

THE PADUAN



Since 1961



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THE
PADUAN

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

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FROM WHERE I SIT...

Hello Bruins!!

As I sit in my office I can hear the excited voices of our 183 Seniors as they approach their final days here at Padua Franciscan. Four years sounds like a long ride, but they disappear quickly, opening up even greater challenges and vistas!

I've had the privilege of making friends with a few of the students over the past three years. Administrative responsibilities seemed like barricades at times, demanding my attention for strategic planning, directing our Grand Raffle, interviewing potential employees or being present to faculty and staff.

When I did venture away from my desk I enjoyed the question and answer times with the physics class, moving from "why can't we wear striped shirts" to "stories in the Bible". I can't forget my friends in the Italian classes who were reticent to speak the language for fear of making a mistake. Some of the Seniors took the leap and engaged me in a conversation in the corridor. I'm hardly an expert in the Italian language but we keep plugging along, making our mistakes in the hope of improving our skills.

As I grew up and began to face the world as a young adult I had many a question. If the truth be told, asking questions brought me answers that I never would have realized. Questioning life and finding answers is the initial source of wisdom. "In youth we learn...with age we understand." We are the people we are today because of the questions we asked and the sought after answers we received.

The school year ends, but our life of learning continues.

Quality relationships have touched all of our lives, and this "answer" is probably one of the most significant of all. Our students have made friendships that will last the rest of their lives! A hallmark of a Bruin education is the community spirit that none can escape! There is a feeling of belonging to one big family that will be there to celebrate the goodness in all and to offer consolation and prayer whenever needed.

The school year ends and the summer is here. All of us deserve a break, especially if we have



worked hard at life...the Stuff that Padua Franciscan is about.

To all who continue to support Padua Franciscan with your time and resources, I thank you for partnering with us as we do our best to educate our youth! Thank you for "giving back" and sharing in our ministry!! We've made some great physical improvements and there are more to come within the very near future. Keep your eyes open!

Some people come into our lives and quickly go. Some stay for a while, leave footprints on our hearts, and we are never, ever the same!

Fr. Allan DaCorte, ofm
President



We are very interested
in what you have
accomplished.

Now you can update
your profile at:

Alumni.PaduaFranciscan.com

PADUA ALUMNI: *Update Information Sheet*

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.

SEND TO: Padua Franciscan Alumni Association, 6740 State Road, Parma, OH 44134
OR fax us at **440.845.5710** at any time, seven days a week.

BUILT TO SERVE

For Ed Ripepi '88 the events of September 11, 2001 really made him stop and think. In the wake of our nation's greatest tragedy, his question became, what can I do to help or become involved in the community? "Like so many Americans, I wanted to do something to help. I wanted to find a way that I could make a difference," said Ripepi.

Ripepi is a chef by trade and owns Verso Restaurant in Parma but admits growing up he always had a passion for service of a different kind. "Ever since I could remember I always had a passion for law enforcement and service to the community. Although my career took a different path, helping others has always been a part of who I am," said Ripepi.

"Ever since I could remember I always had a passion for law enforcement and service to the community."

Growing up in Seven Hills and being a dog owner all his life, he started to become inspired by all that he was seeing on the news about the rescue efforts of 9/11. "Just seeing everything on the news and all the dogs and people giving back and working hard really caught my interest. I just kept thinking how I would love to be a part of an effort like this and I started to research search and rescue dogs and from that point on it became a passion for me."

His passion and plan began to take shape and in 2008 when he bought his first dog Remo, a white German Shepherd from Holland. Remo comes from a breeder that specializes in breeding dogs for human remains detection, tracking, and trailing. Shortly thereafter Ripepi and Remo were part of the SRT K-9 Unit, a non-profit which is a search, rescue and recovery organization. If someone goes missing in the state of Ohio, odds are the group of seven handlers, nine dogs, and one support person are called.



Remo's Resume

After acquiring Remo a period of nine months of training were underway. In September of 2009 their investigative work began. "We received our first call out to assist the Franklin County Sheriff's Office with a missing person case. For me, the first time we were called out was an experience for sure. It was 'go time' and I was both nervous and excited at the same time. For Remo, he was unsure what to make of it. He could sense something was different, but being that this was his first assignment, it was unclear to him as to where we were headed. That all went away after a few calls. Now when I put on my vest and tracking gear, the dogs know exactly what's next."

Tracking dogs like Remo and Jett have what is called a scent specific or odor discriminative tracking ability.

"Usually the calls we get are for missing persons but also we find ourselves in situations where we may be helping track a criminal on foot. These can be dangerous situations so in some cases both the dogs and the rescue personnel need to be in bulletproof vests. If you're tracking a suspect in a robbery or an amber alert it can very scary. Most of the time you're with a law enforcement person that's securing you."

Remo started his career in 2009 and prior to his retirement in 2014, he was used in 52 different search incidents over a five year period. In that time, he was able to discover 8 deceased remains and more than a dozen missing persons.

German Sheperd's have a sense of smell that is over 6 million times stronger than that of humans. Dogs like Remo are trained using a variety of techniques, all are "scent discriminating". The training enables them to follow a specific individual's scent through a variety of terrains and conditions. This is slightly different than a K-9 that may be used by a local law enforcement agency. Police dogs are known to be 'hot track' dogs, which mean they have the ability to follow a rather new scent (typically up to about an hour). Tracking dogs like Remo have what is called a scent specific or odor discriminative tracking ability. Because of environmental and other factors a police dog may not be able to track a scent after a certain period of time.

"It is the greatest reward imaginable to bring a missing child back."

In the case of missing persons, often times the person's scent is magnified. When tracking a live person, their body is releasing cells. "Whether it's a good guy or a bad guy, they inevitably are getting nervous because they're lost or scared. They start sweating more body cells, and their scent becomes even stronger or more magnified. That's what the dog is feeding off."

In the case of human remains, it can become more challenging. "Weather factors and decomposition of a human body make locating remains very difficult. Depending on the duration and decomposition of the remains, the dogs may have to rely on searching only for a skeletal structure, which is much more difficult to detect."

Prior to his retirement, Remo was called upon to discover the remains of a man who was buried in a back yard of a Seven Hills home.

Meet Jett

In 2013 Ripepi added another dog to the family. Jett is a German Shepherd from Slovakia and is a live track and trail dog but is also certified in human remains detection.

Jett will be three years old in September and has already been called out in 37 different instances. Most notably perhaps was the identification of a child with autism who went missing in Sheffield Lake.



“Every case that we are able to help solve is very gratifying. In all these cases you’re dealing with somebody who is in the most vulnerable position. They have lost a child and a loved one, and they don’t know if they’re dead or alive. We have to bring some kind of closure to them.”

“The best part of this job is when we are able to find a missing child and bring them back safely to their family. It is the greatest reward imaginable to bring a missing child back.”

About SRT K9 Unit

SRT K9 Unit is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization made up of handler and dog teams in Ohio. The canine teams are certified in human remains detection, tracking, and trailing. They come together to provide the necessary resources to compliment federal, state, and local authorities in finding missing persons and/or their remains.

SRT K-9 shares a passion for helping families find peace, no matter what it takes and is ready to assist when requested. There is never a charge for their services.

Events like the SRT K9 Golf Outing help raise much needed funds to assist with training, supplies and expanding the knowledge of Search Rescue and Recovery techniques.



THIRD ANNUAL JJ MARINO MEMORIAL GOLF OUTING

The Third Annual JJ Marino Memorial Golf Outing will be held Saturday, July 9 at Creekwood Golf Course in Columbia Station, Ohio. The annual event is held in honor and celebration of **JJ Marino '08** who died in a traffic accident on March 31, 2013 while traveling back to Ohio from Spring Break in Florida.

Shortly after JJ died, Bob and Ellin Sevchuk, along with their children **Patrick '08, Kate '09 and Kaileen '14**, created the JJ Marino Endowment Fund as another way to honor JJ's life. The Fund provides a scholarship to a Padua student who shares the same traits as JJ. The fund is administered by the Padua Franciscan High School Endowment Trust and proceeds from the annual golf outing support the fund.

More than 175 people attended the 2nd Annual JJ Marino Memorial Golf Outing which was held on July 11, 2015 at Creekwood Golf Course. JJ's mother and father, along with his sister, **Allyson '02**, brother **Michael '05**, and dozens of alumni, including former hockey players and friends, support the annual event as golfers, hole sponsors or volunteers.



For more information about the Annual JJ Marino Memorial Golf Outing please contact Kevin Marino at: marinokevin@sbcglobal.net or (440) 241-3978, or visit the event website at <http://birdeasepro.com/jjmemorialgolffouting>.

KEEPING THE FRANCISCAN CHARISM ALIVE

Following in the Footseps of St. Francis

In his lifetime, Francis of Assisi insisted that his followers live their lives in a particular manner: they should spread the good news always; they should consider the poor to be their brothers and sisters; they should be Catholic in all ways. A significant number of alumni carry on this legacy in their ministry as priests or religious. Fr. Greg Olszewski '79, Fr. Bob Sieg, ofm, '66, and Fr. Steve Brunovsky '83 caught that Franciscan spirit while students at Padua and continued in that same spirit throughout their lives.

Fr. Steve Brunovsky '83

After his graduation from Padua Franciscan High School, Fr. Steve Brunovsky '83 decided to respond to God's call by serving the people of the Diocese of Cleveland as a priest. Since his ordination on May 30, 1992, he has served in 4 parishes. He has been Parochial Vicar at St. Paul in Akron; St. Mary in Hudson; St. Francis Xavier in Medina. Since 2007, he has been pastor of St. Hilary in Fairlawn. Fr. Steve is inspired by the words and example of Pope Francis. "He is showing us the way to combat divisiveness, to reach out to the poor and to work to protect the environment. I think Roman Catholics are in a position, based on our 2,000 year history of faith, to be a great source of hope for the world!"

Reflecting on the origin of his vocational choice, Fr. Brunovsky attributes his calling to the youth renewal group under the leadership of Fr. Bill Krisner at St. Columbille in Broadview Heights. "I made Christ Renews His Parish during my

junior year at Padua. It was then that I began to attend daily Mass at Padua which was said in the former third floor chapel. These experiences were the seeds of my vocational discernment."

Another influential person in the life of Fr. Steve is Mr. Wayne Miller, longtime music teacher at Padua. His expression was: "Discipline, hard work and fun!" As a flutist, the future Fr. Steve performed in the band, the orchestra, and the instrumental ensemble. The lesson learned from Mr. Miller has remained with him for over 25 years. He now muses that the Padua musical groups received superior rating every year. For him, Mr. Miller was one of the most influential teachers of his high school years. He also had a huge impact on the lives of many Padua students. According to Fr.

Steve, Mr. Miller would give the impression of being stern and strict, "but he had a very dry and amazing sense of humor." For example, concerning

dress down days, "On dress down days, the students leave their brains at the classroom door."

Fr. Greg Olszewski '79

Francis of Assisi; known as God's troubadour, was one of the greatest evangelizers of all time. His down-to-earth language and spontaneous creativity touched the hearts of many people leading them to change their lives to follow the Lord. This same spirit is epitomized in Fr. Greg's ministry at Mary Queen of Apostles Parish in Brook Park.

About 10 years ago, two parishes merged to form Mary Queen of Apostles Parish in Brook Park in 2006. The sense of loss during the closing of a parish is not uncommon. It is often difficult for parishoners to feel at home in the new parish and to create meaningful relationships with members of the merged parish. Yet, through Fr. Greg's initiative and uncanny sense of humor, new life shone through the parish and parishoners who were once strangers became united in a tight-knit community of love.

The parishoners of Mary Queen of Apostles decided to participate in the 3 annual local parades in Brook Park: Memorial Day, Homedays and Christmas Parade. At the head of the group from Mary Queen of Apostles was Fr. Greg on his bicycle weaving back and forth among the marchers. By being "outside of the box,"

Fr. Greg attracted the attention of many to

Fr. Steve Brunovsky '83





Fr. Greg Olszewski '79



Fr. Bob Sieg, ofm, '66

come see the great things happening at the parish. With parishoners participating in the parades, many blessings came upon the parish.

“THE PADUA FRANCISCAN MANTRAS OF ‘PEACE AND GOOD; HOLINESS AND LEARNING’ ARE GROUNDS IN WHICH EVERY PERSON IN EVERY STAGE OF LIFE CAN FIND REFUGE AND STRENGTH BECAUSE THEY’RE CENTERED ON THE PERSON OF JESUS.”

It helped unify the two parishes – to the point that parishoners from opposing parishes united to carry the “Mary Queen of Apostles” banner. In a few years, the ragtag group that ventured to participate in the parade grew to a well-organized vanguard with loud speakers mounted on the back of a pickup and a 3-wheel Harley. Music from the speakers blasted music about Jesus, broadcasting the Good News for all to hear. Through the bold creativity of Fr. Greg, the parish became re-energized and the vibrancy of the Gospel spread through the community.

Fr. Greg attributes so much of his vocation to be an evangelizer to his experience at Padua. He

was touched by the kindness and forgiveness of Fr. Edgar who was always available for confession. Two other influential people were Mr. Tom Kohuth, head wrestling coach and Mr. Polick, assistant wrestling coach. Both of them were stern and the disciplinarian type. But, there care and concern was evident.

Fr. Bob Sieg, ofm, '66

Fr. Bob Sieg, ofm, says, “I just love Pope Francis. He is a real challenge to me – I really

appreciate the joy we find in serving and walking together with the poor.” True to the Franciscan commitment to the poor and marginalized, Fr. Bob Sieg’s ‘68 life is checkered with a kaleidoscope of ministries serving that population. Already as a student at Padua, he committed himself to service in the neighborhood through the DePaduans (later became Key Club). Visits to the residents of Parmadale and Holy Family Cancer Center were frequent during his high school career. His engagement in the service of others continued during his priestly ministry as well. His first assignment after ordination was at St. Jude Parish in Warrensville Heights. In addition to his parish ministry, Fr. Bob frequented the marginalized in the Cleveland House of Corrections, Sunny Acres, Matt Talbott Inn, and the Little Sisters of the Poor.

While Fr. Bob has had a wide variety of ministries throughout the Midwest, he keeps returning to Padua and the Cleveland area. Immediately after ordination, he served at St. Jude Church in Warrensville Heights for 5 years, a mere 20 minutes from Padua. Subsequently, he served as Vocation Director for the Franciscans only to return 9 years later to become Camus Minister at Padua Franciscan High School for 2 years. Next, the Franciscans sent him to Ruston, Louisiana, and then Indianapolis, Indiana. In both places, he was involved in his passion – parish ministry. In Indianapolis, there was a real strong bond of love in the parish. One interesting event in Indianapolis: “Our parish bought a bank and turned it into our parish hall. Some of the

real advantages of the bank: we had a 24-hour ‘depository’ so you could drop off your donations any time. We had the world’s safest coat check room; it was the old safe. And I wanted to convert the drive-in teller to a drive-in confessional – call it ‘toot-and-tell’. But the Bishop was not amused.”

“THEY REALLY CARED ABOUT US. FOR THEM, IT WASN’T JUST A JOB. THEY WANTED US TO FIND SUCCESS AND HAPPINESS IN LIFE.”

While in Indianapolis, he was involved at Padua serving on the Board of Trustees for 3 years. Then, faithful to his obedience, he served rural Illinois and in the Provincial PR office. In a few years, he returned to the Cleveland area serving as the pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church in Lakewood. Currently, he serves as Chaplain at Franciscan Village in Crowley, Texas, outside of Fort Worth.

During his years as a student at Padua, the future Fr. Bob was impressed by the attitude of the friars. “They really cared about us. For them, it wasn’t just a job. They wanted us to find success and happiness in life.” The witness of the Franciscan Friars at Padua were so inspiring that Bob entered the Franciscan seminary in Quincy, Illinois and entered the Franciscan Order in 1968.

Padua Teacher Ordained a Deacon



Padua Math Teacher Tom Litwinowicz was ordained as a deacon in May 2016. Deacon Tom has been assigned to St. Matthias Church (1200 West Sprague Road) in Parma. We look forward to having him exercise his ministry during Mass in the future, while continuing to educate our students in the classroom.

ALUMNI PRIESTS OR RELIGIOUS

Fr. Robert Sieg, OFM '66
Chaplain, St. Francis Village
Crowley, Texas

Fr. Gregory Joeright, OFM '67
Missionary in the Amazon, Brazil

Fr. Lawrence Janezic, OFM '69
Pastor, Sacred Heart Church
Indianapolis, Indiana

Fr. James Kelly, OFM '69
Cleveland, Ohio

Fr. Dennis Schafer, OFM '69
Franciscan Novitiate
Burlington, Wisconsin

Fr. Michael Cusato, OFM '71
Franciscan Monastery of the Holy Land
Washington, DC

Rev. David Ireland '75
Pastor, Sacred Heart of Jesus Church
South Euclid, Ohio

Rev. James Klima '76
Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church
Pickerington, Ohio

Fr. Jack Janko SDB '67
Don Bosco Prep
Ramsey, New Jersey

Rev. Thomas Elasser, '79
Pastor, St. Mary ChurchMentor, Ohio

Rev. Robert Jasany, '79
Pastor, St. John Nepomucene
Cleveland, Ohio

Rev. Gregory Olszewski, '79
Parochial Vicar, Holy Family Church
Parma, Ohio

Rev. Robert Stec, '79
Pastor, St. Ambrose Church
Brunswick, Ohio

Br. Michael Ward, OFM, 79
Campus Minister
Louisiana Tech University/
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Ruston, Louisiana

Rev. Stephen Kaminski, '81
Deceased – February 29, 2016

Fr. Michael Brunovsky, OSB, '82
Principal at Benedictine High School
Cleveland, Ohio

Rev. Christopher Weber, '82
Parochial Vicar, St. Columbkille Church
Parma, Ohio

Rev. Steven Brunovsky, '83
Pastor, St. Hilary Church
Fairlawn, Ohio

Rev. Thomas Behrend, '87
Pastor, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church
Wickliffe, Ohio

Rev. Joseph Mamich, '87
Pastor, St. Joseph Church
Strongsville, Ohio

Rev. Patrick Spicer, '93
Parochial Vicar, St. Rita Church
Solon, Ohio

Rev. Andrew Summerson, 04
Cathedral of St. John the Baptist
Parma, Ohio

PADUA FRANCISCAN HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME



The Padua Franciscan High School Hall of Fame was established in 2001 to recognize those who have contributed to the success of Padua or the Padua community in some significant way. Padua is currently taking nominations for the sixth induction class. The HOF induction ceremony is scheduled to take place in the fall of 2016. Submit your via e-mail to alumni@paduafranciscan.com or regular mail to Padua Franciscan Hall of Fame, 6740 State Road, Parma, OH 44134.

The Hall of Fame is comprised of four categories listed below. Anyone within the Padua community (faculty, students, current parents, past parents, alumni, and friends of the school) can cast their vote for any or all of the categories. Those inducted will be honored at a special HOF induction reception and will be prominently displayed on Padua’s “wall of fame” listing the year of induction, category, and a brief summary of their impact on Padua. **Nominations should be received by August 1, 2016**

Nominations for the following categories will be accepted:

ATHLETIC AWARD

This is awarded to the male or female alumnus who either excelled in one or more sports while at Padua OR made a major impact to the school’s athletic program or to local sports leading to the enhancement of Padua’s image. The candidate (with the exception of coaches) must have graduated a minimum of five years prior to being considered. The candidate should demonstrate ongoing concern and loyalty to Padua Franciscan High School.

OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD

This is awarded to the male or female alumnus who has made a major impact either in service to Padua, service to the community, or achievement in their chosen field of work.

PADUA PARTNER AWARD

Awarded to a non-alumnus (parent, friend of Padua, etc.) who has made or is making a major contribution to Padua through volunteerism or other service.

FRANCISCAN MEDAL AWARD

Award given to the individual (or company) who has actively worked toward the advancement of education of young people at Padua or in the Parma area. The candidate should possess a record of community service, community leadership, volunteerism, and have actively worked to promote the quality of life in Parma and the surrounding suburbs.

Padua Wins Parma's Citizen of the Month Award

Padua Franciscan High School received the City of Parma's Citizen of the Month award for December 2015. One-hundred-fifty of our students made a difference in the community by raking leaves at 50 homes in Parma on All Saints Day (Sunday, November 1, 2015). Many also spent hours volunteering at local hospitals, nursing homes and hunger centers. Parma Law Director Tim Dobeck and Assistant Building Commissioner Don Graves nominated Padua. Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter and Councilman Allan Divis (a father of four Padua alumni) presented a plaque to Principal David Stec '86, Assistant Campus Minister/Teacher Bob DiRocco and President Fr. Allan DaCorte o.f.m. at a recent city council meeting.

All 750 of our students are committed to serving the community, just like our patron saint, St. Francis of Assisi. At Padua, students learn that actions are a reflection of faith. Community service is part of the school's curriculum, but by the time students graduate, it's part of their DNA.



Padua students spent All Saints Day (November 1, 2015) raking leaves at 50 homes in Parma.



(L-R) Parma Mayor Tim DeGeeter presents Parma's Citizen of the Month award to Principal David Stec, Councilman Al Divis (a proud father of four alumni), Theology teacher Bob DiRocco and President Fr. Allan DaCorte, ofm at a city council meeting.

Shrek the Musical a Huge Success!

Padua's Performing Arts Program performed its 28th spring musical this year under the direction of Mrs. Tammy Plasterer. The talented cast and crew of "Shrek the Musical" put on a phenomenal show seven times in April and May. Audiences were impressed with the acting, singing, music, dancing, costumes and the set itself. Congratulations and thank you to all who helped make the show a huge success!



Murals at the General Office



New Franciscan murals were affixed to the windows of the General Office in March 2016. The murals depict a panoramic view of the village of Assisi and famous medieval paintings of St. Francis and his friend and follower, Lady Jacoba. These murals reinforce the Franciscan tradition of Padua High for all who come to the General Office.

Alumnus Donates Super Bowl Trophy to Padua

Padua Franciscan High School is still celebrating Super Bowl 50, thanks to a special visit from **Tom Andrews '80**. The Parma native returned to his alma mater to personally deliver a commemorative golden football, in honor of Super Bowl 50.

The NFL launched the **Super Bowl High School Honor Roll** initiative recognizing schools that contributed to Super Bowl history and positively impacted the game of football. Padua is just one of the 2,000 high schools around the country, and around the world, to have a player on an active Super Bowl roster.

After playing for the Padua Bruins and the University of Louisville, Andrews went on to play three seasons in the NFL, including one with the 1985 Super Bowl XX champion Chicago Bears.



Franciscan Pilgrimages — A Journey in the Footsteps of St. Francis



I feel very honored to have been chosen to represent Padua on the Assisi trip this year, especially since I am a Protestant. My selection only confirms what I learned from my first day here, Padua is a very welcoming place. Since that welcoming spirit is part of the Franciscan tradition, I am excited to be learning more about St. Francis. I will also be taking my wife Gretchen so that together we may learn of the history of our Christian faith.

—Mr. John Shipitalo

I am truly grateful and honored to be chosen for the pilgrimage this year. When Father Allan and Mr. Stec made the announcement for teachers to put their names in if interested, I knew right away that this was something I wanted to do. I'm looking forward to learning more about Saint Francis on this spiritual journey, while experiencing the culture of Italy and hopefully meeting new friends!

—Mary Zolkowski

Just as Padua Franciscan challenges its students to achieve academic excellence, it also passes on the heritage and tradition of SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi. In the 50+ years since Padua opened its doors, the Franciscan tradition has been passed on by the witness of dozens of Franciscan Friars who have ministered at Padua High School. In order for faculty and staff to have a deeper appreciation of this Franciscan witness, our former president, Fr. Walter Dolan, ofm, established the practice of sending faculty and staff members to participate in a pilgrimage to Assisi.

The pilgrimage program offers participants an opportunity to deepen their personal relationship with God through visits to the major sanctuaries

associated with SS. Francis and Clare of Assisi. Their lives are enriched and transformed through participation in rituals, prayers, Eucharistic celebrations, historical visits and lectures. By journeying through their life stories, these two saints help to "fix our gaze on God."

Upon returning to Padua, they continue this living witness of the Franciscan values and ideals which are essential elements of the life and work of the Padua Franciscan journey. To date, more than 30 individuals have benefited from this enlightening and prayerful journey. This summer, Mrs. Mary Zolkowski and Mr. John Shipitalo will be participating in the 2-week pilgrimage.



Class of 2016 Honors Distinguished Students



The Padua Franciscan community celebrated outstanding student accomplishments during the Senior Awards Assembly on May 27. About 75 percent of the Class of 2016 has been offered one or more non-need-based scholarships totaling more than \$17.5 million. These scholarships testify to the quality and value of a Padua Franciscan education.

Valedictorian Mary Ellen Wasco (4.79 GPA) & salutatorian Joseph Westover (4.72 GPA). Both are from St. Albert The Great parish in North Royalton.

In keeping with Padua tradition, each year the Padua faculty has the honor of selecting seniors who exemplify the finest characteristics of the ideal Padua man and woman. All facets of personality are considered in the selection for this honor including: Christian values, Franciscan compassion, academic dedication, strong character, superior leadership qualities, and concerned citizenship. Matthew Budzik was named Mr. Paduan, and Gianna DiGeronimo was named Miss Paduan.



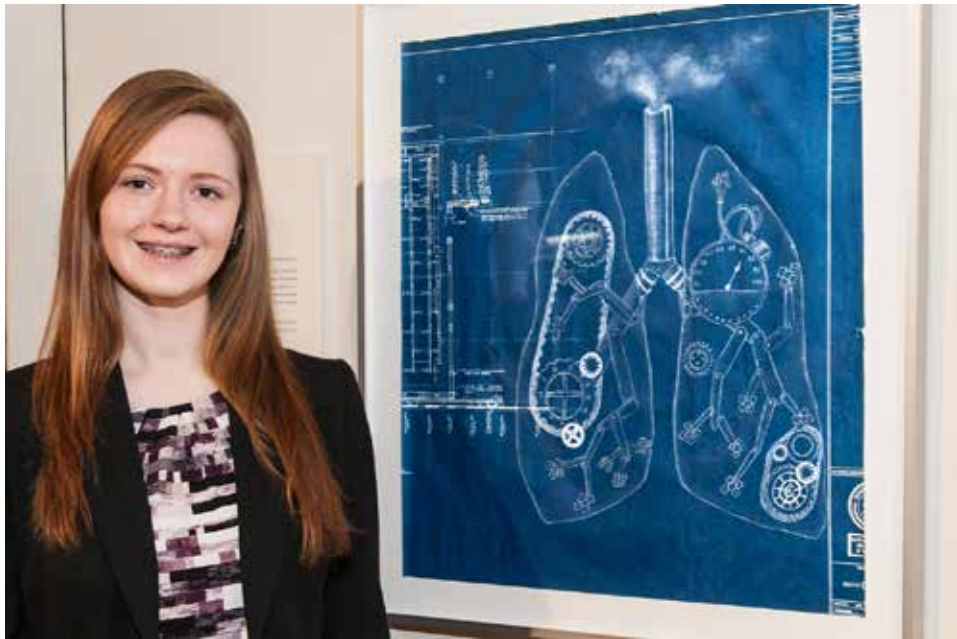
Matthew Budzik & Gianna DiGeronimo.



Padua's athletic department selects one male and one female senior who most deserve the honor of the best athlete at Padua. The qualities on which the athletes are evaluated are their athletic skills, athletic achievements in high school athletics, participation, coachability, sportsmanship, leadership, academics, and school involvement. Michael Wtulich was selected as Mr. Bruin and Miss Bruin went to Jamie Zickes.

Jamie Zickes & Michael Wtulich.

Student/Faculty News:



Erica Stegens '18 work won a Blue Ribbon Photo by: Don Gerda/Cleveland Clinic.

Three Students Receive Cleveland Clinic Expressions Art Awards

This year, more than 1,600 entries were submitted to Cleveland Clinic's eXpressions Art Program. Padua Franciscan High School students received three of the 84 awards. **Erica Stegens '18** work won a Blue Ribbon (1st place). **Chloe Ochocki '16** won a White Ribbon. **Emily Musgrave '16** won an Honorable Mention for poetry.

The eXpressions Art program is an interdisciplinary program that utilizes the arts to engage high school students in the world of science and medicine. The award-winning works were on display at the Global Center for Health Innovation.



Emily Musgrave '16
Photo by: Don Gerda/Cleveland Clinic.

Ten Students Win Awards at CIA Scholastic Art Competition

The Cleveland Institute of Art hosted the 33rd annual Scholastic Regional Art Competition. It recognizes creative achievement in area 7-12 grade students. The young artists compete for cash prizes, medals, and scholarship awards. A panel of local professional artists, art educators, writers, and writing educators jury the exhibit and select the awarded pieces from nearly 2,100 entries.

Senior **Francis Taylor '16** also received the **American Visions Award** in addition to a Gold Key.

GOLD KEY AWARD

Curtis Buher '16, Alexis Keltner '18 and Francis Taylor '16



SILVER KEY AWARD

Junior Emily Dontenville '17, Anthony Polizzi '17, Erika Rogers '16, Nicole Solano '16, Francis Taylor '16, and Chen Zhang '16

HONORABLE MENTION AWARD

Ray Gonet, Jr. '16, Alexis Keltner '18, Chen Zhang '16, and Ru Yi Zheng '17

Employees To Retire

Several long-term employees of Padua Franciscan retired at the end of the 2015-2016 school year. Combined, they have served our students and school the equivalent of 136 years.



They are, l to r: Sue Neumeyer (Auxiliary Clerk) 14.5 years, Jerry Jindra '70 (Vice President of Institutional Advancement) 33 years, Sue Brizius (Registrar) 19 years, Pat Flecher (Executive Assistant to the President and Principal) 16 years, Nancy Nagy (English Teacher) 31 years, Joe Martin (French Teacher) 5 years, Dave Boris (Theology Teacher) 18 years.

Senior Wins Parma Rotary Club Speech Contest



Senior **Joseph Westover '16** was this year's winner of the Parma Rotary Club Speech Contest. Joseph presented a compelling speech about how the values of gratitude and family celebrated at Thanksgiving are ironically undermined by the negative effects of Black Friday. This is the 8th year in a row that Padua has earned this distinction.

Westover also won first place for an essay he submitted in the LifeWorks Ohio Respect Life Art, Essay, & Poetry Contest. He placed second in the grade 12 poetry division. A total of 3,150 entries were submitted.



SPORTS *Notables*



COACHING MOVES

FOOTBALL

After 20 seasons of coaching football at Padua Franciscan, **Tony Shuman '91** has decided to step down from the position of head football coach. Shuman spent the past 10 seasons as the head coach of the Bruins. "We truly appreciate all of Coach Shuman's efforts with the football program over the past 20 years, especially the past 10 seasons as our head coach. He's been a tremendous role model for our football players and representative of Padua Franciscan to the community," said Athletic Director Kevin Leigh '89.

Shuman compiled a record of 49-56 in his 10 seasons as head coach, which included four playoff appearances (2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010) and one North Coast League (NCL) title in 2008. Shuman will continue to teach at Padua in

the Business Department, along with his duties in the Admission and Recruiting Office.

On February 22, Padua Franciscan announced the hiring of **Michael Polevacik** as it's next head football coach. Coach Polevacik was the defensive coordinator at Benedictine High School last season. He was also head coach at Elyria Catholic for four years from 2011 through 2014, earning a record of 23-17 for the Panthers. Prior to being head coach at EC, Mike was an assistant coach for 10 years at Elyria Catholic and St. Edward high schools.

"We are extremely excited to bring Coach Polevacik to Padua to lead our football program. He will have a tremendous impact on our community. His passion and enthusiasm for football is matched by his passion and commitment to Catholic school education and community," said Kevin Leigh.

BOYS BASKETBALL

In late April Padua announced the hiring of **Brian Ansberry** as its next head boys basketball coach. "I am really excited to join the Padua family and look forward to working with the student-athletes," said Coach Ansberry. "It's a great opportunity to coach at Padua and I want to continue to build on the success that Coach Lantz had with the team last season."

Coach Ansberry has been the head boys basketball coach at Lake Ridge Academy the past 3 seasons, improving their win totals each season and earning Division 4 Lorain County coach of the year honors. Ansberry was also an assistant varsity coach at St. Edward High School, his alma mater, for 5 seasons prior to his time at Lake Ridge.

"We are very excited to have Coach Ansberry come to Padua to lead our boys basketball program. He is a well respected coach in Northeast Ohio and has had a variety of experiences in his coaching career. He brings a balance of passion and enthusiasm for basketball along with an understanding of Catholic school education and community," said Athletic Director Kevin Leigh '89.

GIRLS BASKETBALL

Varsity basketball finished with a 15-8 overall record and 7-3 in the NCL. They were champions at the North Royalton Holiday Tournament and runner -ups in the District Tournament

WRESTLING

Along with a host of regular season accomplishments, the Bruin wrestlers rounded out their season with a top 10 finish in the 2016 State Tournament. **Eric Fasnacht '16**

was a state runner up at 160 lbs. and **Tony DeCesare '16** took 4th place at 120 lbs. On the alumni front, congratulations to **Andrew Romanchik '11** on qualifying for the NCAA Division I wrestling tournament at Madison Square Garden. Andrew is a senior at Ohio University.

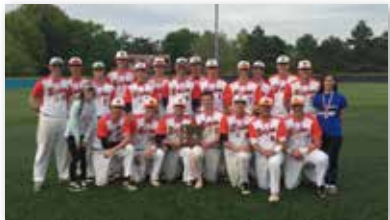


HOCKEY

Junior Lynsey Wallace was honored as a member of the Great Lakes Hockey League All League Team.

BOWLING

For most people, bowling a 300 game is a once in a lifetime accomplishment. For Padua bowling coach, **Rick Parschen '70** rolling a perfect game is business as usual. Coach Parschen has rolled 115 perfect games and was recently featured on Cleveland 19 News for his outstanding accomplishments.



BASEBALL

The Padua Bruins baseball team finished the season with an overall record on 22-6 and were NCL Co-Champions and District Champions. They were finally defeated in the Regional Finals by the number one ranked team in Division II, the Defiance Bulldogs.

FIGURE SKATING

Padua's figure skaters captured their 7th state competition title this past February. This is the 7th title in nine years and also the 4th consecutive state title.



BRUIN
VARSITY CLUB

*Support Padua Athletics—
Become a Member of the
Bruin Varsity Club today!*

What is it? The Bruin Varsity club is a newly established giving club intended to promote and support Padua's athletic department by providing revenue to the athletic program, while increasing alumni affinity through athletic events and activities.

Membership is open to any and all supporters of Padua athletics with levels ranging from \$25-\$500 annually. To learn more about membership benefits, club activities and social events visit paduafranciscan.com.

Interested in becoming involved with the Varsity Club membership or social event committee? Visit paduafranciscan.com/alumni/bruin-varsity-club/

ADMISSIONS & RECRUITING NEWS

In February we accepted about 200 eighth graders into the Class of 2020.

Did You Know?

- The majority of our students come from 25 different Catholic grade schools.
- About 90% of the incoming class identifies as Catholic.
- About 45 incoming freshmen were accepted into our award-winning MedTrack program.
- More than half of the class received an Honors Scholarship for maintaining an "A" average for 7th and 8th grade.
- About 30% of the class has an alumni parent, sibling or grandparent.



Bright orange tubes filled with acceptance letters and other surprises were mailed to all newly accepted students.

ALUMNI CALENDAR *What's Happening Through February, 2017*

HOMECOMING FOR ALUMNI AND THEIR FAMILIES

Homecoming for alumni families is Friday, October, 14 as the Bruins take on Benedictine at Padua Stadium (7 p.m. game). The Padua Alumni Association welcomes all alumni families to our hospitality area for complimentary food and drink beginning at 5:30 p.m.

RED, WHITE & BREW'N MARCH 3

The Alumni Association Red, White & Brew'n will take place on Friday, March 3 from 7-9 p.m. in the school gymnasium. On-line ticket information will be available at the start of the school year gymnasium. Tickets for this beer and wine tasting event will go on sale in January of next year.



MISSING ALUMNI

Many alumni are considered missing or lost in our files, which means we have no current mailing information or email address. Perhaps you or one of your classmates is considered missing. Visit paduafranciscan.com and click on the alumni link and help us locate someone from your class. Address/email updates can be sent to eheinzerling@paduafranciscan.com

For more information on any of these events e-mail eheinzerling@paduafranciscan.com or call 440-845-2444, ext. 106

1986 (30 YEARS)

Join members from the class of '86 on Friday, September 16 for football, food and friendships at Padua Stadium. The Bruins play host to Maple Heights and the reunion festivities will begin at 5:00 p.m. in the end zone. Email eheinzerling@paduafranciscan.com

REUNION NEWS

Are you a member of a Padua class ending in a 1 or 6? If so, 2016 is a reunion year for your class. The alumni office is here to help classmates plan their reunion, advertise, locate classmates, and assist with accounting if necessary. We do look to classmates to determine what their class would like to do and when. If you are a member of a class ending in a 1 or 6 and would like to assist in your reunion planning, please contact the alumni office.

ALUMNI HAPPY HOUR!

Every 1st Wednesday of the month beginning Sept. 7.

Our alumni 1st Wednesday of the month happy hour will break for the summer and pick up again in September. Make plans now to join us on September 7 from 6-8pm at the Buffalo Wild Wings on Pearl Rd. in Strongsville. There will be food and drink specials an opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni.



The alumni office is looking for volunteers to serve as class representatives. Contact eheinzerling@paduafranciscan.com to learn more about this opportunity to serve as a liaison to your class.

Raffle Nets \$100,000 FAMILY SHARES WINNINGS



The winner of the sellers prize, a 2016 Nissan Altima, was his brother Scott Liana '18, shown here with Mr. Stec and Fr. Allan.



New for this year was the Padua Raffle, the proceeds of which will help launch a new student transportation program. Some 2,000 tickets were sold at \$100 each. The winners were drawn on May 27 at the Senior Awards Assembly. The grand prize winner of \$100,000 cash prize was alumnus Michael Liana '14.



Samethin Bruin

1965



Ron Flachbart '65 News Channel 5 surprised Mr. Flachbart by naming him their Teacher of the Week! (Kammy Shuman nominated him.) The story is posted on their website: <http://www.newsnet5.com/home>

1967

Charles Vleck '67 has been active in the transportation industry for over 45+ years. He is still directing/managing heavy duty equipment fleets.

1970

Jerry Jindra '70 retired as Padua's vice president of Institutional Advancement, following 33 years of service.

1971

Mark Harden '71 working for The Coca-Cola Company since 1981. Moved back to Atlanta to work on a global change project.

1976

David Wright '76 retired as Bay Village Chief of police June 2013. Commander, Cleveland Clinic Police since June 2013.

1979

Fr. Greg Olszewski '79 is the Parochial Vicar to Holy Family Parish as of February 2016

1982

John Smith '82 retired from the Independence Police Department after 28 years. He accepted the position of Director of Continuing Quality Improvement for the Christian Children's Home of Ohio..

1986

Rob Moss '86 was inducted into the Northern Ohio Golf Association Hall of Fame on November 18.

Elaine Stupka-Heinzerling '86 joined the Office of Institutional Advancement as an administrative assistant at Padua Franciscan High School July 2015.

Ann-Marie Lehman-DiPaolo '86 became the Business Manager at Padua Franciscan High School October 2015.

1988

BIRTHS: Ed Ripepi '88 and Shannon welcome Dean Michael in May 2015.

1989

Steven Scanlon '89 employed as Clinical Preceptor for the EMT/Paramedic program at Cuyahoga Community College Metro and Westshore Campuses.

1991

Brian Holzinger '91 was inducted into the Parma Hockey Association Hall of Fame February 6, 2016

1992

BIRTHS: Brad Holzinger '92 and Katie welcome Carter Allen July 2015

1994

AnnMarie Parente-Frattare '94 has joined Padua Franciscan High School as the Admissions Coordinator.

1996

BIRTHS: Sam Watkins '96 and Lauren welcome Annie Grace March 2016.

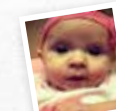
1997



BIRTHS: Michael Kane '97 and Carli welcome Ethan Michael December 2015.



Jennifer McGregor '97 will be the new head of children's section at the Fairview Park Branch of the Cuyahoga County Public Library beginning in June 2016.



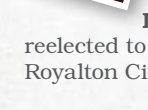
BIRTHS: Mark '97 and Kathryn Stiber-Wozniak '04 welcome Olivia Cadence in December 2015.

2000

BIRTHS: Kristen Benner-Montgomery '00 and Jesse welcome Evan Paul August 2015.



Tom Muranko '00 and Nicole Camiola-Muranko '02 welcome Jonathan James February 2016.



Paul Marnecheck '00 was reelected to his 4th term on the North Royalton City Council this past fall.

2002

BIRTHS: Ryan Luzier-Bissler '02 and Terry welcome Liam Edward October 2015.



Megan LaCorte-Grant '02 and Steve welcome Adalyn Rose January 2016.



Matthew Horvath '02 and Monica Jindra-Horvath '05 welcome Luke February 2016

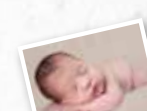
Rachel Teron-DeGirolamo '02 is now the Director of Communications and Public Relations at Padua Franciscan High School.

2003

BIRTHS: Ken Smith '03 and Elizabeth welcome Estella Angeline February 2016.

Jessica Thompson-Boytim '03 and Biagio welcome Evelyn Geralyn September 2015.

Jaclyn Burton-Pessell '03 and Ryan welcome Beckett James September 2015.



Michael Popelmayer '03 and Kristen Boyne-Popelmayer '01 welcome Jacob Michael March 2016.

Nicholas Guallich '03 is in his second year as co-anchor and co-producer of FOX in the Morning on FOX 47 out of Rochester, Minnesota. Nicholas' full profile can be viewed at myfox47.com

BIRTHS: Edward Lajeski '03 welcomes Nolan Carmen April 2015.

2004

BIRTHS: Melissa Flecher-Massery '04 and Luke welcome Lucy Kathryn September 2015.

Michael Frantz '04 and Mallory welcome Aurora Faustina August 2015.

Dana Banyasz '04 and Kara welcome Reese Elizabeth September 2015.

Therese Nally-VanDenHaute '04 and Jeff welcome Lilah Anne October 2015.

John Molnar '04 and Shannyn Messina-Molnar '04 welcome Adriana Antonia fall 2015.

Catherine Esther-Basel '04 and Brian welcome Kallie Marie October 2015.

Paul Schroder M.D., Ph.D. '04 graduated from University of Toledo College of Medicine May 2015. Currently a general surgery resident at Duke University Medical Center.

Andrew Summerson '04 has studied in Rome for the past 5 years and has now returned to Old Brooklyn where he serves as a deacon in the Byzantine Catholic Eparchy of Parma. Andrew was ordained on December 12, 2015.

Erin Eurenus '04 is an attorney at Butcher Elder Law with an emphasis on estate planning and elder law.

2005

BIRTHS: Lisa Marra-Czech '05 and Michael Czech '05 welcome Jacob Nicholas September 2015.

John Krisanda '05 and Jessica welcome Robert Deacon October 2015.

Michael Geraci '05 is the Director of Finance Operations for the Miami Dolphins. He was newly married this past fall.

2006

George Mount '06 attended Hillsdale College and then went to Case for a Masters in Finance. He is working at MetroHealth as a Financial Analyst. Visit his website at [GeorgeJMount.com](#).

Theodore Szlag '06 is an Operations Support Officer (OSO). OSO is one of the flight controller positions in the Mission Control Center (MCC) for the International Space Station (ISS). OSO responsible for training the crew on maintenance and assembly (at this stage of ISS mostly



reassembly, but this can be anything from writing steps to change out an air filter to relocating an entire module) of the ISS and provide realtime support and



Three Generations of Padua Bruins

"The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith." ~Billy Graham

The Class of 2019 has two students who are the third generation in



Michael Graham '66
Shelley Graham Keller '89
and Maggie Keller '19

their family to attend Padua Franciscan High School. We asked both families what made the decision for their children to come here so special?

They responded by telling us how their fathers felt that Padua laid the foundation

for them to be successful in business as well as grow in their faith. They felt that their children were welcomed to the school not only as a student, but as a guest who was received with open arms. They also think they were well

troubleshooting in support of maintenance or reconfiguration operations. In addition they are also responsible for the crew systems (water dispenser, potty and food prep equipment) and crew quarters (sleep). Ted was recently certified to sit in the front room of MCC at the end of July. He went to the University of Dayton (BE in Mechanical Engineering '10) and Air Force Institute of Technology (MS Aeronautical Engineering). (Szlag pic)

2007

BIRTH: Sara Flecher-DeCaro '07 and Thomas welcome Samuel Gregory February 2016.

Shane Mulvihill '07 graduated the Ohio State University in May 2016 with his Doctor of Optometry and Master of Vision Science degree.

Julie Marra-Kolasinski '07 and **Nate Kolasinski '07** welcome Asher Francis April 2016



Kristen Campobenedetto '07 and Kevin Weidrick '07 were married on May 14, 2016

prepared for college. Both families feel that their children will grow in character and faith, just as they did and their father before them.

On the first day of school, every freshman is given a shirt that says "NEVER ALONE, ALWAYS A BRUIN."

"Padua gave both my dad and myself the foundation to become successful in our faith and our family," said Lisa Sandusky-LaGuardia.

"NEVER ALONE, ALWAYS A BRUIN."

"We were pushed to work hard and I am proud that both my kids chose Padua as their high school not only because it is a family tradition, but it will also provide them the foundation they need to have a successful future," "As my daughter would say, 'Padua is like a family.'"

Not only does Padua have three generations of Sandusky's (James, Lisa, Scott, Sergei and Ana) but Sergei and

2008

BIRTHS: Brian Stalder '08 and Kristin welcome Niamh September 2015.

Amelia Mount '08 got her B.S., R.N. at Hiram and is working with the Cleveland Clinic, Fairview Hospital.

2012

As a result of his chemical engineering internship with the Biological and Chemical Processing Department at Idaho National Laboratory, **Michael Jindra '12** was credited as co-author of an article published by the science and technology journal, Fuel. The article explores cost effectiveness of non-food biomass fuels, designed to mitigate US transportation's dependence on oil.

Congratulations to Padua alumnus **Hien Nguyen '12** for receiving one of the Cleveland Institute of Art's prestigious President's Traveling Scholarships!

2013

Tommy Hamzik '13 was named editor in chief of the newspaper at Elon.

Anthony Bobak '13 was sworn in as a Parma Firefighter January 2016.



James Sandusky 1967, Lisa Sandusky LaGuardia 1990, Scott Sandusky 1994, Sergei LaGuardia 2019, Anastasia LaGuardia 2020

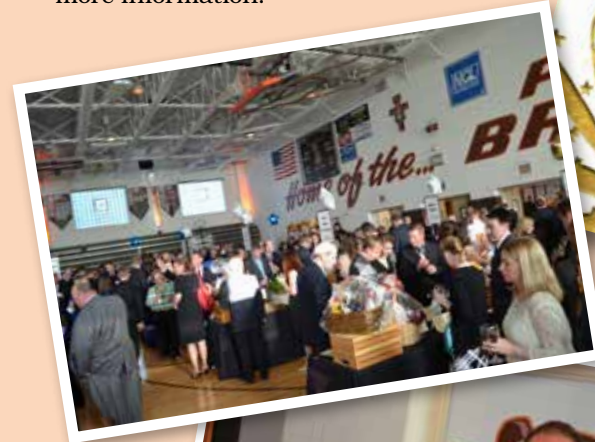
Ana have had five uncles, eight cousins (including Caitlyn 2019), one grandpa and two parents who have all attended Padua.

"As my daughter would say, 'Padua is like a family.'"

"As a parent, having attended Padua, I know that my kids will be given opportunities to succeed and they won't get lost in the crowd."

Making Dreams Come True – Bruin Benefit 2016

This past April 16 was a record breaking evening for the Padua Franciscan community. Nearly 350 people attended our annual Bruin Benefit and in the end help raise more than \$200,000 for the school's financial assistance program. Plans are now underway to make 2017 even better. We are looking for enthusiastic volunteers to assist in various planning committees. Call 440-845-8224 or email ehinzerling@paduafranciscan.com for more information.



Alumni Association — Red, White & Brew'n



A sellout crowd packed Padua's gymnasium on Friday, March 4 for for the 6th annual alumni Red, White & Brew'n event - An Experience of Wine, Beer & Food

Guests enjoyed 12 different wines, craft beer, tons of great food and raffle items. More than \$10,000 was raised for student financial assistance in just two hours.

The alumni association would like to gratefully recognize the following alumni for offering their time and talent in making this event so popular; **Brian & Elaine Heinzerling '86, Mike Campo '75, Jeff Tkachik '88, Mike Frantz '04, Dan Stupka '92 and Colleen Kane-Reilly '98.**

Mark your calendars for next year's event set to take place on Friday, March 3





PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

If you are like most people, you simply go about your busy life, focusing on the present and not thinking much about the future. If you do not have a will or plan in place now, to protect your assets, when that inevitable 'bad day' comes, you may find the state taking care of it for you!

If you die without will — or, as lawyers call it, "intestate" — there's no guarantee who will inherit your assets. Generally, if you were married with kids, your surviving spouse and children will then inherit your assets. If you had minor children, the state will choose their guardians. If you were single and childless, your state will likely determine which of your relatives will inherit your financial assets and property. Whether you're married or single, a parent or childless, a millionaire or middle-income, you need a will. According to a survey recently conducted by Forbes Magazine, 51% of Americans age 55-64 do not have a will; nor do 62% between 45-54; and overall, 57% of us just 'haven't gotten around to it'.

The Friar Club at Padua Franciscan was established to recognize all major donors — both those who give out of current assets and those whose gifts are deferred. When you make a commitment of \$25,000 or more, you become a life-long member of this group of alumni, parents and friends. The most meaningful benefit you will receive by joining The Friar Club is the satisfaction derived from making a lasting contribution to the school's future and the future generations of students.



Elaine '86 and Brian '86 Heinzerling recently made a commitment to secure the future of Padua through a life insurance policy naming Padua as the sole beneficiary. Elaine and Brian's love for their alma mater began with their own 'love story'. A friendship that began in high school later blossomed to marriage and a family of Paduans, including John '17, Pete '20 and soon, Brenna '22. The Heinzerling's

The Friar Club at Padua Franciscan was established to recognize all major donors

not only give their treasure, but also their time and talent. They are two of the key people responsible for the popular Red, White & Brew'n alumni fundraising event. Elaine is a part of the Advancement Office team at Padua and says there isn't anywhere she would rather be. "Padua has become like home to me, Brian and our children". For that reason, Brian and Elaine made the decision to include Padua in their gift planning. "It is the easiest way to contribute now, and make a difference for our children as well as future students", stated Brian.



Larry J. Fechko '72, of Mechanicstown, Ohio has been called a 'gentleman farmer' by fellow Paduan and friend, Jerry Jindra. In actuality, Larry is a retired engineer who now spends his days doing what he loves — being outdoors taking care of 360+ acres of beautiful countryside. He shared the story of why he and his late wife Val made the joint decision to make a significant bequest to Padua.

"My wife and I were blessed with successful careers and a comfortable life. As we approached retirement, we discussed how we would like to help others less fortunate than us. Education is important to us, especially helping young people get a good foundation for college during their high school years.

"Forty two years after graduation from Padua in '72, I toured the campus with Jerry Jindra '70. While walking the hallways, many great memories came back to me. I was impressed to learn how Padua was on the leading forefront, providing new

programs that would better prepare students for college and the working world.

I made the decision to leave a significant percentage of my estate to Padua when I pass on through a simple bequest. I feel comfortable that the leaders of Padua will channel my donation in the best direction to guarantee Padua's future and to benefit its students. I have great memories of four years that went too fast and want to be a part of creating great memories for future Paduan's."

For information on including Padua in your estate planning, please contact Arlene Gagliardo at 440-845-8224 or agagliardo@paduafranciscan.com.

NOIA HELPS LAUNCH SAINT CLARE SCHOLARSHIP

At the recent Northern Ohio Italian American Foundation (NOIA) meeting held at Padua Franciscan, freshmen **Ariana Marich and Nicholas Antonelli** were presented medals as recipients of the Saint Clare of Assisi NOIA Scholarship. The organization established the scholarship program at Padua to encourage students of Italian-American heritage to pursue a Catholic education who might not otherwise be able to attend. Presenting the awards were Michelle Amato and Michael Climaco of NOIA's Grants Committee.



A View to New VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP

We are pleased to introduce five leaders who recently joined the board:



Richard Dell'Aquila

Mayor of Seven Hills, Ohio, Rick is also the parent of a Padua alumna (**Jessica '10**). As a parent, lawyer, and public leader, he will provide the school with valuable insight ranging from legal to community issues. "I had a first-hand view of the difference that a private education can make, and that motivated me to send my daughter to Padua. My goal is to leave behind a sound and continually well-funded institution." A member of Immaculate Heart of Mary parish in Cleveland, he and his wife Judy live in Seven Hills.



Jeff Hall

Individual wealth manager, CYO coach, and student of education management, served as chairperson of the Padua Franciscan Endowment Trust from 2012 to 2016. "I am striving to become an active member of a team that will mold the future of Padua, a preeminent college and life-preparatory institution in Northeast Ohio." His children, **Brendan '15** and **Bradley '17** are Paduans. Members of St. Anthony of Padua parish, Jeff and his wife Rita make their home in Parma.



James Gaydosh '78

A Financial planner with decades of Padua leadership experience, Jim previously served as trustee of the Padua Franciscan Endowment Trust as well as the Padua Franciscan Alumni Association. Father of **Mark '08, Todd '10, and Kelly '12**, Jim provides Padua with a unique perspective of an alumnus, parent, and leader familiar with Padua's planning processes. Friar Club members and parishioners of St. Albert the Great, Jim and wife, Debbie, reside in North Royalton.



Wayne Ligato '68

Entrepreneur, innovator, and inventor, Wayne was a protégé of Jack Welsh of General Electric. A resident of West Chester, Pennsylvania, Padua had "imported" his management expertise and marketing expertise back to the Cleveland area. Wayne is president and owner of CMI-Promex, Inc. of Pedricktown, New Jersey, a rail industry leader in the rebuilding of movable bridges, manufacture of specialty rails, signal housings, and other equipment. Parents of three children, he and wife Vivian are members of the Friar Club and belong to St. Maximillian Kolbe parish in West Chester.



David Knowles '65

Dave is an attorney and partner at Wegman, Hessles & Vanderburg, where he is chairperson of the firm's Labor-Employment Law Group. He is active in his community, serving on the Strongsville Civil Service Commission, Southwest Hospital Health System's board of trustees, and on the Altenheim Senior Living board of directors. Dave and his wife, Allison are members of the Friar club and have two children, including **Sara (Polo) '96**. They live in Strongsville and are members of St. Joseph parish.

Padua Franciscan High School works because its leadership model is based on site-based management. Day-to-day management decisions are accomplished by a President (Fr. Allan DaCorte, ofm), Principal (**David Stec '86**), and a small team of on-site administrators. However, goals and oversight are provided by a local board of trustees as well as the Franciscan Province of the Sacred Heart (St. Louis, Missouri). Currently comprised of 24 alumni, business and community leaders, as well as five friar representatives, the board and its committees provide invaluable guidance and counsel in such areas as new initiatives, budget, planning, and overall operations. Trustees are elected for three-year terms. A complete list of trustees may be found at PaduaFranciscan.com.

MEDTRACK NEWS

CWRU School of Medicine Hosts MedTrack Senior Researchers

Faculty, staff, and students from the Case Western Reserve School of Medicine hosted the MedTrack seniors for a field trip. These lectures and activities helped students get a feel for "a day in the life" of a medical student and understand various research career paths they might consider, such as a doctorate (PhD) or a dual medical and doctorate degree (also known as an MD-PhD program). They were also exposed to cutting-edge anatomy technology, a lesson in the neurobiology of fear, and recent advancements in the treatment of Rett Syndrome.



Throughout the year, MedTrack seniors are immersed in research as part of the Honors Advanced Science Seminar (HASS) capstone course. Students become critical consumers of healthcare information by taking a deep dive into scientific literature, learning how to analyze statistics, constructing their own IRB-approved public health research, and writing their own scientific articles. This group research, along with their advocacy projects, was presented at Scholars' Day at Northeast Ohio Medical University.



My Upcoming Summer at Harvard: Jorge Barrameda '18

Believe it or not, this process began when I found an ad on YouTube for the Harvard Summer School program. After doing some research, I discovered that I could enroll in a 7-week program that offers eight college credits and provides an authentic college experience. I was thrilled to be accepted in this competitive program. I already attended an orientation on campus where I learned the rules and met some of the professors and tutors. The housing and course registration opened earlier this month, and I enrolled in Pre-Calculus and Intro to Psychiatry. In addition to my studies, there will be time to explore all that Cambridge and Boston have to offer. I can't wait to get started!



My Summer at Stanford: Michael Buccieri '18

Last summer I participated in a month-long college course on biomedical engineering at Stanford University. The course was divided into endocrinology, genomics and comparative biomechanics, where I was assigned. I looked at biological systems, such as grasshopper legs and the body shape of fish, and applied ideas and topics in physics to the systems, showing how certain traits or characteristics affect an organism's ability to thrive and survive. I did several lab experiments to demonstrate these principles and selected one for further study into real-world applications. I presented my work via a poster at a school-wide convention where students, professors and the summer experience staff could ask questions about our findings. I loved the experience and highly recommend that others who are interested in biomedical engineering consider applying.



Katherine Wang '19 joins fellow MedTrack freshman Gillian Castillo '19 at a winter festival)

International Student Selects MedTrack

Xiaoxin Wang '19, known as Katherine, is a new student from the south of China. She is enrolled in Padua through the FLAG (Foreign Links Around the Globe) agency, which helps international students with their high school placements. International students typically enroll in a school for two or more years and plan to graduate from that institution, whereas foreign exchange students enroll for one year and return to their home institution for graduation.

Katherine explained that she was given a list of private (mostly Catholic) schools to choose from which are part of the FLAG network. "I was immediately drawn to Padua because of MedTrack," she said. "No other school offered anything like it." As part of MedTrack, Katherine is being introduced to the U.S. healthcare system in addition to particular careers. Director of MedTrack Laurie Grabowski '89 said, "I'm excited that our students will be exposed to the Chinese healthcare system through Katherine. In addition, I think that viewing the U.S. system through fresh eyes will also prove quite interesting."

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