

The Irish Pride

FORMERLY THE SHAMROCK

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF GIBBONS HALL, ST. AUGUSTINE, MSGR. O'BRIEN & HACKETT CATHOLIC CENTRAL



A Year Of Change

October 2009

The Science Renovation is a Reality

2009-2010: A Year of Change

I think a pretty strong argument can be made that this school year ranks pretty high in terms of huge changes at Hackett Catholic Central.

In addition to the obvious inclusion of a new 9th grade class, the Diocese of Kalamazoo is excited to have the newly installed Bishop Bradley. We have a new Chaplain in Fr. Richardson and two new faculty members, Ms. Karl and Mr. Walker. An unplanned renovation of the chapel is taking shape and the three science classrooms have been renovated. Of course, lest I forget, a new code of dress is in place, uniforms.

This summer we completely renovated the science classrooms. Those of you who are in the sciences know how critical up-to-date classroom and laboratory space can be! I think that most of us can agree that the great scientists and health-care professionals we have produced in spite of these older facilities is quite impressive. However, today we have the opportunity to raise the bar and give a competitive advantage to our current students and those generations that will follow. We received some very favorable bids for this project and have raised close to \$400,000. Through a loan from the Diocese, we have been able complete the project. However, the loan of \$125,000 will still need to be paid.

I am seeking help from all alumni to consider an investment in this much needed project. This investment will help equip hundreds of future students as they pursue the sciences at Hackett Catholic Central.

Thank you, in advance, for considering this request. More importantly, please don't be strangers. We would love to see all of you return to Hackett Catholic Central and see the great things we have going.



Students in Science Lab



The Chapel gets a facelift

SHAMROCK
a u c t i o n
2010

Shamrock 2010
Dinner and Auction
Saturday, March 13th
Save the date for an evening of fun and excitement.
Good food, good music and good friends.
Experience it!

Save a Tree

Would you like to receive the Shamrock via email? Please forward your e-mail address to alumni@hackettcc.org

2009 Distinguished Alumni Award

The Irish Alumni Association Distinguished Alumni Award was created to recognize alumni from Kalamazoo's Catholic high schools who have made significant contributions to society. This annual award is an attempt to say "thank you" to those individuals who take the best of what Catholic education has to offer and share it with others.

Thomas J. Moore, Class of 1961, has been selected as "Distinguished Alumni of the Year" for 2009.

Tom went to St. Augustine grade school and high school, graduating in 1961. He is a Managing Partner of EquiCap Partners, LLC, an investment banking and merchant banking firm. He graduated from WMU with a BBA and earned his MBA at SMU.

Tom serves as president of the Dallas Sierra Club, a Catholic organization to support vocations to the priesthood and religious life. He is a member of Legatus, an organization of Catholic CEO's that promotes Catholic principles in the workplace. In 2004, Tom arranged \$28 million in financing for John Paul II High School, the first new Catholic High school in Dallas in forty years. He then served as chairman of the Advisory Council for three years at John Paul II High School, which today has about 680 students. Today, he is a trustee of that high school. Tom helped Bishop Grahmann and St. Paul the Apostle parish in Richardson, TX purchase and finance a commercial building adjacent to the parish from GE Capital in 2005. He serves on the Advisory Council of the Catholic Foundation. In 2008, Tom created the Holy Trinity Seminary Seminarian Scholarship Trust with Bishop Duca and Bishop Farrell to support priestly education and formation. He now serves as a trustee for the Seminarian Scholarship Trust.

He is a Knight in the Order of St. John of Malta and goes to feed the poor each Saturday morning. Tom is a Eucharistic Minister and a lector at his home parish, St. Rita in Dallas, Texas.



Laura Leigh, Fr. Rudy Garcia, and Tom

Tom and his wife, Laura Leigh, were honored in October 2008 as honorary chairs of the Holy Trinity Seminary Seminarian welcome dinner, held at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas with 1,000 guests.

**Nomination submitted by Julie Moore Finn
St. Augustine Class of 1962**

You will be greatly missed, Dick Soisson

Dick Soisson, a coach at Hackett Catholic Central for 35 of his 40 years in athletics, died on July 22 after a lengthy illness. He was 84. "He was a man of faith and a man who believed in doing what was right," said Mike Janssen, who played football for Soisson in 1970-71. "He looked at someone's value based on their character. He didn't consider your accomplishments. He judged you by what you gave back."

Dick Soisson was always "giving back" to Hackett. He stayed at Hackett long after being employed by the school. He volunteered to come in and help with counseling and senior auditing for many years. He was a wonderful person and will be greatly missed.

Bishop Bradley celebrates Mass and blesses the new Science rooms



Bishop Bradley blesses the new Science rooms after celebrating the first Mass of the school year. Bishop Bradley visited twenty two schools in the Diocese during the month of September.

Former principal helps those in need

Jim Miner was the principal at Hackett from 1999 to 2002. He was not only a superb school administrator, he managed many successful fund drives as Development Director.

Jim has organized ten trips to volunteer in the rebuilding of New Orleans through Catholic Charities. He is the board chairperson for the Expectant Parents Organization. He is also a service club Board member and a social justice committee member at St. Therese Parish in Lansing. Jim is still giving of himself for the good of those in need.

Jim and his wife, Carol, travel to Florida regularly to visit their daughter, Erin, and her family in Del Ray. The Miner's have 6 grandchildren and "are enjoying them very much."

Class of 2009- Top 10%

**Students
were offered
more than
\$4.18 million
in
grants and
scholarships**

**ACT
Average
23.1**

**96.8% are
attending
college**



Front row: Laura Williamson, Whitney Rose, Erin May, Danielle Humphries, Johanna Hamilton

Back Row: Mark West, Megan Ternes, Shane Brennan, Mackenzie Ladd, Thomas Ankenbauer

- Albion
- Aquinas
- Calvin
- CMU
- Dominican
- Ferris State
- Grand Valley State
- Green Mountain
- Holy Cross
- Hope Ithaca
- KVCC
- Kendall College of Art and Design
- Louisiana State
- Loyola
- Marian
- Marquette
- McGill University
- Miami
- MSU
- Michigan Technological
- OSU
- Purdue
- Saint Mary's
- Savanannah
- Seton Hall
- US Military Academy
- University of Akron
- Central Florida
- Detroit Mercy
- U of M
- Villanova University
- WMU

New Director of Advancement Named



Catholic Schools of Greater Kalamazoo (CSGK) is pleased to introduce **Jackie Lincoln** as its new Director of Advancement. Jackie will be replacing Karen Weishaar who has done an outstanding job as CSGK's Director of Development for the past 3 years and who will be working with Jackie through the transition.

As Director of Advancement, Jackie will be responsible for the overall advancement of CSGK in the areas of fundraising and alumni relations. In addition, she will coordinate and assist in the fundraising activities of CSGK schools, including the development of comprehensive programs involving special events, fundraising, donor relations, and alumni relations.

Jackie brings more than 10 years of success in sales and marketing management to her new role, as well as a demonstrated ability to organize and motivate volunteers to increase substantially funds raised annually in a not-for-profit setting. In addition to serving in a variety of volunteer roles at St. Monica School and Hackett Catholic Central, Jackie served as Hackett Catholic Central High School Shamrock Auction 2008 Invitation Chair and 2009 Invitation and Reservation Co-Chair.

Jackie and her husband Mark live in Kalamazoo and have four children, all attending CSGK schools.



Sally Wrench,
Tom English,
Ed & Becky Yaple

Class of 1949

1st grade mates Jackie
Clark Louwaert, Jean
Blaczyk, Joyce Jean



Attention All Veterans!!!!

We would like to make a Wall Of Heroes at HCC to thank all of those who have served our country! If you served in the Military and graduated from either, St. Augustine High School, Barber Hall, HCC, or any of the Catholic grade schools, I would love to have your name and branch of service. The Art class under the instruction of Mrs. McFarlan will do the art work, it will be up in Senior hall above the lockers. You can email the info to mmlady11@gmail.com or send it to 3621 Ottawa Kalamazoo Mi 49006. This project became very near and dear to my heart, when my daughters boyfriend was killed in Iraq 21/2 years ago. I joined a great group of Moms called Blue Star Mothers who do alot for their sons and daughters and friends in the Military. I realized what an amazing gift it is to have someone fight for your freedom, even to the point of giving their lives. You all need to be recognized for being taken away from your families, to do the work that you have! Thanks for helping me with this project! Ree Millard 720-0510 if you have any questions!!

Class of 1949

The St. Augustine High School class of 1949 celebrated their 60th class reunion on August 22, 2009.

The evening began with 5:00 P.M. Mass at St. Monica's Church. Father Robert Consani was the celebrant and Robert Stevens, a class member served as Deacon.

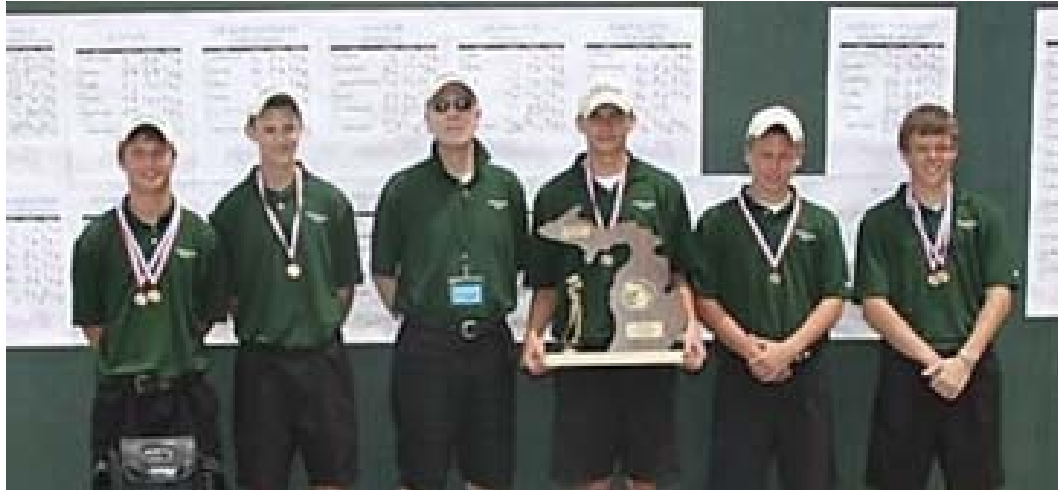
After Mass we went to the Beacon Club for dinner and to become re-acquainted with our class members. We had 35 in attendance with some coming from Fl., CA., Wisc., Seattle, S. Carolina and of course from Kalamazoo & surrounding areas. Thanks to Larry Fleck who provided us with lapel pins with our graduation pictures, it wasn't too difficult to recognize each other.

The dinner was delicious and entertainment was provided by Father Consani singing, joking, and sharing the evening with us.

Sunday morning we finished off our reunion with breakfast at the Colonial Kitchen. Goodbyes are hard, but all are looking forward to our 65th!

Joyce Jean

We are the State Champions in Golf and Soccer!



Left to right: Jon Christ, Jack Rider, Coach Zinkus, Jacob Dart, Henrik Blix, Sheldon Keyte

Not pictured: Patrick Joswick, David Cooper, and Brock Downs.



Front row: Alex Svikis, Julie Ross, Ana Villalobos, Maddie Brennan, Emma Forster, Megan Putnam, Kalani Bates

2nd Row: Maria Escamilla, Mallory Busso, Erin May, Sara Howard, Stephanie Johnson, Claire Sorek, Christina Pinon, Ashleigh Reisterer, Rebecca Farrer

Back row: Coach Rich Migala, Coach Erin Moore, Casey Lamp, Maggie Wenzel, Stephanie Walley, Nell Locke, Johanna Hamilton, Coach Alyssa Chludzinski, Coach Tim Halloran

Alumni Jottings

Vicki Hutchings Riggs, '70, and her husband Bob, recently completed "America's Great Loop" aboard their 44' trawler. In February '08 they departed from their home port of Fairhope, AL. and made their 13th Gulf crossing and headed to the Keys. Their route then included the east coast ICW, Chesapeake Bay, and into the New York Harbor. From there, they traveled up the Hudson River, Erie Canal and across Lake Ontario into Canada. Vicki and Bob spent 6 weeks exploring Canadian waters including the Trent Severn Waterway, Georgian Bay and North Channel. Customs was cleared at Mackinaw with a leisure cruise down the coast of Michigan to Chicago. A series of rivers returned them back to Mobile Bay.

The trip logged over 5,000 miles, 99 locks, 15 states and Ontario, Canada. The friendships of other cruisers, exploring the coastal and inland waterways, navigation and boating challenges, cruising past the Statue of Liberty, and aquatic, bird and wildlife all contributed to an amazing lifetime experience.

Jim Markan, '70, has recently reached a long-standing goal of travelling on six continents and visiting all fifty states. Jim and his wife consider the coast of Maine and New Zealand to be their favorite locations.

Erin (Mulligan) Haselton, '87 married Bryon Haselton on 9-29-07 and live in Albany, Oregon E-mail Erin at irishhaselton@yahoo.com

Jessamyn Hawley Foster, '96, recently moved to Yokosuka, Japan, where her husband is a staff pediatrician at the Naval Hospital. They will be there for three years.

Julia (Fletcher) Lee, '98, and her husband, Shawn, have been living in Phoenix, Arizona for the past five years. They moved there after completing his MBA at Notre Dame and her Bachelors of Science degrees in Biology and Nursing. They have a 3 year old son, Andrew, and a new baby boy, Aaron, born in January of 2009. Julia works as a cardiac cath lab nurse with her progressive care national certification and is loving every minute.

Jennifer Betley, '99, is living in Myrtle Beach, SC. Several years after graduating from Central Michigan University with a degree in sports management, Jennifer entered the Myrtle Beach Firefighters/EMT Academy and graduated in December of 2009. She is currently employed by the Myrtle Beach Fire Department.

Jessica Vemich Strong, '04 graduated from DePauw University in May 2009 with a Bachelor of Music in Performance (Magna cum laude) and a Bachelors of Arts in Psychology and German (Summa cum laude). Jessica is the recipient of a Fulbright scholarship and will be doing research at the Central Institute of Mental Health in Mannheim, Germany for a year.

Audrey Koopsen, '05, was named Intercollegiate Tennis Association's Midwest Region senior player of the year. Audrey had a 13-10 overall record at No. 1 singles last season at Grand Valley State University. She also earned Great Lakes Intercollegiate Athletic Conference player of the year honors last season.

Emily Magyar, 2006, became Albion college's fifth All-American in womens's swimming and diving when she finished seventh in 3 meter diving on the first day of competition in the NCAA Division III Championships. Magyar posted a score of 408.95 in the finals. She finished 7.6 points behind the fifth place performer.



Students working in new science labs

Welcome Class of 2009 Our Newest Alum



MEMORIALS

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS THE FOLLOWING RECENTLY DECEASED MEMBERS OF THE IRISH ALUMNI FAMILY

Stephen Fruin Gibbens, 1940, father of Moira, Rory Brienne Deirdre and Nicholas(Stephen passed on March 2, 2009)

Billie Rumler, mother of Michelle, (2002) and Sarah, (2004) (Billie passed on March 24, 2009)

Jeanette Delehanty, mother of Monica Sue, (1967), Patrick James, (1969) and Mary Elizabeth, (1971)

Catherine "Kate" Fry, mother of Thomas Fry (1956), Michael and Dan (Catherine passed on January 31, 2009)

Richard Soisson, father of Rick, (1970), Jim, (1973), Marie, (1975), Tom, (1977), John, (1980), Kathleen (1982) and Anne (1985)

Michael R. Kelly, 1983 (Michael passed on April 18,2009)

Edgar Olson "Tony", class of 1962 (Edgar passed on June 14, 2009)

Scott Christie '87, brother of Jennifer,88 (Scott passed on 9-11-09)

Wayne Pricer, husband of Alice Fitzpatrick Pricer, '59

Anne Brady VerHage, 1967 (correction)

**Please Join us on
November 2nd
at 9AM
Mass in the HCC Chapel
to remember our loved ones
who have gone before us.
Refreshments following.**

All Souls Day



In accordance with a long cherished tradition in the church, the Hackett Catholic Central Community invites you to remember our faithful departed during the month of November. This "All Souls Remembrance" is a way for each of us to remember and celebrate family and friends who have gone before us to share in the resurrection of Jesus.

Please remember these departed loved ones in daily masses during November.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Please accept this donation in memory of my loved ones

\$10____ \$25____ \$50____ \$100 ____ Other____

Your Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____



Irish Class Reunion Information

Check Hackettcc.org for reunion updates.

We can help you get the word around. Please inform us of your plans so that we can help publicize!

Class of 1954

Planning is just beginning. Looking for ideas and classmates, please contact **Warn Courtney** 269-382-4105 or **Dan Kavanaugh** 269-671-5166.

Class of 1969

Save Saturday November 7, 2009 for your class reunion at the Kalamazoo Country Club. The organizers are looking for your current email address. Please email or phone

Sandy Spencer

s.spencer@juno.com (269)324-5765

Pat Delehanty

pjdelehanty@pharmoptima.com

(269)372-4195.

Class of 1977

Planning is beginning, please contact **Jane (Engals) Johnson** at jt5770@hotmail.com if you are interested in helping.

Class of 1980

Is anyone is interested in organizing the 30th reunion? Contact **Jim Krafft** at hackettclassof80@gmail.com

Don't Miss Your Reunion!

Please keep the Alumni Office informed of a change of address. Contact the Irish Alumni Office: (269) 381-2646 or you can e-mail alumni@hackettcc.org

We can help you get the word around. Ask us how!

Classes of 1934, 1939, 1944, 1949, 1954, 1959, 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004

Please inform us of your plans so that we can help publicize!

CLASS OF 1984

The 25th class reunion will be held the weekend of October 9-10 2009. Friday night we will attend the Hackett Homecoming football game. Saturday will be a golf outing and dinner party. Details to follow. Contact **Cathy (Lambright) Laton** cathlaton@gmail.com and **Annette (Talanda) Brennan** talanda8@charter.net.

Class of 1990

Plans are underway for the 20th year class reunion in 2010. Contact **Nelle Averitt**: averitt@yahoo.com.

Class of 1994

Chris Dornan is inquiring about a class reunion. He is interested in helping. Contact him at my.spideyfan@gmail.com.

Class of 1999

The date is set for Friday November 27 at Burdick's starting at 7pm. There will also be a family gathering earlier in the day from 10-12 at the Kalamazoo Valley Children's Musuem. If you have any questions please contact **Molly (Gilbert) Oldham** megten9@hotmail.com or **Shannon (Boltjes) Hillard** vfd1693@comcast.net.

Class of 1979

The Class of 79's thirty year reunion was a huge success with over seventy people in attendance, many of whom made the trip from various points around the country!

The event was held on August 29 at the Kalamazoo Country Club with the pre-reunion on August 28 beginning at Louie's then moving on to O'Duffy's.



Class of 1939 - 70th Reunion

The 70th Class Reunion was held Wednesday, September 16, 2009 at Martell's formerly the Black Swan.



Class of 1959 - 50th Reunion

Class of '59 celebrated Mass at St. Augustine's. Following the Mass, the 59ers had a reunion brunch with a barn party hosted by Bonna and classmate Jerry Perrin at their family farm southeast of Kalamazoo.



Class of 1989 - 20th Reunion

Winston's was the location in August for the 20th reunion.



Class of 1993

Members of the Class of 1993 had a sweet sixteen reunion at Old Burdick's Grill in Kalamazoo on October 3rd. Look for photos of this event in the next Sahnrock.

Jenny Harris McCulloch at harrisjn01@aol.com was the contact person.

Thanks Coach!

Excerpt from an article written in the Kalamazoo Gazette By David Worthams HCC '92

Coach Soisson was a great man. Some will say that he was great because of his successes on the football field (over 200 wins and coaching the first team from the Kalamazoo area into the MHSAA playoffs). But I remember him for more than that.

I will forever remember a Saturday night at the Cathedral Church of St. Augustine's from 19 years ago. That night, the Easter Vigil, was the night that I became Catholic. Much to my mother's and grandmother's chagrin, I decided to go through the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) process my junior year of high school and went through it at St. A's.

I didn't tell anyone at school what I was doing, it was something private. I was also, at the time, in the midst of my third year as the equipment manager for Coach Soisson, something he recruited me to do my freshman year. One day in October, when I had just finished carting up the equipment from the practice field, when I passed the coaches locker room when out of the blue I heard "DAVID! GET IN HERE!"

Now, many Irish alumni will tell you when you hear the voice of Coach Soisson at a certain volume and with a certain tone, one of two things happen. Either you soil yourself or you have a mini heart attack. Sometimes you did both, but regardless of what you did, you reported immediately to the Coach.

He quickly asked "Are you going through RCIA at St. A's?" "Yes, sir." "Who's your sponsor?" "Haven't thought about it really. Not sure who to ask, sir." "Well, sign me up. I'm your sponsor if you want." "Yes, sir!"

Now, once I got my heart re-started after that conversation, I found out that Coach was the right guy to have as my RCIA sponsor. He answered any questions I had and sometimes he even answered them during football practice. He made sure that I was made to feel welcome, not only at St. A's, but with the football team as well by having me attend every pre-game mass with the team, even though I couldn't participate fully with the team.

And on that Saturday night of the Easter Vigil, when I went up before Bishop Donovan to be confirmed and officially welcomed into the church, Coach was right there behind me, hand on my shoulder, smiling in that crooked way he had. Once Bishop Donovan had anointed me, Coach whispered "We got ya, now!"

Afterward, Coach had to head home right away, since it was after midnight by the time the vigil concluded. Before he left, he asked me to meet him at his car. Once there, he gave me something very precious - his finger rosary. That rosary helped keep me centered for many years and I've carried it with me often outside of church.

I lost touch with him after I graduated, like many people who leave for college do with those who helped them in high school. I remember the last time I saw him, though. It was a few years ago when I was going door-to-door, trying to get myself elected Kalamazoo County Commissioner. I knocked on his door in the Westwood neighborhood and waited. It seemed like no one was home and so I turned to leave. As I did, a voice called out to me, "DAVID WORTHAMS, GET OVER HERE!"

Yes, I still had the mini heart attack. We talked for awhile and at the end of the conversation he said, "So, you're running for office huh?" "Yes, sir." "Well, you've got my vote .. leave me a yard sign." "Yes, sir."

Of all the votes that I've been able to garner in my various bids for office, that vote is one I will forever cherish. I hope, today in Heaven, that's still a vote I can count on.

I will miss you greatly Coach. Thanks Coach for helping me be who I am today.

THE IRISH PRIDE

IRISH ALUMNI OFFICE

alumni@hackettcc.org

Hackett Catholic Central High School
1000 W. Kilgore Road
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED