



..... **CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL TODAY**

SPRING 2021



CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL

1180 Delaware Avenue • Buffalo, NY 14209 • 716.882.0466 • www.canisiushigh.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Canisius High School is a Catholic, Jesuit, independent, college-preparatory school serving young men of diverse backgrounds from throughout Western New York. Canisius challenges its students to strive for excellence as critical thinkers and effective communicators who are open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to justice.

Canisius promotes the development of students through a comprehensive liberal arts curriculum firmly rooted in the Jesuit tradition of education, spirituality and service.

Faithful to St. Ignatius Loyola's desire to provide care and concern for the whole person, Canisius affords each member of the school community the opportunity to develop individual talents for the service of others and the greater glory of God.



Alex Koschuk '21

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Robert Fogg '23 in the Canisius library.

CANISIUS HIGH SCHOOL TODAY SPRING 2021

Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.
President

Andrea Tyrpak-Endres
Principal

Matthew Carver '94
*Vice President of Finance &
Chief Financial Officer*

Andrew Deyell '91
*Vice President for
Institutional Advancement*

Fr. Richard Zanoni, S.J.
Assistant to the President

OFFICE OF INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT:

Debbie Burke
Director of Advancement Services

Jason Josker '01
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Kenneth Liszewski '10
Director of Annual Giving

Kelly Wilkens P'21
Director of Special Events

Paul Zablocki '01
Development Gifts Officer



**Luke Pulinski '23 and
Rowan McNeil '24.**

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.
Martin Haumesser
Michael Hardy '96
Andrea Tyrpak-Endres

PHOTOGRAPHY

Ron Ahrens '91
Ginger Geoffery, APR
Jacob Hanesworth '22
Joshua Henderson '22
Karen Nicosia
Tom Wolf

EDITOR

Ginger Geoffery, APR

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FROM THE

PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

A year ago, we were in the midst of celebrating our school's 150th anniversary and had launched a capital campaign to build on our school's rich traditions with a bold vision for the future. Then, in March...well...suffice to say everyone's plans changed.

With a quick shift to remote learning last spring, preparations for re-opening campus in the fall, and the ups and downs related to COVID during this school year – yes, our short-term plans changed, and changed some more. But our bold vision for the future remains steady.

"We are poised to emerge even stronger
for the decades ahead."

In the short term, we've focused on making sure each current student can continue his Canisius education despite pandemic-related financial hardships. In the long term, one of the priorities of our *Rich Tradition. Bold Vision.* campaign is to grow our endowment. This will ensure a Jesuit education at Canisius remains accessible for future generations.

In the short term, we learned just how important it was that we already had the technology in place to shift quickly and seamlessly to remote learning. In the long term, technology will become even more integral as part of our vision for the Center for Global Learning – a new space for connecting our students and faculty with their counterparts at hundreds of other Jesuit institutions and our alumni around the world.

In the short term, we've dealt with limitations on our athletics, arts and campus ministry programs due to COVID protocols. In the long term, we are poised to emerge even stronger for the decades ahead with 13,000 square feet of dedicated meeting and arts space in our Center for the Arts and the construction of two baseball fields planned at our Stransky Athletic Complex.

We are moving closer to our goal for the *Rich Tradition. Bold Vision.* campaign, and I welcome (and encourage) your support to get us over the top. I invite you to read more about the campaign initiatives at canisiushigh.org/richtraditionboldvision.



I've been consoled by, and grateful for, the resiliency of our Canisius community this past year. With grace and determination our students, faculty and staff have adapted and found success. Our school nurse and facilities team have worked countless hours behind the scenes to keep us safe. Our benefactors (many of you) have stepped up to keep us strong financially.

On the pages ahead you can read some of the stories of our alumni – men who have found success by way of paths perhaps no one would have predicted. I find joy in their stories. The future is unpredictable and we don't ever really know what it holds. Yet, I am confident in the strength, commitment and ability of our school community to deliver an outstanding education, with a forward-looking eye to the future, while being ever faithful to the Jesuit mission entrusted to us. With God's grace and your support, I know we will succeed.

Blessings and gratitude,

David Ciancimino, S.J.

Fr. David Ciancimino, S.J.



FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

This past Christmas, a parent of a recent alumnus shared with us a video clip of her son and three current Canisius seniors – **Santino Panzica '20, Michael Dobrasz '21, Andrew Skakal '21, and Michael Zafuto '21** – singing carols, while wearing masks, outside the homes of some elderly Western New Yorkers. As the Crusaders sang “Silent Night” the camera panned from the singers to an elderly gentleman seated several yards away on his porch. Clearly moved by the music, the man sang along.

The moment struck me because it is a beautiful illustration of what's possible when people use their God-given talents in the service of others – a pillar of our Jesuit mission. This was a grass roots effort by our young men trying to use their gifts to do some real good; it was not an event organized by the school. The moment was also one that may not have happened at all if not for the pandemic. In “normal” times, a Christmas concert would have taken the place of this socially distant caroling.

There are other changes born of necessity over the last year, however, that we may well incorporate into our new normal post-pandemic. One such change involves the flexibility with our now proven ability to teach remotely. No, this is not the end of snow days (students can breathe a sigh of relief). We want to keep that tradition. That said, in situations such as a major storm that in the past would keep us closed for a week or more, we can now shift seamlessly to eLearning.

The increased reliance on technology has forced some teachers out of their comfort zones, but a silver lining is that it has made them more open to trying other new tools and methodologies in their classrooms. For our families, Parent Back to School Night was virtual this year, and while we will bring back the in-person version, we found that the virtual option gave more parents an opportunity to participate and so we will likely continue to offer this as an option as well.

“There are other changes born of necessity over the last year...that we may well incorporate into our new normal post-pandemic.”

Our campus ministry programs have had to be re-thought and the new adaptations resulted in a greater outreach to different groups. We've added a network of food delivery volunteers and coordinated holiday card writing efforts to reach nursing home residents, retired teachers, people in prisons, and alumni senior citizens. We created a new retreat for juniors called John 1:5 with a one-day format and found that it appeals to students who, for various reasons, may not be able to commit to a multi-day retreat. So, while we look forward to the return of our established retreats, service offerings and immersion trips, we also anticipate adding these new initiatives to our traditional offerings.

Every crisis leaves a story in its wake that moves us into an uncertain future. Surely, we still have trying times ahead with this pandemic, but we are seeing glimpses of the light at the end of it. We have had to learn and adapt, to modify and recreate. While doing so, we will continue to persevere and look for more bright moments in the things that we do in the days and weeks ahead.

Respectfully,

Andrea Tyrpak-Endres

Ms. Andrea Tyrpak-Endres

TWO WORLDS

Zoltan Kerekes left Romania behind, began a new life at Canisius, and created an American success story.

Zoltan Kerekes '83 was born in a poor village in the Transylvania region of Romania. The home he shared with his parents and sister had no running water, and electricity was sporadic at best. And as if living under hard core communism wasn't hard enough, the autocratic government under Nicolae Ceausescu was beginning to suppress activities of ethnic Hungarians such as the Kerekes family.

Through persistence, Zoltan's father, a Hungarian Protestant minister, secured visas and passports for the family in the late 1970s and they left Romania for the U.S. He was eventually assigned to the West Side Hungarian Reformed Church on Tonawanda Street in Buffalo where a parishioner recommended Canisius High School for Zoltan. As a freshman in 1980, Zoltan worked with the Canisius janitorial staff to help pay tuition. He did not speak English, but taught himself the language by watching television including Saturday morning cartoons.

"It is difficult to describe the difference between these two worlds – coming from Romania, where life was about survival, to America where there was more affluence than I had ever seen," Zoltan recalls. "But the Jesuits walked me through and made it easier, and I am eternally grateful to them."

"How foreign it was to come from a dirt road village to an American city; from hard core communism to the promises of capitalism; all while not speaking the language."

Working at the school, and with his father doing side jobs in construction, Zoltan had little time for activities at Canisius. Academically, he was strong in the sciences and began to think about a career in medicine. At the church on Tonawanda Street, he met a Jesuit priest, Fr. John Adam, S.J., who had ties to the Hungarian community and had taught philosophy at Fordham University. Following Fr. Adam's encouragement, Zoltan earned a degree in biology from Fordham, but during his pre-med studies Zoltan realized practicing medicine was not for him.



Zoltan Kerekes in Park City, UT.

Despite having taken the Medical College Admission Test (MCAT), Zoltan went to law school instead. He earned his J.D. from Boston University School of Law – where he met his wife, Diana – and went to work as a patent litigation attorney for a law firm in New York City. He was then recruited by White & Case, a top international law firm where his focus was on intellectual property litigation. After several years with the firm, Zoltan and his wife wanted to start a family away from New York City.

Zoltan took a position as senior patent counsel at GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) in Philadelphia, where he was responsible for protecting the intellectual property of the multinational pharmaceutical company. It was at GSK that Zoltan was introduced to venture capital transactions and he began to specialize in managing portfolios for GSK Ventures. In 2004, he co-founded PIPV Capital, a private equity and venture capital firm that focuses on investment in early stage pharmaceutical, dermatology, cardiovascular, and other health care related companies in the United States.

Today, Zoltan is managing partner of the firm and lives with his wife, daughter and son outside of Philadelphia. He notes how far he has come from leaving his small Romanian village and credits Canisius for helping him on his life's path.

"I must reiterate how foreign it was to come from a dirt-road village to an American city; from hard core communism to the promises of capitalism; all while not speaking the language," Zoltan concludes. "Canisius gave me a safe, nurturing environment at a very challenging time and allowed me to find my way in a whole new world."

MEDIEVAL HISTORY TO MODERN SCIENCE

William Holodnak went against his natural bent at times on his path to creating a multinational executive search firm.

William Holodnak '64 studied medieval history in a Ph.D. program at The Johns Hopkins University. For more than a decade, he managed a renowned art house theater near Harvard Square in Cambridge, Massachusetts. During that time, he earned his MBA in finance from Boston University, passing the CPA exam without having a degree in accounting. He went on to work for Price Waterhouse before finding his true calling in creating a multinational executive search firm for the billionaire owner of an investment company.

Each path to success, he says, leads in fundamental ways back to his Canisius High School experience.

"Canisius High School gave me the breadth of thinking and faith in my own imagination and intellect for which I carry a deep sense of gratitude," Bill explains. "It was a very rich and, some might argue, overly rigorous environment, but there's nothing wrong with getting your butt kicked at that age."

Bill grew up in the hamlet of Wanakah, in the town of Hamburg, with his parents and younger brother in what he describes as the quintessential post-war nuclear family. The commute to and from Canisius left little time for sports or extracurricular activities but it did afford the opportunity to immerse himself in his studies. He was accepted into the Greek honors courses and the sciences honors program and chose the scientific route, genuflecting to the exigencies created by Sputnik.

"Intellectually, I was attracted to the classics and Greek courses but went into sciences instead, doing as St. Thomas Aquinas taught and going against my natural bent," he recalls. "There were times I regretted that decision, but in the end this technical discipline has played a role in my career, especially today as my firm specializes in recruiting senior executives for high science companies in the biotech field."

"I was attracted to the classics and Greek courses but went into sciences instead... there were times I regretted that decision."

The firm Bill references is Occam Global – named, aptly, for William of Occam, a Medieval philosopher whose concept, Occam's Razor, promotes an unrelenting focus on essentials in problem solving. Currently CEO of Occam, Bill founded the senior-level recruiting and organizational development firm in 2012 in New York City where he works with his son and business partner John.



Prior to starting Occam, Bill led J. Robert Scott, a global executive search firm he created after meeting Ned Johnson, the billionaire owner of Fidelity Investments. Created as a proprietary executive search firm for Fidelity, Bill grew the business for more than 25 years and became a preeminent leader in the executive recruiting industry. He has traveled the world and spoken extensively on organizational development and career management at institutions such as Harvard Business School, MIT, and Northeastern University.

Outside of the business world, Bill maintains an intense interest in music and the arts, having served on the boards of Berklee College of Music and SFJAZZ. He has also taught film at Boston University. He lives with his wife of 46 years Margie in New York City, near his son John, his daughter Lili Anolik, a published novelist and contributing editor for Vanity Fair, son-in-law, and two grandsons.

"I passed the CPA exam without an accounting background; I was able to decipher Medieval Latin documents in graduate school; and, even though I disliked the science honors courses in high school, I now regularly converse with Nobel Laureate level scientists," Bill concludes. "That is my Canisius education at work."



DISNEY DEVELOPER

Michael Healy guided Disney's successful High School Musical franchise.

When **Michael Healy '66** was writing for the Canisius High School newspaper, *The Citadel*, he reviewed The Beatles' *Second Album* and noted that he didn't think the band had much of a future. Fortunately, Michael's sense of judgment vastly improved since that review.

Growing up in Buffalo, Michael always had an interest in literature and the arts. In addition to the school newspaper, he wrote for the school's literary magazine, helped to found the chess club, and studied in the Greek honors program. He notes a number of teachers who helped to strengthen his interests which would begin to lay the groundwork for a varied and distinguished career.

"James Dolan was the first teacher I ever had who gave me a sense of what English studies were," Michael remembers. "He was kind and caring and really opened up a lot of worlds for me and my friends with similar interests in the arts."

"One way or another, I still find time to write."

Michael further immersed himself in English studies at Canisius College. After earning a degree in English language and literature, Michael was selected for a scholarship to the graduate program in English at Harvard University. He earned his master's from Harvard and was beginning studies for his PhD when his mother became ill and his father passed away.

Returning home, Michael drove a cab for a time as he looked for work as a writer. In 1973, he landed a job at the *Courier Express* starting as a beat reporter and moving up to columnist and music and arts critic.

While at the paper, Michael and local director and writer, Frederick King Keller, co-wrote the screenplay for the movie *Vamping*, starring Patrick Duffy, widely known for his role on TV's drama *Dallas*. Then the *Courier Express* closed. The movie – some of which was filmed in Buffalo – premiered shortly after.

Michael headed west and landed a job as a film critic for the *Denver Post*. When long-time friend and fellow Crusader **Gregg Maday '66** encouraged Michael to move even further west, he went to work as a film critic for the *Los Angeles Daily News*. There he met his future wife, Beth Shuster, a journalist at the paper. Michael began a career in television when Mayday, then an executive at Warner Brothers, hired him as director of development, working on TV movies of the week.

"I learned the trade of movie development from Gregg and the rest, as they say, is history," Michael explains.

Michael's work caught the attention of the Disney Channel and he was hired to help develop movies aimed at kids. He carved out a niche making wholesome family TV movies, and then Michael made history guiding the mega-hits in Disney's *High School Musical* franchise which helped launch the careers of stars Zac Efron and Vanessa Hudgens. The premiere of the second movie became the most watched cable telecast with more than 18 million viewers.

After 16 years and more than 100 movies, Michael left the Disney Channel. With a grown son and daughter, Michael now lives with his wife of 32 years in Southern California, where Beth is chief of staff for the provost at USC. And Michael continues to write, including film scripts and poetry.

"One way or another, I still find time to write," Michael concludes, underscoring the long path he has followed since that review of The Beatles for *The Citadel*.

FINDING DIRECTION

Milton Braswell built a career in juvenile corrections guided by his Jesuit education.

Milton Braswell III '73 says you can check the transcripts – he was not the most serious student as a young man. But with the guidance of his mother and his eighth grade parochial school teacher, Sister Mary Pia, he was accepted into Canisius High School. And that was life-changing.

“When Sister Pia asked my mom – who was a teacher herself – where she wanted me to go to high school, Mom said Canisius because she had heard it was the best,” Milton remembers. “Sister said she would see to it and she made it happen – otherwise I would have gone to Kensington and likely would have followed a very different path.”

Growing up the oldest of five children in Buffalo, Milton worked through high school and college at some of his family’s businesses including grocery stores and drug stores. It left him little time for activities at Canisius, but he was on a freshman basketball team that played exhibition games at half time of college games at the former Memorial Auditorium. He notes that the discipline required of his studies and the work after school helped him develop a strong work ethic, even though he may not have realized it at the time.

“It is so meaningful when they say I heard you – the things I taught them, they are teaching their own children.”

Speaking to the times, Milton says life for a private high school student of color in the late 1960s and early 1970s was challenging, but he found the environment at Canisius stimulating and interesting. He remembers being influenced by art teacher Elizabeth “Liz” Friedman, the school’s first female full-time teacher, saying he equated her to his situation of being in the minority. He says other dynamic and engaging instructors, including the late Fr. Gerald McIntyre, S.J., instilled in him the importance of critical thinking, listening and hearing what others have to say, and treating people with empathy. He would carry these principles throughout his career.

Milton majored in psychology at Canisius College. While sitting in his dorm room during Buffalo’s famous Blizzard of ’77, a call from a friend in California convinced him to escape the brutal weather and head west. “I graduated on May 15 and was in sunny Southern California by June 1,” he muses.

Milton worked a few different jobs before joining what was then known as the California Department of Youth Authority. It would be the beginning of a 29-year career that included positions in a juvenile detention facility, supervisor of a parole office and eventually a state



parole division. He retired as a director of parole services and community corrections. Having made his home in Folsom, CA, Milton estimates he has worked with thousands of young people and says it is most gratifying when, years later, he meets one of them and they tell him he made a difference.

“It is so meaningful when they say I heard you – the things I taught them, they are teaching their own children,” he concludes. “That is why I want to acknowledge the foundations Canisius High School gave me. To this day I tell people about the value of a Jesuit education. In fact, my daughter chose Loyola University Chicago, knowing the impact the Jesuits had on me.”

CARIBBEAN CAREER

Tyler Dunn charts his own course in the charter yacht industry.

Tyler Dunn '05 knew from the day he graduated from Canisius High School that he was not going to pursue a job where he had to wear a tie. Sure enough, today he wears many hats as a charter excursion operator in the U.S. Virgin Islands, working alongside his wife, Kelsey, and sharing duties of captain, scuba instructor, guide, chef, and more.

In fact, Tyler's route to Canisius was a bit of a voyage itself. He grew up in Lancaster before his father's job took the family to Asheville, North Carolina. Once there, his parents realized the area high schools did not offer the quality of education they wanted for their son. Tyler's father, **James Dunn '78**, knew Canisius well as did Tyler's grandfather, **Joseph Dunn '55**. The family worked out a plan in which Tyler lived with his grandparents while attending Canisius and returned to Asheville during the summers. According to Tyler, while challenging, the effort was worth it.

"Canisius, and in particular, Fr. Fred Betti, S.J. taught me how to think for myself and make educated decisions," he explains. "Those are valuable lessons I carry with me to this day, especially in leading excursions where my wife and I have many different responsibilities."

"Canisius...taught me how to think for myself and make educated decisions."

Tyler played hockey and lacrosse at Canisius and, after graduation, continued to field a lacrosse stick at Presbyterian College in South Carolina. He eventually transferred to Appalachian State University in North Carolina where he earned a bachelor's degree and obtained skills in outdoor education. Tyler was planning to work with his parents operating a summer camp where they have been executive directors since 2002. He had worked at the camp during the summer and learned how to cook there. But a vacation in the Virgin Islands rerouted his plans.

Tyler met a yacht captain and asked what was required for such a career. Upon his advice, Tyler went to Florida – where he met his wife – and became a certified scuba instructor. He actually proposed to Kelsey underwater while scuba diving. Tyler worked a number of different jobs in the Virgin Islands before he and his wife, a licensed captain, began operating excursions on a small yacht for the boat's owner. They were



then asked to crew a larger yacht for a family they had met and have been operating the vessel for the past four years.

Working out of St. Thomas, the Dunns make up a two-person crew taking guests on Caribbean island excursions lasting anywhere from five days to two weeks. Among the many hats worn by Tyler, he is a culinary award-winning chef adjusting menus and meal schedules according to the needs of their guests. He notes that while more than half of the guests come from America, others come from all over the world including Brazil, Spain and Russia. Tyler estimates they have crewed more than 150 excursions, as many as 25 per year, during a season that runs from early November to the following August. During the off season, the Dunns make their home in Wilmington, North Carolina.

"My advice to current Canisius students is to find a way to be comfortable with yourself and form educated opinions on your own," Tyler concludes. "Find that inner peace and you can rely on it wherever life takes you."

STAR POWER

Mathew McHugh worked with celebrities on Saturday Night Live, and now he taps into talent on a mission-driven path.

Mathew McHugh '00 was a familiar face at the Campus Ministry office when he was a student at Canisius High School. His family had already instilled the importance of service to others as he volunteered for the Independent Health Foundation, operated by the company co-founded by his father. Still, his desire to help others grew at Canisius.

"Canisius was a tremendously formative and positive experience for me," Mat recalls. "With the influence of staff and teachers such as **Fr. Robert Reiser, S.J. '82** and religion instructor Andrea Tyrpak-Endres, community service became my passion."

Mat helped to form the Pedro Arrupe Society of Service at Canisius, named for a Spanish Jesuit priest who dedicated his life to helping the underserved. Mat and fellow Crusaders established the society to serve at local homeless shelters and soup kitchens among other volunteer efforts. It's worth noting that at the same time, Mat says he was also obsessed with television and film. It was the combination of the two passions – service and media arts – that would set the stage for Mat's career path.

After Canisius, Mat applied to New York University. When asked during an entrance interview why he wanted to attend NYU, he tried to think of something unique to the New York City experience and quickly replied, "I want to work at *Saturday Night Live!*" He was accepted, but little did he know his response would be so prescient.



Mat McHugh working with actor Dakota Fanning on a Save the Children project.

While majoring in dramatic literature at NYU, Mat applied every semester for an internship at SNL. Finally, by his senior year, he was given an internship in the talent department. That led to a 10-year career as a talent executive at SNL and encounters with a long list of celebrities and musicians, from presidential candidate Barack Obama and actor Tom Hanks, to rock stars Paul McCartney and Tom Petty, to name just a few.

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 "Here it is less about the celebrities themselves as it is to...help as many children in the U.S. and around the world as possible."

"The talent department is responsible for every aspect of working with the guest hosts and musical guests, from booking and travel accommodations to show preparations to running the after parties," Mat explains. "I was privileged to work with a group of exceptional people at SNL who always gave 100% and operated at the top of their game."

Despite the excitement of working for one of the most popular programs in television history, Mat never lost his passion for service, the "Men for Others" attitude that flourished at Canisius. When a colleague told him about an opportunity at Save the Children, a worldwide humanitarian aid organization, Mat was intrigued.

The organization was looking for ways to involve celebrities who shared Save the Children's vision. Mat was hired as director of talent in 2015. Working from New York City, he says he has been able to transfer the skills he honed at SNL to Save the Children in helping to build a mission-driven program.

"Here it is less about the celebrities themselves as it is to build long-term relationships with them so we can promote our goals and help as many children in the U.S. and around the world as possible," Mat explains. "Once again, I am working with people at the top of their game. I am grateful that the foundations of a Jesuit education at Canisius have set me up for success."



Mat McHugh in Petra, Jordan after visiting Save the Children's programs for Syrian refugees.



FAST BREAKS AND PHOTO FINISHES

John Ruffino found success on the basketball court, in business, and in harness racing.

Photo courtesy of Paul White: John Ruffino and Drew Monti with horse Dylan Sam at Batavia Downs in 2020.

John Ruffino '72 was a shooting guard on the Canisius High School basketball team, making varsity as a sophomore and scoring 25 points a game on average over his four years. And to think he might not have been a Crusader if not for his mother.

"Competition to get into Canisius was fierce, and despite scoring high on the entrance exam, there was a chance I would not get in," explains John, who was following his brother **Thomas Ruffino '70** to the school. "My mom went to speak with the admissions people and said 'my son will make you proud if you admit him.' They did...and I did everything I could to live up to my mom's pledge."

John was a strong student and, staying true to his mother's word, he says with a laugh that he never received JUG during his time at Canisius. Upon graduation, he was recruited by the University at Buffalo to play Division I basketball. He suited up for varsity as a freshman and played all four years at UB where he earned a bachelor's degree in business management.

"I did everything I could to live up to my mom's pledge."

After offers from Firestone and Carnation, John was recruited to work for the Polaroid Corporation, the world leader in instant film and cameras. During his 32-year career with the company, he rose through the ranks to national sales manager and was once featured on the cover of *Selling* magazine, a national publication.

Interestingly, Buffalo Bills fans can thank John every time they cheer to the "Shout" song. Turns out, Polaroid owned the

rights to the song. When the Bills wanted permission to use it, the price tag was astronomical. John convinced the marketing department to sell the rights to the Bills for a fraction of what Polaroid was asking. Unfortunately, with changing market conditions, Polaroid eventually went into bankruptcy and John was out of a job.

John then took management positions with the U.S. Census Bureau and Coca Cola. At the same time, he turned more of his attention to harness racing, a sport his uncle had introduced him to when John was in college. Like his uncle, John became an owner of horses about ten years ago, racing at Batavia Downs, Buffalo Raceway, and tracks in Florida.

More recently, his driver for several races has been **Drew Monti '12**, one of the most successful drivers on the national harness racing circuit with more than 1,500 wins. "Every time we are fortunate to hire Drew and I see him in the winner's circle, I give a shout out to Canisius," John says.

This past year, John gave a shout out to Canisius in a different way when he established a scholarship at the school in memory of his late wife, Carolyn, and his late mother and father, Sarah and John. Carolyn, known as Carrie, a nurse for 42 years at Millard Fillmore Hospital, passed away from cancer in 2019. John's best friend, **Erik Brady '72**, gave the eulogy at her funeral.

"Carrie was a driving force in my life and my mom was instrumental in my attending Canisius," he concludes. "I wanted to recognize them as well as the great high school education I received. The scholarship is meant to honor my family while helping another family to send their son to Canisius."



Kevin Reiser with his supervisor Jerome Gilgan at the Volunteers of America Men's Residential Center.

"I learned the value of building community."

LIVING THE MISSION

Kevin Reiser switches gears in college, and finds personal growth in the service of others.

Kevin Reiser '15 is quite familiar with the Jesuit motto of "Men and Women for Others." His Crusader family includes his father, **John Reiser, MD '84**, brothers **Michael Reiser '08** and **John Reiser '10**, and grandfather, **Charles Reiser, Sr. '47**. That's not to mention his uncle, **Fr. Robert Reiser, S.J. '81**, who served as president of McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester and is the incoming executive director of the Jesuit Schools Network in Washington, D.C.

So, it is no surprise that the youngest Reiser was involved in numerous service projects, retreats and immersion trips during his four years at the school. As a junior, he traveled to Nicaragua on a Companions service immersion trip where he helped build a chapel in a village. Whether engaged in such activities or running cross country at Canisius, Reiser said he most appreciated the sense of community the school generated.

"Canisius was a super positive experience for me because there were so many ways I learned the value of building community," Kevin explains. "Certainly, service was a natural fit for me, but I also felt that spirit of kinship in sports and in the classroom."

After graduating, Kevin was interested in pursuing a career in education or the medical field. True to family tradition, he considered several Jesuit colleges before deciding on Marquette University in Milwaukee. He started out taking pre-med courses but became interested in math after completing a couple of calculus classes. "I remember thinking back to my math teacher at Canisius, Mr. Don Williams, and how I first saw the language of math in his class," Kevin recalls. "Canisius also taught me to follow my interests, so I switched my major to math with a minor in biology."

Kevin graduated early from Marquette and worked for the next several months at a brewery in Milwaukee. He had heard about the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC) and began to think about another of his interests – service to others. He applied and was accepted for a one-year commitment at the Volunteers of America Men's Residential Center in Portland, Oregon.

He served as recreation coordinator at the residential drug and alcohol treatment facility, creating what he calls "forced fun" for the residents to help them in their recovery. The fun included activities such as hiking and attendance at Portland Trailblazers basketball games and excursions to Seattle Seahawks football games. In a Crusader twist, **Alex Gioia '16** was accepted as a volunteer at the same facility while Reiser was there, unusual given the fact there are dozens of JVC sites across the country.

Reiser says his JVC experience taught him a lot about personal growth and how it takes a lot of hard work. He finished his service year last summer and took on a full-time position as a residential counselor while taking online courses to prepare for a possible return to school on a health professional path. "Understanding the JVC values of community, social justice, simple living and spirituality was natural for me as a Canisius graduate," he concludes. "The whole experience taught me personal growth is not something gained, but something practiced."



JESUIT GUIDANCE

Fr. Charles Frederico, S.J. serves on the Canisius High School board of trustees. He is also the senior director of mission and ministry at St. Joseph's Preparatory School in Philadelphia. Fr. Frederico was ordained in 2006 and his previous assignments include serving as the director of vocations for the Maryland and USA Northeast Provinces of the Society of Jesus.

What do you enjoy most about being a Jesuit?

The 25 years of my Jesuit life have brought me into contact with many people in their happiest and in their saddest moments - really intimate moments where I recognize how privileged it is for me to be there. Examples would be the smiles on the faces of young couples when they tell me they are engaged and would like me to witness their wedding; or hearing from former students when they call about a family member who is sick or who has died; or watching a light bulb go off for a student that finally grasps something in their academics after having struggled previously. These moments are pure gift and strengthen my own relationship with Jesus. In these moments I pray for them, and I thank God for the gift that brought me into their lives. Relationships are the most important component of a Jesuit's life and it starts with learning in the Society that a deep interiority with Jesus is at work in each of us and helping those we serve, and the world around us, to encounter Him is AWESOME.

One way your path to the Jesuits is different than most is that you trained as a chef at the Culinary Institute of America.

Sunday dinners were huge in my Italian-American household. The food, the flavors and the culture led me to work in a Neopolitan chef's restaurant. Chef Domenico mentored me, and my mom, grandmom and great-aunts all shared their family recipes and the surrounding stories. All of that centers on food, family and a faith that invests one's gifts to bring others together. The altar, similar to my family's dinner table, gathers us. Being responsible for breaking bread together is sacred to me and a privilege I do not take for granted. Just as we all need to eat, we all need Jesus Christ.

Do you cook for your fellow Jesuits?

Through the early closures of the pandemic I cooked 4-5 nights a week at the Jesuit Community. I loved it and found great consolation knowing I could provide simple but tasty meals to my brothers as a way of coping with the challenges.

How does your current role at St. Joseph's Prep help you in your service with the Canisius board of trustees?

With fewer Jesuits in the building, helping our school live true to its Ignatian tenets becomes my priority. Academic excellence is obviously at the core, but is done with a heart and a vision for co-creating a world that is better – *magis*. The Canisius board of trustees are dedicated women and men who long to see our young men holistically educated in mind, body and spirit. Helping to ensure the board remains focused on that goal is my priority. Fr. Ciancimino is a great friend and working with him to help guide the ship is a gift.

What is your advice for others who are trying to discern where God is calling them?

Understanding one's vocation is so important. The capacity to listen to how God may be speaking in that interior space of our hearts is really at the root. Anyone can inspire Jesuit vocations. I am confident that the first step is to **Inspire** a young man to consider how he is living the gifts God has given him; then **Invite** the young man to invest more deeply in praying the Examen daily; **Observe** the Holy Father, Pope Francis and see how he is infused with that depth and vulnerability to God's grace. And then, **Ask**, "Have you ever considered being a Jesuit?" It's a life worth living.

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**AUGUST 2 -
AUGUST 5**

LACROSSE

**JULY 26 -
JULY 29**

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**AUGUST 9 -
AUGUST 12**

HOCKEY

**DATES
TBA**

WORKSHOPS

*For rising sixth and seventh
grade boys*

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JULY 12 - 16 OR JULY 19 - 23

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JULY 26 - JULY 30

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STUDENTS TO WATCH



MALIK JEMISON '21

"I wanted them all to know that whatever color, you are my brother."

HOMETOWN: Buffalo

WHY CANISIUS: My brother **Lamont Singletary '09** introduced me to the school at a young age, but it was taking part in HAP (Higher Achievement Program) the summer before eighth grade that really swayed me toward Canisius. Everyone was so friendly.

ATHLETICS: Basketball has been my sport since I was four, and I can remember shooting by myself with a hoop in the backyard. The way last season ended was a heartbreaker. We advanced to the state championship game but never got to play it. I like to think we would've won that game, but the unfinished business just motivates us more for this season. One of my favorite Canisius memories so far was winning the St. Pius X Christmas Classic in Atlanta in 2019. We were down I think by 14 at the half, and the crowd was wild. We were the first Canisius team to win that tournament.

ACADEMICS: Mr. (John) Anderson makes me love learning Latin. I was skeptical going in whether I'd like Latin, but he engages the students in the lessons and makes learning fun.

FUTURE PLANS: I've committed to the SUNY Fredonia basketball team, and I'm leaning towards studying sports management.

MY CANISIUS EXPERIENCE: After the protests last summer people were attacking other people because they were speaking out or they weren't speaking out. I have a lot of white and a lot of Black friends and I wanted them all to know that whatever color, you are my brother. So, I posted a picture on social media from the league championship game that showed me with two Black teammates and our white teammates. In the post I wrote about how Canisius has made me feel at home. My freshman year I did think to myself, "there's a whole bunch of white kids here," but I've found it doesn't matter. Everyone here is my brother. I didn't think the post would blow up, but it did, and I appreciate the positive feedback from everyone.

SEAN MELLIGAN '21

"If you stay within your bubble and close your mind you are never going to grow as a person."

HOMETOWN: Lancaster

WHY CANISIUS: My brother **Colin '19** went here and it seemed like a good school to prepare me for college. It's been that and so much more. I love it here.

ACADEMICS: The teachers make a huge difference. For example, I never cared much about history, but Mr. Rizzo (**Sam Rizzo '97**) truly enjoys teaching and his enthusiasm makes me and others in the class want to learn. I even signed up to do the Gettysburg trip last summer which unfortunately was cancelled. Mr. (Brian) Spurlock is another of my favorites. He encourages students to learn through trial and error, and he's why I fell in love with chemistry. Chemistry is like a puzzle that I enjoy working to solve.

ACTIVITIES: I've played hockey all four years at Canisius, and it's been a great way to make friends. I volunteer with a few groups outside of school; one of those is the Lancaster Youth Court. I stumbled across it when I was looking to fulfill my service requirement for Canisius and I've kept doing it.

I serve with other kids my age as a youth juror. We talk with young people who've broken the law – maybe they've stolen something or were caught with drugs. By doing youth court, their offenses stay off their criminal records. Most of these kids have lost sight of what's important; many have bad home situations. We try to help them get back on track.

FUTURE PLANS: Dentistry has interested me ever since I was little. I like hands-on work and being able to see the progress. If I can move teeth and correct problems, I can make people smile.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: If you stay within your bubble and close your mind you are never going to grow as a person. Be open to trying new things and meeting new people.





CHARLES PIGGOT '21

"It felt like this was the place that would help me grow as a person."

HOMETOWN: Grand Island

WHY CANISIUS: Some kids I played hockey with were already Canisius students and they convinced me to shadow here, and when I did it felt like this was the place that would help me grow as a person.

ACADEMICS: Learning about the infrastructure of the United States, the Roaring Twenties, the industries that developed and economics are all interesting to me. The teachers at Canisius are willing to make themselves available when students need help. They did a good job transitioning to eLearning last spring. That was an experience though that made me realize how much fun we actually had at school. I never thought I'd find myself saying "I want to be in school," but that's what happened.

ATHLETICS: I've played hockey since I was six or seven and it's a big part of my life. I play for Canisius and a travel team. It's helped me learn time management skills and to prioritize so I can get homework done and go to practice or do whatever else I need to do.

FUTURE PLANS: When I started at Canisius I didn't give a lot of thought to Jesuit education, but now that I've experienced it, I can see that it is an outstanding opportunity. I'm hoping to continue my Jesuit education at Fordham, and being in New York City is part of the attraction too. I want to study business and economics. I hope to eventually create something for myself, maybe my own business.

MY CANISIUS EXPERIENCE: Canisius has helped me grow in ways I never would have thought. The retreats have taught me the value of taking a step back and taking a deep breath to gain a new clarity. And, I've learned that simple communications are important too; something as small as saying "good morning" to someone in the hallway can have a big impact.

WISKEN WHITED '21

"Canisius has taught me the importance of being organized and not to procrastinate."

HOMETOWN: North Tonawanda

ACADEMICS: Canisius has taught me the importance of being organized and not to procrastinate. The academics here are challenging, but that's part of why I chose this school – to be prepared for college.

ATHLETICS: Good athletic programs are another reason I chose Canisius. I do football, soccer, basketball, rugby, and track with football being my favorite. I play wide receiver, kicker, cornerback, and special teams. It's a thrill making plays and having crowds at games makes it even more exciting.

FUTURE PLANS: The pandemic has taken a toll on my future plans. I plan to play football in college but I don't know where yet and we haven't had any games yet this year to show colleges. I worked out on my own when the pandemic hit, and got back to training on the field over the summer with my wide receivers coach. I'll likely study business or sports management at college.

SERVICE: I play drums at my church, First Trinity Lutheran, and I've been a crew leader for vacation bible school where I work with a group of kids in re-enactments of bible verses and discussions of how to apply bible lessons to our lives. It's good to help kids learn about God.



MY BACKGROUND: I moved to Buffalo in 2010 when I was adopted after the earthquake in Haiti. I don't remember much of the trauma. I have two sisters who now live in Michigan. We keep in touch and were planning to visit last year until COVID. My birth parents are no longer alive, but I did get back to Haiti for the first time in January 2020. It was good to see old friends and it brought back a lot of memories. I'm thankful that I could come to Buffalo and this school and get a better future with more opportunities.

JIHO ANDREW KANG '22

"The school will help you be the best 'you' you can be."

HOMETOWN: I'm living in Kenmore, but I was born in Seattle and grew up in Daegu, South Korea.

WHY CANISIUS: In Korea I attended an international school but always wanted to come to America. I'm from a Catholic household and my family felt Canisius' Jesuit tradition would help guide me to become a better person and better student. In retrospect, it may have been God's will that I came here.

ACTIVITIES: The fact the Canisius offers opportunities to be involved in so many things is one of the great things about Canisius. I've done theatre, chorus, writing and robotics clubs, and I'm on the bowling team. I've also volunteered at events including Open House. I enjoyed talking with families at Open House because anyone can say what Canisius offers but when parents and prospective students actually hear it from a current student, the message is more impactful.

MY CANISIUS EXPERIENCE: Students and teachers are open to hearing about the experiences I've had in Korea and the culture I bring to Canisius. I'm happy to answer their questions because they're respectful and inquisitive; they're not asking with racist connotations. I'm very thankful for everyone who has helped me, and continues to help me, at Canisius.



FUTURE PLANS: The pandemic has limited opportunities for service trips and I'm hoping I can do a Companions service immersion trip before I graduate, or that I can come back for one after I graduate. It's such a unique part of the Canisius experience that I don't want to miss it. For college, I'll probably study psychology or law. I eventually want to work to expand access to premium educational services which right now are often limited to children in specific income brackets.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: Don't be afraid. The school will help you be the best "you" you can be. The effort you put in, you will get back tenfold.



DEVIN SCHAEFER '22

"Getting to know the people I'm helping is eye-opening."

HOMETOWN: Elma

ALUMNI RELATIVES: Grandfather Donald Gawronski '53, cousin Dakota Schaefer '17, brother Grayson Schaefer '19

ACTIVITIES: Hockey is my sport. I played hockey and baseball through middle school, but have focused just on hockey since starting high school. I love being on the ice and the fast pace.

ACADEMICS: Science and math are my favorite subjects, and I might want to pursue a career in science or medicine. I'm in the Medical Club and we've had doctors and orthodontists come in as

guest speakers. It's interesting to hear from them and get an idea of what those careers are like. For college, I'd prefer a medium-sized school in an urban area because of access to restaurants and other resources and amenities that cities have.

FAVORITE TEACHER: Ms. (Kathleen) Riley is always energetic and smiling. Even if my day isn't going well, when I go into her classroom she brings up my mood.

SERVICE: My brother was volunteering with a group called Touching Bases which helps mentally and physically disabled people play softball, and he got me volunteering there as well. Unfortunately, we weren't able to do the program this past summer because of COVID, but I'm looking forward to doing it again. Getting to know the people I'm helping is eye-opening. Some live with their parents and some live in group homes. I appreciate hearing what life is like for them.

HOW CANISIUS HAS CHANGED ME: I'm the only student in my grade who came from my public school (Alden), and I only knew my brother and a couple of kids from hockey when I arrived here. That forced me to improve my social skills in order to make new friends. I definitely like the Canisius experience better than public school because Canisius feels more like a community.



MICHAEL DOCTOR '23

"It's all about looking out for one another."

HOMETOWN: Grand Island

WHY CANISIUS: Good academics and athletics were two key things I was looking for. Canisius has excellent academics plus a football team while another school I was considering doesn't have football, so that was one difference-maker. Another was the way I was welcomed when I visited Canisius. Everyone here made me feel comfortable.

ACTIVITIES: Sports have always been a big part of my life. I play football, basketball, and baseball. The past year has definitely been different with fewer sports happening because of the pandemic. Last spring when we went remote, I adjusted quickly to an individual workout schedule that involved getting up at seven in the morning

to lift weights, and other times I'd go to fields near my house to work on football training. The coaches were great about staying in touch while we weren't at school to help keep me on track with my training.

ACADEMICS: I find science classes interesting because everything in life has science behind it. That said, I don't know that I'll focus on science in college. I'm leaning more towards sports management. Because sports are such an important part of my life, I think that's a career that I would enjoy.

RETREATS: The Sophomore Retreat this year was my first retreat experience, and going into it I honestly didn't expect much. It turned out to be very helpful though. In my mentor group we talked about some deep stuff which helped us get to know each other better. We shared good things that have happened to us and also bad things, and it got me thinking about how self-reflection can help me become a better person.

"MEN FOR OTHERS": It's all about looking out for one another. For example, if a kid in my class is having a bad day I can try to find a way to pick him up.

EVAN IZATT '23

"I felt a sense of community here; a place where people look out for one other."

HOMETOWN: East Aurora

WHY CANISIUS: My brother went to St. Joe's and I initially thought I'd go there too, but I shadowed at both schools and I preferred Canisius. I felt a sense of community here; a place where people look out for one other.

ACTIVITIES: Crew is a cool sport. I did gymnastics and track prior to coming to Canisius and I like that there is more of a team aspect to crew. We have to work as a unit. Even when school went remote, crew stuck together and did Zoom meetings before classes every morning. Aside from crew, I enjoy art. Drawing with colored pencils is my preferred medium for now.

ACADEMICS: The hands-on learning – labs and experiments – we're doing in chemistry this year are interesting to me. I like math and science classes and I'm thinking I may want to study engineering at college.

RETREATS: Because we didn't get to have a Freshman Retreat last year, this year's Sophomore Retreat was my first retreat experience. While it had fun aspects, it also allowed us to do some deeper thinking and that's important to do with other people my own age who might be dealing with similar things. Beyond the



retreats, teachers here are also tuned in to what students might be going through. Mr. Cumbo (**Paul Cumbo '97**), for example, pays attention to what's going on with students beyond school work and he checks in on them.

ADVICE FOR FUTURE CRUSADERS: If you float through your classes and then just go home, you won't get as much out of your Canisius experience. If you do sports or activities, or even stay after class and talk to teachers, it'll make the whole experience better because you are building relationships; you are participating in the community.



ASHTON JOSEPH '23

"If I can change someone's life for the better, that's what it's all about."

HOMETOWN: Buffalo

ACTIVITIES: When I was in kindergarten I noticed people playing chess at the library. I started learning the game and became a state champion at age nine. I'm in the Chess Club at Canisius and I think word has gotten around school that I'm pretty good, but it's all fun. Something that's new for me is tennis. I started playing when I came to Canisius and I like being part of a team. I'm also in the Robotics Club which indulges my love for building things.

ACADEMICS: The switch to remote learning helped me see the importance of physically being in school. While the Canisius teachers did a good job with the transition, so much human interaction is missing online. Even now that we're back on campus I want to high five and give hugs but we can't do that and stay six feet apart. Getting to know each other on a personal level and helping each other through problems is so much of what Canisius is about. That's harder to do these days.

SERVICE: Before the pandemic, I was an altar server every week at St. Pius X church. During COVID I've found a new way to serve – I'm lecturing at Mass. I focus on speaking slowly and clearly, and remind myself that I'm not doing it to bring attention to myself; I'm doing it for God.

FUTURE PLANS: I want to help people and may be able to do that in the medical field. I enjoy math and science and can see myself working as a surgeon or a researcher. If I can change someone's life for the better, that's what it's all about.

"MEN FOR OTHERS": The motto reminds me of the Golden Rule – treat others how you want to be treated. For example, if someone drops his books in the hallway I think, "what if that was me in that situation?" I'd want help and would feel embarrassed if no one helped me.

KENDALL WOOD '23

"We shouldn't let differences get in the way of compassion."

HOMETOWN: Clarence

WHY CANISIUS: An opportunity to get a good education and the athletic programs are what first drew me to Canisius, but since arriving here I've discovered my love for art and creativity and there are great opportunities here for me to explore those areas too.

ACTIVITIES: Graphic design has become my biggest passion. I started learning graphic design on my own during the shutdown last spring and now I'm taking graphic design at Canisius. I like the creativity and versatility. It allows me to put what's in my head onto nearly any medium. My design doesn't stay on the computer; I can put it on clothes or other objects.

ATHLETICS: During the shutdown I worked-out at home which was okay, but it became easier to get motivated once we found out we'd have a basketball season this year. I'm playing JV and it feels good to be part of a team and representing the school.

FUTURE PLANS: For college, I definitely want to go for something creative. For now, I've been accepted to Brown University summer programs for creative studies and social justice. I also did an online Parsons School of Design fashion design course recently and that



gave me a look at what it might be like to work in that industry. During the course, I was on Zoom calls that included several people who are high up in the fashion industry – people with Nike, Adidas, Under Armour – and students were able to ask them questions.

"MEN FOR OTHERS": I had the opportunity through a church to deliver groceries to people in need. What I took away from that is that I have the ability to help people, even if it's in a small way. I feel passionate about giving back. There are a lot of things that divide people but we shouldn't let differences get in the way of compassion.

CANISIUS IN ACTION...



Men for Others

Thomas Vanner '23 and **Phillip Attea '22** along with other members of Loyola House unloaded food for WNY Heroes, Inc., an organization which provides services to military veterans. Each House within the Canisius House System has partnered with a community organization for service projects this year.



Mock Trial

Peter Spira '22, **Conor Shelby '22**, and **Victor Mazarra '22** practice for the mock trial team's case presentation. Cases are being presented and judged virtually this year.



Freshman Retreat

Fr. Michael Corcoran, S.J. '76 leads a talk in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart during the Freshman Retreat. The only mandatory retreat at Canisius introduces students to the benefits of retreats and helps strengthen their sense of community as a class.



New Heights

Austin Connors '23, **Minega Mfizi '24**, and **Joseph Pohrte '24** nearly hit the ceiling with their Jenga game during the activities period. These fun breaks during the school day provide opportunities for students to bond with other House members.



Center Ice

Canisius hockey teams claimed several hard-earned victories during this year's short season on the ice. Pictured: **Gianni Vona '21** with the Canisius varsity federation team.



Strikes and Spares

Senior members of the bowling team **Michael Dobrasz '21**, **Michael Zafuto '21**, **Tim Obringer '21**, **Zach Barney '21**, and **Ryan Davern '21** completed a full season in just two months and helped lead the team to several wins over league opponents.



Champs, Again!

The Canisius swim team captured the school's 19th consecutive Monsignor Martin league swimming championship! Pictured: **Christian Wilson '22**.

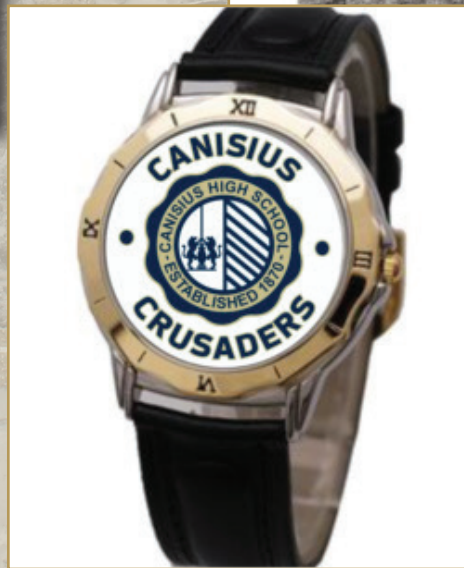
Basketball Triumphs

The Crusaders impressed on the hardcourt and earned victories against league and non-league opponents, finishing the season with a 13-4 overall record. Pictured: **Willie Herron '21**.



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ALUMNI EVENTS

UPCOMING



FR. JOHN STURM, S.J. '35 ALUMNI GOLF CLASSIC

JUNE 21, 2021

Glen Oak Golf Course

Details at canisiushigh.org/golf



ALUMNI WEEKEND 2021

AUGUST 20

All Alumni Bash

6:30pm at Canisius

AUGUST 21

• Open House at Canisius

• 50th Reunion

Time and location TBA

Details at

canisiushigh.org/weekend



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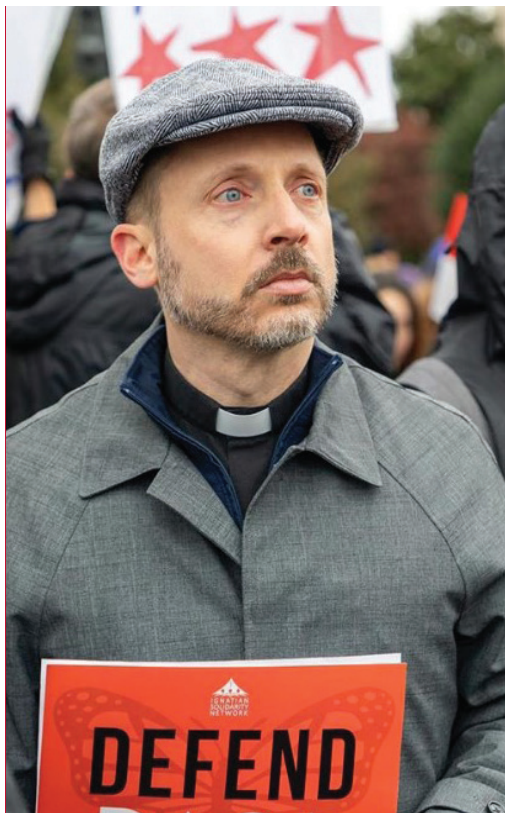
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(l. to r.) Fr. Edward Penton, S.J. at a peaceful rally; Fr. Daniel Gatti, S.J. celebrating Eucharist; and Mr. Christian Verghese, S.J. providing spiritual direction.

Canisius High School Class of 2016



ALUMNI

NEWS & NOTES

Share your news. Email CHStoday@canisiushigh.org.
Photos are encouraged.

James Batt '48 and his wife Eleanor recently celebrated 67 years of marriage.



Joe Ruskiewicz '56 retired as senior editor of Road & Track Magazine in 2001. Since retiring, he and his wife Carolyn, who retired as managing editor of the Long Beach Press Telegram, spent most of their days cruising, except for Joe's occasional return to the keyboard as senior editor of Porsche Panorama, the Porsche Club of America's monthly magazine. Although confined to quarters by COVID-19, Joe rose to the challenge (or as Joe says "arose from my slumber") when it was suggested he write about the iconic design of the first Porsche 911, an example of which he owns. Joe is pictured here with "Rudi," his first and probably last Porsche. Joe credits the late **Fr. John Sturm, S.J. '35** in helping him hone his creative writing talents in JUG, "which I aced," adds Joe.



Jack Boehm '57 and his wife Sharron (photo left) moved after 34 years in Goshen, NY. They left their 5500 square foot home, which included a hair salon and a small apartment, and now live in a 1500 square foot two bedroom condo in Beacon, NY. They are enjoying being a half mile from their daughter and five of their seven grandchildren.

"The move was not easy but we realize, as many of our friends said, it was the right thing to do," says Jack. "Only problem is what to do with all the 'stuff'."

Thomas Labin '58 has served as a Town of Marilla Justice for 48 years.

Dennis Stuart '59 and his partner Roger Seifert celebrated their silver anniversary on October 10, 2020. "Twenty-five years of domestic bliss," says Dennis.

Martin Gugino '62 was injured on June 4 at a Black Lives Matter protest.

Patrick Morgan '62 recently relocated to one of 60 new independent living apartments in Rolling Green Village, a Life Care Services continuing care community in Greenville, SC.

Chuck Zielinski '62 is an AV-Preeminent rated lawyer in the Lexis-Nexis/Martindale-Hubbell peer review system. He has focused his professional career on the legal and policy issues presented by economic, safety, reliability and environmental regulation in the energy and telecommunications industries. Charles has offices in Washington, DC and New York City.



Michael Curley '65 (photo left) finished his latest non-fiction book titled The Price of Climate Change. It is being published by Taylor & Francis and will be available this summer. He also finished his latest novel, a science fiction thriller also about climate change, called The Next Climate Change. He is looking for a publisher for it. Michael says he's had time to write both books because of the pandemic.

Paul O'Bara, PT '66 retired from private practice physical therapy in May 2019. He lives in central California and does volunteer work with homeless and promotes Shalommedia.org – a new worldwide network of Catholic broadcasts. His wife of 33 years, Marie, RN, passed away peacefully in May 2013. Paul and Marie have two daughters who are also RNs, and four grandchildren.

William Barnas '68 recently retired as a revenue agent for the Internal Revenue Service.

Ken Mudie '68 retired in 2014 after 40 years as the vice president of commercial lines with Hanover Insurance Company in Worcester, MA. He and his wife Donna relocated to Cape Cod where Ken was elected to the post of town moderator in Yarmouth in 2020. They have two children, Tim and JoAnna, and grandchildren, Colin and Molly. Ken says he will always be a South Buffalo boy though.



Thomas Matthews Neale '70 (photo above, with his family) retired from full time work over a year ago, and is staying active with his consulting firm Murray Hill Associates, LLC. He is on the advisory boards of two private equity firms and will also selectively be on the boards of the portfolio companies they buy. Thomas and his wife Barbara celebrated their 41st year of marriage this past September. Their oldest daughter, Barrett, lives in Millersville, MD with her husband Sam. Their middle daughter, Carroll, clerks in DC for the chief judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Services. Their youngest daughter, Hooper, has been at the family's Baltimore home while working remotely for her job with Fox Sports Advertising. "All is well, and I hope my classmates are thriving," adds Thomas.

Dr. Edward Posluszny '70 says he is back doing dentistry after a seven-week mandated shut down. He is going to Florida this year and plans to visit **Jim Jacobi '70**.

Ken Kencel '77 is the president and CEO of Churchill Asset Management, a majority-owned investment affiliate of Nuveen, the asset management division of TIAA. Churchill, based in New York City, manages over \$29 billion in committed capital and is focused on providing private capital to US middle market companies owned or controlled by leading private equity investment firms.



Mark Mulhern '78 (photo left) was elected to the board of directors of The Intercontinental Exchange (ICE), a Fortune 500 company and provider of marketplace infrastructure, data services and technology solutions. ICE owns the New York Stock Exchange. Mark also serves on the board of Ellie Mae, Inc, an ICE subsidiary, and on the board of Barings BDC, a business development company headquartered in Charlotte. He is the CFO of Highwoods Properties, a mid-cap office REIT headquartered in Raleigh, NC. Mark has been in Raleigh since 1996.

David Steele '78 is the senior design principal at Muller&Muller, Ltd. Architects and is currently serving as project manager for design and construction of the \$700M Terminal 5 expansion at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport. He recently wrapped up construction of another major airport expansion at Chicago's Midway airport as well.



Gregory Rabb '69 (photo left) was unanimously re-elected chair of the nine member board of directors of the Jamestown Board of Public Utilities (BPU) on January 25. The BPU is responsible for producing and distributing electricity as well as water, wastewater, and solid waste services throughout the Jamestown area. The BPU is part of the City of Jamestown with an annual \$65 million budget. This will be Gregory's third one-year term.

TELL US WHAT'S NEW

- ***Started a new job?***
- ***Got married?***
- ***Welcomed a baby?***
- ***Retired?***
- ***Wrote a book?***
- ***Starred in a play?***
- ***Won a championship?***
- ***Launched a business?***
- ***Celebrated an anniversary?***
- ***Traveled the world?***

Whatever you've been up to, your fellow Crusaders would like to hear about it. To share your news, email CHStoday@canisiushigh.org. **Photos are encouraged.**

You may also mail news to:

Canisius High School
Communications Office
1180 Delaware Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14209

David Croff '79 is the founder and CEO of the Teachers Rising Up foundation, a nonprofit providing support for teachers, students, and families who have fallen victim to school violence. Learn more about the foundation at teachersrisingup.org.

James Quinn '79 and his wife Donna moved to Raleigh, NC in February 2021 after 21 years in South Florida. Jim says this makes them "halfbacks" (moving from Florida "halfway" back to Buffalo). Jim adds that he would "love to hear from any other Crusaders living in NC/SC area."

Matthew Bossman '82 retired from Cisco after 21 years and decided to give back to his community by becoming a high school social studies teacher in the Wayne County public school system in eastern North Carolina.

Mark Nemeth '83 was elected to serve as a justice for the Grand Island Town Court. He previously served as the Town of Grand Island prosecutor.

Dr. Ronald Granieri '85 has joined the Department of National Security and Strategy at the U.S. Army War College where he won an Army Civilian Service Commendation Medal for Distinguished Teaching.



Roy Bakos '88 recently opened Cafe Godot (photo left), a flexitarian and vegan friendly cafe at 388 Porter Avenue on Buffalo's West Side. His café is committed to using as many local ingredients and local purveyors as possible to make fresh, healthy, and affordable food for everyone in Western New York to enjoy. "Opening during the pandemic has been a challenge but we are facing it head on and we hope to be a model for the hospitality business to show that using ethically

sourced products and paying living wages to employees can indeed be a part of the new model that the hospitality industry can follow as we all come out of the pandemic," says Roy.

Tony Militello, P.E. '90 is joining the Boeing Company as the executive environment, health and safety director for Boeing Commercial Aviation Delivery Operations and the 737 Program. In that capacity, he will lead workplace safety and environmental compliance and performance including MAX return to delivery, commercial aviation flight lines, painting and storage operations. Tony is making this move after 25 years of service with the Department of the Navy and General Services Administration.

Kevin McGowan '92 is serving as the immediate past president of the New York State Council of School Superintendents having recently finished serving as the organization's President. As the superintendent of the Brighton Central School District Kevin also serves on the governing board of the national superintendent's association, AASA, and in a variety of local, state and national roles in public education.

Christian DiCanio '97 was recently promoted to associate professor in the Department of Linguistics at the University at Buffalo.

Ryan DiNunzio '98 is the executive director of Algonquin Sports for Kids, a not-for-profit entity providing recreational sports activities and promoting healthy lifestyles for children in Buffalo's underserved neighborhoods. Ryan previously worked for New Era and spent six years playing soccer professionally.

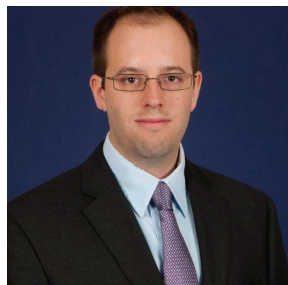
Jason Sanderson '99 was elected a corporate partner at the San Francisco law practice of BraunHagey & Borden LLP. He represents more than 100 emerging and fast-growing companies at all stages of their life cycle and serves as an advisor for venture capital and private equity funds.

AJ Herrmann '00 accepted a new role as the executive director of strategic workforce planning for The Cleveland Clinic. He and his wife Sarah and their daughters Emily (5) and Alexandra (2) will be relocating to Cleveland this spring from Washington, DC.

Sam Russo '01 joined AML RightSource as a senior advisor reporting to the CEO to support the company's growth strategy. AML RightSource focuses on the Anti-Money Laundering/Bank Secrecy Act and financial compliance.



Jonathan Shaw '02 (photo left) was recently promoted to director of pro scouting for the Indianapolis Colts. He is entering his 15th season with the Colts, his first in the new role after spending two seasons as assistant director of pro scouting. Jonathan analyzes talent from other NFL rosters and practice squads, and scouts future opponents.



Peter Ruocco, CPA '04 (photo left) was named a partner at Brock, Schechter and Polakoff LLP in 2019. Peter focuses his practice on the areas of cross-border tax for business and individuals, real estate tax, and multi-state tax issues. He joined BS&P in 2009 after earning a Bachelor of Science in accounting and Master of Business Administration in accounting and management consulting from the University at Buffalo. Peter has completed the Leadership Buffalo Rising Leaders program and is a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the New York State Society of CPAs. He also serves as treasurer on the board of directors for the Buffalo Shamrocks Hockey Club. Peter and his wife, Kathleen, live in Buffalo.



Albert Erni, Jr. '05 was inducted into the Seton Hill University Athletic Hall of Fame for football. He and his wife Candice have been married for five years (photo left). They have two daughters, Alina and Chloe.

Lt. Commander Patrick Beyer MD '06 is serving as a medical officer at the U.S. Navy's Portsmouth Naval Hospital in Portsmouth, Virginia.



Capt. Maurice Cooper '07 (photo left) was released from service after completing eight years as an active duty Army Officer. He moved back to Western New York with his family and is now working as an operations manager at a local steel company while continuing to serve in the Army Reserves.

Conrad Kloc '07 purchased SealMaster Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse. SealMaster is one of the world's largest manufacturers of pavement sealer and sealcoat with over 100 pavement sealer manufacturing plants and distribution centers in the U.S. Conrad's Western New York territory includes the Buffalo manufacturing plant and storefront as well as storefronts in Rochester and Syracuse. Conrad has a Bachelor of Science in industrial and systems engineering and says business ownership has always been among his career goals. He grew up in a family business and worked in that business for several years after college. "I have a lot of family members and close family friends who are entrepreneurs," he says, adding, "I knew I would own a business."

Brian Beyer '10 is a manager in the trade and customs consulting practice of KPMG in Philadelphia.

Gordon Lyons '11 was named to the State University of New York Athletic Conference (SUNYAC) Men's Basketball All-Decade Team. Gordon is one of only two players in SUNY Geneseo men's basketball history to record 1,000 points and 1,000 rebounds during his career.

Peter Mangan '12 and **Andrew Mangan '18** started a company called kiter.app which helps job seekers organize job applications.

Alex Pizzuto '13 is a doctoral student at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and is serving a lead on an IceCube Collaboration analysis. The IceCube Neutrino Observatory is an array of over 5,000 light sensors embedded in a cubic-kilometer of ice at the South Pole built to detect astrophysical neutrinos. Alex and his colleagues are analyzing detections made by IceCube.

Griffin Schultz '14 created the Yummo super premium ice cream brand, and is selling it in pints or half pints at the Elm Street Bakery in East Aurora as well as a few other places in Western New York.

Matthew Borowiak '15 started his own company when he was a freshman in college. Now a graduate of Clarkson University he is working full time on that business. It's called Workers First and it's a polymer additive research and development company that has designed a new material that neutralizes acids on contact. The product, Neutralcoat, can be incorporated into personnel protective equipment and acid proof coatings. This product has the potential to change the safety standards around acid protection. More information is available at www.workers-first.com.

Matthew McCraith '15 started a new job in defensive cyber operations with the Marine Corps at Camp Lejeune, NC.

Brandon Margeson '16 graduated cum laude from Niagara University in May of 2020 with a degree in accounting. He is a member of the honor societies Beta Alpha Psi and Beta Gamma Sigma. Brandon has accepted a full time position as a staff accountant at Freed Maxick. He expects to earn his MBA in accounting from Niagara in May 2021 when he will be honored by the New York State Society of CPAs with the Graduate Student 2021 Award as the top graduate accounting student.

Gregg Mojica '16 is the co-founder and chief technology officer of Alloy Automation, an automation platform for the e-commerce industry, which recently closed a \$5 million round of funding.

Jacob Lutz '17 was named a captain of the 2021 Le Moyne College men's lacrosse team. Jacob is a long-stick midfielder and has collected 47 ground balls and caused 10 turnovers so far in his college career.

Vincent Yiwen Huang '18 is pursuing a film-making path in college (NYU) and recently made a spec-commercial for the sports brand Adidas. "I realized how much CHS helped me and shaped me for all my film projects," says Vincent, "I want to use this commercial as my own words to people impacted from the pandemic: 'While the world waits, don't fear that we will never go back; don't let the darkness restrain your dreams; don't let your imagination fade with time. Chase what scares you and follow your heart—to take chances, to turn each impossibility into a reality. Nobody knows what the future holds; nobody knows what will come our way. So, do whatever your body craves to do; just let it do it. Honor every breath and respect every chance. Dare to dream beyond your imagination. When the time comes, you must be ready'." View the commercial on Vimeo by searching "Fearless - Adidas Spec Commercial"

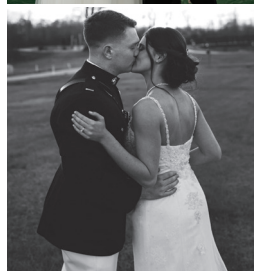
WEDDINGS



Carmen Gentile '69 married Kathleen Lisa Grasso (photo left) on June 29, 2019 at Our Lady of Victory Basilica in Lackawanna. "At 67 years old and my bride at 54 years young, believe it or not, it is the first (and only) marriage for the both of us," says Carmen. He retired as an assistant corporation counsel for the City of Buffalo after 19 years.



Felix Swierski, IV '08 married Kate Wagner (photo left) on December 19, 2020 at the City Tavern Club in Washington, DC. Felix recently graduated from the Georgetown University Law Center with his JD and Kate is a public school teacher in Washington, DC. Felix and Kate are moving to Atlanta, GA later this year.



Matthew McCraith '15 married Sophie Lekas (photo left) on December 28, 2020 in Half Moon, NC.

IN MEMORIAM *We remember alumni of whose passing we've learned since autumn 2020.*

Robert J. Kresse '45
 Stanley A. Moskal '47
 Richard M. Mattimore '48
 Joseph A. Benintende '49
 Bernard J. Lyons '50
 J. Robert Rodgers, Sr. '50
 Raymond A. Smith '52
 Frederick S. Cieslak, MD '53
 Norman J. Orlowski '53

Donald F. Meyers '54
 Walter F. Weglar '56
 Robert N. Bakalik '58
 John W. Ralyea '58
 Aloysius F. Stanton '59
 David F. Raab '60
 James J. Steinagle, DDS '61
 John T. McHenry '63
 David M. Honan '67

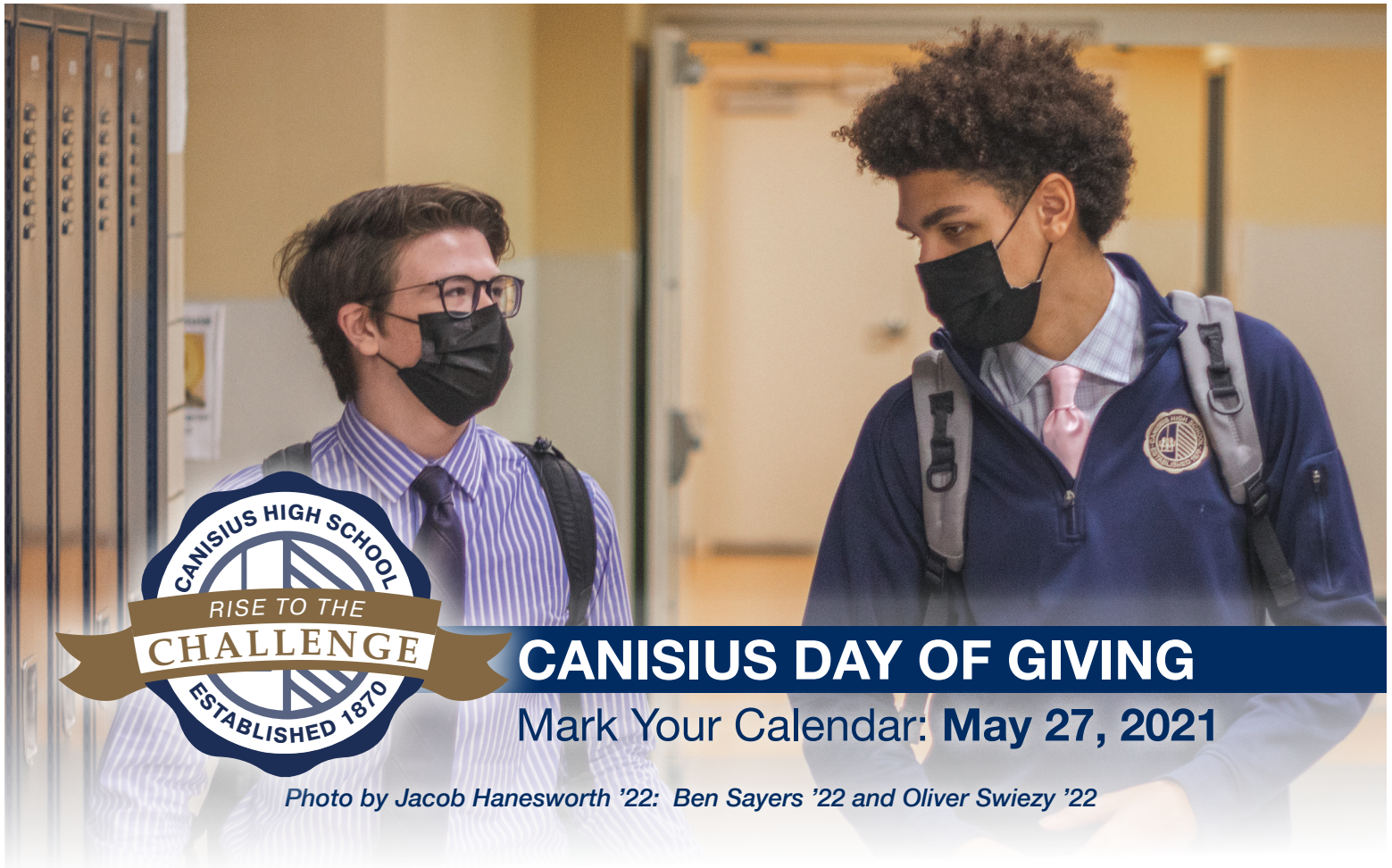
Robert J. Weiss, MD '67
 Peeter J. Kirs, PhD '68
 Anthony D. Mancinelli '68
 Robert J. Potenza '68
 Dennis M. Paul '74
 Dr. Peter J. Sofia '74
 Herman W. Wooten '00
 Anthony J. Polizzi '07
 Angelo D. Di Loreto '08





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CANISIUS DAY OF GIVING

Mark Your Calendar: **May 27, 2021**

Photo by Jacob Hanesworth '22: Ben Sayers '22 and Oliver Swiezy '22