around the country, is cause for concern. I want to keep Padua a growing and thriving school for many generations to come.

Bishop Richard Lennon recently visited Padua, and I was privileged to be a part of a small group who spoke with him about our mutual challenge. He shocked us all when he shared that only 29% of Catholic families in the Diocese of Cleveland attend Mass on a regular basis. This clearly contributes to a decline in the number of children attending Catholic grade schools, which in turn lessens the likelihood that these same children will attend a Catholic high school such as Padua. Unfortunately, families are no longer valuing a faith-based education.

Part of the reason for this is the sacrifice (cost) of a Catholic education. It is not cheap to send a child to a Catholic grade school or high school. I understand and fully appreciate that, since my two children attend St. Albert's in North Royalton. It currently costs about \$7,800 per year to attend Padua. Think about the sacrifices that our parents made to allow us to have the education that we received. My parents put four boys through Padua, with two or even three of us attending at the same time for several years. The cost is even greater today than 40 years ago, when more friars were able to assume part of the teaching load – essentially providing an education to our earliest graduates far below market cost.

Did you ever stop to think that Padua helped make you the person that you are today? The older I get and the older my children get, the more I come to appreciate this essential component of a Padua education. Padua not only prepared me academically, it also reinforced the values instilled in me by my own parents. As a parent myself, I cannot ask for better life preparation for my children. Because of the sacrifices of their parents, the current Padua students are thriving. For example, on last year's

Ohio Graduation Test, our seniors scored in the top 6% of all schools in the state. Our graduates received

scholarships totaling in the millions of dollars. It appears that the money Padua parents are spending to educate their children is paying off in lower college tuition bills. They also leave the halls of Padua ready for college. I know I did!

In order to keep growing and provide the students with opportunities and up-to-date technologies, the cost of running Padua is ever increasing. This is why I am asking for your help. Our endowment is currently worth about \$2 million – which pales in comparison to some of the older schools in the area – while the financial needs of our students is nearing \$1 million annually. This year, the endowment was only able to provide \$150,000 in financial aid toward that need. My goal is to increase the endowment so that we can enable more students, who couldn't otherwise afford Padua, the opportunity to experience the benefits of this tremendous education.

There are several ways that you can contribute to help increase our Endowment Fund – from cash to securities to an insurance policy, among others. For information on your options, please contact **Jerry Jindra '70** or **Laurie Grabowski '89** at 440.845.8224. Your gift can help the endowment generally, or you can establish a named fund in honor of a loved one, assuming certain criteria are met.

On a personal note, eight years ago, my family created just such a fund in the name of my late brother. We continue to make contributions in his honor every year. Padua holds a breakfast annually in October so that donors like us can meet the recipients of their generous gifts. My parents are always gratified to see the good that our donations provide.

My goal is to raise \$1,000,000 for the Endowment Fund from among our 10,000 graduates. To demonstrate my commitment to the future of Padua, I am personally pledging \$10,000 towards this campaign. I am asking everyone to consider making a meaningful contribution, based on your personal circumstances. This will help ensure a Padua education for generations to come.

To contribute to Padua's endowment, fill out the attached card on page 11 and send a check, payable to the Padua Franciscan Endowment Trust. Please join me in keeping Padua a school of excellence!

Sincerely,
Jerry Koler '86 ♦



Student News

'It's better to give than to receive . . .' is a saying that **Kaylee Yakovich '09** learned first-hand to be so true. Kaylee gave her Hannah Montana tickets to a little girl named Kelsey (a 3rd grader at St. Bridget elementary school) who has been fighting leukemia for seven years and was recently diagnosed with Evans Syndrome—a rare autoimmune disorder in which the body makes antibodies that destroy the red blood cells, platelets, and white blood cells. Kelsey's one wish was to see Hannah Montana live in concert—her family tried their best and even asked the Make a Wish Foundation to try to get her tickets. When Kaylee's mother told her Kelsey's story and the little girl's desire to see Hannah Montana, Kaylee didn't have to think twice about what she was going to do with her tickets. The family was contacted and Kelsey was told that she was going to the concert. Needless to say, she enjoyed herself thoroughly.

Padua Franciscan was well represented at the Scholastics Art and Writing Awards by the following students whose work was accepted: **Lexi Verbos '08**

received an honorable mention for drawing; **Bridget Sykes '08** received a silver key for drawing; **Michelle Baytosh '09** received a silver key for photography; **Ralph D'Alessio '09** received an honorable mention for photography; and **Christina DeAngelo '08** received an honorable mention for graphic design.

Padua's own **Ashley Taylor '11** received a \$1,000 tuition scholarship from the Knights of Columbus. There were 30 such scholarships in the state of Ohio, eight in the Cleveland Diocese.

Rheanna Gumto '10 recently made her third donation to "Wigs for Kids." She donated 13" of her hair in second grade, 16" in sixth grade, and now 14" in tenth grade. The hair is used to make wigs for children with cancer.

A photo taken by **Kyle Jakubczak-Ori '10** was selected to be featured on the April cover of a magazine called "Railpace." Kyle is an avid photographer and specializes in photos of trains. He and his father travel around the country to find great photo opportunities. ♦

Padua Franciscan High School Endowment Response Form

Jerry - I want Padua Franciscan to remain a school of excellence!

I wish to add ☐ \$_____ ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 to the Padua Franciscan Endowment Trust. Of this amount, I am enclosing \$_____, and/or wish to pledge the balance in _____ monthly installments.

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Daytime telephone: () _____

Email: _____

☐ Please contact me regarding options for making a deferred gift.

☐ Please contact me with information on becoming a member of the Friar Club!

Send to: Padua Franciscan High School, Institutional Advancement, 6740 State Road, Parma, Ohio 44134

Padua's Commended Students

More than two-thirds or about 34,000 of the approximately 50,000 high scorers on the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test are designated Commended Students. About 16,000 students, or approximately one-third of the 50,000 high scorers, are notified that they have qualified as Semifinalists. To become Finalists, Paul Pecuch and Peter Tefft then completed additional requirements, including an essay and lengthy scholarship application. Congratulations to Padua's 2007-2008 National Merit Commended Students: **Kristie Formanik, Thomas Galletta, Alyssa Gruhn, Bridgette Kanz, and Katherine Lambert.**

Did You Know? More than a third of Padua's seniors have indicated a career interest in the fields of science or allied health.

Getting Our Seniors There

Padua is focused on getting students where they want to go – to college and beyond. We believe that every student deserves the chance to explore their dreams, expand their opportunities, and discover the possibilities. We make that promise to our incoming students and we deliver throughout their four years.

Katherine Lambert (class of 2008 valedictorian), **Franco DiLiberto** (class of 2008 salutatorian), and **Paul Pecuch** and **Peter Tefft** (both 2008 National Merit Finalists) are all terrific examples of this promise in action. Whether emphasizing particular teachers who influenced them (such as Mrs. Karen Miller or Mr. Tim Guilivo, just to name a few), making note of an effective guidance relationship (thanks, Mrs. Sidoti!), or reciting a litany of extra-curricular activities, these young men and women articulated numerous examples of how Padua has prepared them for a variety of future goals.

If their anticipated careers are like different verses based on their individual talents and interests, Padua's supportive environment is the constant refrain. Our students and parents alike – whether current or incoming – recognize the importance of this intangible benefit. In fact, even a vendor recently commented about the positive atmosphere at the school within the first ten minutes that he was in the building. Our curriculum, fine arts program, athletic program, campus ministry, and the true Franciscan community on display every day are all components of how "We'll Get You There." ♦



Katherine Lambert
Valedictorian

"Coming into Padua, I expected to learn so much more than just academic knowledge. I know that being active in campus ministry, athletics, and other clubs has benefitted me in numerous ways."

Anticipated Career:
Engineering



Franco DiLiberto
Salutatorian

"As an incoming student, I knew I would be participating in a great community – challenging, yet kind and supportive – because of the Franciscan nature of the school. Padua definitely met those expectations!"

Anticipated Career: Law



Paul Pecuch
National Merit Finalist

"As a transfer student, I can attest to the special environment created here. I also learned how to work smarter, not longer, so I can better balance the different aspects of my life."

Anticipated Career: Keeping his options open!



Peter Tefft
National Merit Finalist

"I really enjoyed my participation in both the fall play and the Winter One Acts, along with my Theatrics course, which served as a creative outlet for me."

Anticipated Career: Computer Sciences

Padua's Religious Formation Program Is Distinctively Franciscan

by Bob Grgic, Campus Minister and Theology Department Chairperson

Padua offers a unique approach to religious formation, because we look at the Gospel through the lens of the Franciscan experience. This unique approach to religious education is building-wide and goes far beyond the walls of our theology classes.

An Experience of St. Francis

Many of our teachers, administrators, and office staff have gone to Assisi, Italy, to participate in an intensive, two-week immersion in Franciscan spirituality, history, and tradition made possible, in part, by the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart. This pilgrimage experience immerses participants in the lives of Sts. Francis and Clare, and those who have completed this spiritual journey find that their lives are truly affected. No longer are Sts. Francis and Clare just historical figures, they become saints who influenced the people of their time as well as touch deeply the hearts of today's pilgrims as they return to Padua Franciscan.

Upon entering the city of Assisi, the pilgrimage leader says, "welcome home," as this is the place where Francis and Clare lived. This also symbolizes a welcome home message to the heart, where the spirit of Francis and Clare lead you to Christ at its center. We hope our school-wide religious formation program also welcomes students home as they enter the Padua Franciscan gym for school Masses or the chapel for quiet reflection.

Theology Classes

Our theology curriculum incorporates a Franciscan approach to the various content areas covered in class: caring, reaching out to the poor and marginalized, respect for all creation, the idea that all are created by God and are treasured by God, as well as the understanding that we are called to be only the person that God has created us to be, nothing more, nothing less.

Many of Padua's theology teachers have brought back from Assisi their first-hand experiences of the places where Sts. Francis and Clare ministered. These teachers help students through words and actions to better understand the Franciscan way of life – both in and out of classes.

Service to Others

St. Francis was of service to others because he saw

Jesus in the poor and suffering. He frequently gave away all that he had so someone without basic necessities would have food or clothing.

The Padua Franciscan Community invites students to look at others and service in the Franciscan spirit: freshmen are asked to do service for their family and school, the sophomores for the community, the juniors for a group of people that is marginalized, and seniors are asked to be advocates for groups of people who are marginalized.

Many of our teachers are involved in service to the poor and marginalized through our school programs as well as ministering to the poor through their parishes or personal commitments to the poor.

Padua Franciscan also sponsors mission trips to Honduras and St. Louis, Missouri. In both trips, students learn to serve the poor in the larger context of the church.

Retreats

Padua Franciscan offers retreats for the faculty to help them reflect on what it means to live and minister in the spirit of St. Francis. We also offer retreat experiences for students in each grade level. The senior retreats in particular take place in nature and reflect on 'God's presence in creation' as well as God's love for everyone.

Prayer Experiences

The Padua prayer experience focuses on aspects of the lives of Clare and Francis: the freshmen receive a Tau Cross which is a symbol of the Franciscan movement. The sophomores receive an image of the San Damiano Cross. St. Francis heard Jesus speak through the San Damiano Cross and tell him to "Rebuild my church". Students reflect on what that symbol means and are invited to listen and discern God's call to them. The juniors pray as they reflect on the people in their lives and the 'place of' Christ in their lives. The seniors celebrate a healing service which is based on the actions of St. Clare.

What makes us unique? Jesus is truly the center, but we express our faith by following in the footsteps and example of Sts. Francis and Clare. ♦

“We’ll Get You There!”™ Marketing Campaign Wins Eight Local and National Awards

Padua Franciscan High School believes that its new recruitment campaign entitled “We’ll Get You There!™” is a winner. Apparently, two separate panels of marketing and advertising professionals – one in Akron, Ohio, and the other in Atlanta, Georgia – agree. To date, the youth-oriented marketing theme and materials have garnered seven gold and one silver award in local and national competitions.

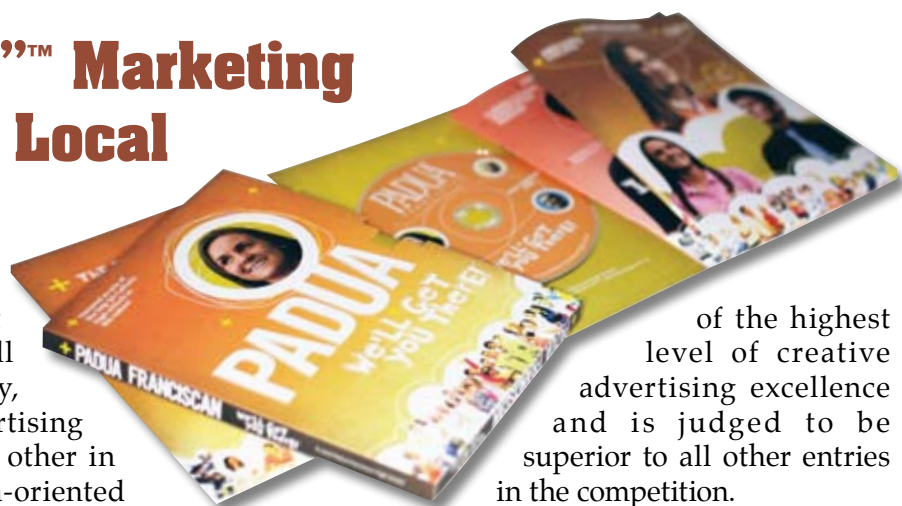
The editors of *Admissions Marketing Report*, a national publication of educational marketing, announced on February 22 that Padua Franciscan had won three gold awards in the 23rd Annual Admissions Advertising Awards competition. Only 245 such designations were presented out of 2,000 entries from more than a thousand colleges, universities, and secondary schools nationwide. Padua also received one silver designation, one of just 216 such awards.

Then, on March 12, the Akron chapter of the American Advertising Federation recognized the “We’ll Get You There!” brand campaign and collateral materials with four gold ADDY® Awards. A gold ADDY is recognition

of the highest level of creative advertising excellence and is judged to be superior to all other entries in the competition.

The campaign was developed in collaboration with 427 Design, LLP of Akron, Ohio. “Our challenge was to condense 800 years of Franciscan values and nearly 50 years of school tradition into a brand that could be attractive to both adults and young teens,” said Brad Hain, president of 427 Design. “Fortunately, we had a year to develop the concept and content, and close collaboration with the school’s institutional advancement staff ensured that we achieved the desired effect.”

“We’ll Get You There!” reflects the school’s distinctive Franciscan philosophy of enabling students to succeed in college, career, and in life, based on the discovery of individual talents and abilities, as demonstrated by the more than \$15 million in academic merit scholarships offered to graduates each year.



Padua has received more than 50 national and local awards for its marketing since 1991.

Summary of Awards: The overall “We’ll Get You There!” campaign won two gold awards – one from each marketing competition. Two more gold ADDYs were given for the design of the admissions packet, as well as the recruitment DVD enclosed within. A final ADDY was bestowed for a plasma screen animation designed for the school’s in-house video information network.

Padua received gold Admissions Advertising Awards for the design of its bus “billboards,” and for a T-shirt created for students considering a Padua Franciscan education. The unique shirts were imprinted with promotional messages on the outside as well as on the *inside*. A silver award was presented for its student recruiting poster.

“We’re very pleased and honored to receive these awards,” said Vice President for Institutional Advancement Jerry Jindra. “Padua competed not just against hundreds of other schools, but some of the best advertising agencies in the nation. We strive for excellence in all of our communications, and it is very satisfying when such efforts are recognized.” Padua has received more than 50 national and local awards for its marketing since 1991.

Editor’s Note: To receive your copy of Padua’s award-winning student information package, send your name and address to GJindra@PaduaFranciscan.com ♦



Students Set 35-Year Record With Christmas for Others



Just before they departed for Christmas break, Padua students distributed a record \$25,000 in cash plus thousands of dollars more in food, toys and clothing, to more than a dozen area social service organizations and families as part of their annual Christmas for Others (CFO) campaign. CFO is a month-long program designed by Padua students 35 years ago to make the holidays a bit brighter for those less fortunate. Since then, Padua Franciscan students have collected more than a quarter-million dollars for area needy through Christmas for Others campaigns.

CFO is the largest student-run outreach program in northeast Ohio. It is unique because it is sponsored, organized, and operated by students under the coordination of the Padua Key (Kiwaniis) Club. Decisions on how donations are distributed are made by the Key Club student officers, who determine the recipients and appropriate size of each gift.

The students raise funds in many ways, all of them involving a good deal of fun. For example, some of the money available for CFO projects comes from an inter-class "Coin War," that pits grade levels against each other to see who can collect the most pocket change. This year's Coin War produced \$8,611 in just two weeks. The first \$2,000 was used to purchase toys distributed through the Bishop Cosgrove Center, which serves Cleveland's homeless.

Other significant sources of income involve a collection of change during the beginning of each day's first period class (\$7,958), a senior vs. underclass volleyball game (\$881), and various other projects sponsored by student organizations (totaling \$2,413).

In addition, members of the Key Club make direct deliveries of food and money to numerous needy families in the neighborhoods surrounding Padua Franciscan.

Evidence of Christmas for Others was everywhere. The branches of a nine-foot-high Mitten Tree in the lobby (Padua's official Christmas tree) drooped with its burden donated hats, mittens, and scarves. A mountain of boxes that contained donated blankets grew steadily. The familiar Toys-for-Tots collection point occupied an entire lobby wall, while used coats were piled against another wall.

At Padua Franciscan, reaching out to others is more than a tradition – it definitely is a part of the school's Franciscan spirit. ♦



Padua Franciscan in Top 6% of Ohio High School OGT Results

An independent study of Ohio Graduation Test results places Padua Franciscan High School in the top six percent of secondary schools in the state. The study, released last November, considered all Ohio secondary schools, both public and private. The top performing schools had at least 91 percent of students passing all five parts of the state test: reading, mathematics, writing, science, and social studies. Only seven schools in Cuyahoga county achieved these results—one public, three private, and three Catholic (the latter included Padua, St. Ignatius, and Magnificat).

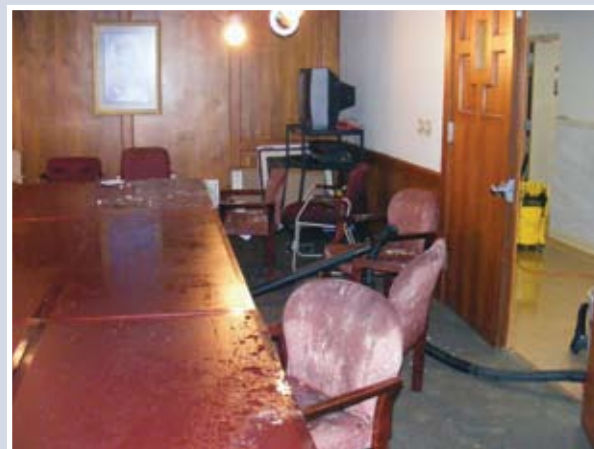
There were a total of 1,240 schools (with 147,359 students) in the analysis. Of those schools, 996 (with 146,451 students) had measurable test data. Of these totals, students in 59 of those schools showed an overall "Proficiency" rating of 91 percent or higher in all five tests. Padua was included in that number.

Padua Takes on (lots of) Water

Sometime during the evening of March 27, the seal of an automatic flush valve on a third-floor toilet burst, releasing several thousand gallons of water until a collapsing ceiling tile two floors below triggered a motion detector just before 4:00 a.m. The quick response of the maintenance staff secured the flow of water within 30 minutes of the alarm. Fortunately, the water was confined to the west wing of the school, sparing all but two classrooms.

Unfortunately, however, all floors of the west wing received considerable damage. The biology workroom on the second floor was destroyed and the adjacent biology lab and its cabinetry were a total loss, including much equipment and lab supplies. The first floor, housing the business offices, guidance, institutional advancement, and conference room suffered greatly, although no records or student files were destroyed. The water continued to the garage ceiling below, which was severely damaged. Although the school was closed for Easter recess, many faculty and staff members rallied within hours to begin the important process of securing files and equipment as well as assessing damages.

Due to the severity of the loss, preliminarily estimated at more than \$300,000, faculty and staff have cooperated to temporarily relocate the destroyed biology lab (a makeshift lab has been constructed in part of the library!) as well as affected offices. Complete restoration is now expected to take months, rather than weeks, but all those affected have exhibited amazing patience and fortitude as teams of "disaster specialists" have descended to first demolish and then rebuild. On a positive note, most of the loss is covered by insurance, and learning goes on, uninterrupted! ♦



Alumnus Shines on Big Screen in *Never Back Down*



For actor **Sean Faris '00**, life as he knows it has kicked into high gear. He currently stars in the coveted lead role of Summit Entertainment's hit *Never Back Down*, which has been described as a cross between *Fight Club* and *Karate Kid*.

Set against the action-packed world of mixed martial arts, *Never Back Down* is the story of Jake Tyler, a tough kid who leads with his fists, and often with his heart. Played by Sean Faris (*Life as We Know It*, *Reunion*), Jake Tyler is the new kid in town with a troubled past. He has recently moved to Orlando, Florida, with his family to support his younger brother's shot at a professional tennis career. Jake was a star athlete on the football team at home, but now is an outsider with a reputation as a quick-tempered brawler.

Making an attempt to fit in and at the invitation of a flirtatious classmate, Baja, played by Amber Heard (*Hidden Palms*, *Alpha Dog*), Jake goes to a party where he is unwittingly pulled into a fight with bully Ryan McDonald, played by Cam Gigandet (*The O.C.*, *Who's Your Caddy*).

While he is defeated and humiliated in the fight, a classmate introduces himself to Jake and tells him about the sport known as mixed marshall arts (MMA). He sees a star in Jake and asks that he meet with his mentor, Jean Roqua, played by Djimon Hounsou (*Blood Diamond*, *In America*).

It is immediately apparent to Jake that MMA is not street fighting, but rather an art form he wants to master. Roqua will take Jake under his wing, but it is up to Jake to find the patience, discipline, willingness, and reason within him to succeed. For Jake, there is much more at stake than mere victory. His decision will not just settle a score; it will define who he is.

And defining himself is something Faris has been committed to since his days at Padua Franciscan. Just days after graduation, Faris packed his bags and headed to Hollywood when he was 18, determined to make it.



Sean Faris stars in a lead role as Jake Tyler in the movie *Never Back Down*, which opened in theatres nationwide March 14.

Over the last eight years, he has built a resume that includes two TV series (*Life as we Know It* and *Reunion*) as well as some big screen appearances; he was Dennis Quaid's oldest son in *Yours, Mine and Ours* and recently starred as the hunky object of affection in MGM's comedy romp *Sleepover*.

Faris has also appeared on such shows as *Smallville*, *One Tree Hill*, and *Boston Public*. His big screen debut featured him alongside the likes of Ben Affleck and Josh Hartnett in Michael Bay's epic *Pearl Harbor*.

A Texas native, Faris moved to Ohio at age 12 and has been honing his craft in Los Angeles since graduation from Padua. Check your local theatre listings to see this Padua grad in action! ♦



Alumni Association Calendar - What's Happening Through November 2008



*****Plans are already under way for the 2008 Reunion for classes ending in a 3 or an 8!*****

Save The Date – Friday, November 28, 2008

What: Reunion Weekend 2008
For: Classes 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003
When: Friday, November 28, 2008
Where: St. Paul Hellenic Center on Wallings Road in North Royalton

Does your graduation year end in a 3 or an 8? If so, your class reunion is scheduled for Friday, November 28, 2008. The reunion will be held at St. Paul Hellenic Center on Wallings Road in North Royalton. Invitations will be mailed out to all class members in early fall. Be sure to log on to our alumni directory, www.PaduaFranciscan.com/alumni and update your mailing information and e-mail address. Don't miss this opportunity to re-unite with former classmates and faculty.

Helmet Club Football Golf Outing – July 25



Don't miss the annual Helmet Club golf outing at Ridgewood Golf Course on Friday, July 25. Tickets are \$100 per person. For more information, contact tshuman@paduafranciscan.com.

Padua Hockey Golf Outing – August 15

Mark your calendars now for this annual outing at Pine Hills Golf Course. For more information, call the athletic office at 440-845-0442.



Alumni Homecoming Tailgate – October 3

Join us at Padua Stadium for the inaugural alumni homecoming tailgate on Friday evening October 3, 6 p.m., until game time. Kick-off is at 7 p.m. as the Bruins take on Notre Dame Cathedral Latin High School. The Alumni Association will provide complimentary hamburgers and hotdogs.

Padua Alumni/James W. Day Golf Classic – June 27

The Padua Franciscan Alumni Association is proud to announce the 23rd Annual Padua Alumni/James W. Day Golf Classic on Friday, June 27, 2008, at Shale Creek Golf Club in Medina. The outing begins with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

The tournament includes:

- Complimentary driving range
- Beverages
- Commemorative giveaway
- Boxed lunch
- 18 holes of golf w/power cart & GPS
- Steak dinner (approx. 3 p.m.)

As always, prizes will be awarded for the various skills contests on each hole. Team prizes will be awarded for the top three foursomes; and thousands of dollars worth of prizes will be up for grabs in chipping, putting, and hole-in-one contests. The driving range will offer unlimited practice balls beginning at 7 a.m. Play in this four-person scramble begins with a shotgun start at 9 a.m.

The individual cost of this year's tournament is \$135 per person or \$540 per foursome. To reserve your spot, e-mail rhoiz@paduafranciscan.com or call 440-845-2444, ext. 106.

Looking for that perfect gift for a second or third-generation little Bruin? Get them a solid maple children's rocking chair, laser engraved with the Padua Franciscan academic seal and their name! This is an heirloom-quality gift that will be a part of your family's history. It's a chance to give a gift that will be as meaningful to the recipient in twenty-five years, as it is today. Imagine the delight in seeing the grown child giving the Padua rocker to his or her own offspring.

Each chair has a laser-engraved seal that will never wear out, and you can have it personalized as you wish. Made in New England, the rockers come in two styles (shown). For more information, or to order your chair, go to www.childrensrockingchair.com or click on the link at www.PaduaFranciscan.com.



Bruin Wrestlers Winter in New Den

The Padua Bruin wrestling program has a spacious new practice facility thanks to Padua parents, Tom and Debbie Mason, as well as a small army of alumni and friends. Literally a wrestling “den” due to its location ‘neath the front lawn at the west end of the school, the facility measures 36’x 83’, nearly twice the size of the original. Construction began in late fall and the interior was completed in January, just as students returned from Christmas break.

In addition to the contributed construction work performed by Mason Builders (including brothers Tom, Dave, Mike, Dan and father Robert Sr.), other individuals and companies provided labor, material, as well as financial support for the project. Tom Simich excavated while Padua trustee Nick Iafigliola trucked 30,000 cubic feet of dirt from the site; the **Jim Gaydosh ‘78** family donated the foundation walls; **Chuck Palladino ‘74** contributed the electrical work with the help of Dale Gross of P. J. Ellis Electric; Gerry Scott Sr. installed the heating system; Berkshire Construction Company donated the concrete for the floors and ceilings while Keith Sherrill donated the concrete finishers; **Dave Polick ‘76** assisted Mason Builders in painting the interior; and Coach **Dave Morell ‘80** put in countless hours getting the room ready for occupancy. Significant assistance was also provided by the Dickson, Morell, Savron, and Yakovich families. Further underwriting opportunities are still available! To learn how you can help, call Jerry Jindra at 440.845.8224. ♦

Bruins Place Three Wrestlers at State Championships

For the first time since 1990, the Padua Franciscan wrestling team placed three wrestlers at the OHSA A Tournament. Freshman **Andrew Romanchik** finished fourth at 103 lbs, sophomore **Riley Kilroy** placed sixth at 160 lbs, and senior **Anthony Melillo** placed sixth at 130 lbs. Freshman **Collan DaFonseca** also qualified for the tournament at 119 lbs.



Coach Doug Hauser Gains 500th Career Hockey Win

Coach **Doug Hauser '77** reached the 500-victory milestone with a 4-2 win over St. Edward earlier this season. Doug has coached Padua hockey for the past 25 seasons. Hauser was honored with a reception and plaque presentation. Presenting from left were: Padua president, Fr. Theodore Haag; marketing & admissions director, Lillian Gathers; assistant coach, Larry Pizon; and athletic director, Ken Dworznik. With the completion of the 2007-2008 season, Coach Hauser's record stands at 514-233-27. ♦



Bruins Grab Top Honors at Ohio Figure Skating Championships

This past February, members of Padua's figure skating team beat out 11 other teams to win the 2008 Ohio High School Team Figure Skating Championship, held at the Pavilion Ice Arena in Shaker Hts. In addition to winning the overall competition, the Bruin skaters also won the short program/compulsory moves events and showcase events. Padua also tied with Mentor for the team spirit award.

Established in Fall 2006 for the purpose of competing at the annual Ohio High School Team Figure Skating Championship, the figure skating team also performs in local ice shows. The team is led by volunteer coach **Crystal Hancy '01** and Padua parent, Mrs. Lori Margevicius. ♦

Front Row, L-R: Morgan Kapelewski '09, Alexis Hipkins '10, Alexandria Miranda '11, Jordan Pordash '10

Back Row, L-R: Shirin Azadi '11, Emily Hanna '08, Allison Margevicius '10, Michelle Meszaros '11

Not pictured: Jessie Steele '11 (was recovering from shoulder surgery and unable to skate)



Bruins Advance in Four Events at OHSA Swimming State Championships

For the second consecutive season, the Padua Franciscan girls swimming team were represented at the State Championships. Making her second appearance was senior **Brittany Krauth**, who advanced in the 100-yard butterfly (1:02.24-school record) and was part of the 200-yard-medley relay and 400-yard-freestyle relay.

Joining Krauth in the 200-yard-medley relay was senior **Marissa Mehwald**, sophomore **Ally Sowinski**, and junior **Annette Frac**. At the Districts, this foursome set a new school record with a time of 1:57.45. The 400-yard-freestyle relay of Krauth, Frac, sophomore **Sammie Sowinski** and senior **Devon Bobulsky** also set a school record (3:50.70).

VanHorn to Join National Rugby Team

Senior **Pat VanHorn** was selected to join the USA Eagles U-18 national rugby team. VanHorn will travel to Florida this spring to practice with the Eagles before touring Europe during the summer representing the United States in international competition.

Pete Berrios to Lead Bruin Baseball Squad

Padua Franciscan welcomes Mr. Pete Berrios as head boys baseball coach. Coach Berrios has approximately 20 years of experience at high school, elite travel, and professional baseball levels, and is the founder of PB Baseball Academy of Valley City, Ohio. As a professional hitting instructor, he has coached both amateur and professional players. ♦



In Memoriam

Eric G. Broering '77, August 18, 2007

Helen Chmura, mother of **John** '75, **Michael** '77, **Gregory** '83, and **Marie** '91, grandmother of **John** '99, **Anne** '02, **Victoria** '05, and **Joseph** '12

Carolyn Corrao, mother of **Christy** '02 and **Cassandra** '04

Rose Davis, mother of **Mel** '71 and **John** '74

David Donafee, father of **Derek** '11

John Elliott, father of **John** '80

Tom Fanous, father of **Amy** '06

John Fristik, father of **James** '70, **John** '71 and **Richard** '74

William Gance, father of **Chris** '79 and **William** '81 (RIP)

Edward Hudak, father of **Edward** '75 and **Mark** '76

Lucille Kaminski, mother of **Stephen** '81

Kasper Klass, father of **Catherine** '93 and **Andrew** '93

Bobbie Kolodny, mother of **Robert** '83, **John** '87, and **Michael** '92

Leonard J. Kucharski Jr. '75, November 2007, father of **Rachelle** '03

Melvin Kurtz, father of **John** '68, **Greg** '71, **Mel** '72, and **Tom** '75; grandfather of **John** '89, **Tom** '94, **Michael** '95 (RIP), **Natalie** '99, **Adrienne** '00, and **Ashley** '03

Andy Okulovich, father of **Andy** '83 and **Dan** '85

Ralph Ols, father of **Tom** '70

Dorothy Polick, mother of **Dave** '76

Elaine Ragone, mother of **Ray** '83, grandmother of **Jeremy** '06

Charles J. Rifici '80, December 2007

Leonard C. Ross Jr. '66, December 2007

Richard Seuffert, father of **Ron** '72 and **Kevin** '86, uncle of **Bruce** '67 and **Brian** '69

Thomas Shumay Jr. '72, April 4, 2008, brother of **John** '81, **Philip** '85, **Joseph** '90 and brother-in-law of **Tom Goebel** '78, and **Tom Compennolle** '83

Rose Stachnik, mother of **David** '66 and **Dennis** '68

James E. Valenta '75, February 2008

John Walsh, father of **Gerald** '66, grandfather of **Michael** '05, **Daniel** '06, **Megan** '09, father-in-law of **Timothy Hassing** '79

1970

After 25 years of working for Saudi Aramco in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, **John Javorek** and his wife Renee have moved back to the States and are living in St. Louis.

1986

Frank Chestney ran in Ohio's March 4 primary for the U.S. House of Representatives 13th District. His website is www.ChestneyforCongress.com.

1989

BIRTHS: Karson Joseph born to **Carol Hill-Kahler** and her husband Kristopher on May 9, 2007.

1990

BIRTHS: Jonah born to **Kristen Fox-Berki** and husband Alan last August. • A fourth daughter, Josephine Belle, born to **Diane Morgan Radachy** and her husband David. • Brady Owen born to **Valerie Gordon-Holub** and husband Rick in September.

1992

BIRTHS: Dean Charles born to **Amy Takacs** and her husband Chad on November 4.

1993

BIRTHS: Braedon Patrick born 10 weeks early to Becky and **Jared Kuhn** on March 8, in the middle of the Blizzard of 2008. •



Bennett Scott born to **Jennifer Bontempo-Senesac** and her husband Rick on November 2, 2007. • Charlie born to **Kelley Fox-Mendoza** and

husband **Mike '92** on January 12 weighing in at 9 pounds 12 ounces. • Cooper and Liam born to Shannon and **Matt Zielinski** in October. • An attorney at the firm Schneider, Smeltz, Renney, and LaFond, P.L.L. in Cleveland since 2000, **Sandy Lucas** is practicing in the areas of estate planning and estate and trust administration, becoming a partner at the firm in January 2007. She recently joined the board of directors for Catholic Charities Corporation.



1994

BIRTHS: Emma born to Julie and **Brian Takacs** in February 2007. In July, Brian retired from the Navy and is living in Portage, Michigan, and employed at Stryker Medical.

1995

BIRTHS: Nicholas born to **Beth Adzema-Richardson** and her husband Chris in February. **Dan Weber** and **Trisha Pollarine '96** were recently engaged and are planning a fall wedding.

1996

Kimberly Popelmayer completed her bachelor's degree in early childhood education from Wright State University in 2001 and her master's degree in 2005. Currently, Kimberly is the building administrator of Parma Community Elementary School. Kimberly will marry Anthony Vacanti in August of 2008.

1997

BIRTHS: Keagan Robert born to **Katie DiGioia-Evans '99** and **Sean Evans** on March 4. Sean is going on 10 years of coaching Padua hockey. • In February **Joseph Szucs II** proposed to **Celine LeMentec**, in Padua's room 143. The two met for the first time in this room while Celine was an exchange student from France. The two are planning a wedding for later this year. • **Michael Murphy** recently received his first writing credit for the "Period Peace" episode of ABC's *According to Jim* that aired Feb. 12. He is residing in Los Angeles working as a script-coordinator.



1999

BIRTHS: Ava born to Sara and **Todd Schmidt** in September. Todd is president of Oasis Sunrooms, LLC, located in Berea. • **Allison Jeric** wed Eric Carroll, a state highway patrolman last October. She presented at the National Council of Teachers of English conference in New York City in November.

2000

Kelly Smith married Paul Gibson in the Basilica of the Sacred Heart at the University of Notre Dame on December 1, 2007. She is currently in her fourth year of medical school at the University of Pennsylvania and will begin her residency in obstetrics and gynecology after her graduation in May.

2001

On September 1, **Rachel Seskes** married Matthew Berning. Alums in the wedding party were **Anthony Seskes '04** and **Cara Giovannetti-Kazmierczak**. After a honeymoon in Hawaii, they are now living in Cincinnati where Rachel works at Cintas in national accounts.

• A science instructor, head swim coach, and JV baseball coach at Brecksville High School, **Michael Schmidt** is presently working on his master's degree.

2002

In August 2007, **Carolyn Ksenyak** graduated from Kent State University with a BA in fashion design and a minor in marketing. She is currently working as production coordinator/assistant designer for a women's clothing designer in New York City.

2003

BIRTHS: Timothy Augustine born October 4, son of **Allen Dempsey**. • On March 23, **Justin Smith** left for the Ukraine to begin pre-service training as a youth development Peace Corps volunteer after which he will be teaching English and counseling troubled youths. Last year he graduated from the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, with a BA in anthropology and gender studies.

2004

Siblings **Dana** and **Alissa Banyasz** were elected to Ashland University's homecoming court. Alissa is a psychology and business administration major, and Dana a finance and economics major.

2005

Brian Freeman made Academic All-American first team as an offensive lineman at Carnegie Mellon.

2006

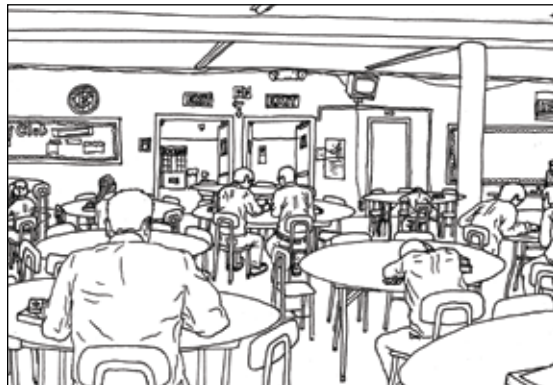
Ted Szelag is attending the University of Dayton majoring in mechanical engineering with an aerospace concentration. He is currently a member of the co-operative education program, working with United Space Alliance. During his co-op experience he is working as a subsystems engineer on the power and propulsion units on the Space Shuttle Orbiter.



Student/Faculty Life

Horizon Magazine – Art, Literature, and Photography of the Students of Padua Franciscan

Padua Franciscan has many talented artists and writers who produce the wonderful pieces that are combined into a literary magazine we call *Horizon Magazine*. *Horizon Magazine* dates back to 1987; and today includes art, photography, and literary writings.



DRIVER'S TEST

Bryden Spesak '09

The air, crisp with September breeze,
Whipped at my skin and face,
Creased with lines of fear and worry.
Apprehension filled every deep furrow
That formed intersecting lanes around my brows.
The scene before me seemed to grow incessantly,
Stretch and expand before my wide, scared eyes.
I had become an ant in a bustling metropolis.
And the neon orange cones were relentlessly mocking.
Mocking, mocking, surely would I fail.

I approached my destined doom.
The ominous gateway marked by those sharp,
Pointed pyramids that seemed to be growing
Closer and closer together.
How do they expect me to get through that?
This thought, it ran circles around my mind,
Strangling any hope I had to breathe.
It was this. This was it.
Now or never.
I grasped the wheel with fingers clenched to kill
And slowly pulled up to the cones.

Pulse quickening, sweat glistening, body tense
Hands clasped like a python upon its victim's neck.
I was ready.

With caution equal to that of a surgeon,
My foot was taken off the brake, and I moved,
Crept like a serpent, stealthy and steady.
Heart pounding
as I passed through the cone-lined course of fate.
Almost free, having reversed back through
But not quite.

Thump! Was the enemy my ears feared to hear.
Heart stopped. I was an ant again, eyes wide and scared.
Surely I was finished,
my only chance lost when I heard that evil thump.

The prison guard beside me smelled my fear.
Terror-ridden and stuck with horror
I knew I smelled of putrid, bitter defeat.
He was kind. One more chance I needed.
One more chance I took.
Gripping the wheel now caked with sweat.

I felt the sticky hot leather upon my back,
And again I tried.
Success this time was sweet and glorious
When I bathed in its warm light.
I was finally reborn,
A ruler of the road.

