

SUMMER  
2019



# CONNECTION

CLEVELAND CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



**Also inside:**

**CCC Celebrates 50-Year Anniversary**

**Farewell to a Faithful Friend: Dick Fisher Remembered**

**Welcome Back Earl Boykins '94**

**Class of 2019 Senior Standouts!**

**and more...**

*Congratulations,  
Class of 2019!*



## MISSION

Cleveland Central Catholic High School is a coeducational school **rooted** in the **Gospel values of Jesus Christ** and focused on college and career readiness. Our mission is to **challenge and encourage** our students to **excel** academically, to **deepen** their faith in God, and to live **a life of service**, so that they may face the future with **confidence and hope**.



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## From the President

*Leo Hyland*

### **A Time to Celebrate Cleveland Central Catholic!**

Holy Scripture instructs us in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 we are assured that to every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under the sun. Now is our time to rejoice in the mission of Cleveland Central Catholic High School!

On June 2nd, CCC honored its 50th graduating class. The Class of 2019 succeeded in graduating all 130 seniors – and established a new CCC record with 91.5% being admitted into college. Congratulations to them, their families, and to all who supported and encouraged their efforts. In addition to our dedicated faculty and staff, we acknowledge the leadership of our school's Advisory Board members, the support of the Diocese of Cleveland, the generous spirit of our benefactors, and our many alumni, friends, and volunteers.

As a Catholic community of faith, together we will continue our celebration of this milestone throughout the upcoming year. Most notably, we will gather on Saturday, September 7, to formally mark the opening of Cleveland Central Catholic in 1969. Together, we will participate in a Mass at the Shrine Church of St. Stanislaus at 5:00pm, followed immediately by a 50th Anniversary Celebration and Dinner right here on the Cleveland Central Catholic campus. We hope you will plan on joining us!

On that very special evening, we will reflect on the founding and history of Cleveland Central Catholic. It has truly been an unpredictable and extraordinary journey, filled with daunting challenges and remarkable successes (and fabulous stories!). We will also count our many blessings of this era, and the many people who have made this resilient school's impressive story possible – and a reality. May God bless you all for the part you have done!

Most importantly, we also plan on sharing our vision for the next 50 years at Cleveland Central Catholic. Our school has been hard at work these past few years laying the foundation for a bright future for urban Catholic education here at CCC. By combining the fruits of much labor, CCC now has in place a thoughtful School Improvement Plan, a new Strategic Plan, an exciting Marketing plan, and an attractive Campus Master Plan – all of which will advance the mission of this important ministry.

We thank God for this amazing school, and we ask for your continued prayers and support of CCC!

Most Gratefully,

*"We will also count our many blessings of this era, and the many people who have made this resilient school's amazing story possible – and a reality. "*



## From the Principal

*Sr. Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND, Principal*

*"Isn't that the mission of Cleveland Central Catholic – to challenge and encourage our students to excel academically, to deepen their faith in God, and to live a life of service, so that they may face the future with confidence and hope?"*

Recently, when I was making my annual retreat, I had the opportunity to reflect on Jesus' relationship with his and our Father. Jesus lived in a perpetual state of gratitude. In scripture we read that Jesus thanked the Father before feeding the 5,000, before raising Lazarus from the dead, and before drinking the wine and eating the bread at the Last Supper. In John's Gospel, Jesus refers to his disciples as the Father's gift to Him. Jesus approached all things with a grateful heart. This moved Him to give all back in a total gift of self. He tells us that no one takes His life from Him – he gives it freely.

As I reflected on this attitude of gratitude, it made me realize how grateful I am for the mission of Cleveland Central Catholic. Every day I have the opportunity to enter into the daily lives of our families. It is amazing to experience the joy of a parent whose son or daughter has just graduated. This year 100% of our seniors fulfilled all of the requirements to receive a diploma. That is no small achievement. This takes a great deal of effort on the part of our faculty and staff to shepherd students to completion. It takes parental support and sacrifice. It means that the entire graduating class needs to persevere to the end.

At the end of each school year, our literary magazine, the *Cauldron*, is published. It is filled with reflections written by seniors. This year's magazine included the students' reflections about their dreams for the future. They expressed the desire to be a part of something bigger than themselves, to be agents of change in our world, to make a difference. They spoke about putting an end to racism and about helping those in need. They spoke of their gratitude for their faith and the desire to live it out in a world so desperately thirsting for the spiritual.

As I reflected on these selections, I realized that I was reading about faith, leadership, and service. Isn't that the mission of Cleveland Central Catholic – to challenge and encourage our students to excel academically, to deepen their faith in God, and to live a life of service, so that they may face the future with confidence and hope? It made me grateful that our graduating seniors understand the school's mission and it truly has become a part of the fabric of who they are. This is why our school exists.

It is my hope and my prayer that each day we will continue to focus on why we do what we do here at Cleveland Central Catholic. Thank you for your ongoing support of our school and its mission. May our good God bless you today and each day for your collaboration with us as we strive to live in a state of perpetual gratitude, like Jesus did, and live out the mission of Cleveland Central Catholic High School.

One with you in the Peace of Christ,

*Sr. Allison Marie, SND*

# REFLECTIONS

## CCC celebrates 50-year anniversary

(Part 2 of a 5-part series)

The 1980s. The era of big hair, MTV, computers, the Hollywood “Brat Pack” and Nintendo. On TV, the top shows included “The Cosby Show,” “Cheers,” “Dallas” and “Dynasty.” The U.S. hockey team shocked the world at the 1980 Winter Olympics, and Carl Lewis, Edwin Moses, Mary Lou Retton and the U.S. basketball “Dream Team” excelled at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles. There was a royal wedding in 1981, the first Martin Luther King Day in 1983, the discovery of the Titanic wreckage in 1985, World AIDS Day in 1988 and the tearing down of the Berlin Wall in 1989.

In Cleveland, Central Catholic was in its second decade as a school and starting to hit its stride. Perhaps the most important development in these 10 years was the naming of Rev. Neil O’Connor as principal in 1980. After the unique challenges of getting the school with its four campuses up and running, and all the logistical problems that went along with that throughout much of the 1970s, Father O’Connor was a steadying influence. Father O’Connor was assisted by an outstanding leadership team that include Sr. Patricia Finn, CSJ, Sr. Karen Lyons, CSJ, and George Gackowski.

The school became financially stable, an advisory board on development was put in place, and an endowment was established to assist students in need.

“That decade seems like a golden age in terms of stability,” reflects Ellen Fasko Howard, ’66, who taught art and photography at Central from 1970-2014, in addition to leading numerous extracurricular activities.

“Father O’Connor brought a life to Central Catholic that I believe gave the school the feeling of being successful,” recalls Dr. Joann “Mama” Hynes, who taught health, math and science and was also involved with extracurricular activities. “They were enormously fulfilling years.”

It was in this decade, Mrs. Howard says, that “CCC figured out what it wanted to be.” And that was a “unique, comprehensive, inner-city high school and a functional and reliable institution,” says Mrs. Howard.

Naturally, there were challenges, especially following an explosion at the Tremont campus in in the spring of 1986. Plans for renovations to the Scranton campus were put into motion to create facilities that had been at Tremont. At the end of the 1987-88 school year, faculty and students did the heavy lifting, moving supplies, books and furniture as the



school was consolidated into two campuses, Scranton and Forman.

In athletics, there were league championships won in baseball (1980), football (1981 and 1982), softball (1982), bowling (1982) and boys basketball (1987). The boys basketball team won its first sectional championship in 1980, followed by winning district titles to reach the Sweet 16 in 1981 and 1982. The girls basketball team won its first sectional championship in 1985. Additionally, varsity teams in golf, soccer, girls cross country and girls track made their debuts.

Individual achievements included Frank Caraballo and Bill Wertz winning All-Ohio honors in baseball in 1981 and 1985, respectively; Eric Wilkerson finishing fifth in the state in the 400 meters in 1984; and Donna Wertz being named by the Associated Press as the Division II Ohio Player of the Year in basketball in 1988.



The Central Transit System was established with a fleet of school buses to transport students, and the auditorium at Scranton was converted into a gym for freshman physical education classes.



During the 1980s, Dr. Hynes had pursued a master's degree, focusing on students with special needs in an effort to reach those who previously were in danger of falling through the cracks of the educational system. It was early in this decade that Father O'Connor established the Special Education Department.

"Day-to-day contact and finding the right set of tools for each student to learn are paramount in special education," Dr. Hynes insists. "Many educators at Cleveland Central Catholic during those years and beyond believed the philosophy that we needed to find where a student was academically and take the student where they needed to be."

IT WAS IN THIS DECADE THAT "CCC FIGURED OUT WHAT IT WANTED TO BE." AND THAT WAS A "UNIQUE, COMPREHENSIVE, INNER-CITY HIGH SCHOOL AND A FUNCTIONAL AND RELIABLE INSTITUTION."

- Ellen Fasko Howard, '66

One of the most successful programs at the school during this time was vocational education, which had been part of the school from the beginning, Hynes says. "They very much opened opportunities to the business world," she says.

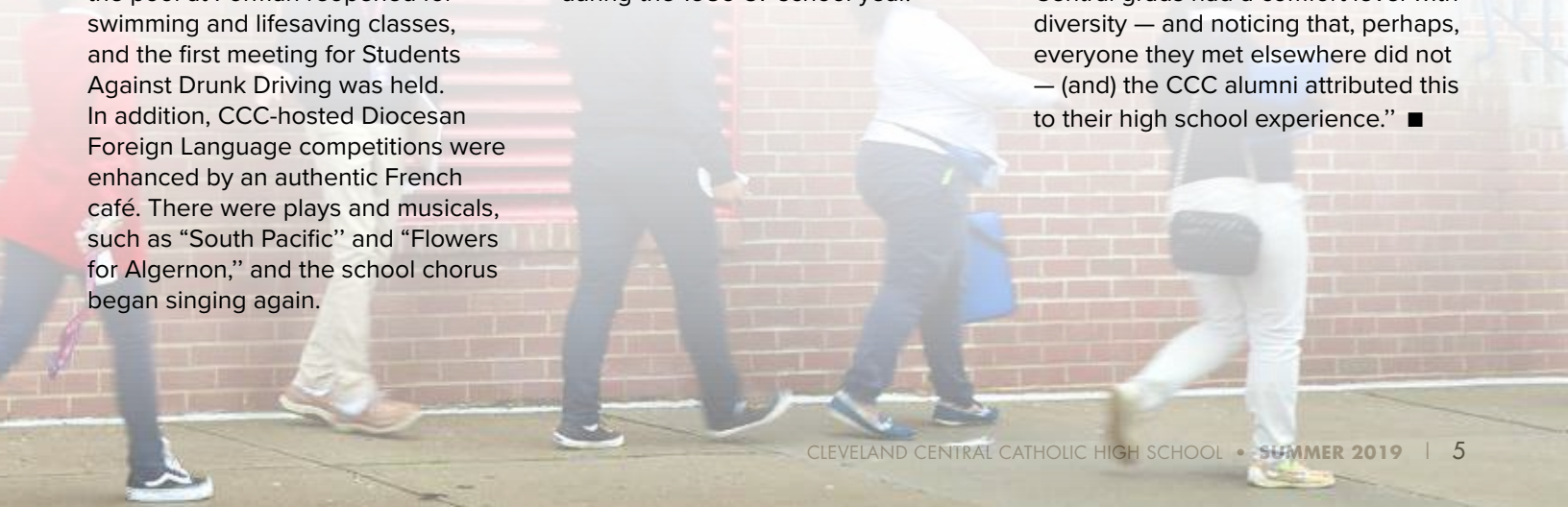
As always, Central was a melting pot of backgrounds and intellects, and it was this diversity that made the entire school day a learning experience, in and out of the classroom. It meshed with the idea of three campuses, one school.

Among the many CCC favorites that began in the 1980s were the Central Clown Company, the North Pole Express and the annual variety show. The Student Senate was re-introduced, the pool at Forman reopened for swimming and lifesaving classes, and the first meeting for Students Against Drunk Driving was held. In addition, CCC-hosted Diocesan Foreign Language competitions were enhanced by an authentic French café. There were plays and musicals, such as "South Pacific" and "Flowers for Algernon," and the school chorus began singing again.

But perhaps the most significant physical addition to CCC was the introduction of computers. At the time, these now-ubiquitous devices were brand new to many students and staff. Anne Riede, a pioneer in computer learning, worked with teachers and students to keep them in tune with the latest technology, says Mrs. Howard. New computer labs were opened during the 1986-87 school year.

Mrs. Howard says she would often ask graduates who came back to visit how Central Catholic prepared them for life away from school.

"Many times, the response was about getting acquainted with fellow Ironmen from different sides of town, neighborhoods and ethnic backgrounds," Mrs. Howard says. "The Central grads had a comfort level with diversity — and noticing that, perhaps, everyone they met elsewhere did not — (and) the CCC alumni attributed this to their high school experience." ■



# Cleveland Central Catholic Salutes Richard B. Fisher



It is with heavy hearts that the CCC Advisory Board, administration and staff announce that Richard B. "Dick" Fisher passed away on October 23, 2018. He was 95 years old. With his death, Cleveland Central Catholic bids farewell to a good friend and generous philanthropic partner. He will be dearly missed by many, and he left a profound legacy of kindness and generosity.

"Mr. Fisher will always be remembered at Cleveland Central Catholic as the hero of our Beacon of Hope Campaign," declares CCC President Leo Hyland. "He was aware that our campaign was in need of a transformative gift to ensure we could achieve our goal – and he graciously accepted that challenge." Mr. Fisher's \$1 million bequest gift in 2016 was among the largest gift commitments ever made to Cleveland Central Catholic at that time. This incredible gift set the campaign on its historic path, resulting in a successful effort that raised more than \$5.7 million, exceeding the goal by over \$500,000.

His close friend and colleague, Lanny MacDougall, describes, "Richard was a self-deprecating man who, obviously, loved and believed in Catholic education." Prior to making this campaign gift, Mr. MacDougall helped Mr. Fisher establish a fund that periodically distributes operating funds to Cleveland Central Catholic.

"MR. FISHER WILL ALWAYS BE REMEMBERED AT  
CLEVELAND CENTRAL CATHOLIC AS THE HERO OF OUR  
BEACON OF HOPE CAMPAIGN."

- CCC President Leo Hyland



"I have enjoyed my conversations with both Mr. Fisher and Mr. MacDougall, both of whom appreciate the powerful impact these dollars make at CCC," expresses Hyland. "Central Catholic remains grateful for this ongoing support, as well."

Mr. Fisher's son John explains, "My father made this gift to Cleveland Central Catholic because of his confidence in Michael lacampo." It was Mr. lacampo who introduced CCC President Leo Hyland to Mr. Fisher in 2014. Subsequently, Mike arranged for a luncheon, so that Mr. Fisher could meet several CCC advocates and learn more about the school and its unique mission. Clearly, that experience and his trust in Mike lacampo's insights into CCC's very special ministry were essential in gaining Mr. Fisher's support.

John Peca, '70, CCC Advisory Board Chair at that time, attended that lunch meeting. Peca says, "I had the pleasure of meeting with Mr. Fisher when we had the opportunity to introduce him to Cleveland Central Catholic. His commitment to Catholic education and generosity were obvious. His substantial contribution to our school – with no prior knowledge of it or ever visiting it – is a lasting testament to his belief in our mission and to the wonderful ability of Leo Hyland and other members of our community to convey our message. We, as well as other institutions of Catholic education, were truly blessed to have had Mr. Fisher with us. May God bless him and his family."

"Mr. Fisher was a man who possessed a tremendous faith in God and was personally committed to many Catholic philanthropic causes," Hyland reflects. "I feel blessed to have known him and will be forever grateful for his willingness to support a school – Cleveland Central Catholic – that he never experienced in person. He was a powerful advocate for the faith, and Mr. Fisher understood the

importance of helping underserved people in other countries and in our own backyard."

Mr. Fisher espoused the values of his own Catholic education. He graduated from Pittsburgh Central Catholic High School in 1941. He immediately enlisted in the Air Force and served two years. Thanks to the GI Bill, he was able to attend The College of the Holy Cross, a Catholic, liberal arts college located in Worcester, MA. After graduating from college, he worked for his father for two years when he met Barbara, his wife of 67 years. Barbara predeceased Mr. Fisher in 2015, and they are survived by their seven children and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. He was a devoted family man.

Mr. Fisher often offered fellow business executives this advice: "Walk, talk and tell the truth. You have to possess a character that displays belief in God and enthusiasm in what you are doing and a commitment to tell the truth." He was a co-founder of Federated Investors in Pittsburgh in 1955, primarily selling mutual funds to brokers, banks and trust departments. Through the years, he held many positions including President of Federated Securities Corporation. Today, Federated has more than \$459 billion in assets under management and sells mutual funds worldwide.

The Diocese of Cleveland and the entire Cleveland Central Catholic family express our sincere gratitude and salute the legacy of Richard B. "Dick" Fisher. ■

"WE, AS WELL AS OTHER INSTITUTIONS OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION, WERE TRULY BLESSED TO HAVE HAD MR. FISHER WITH US. MAY GOD BLESS HIM AND HIS FAMILY."

- John Peca, CCC Advisory Board Chair, 2014

# Congratulations

## Class of 2019 Senior Standouts

*From impressive academic achievements to outstanding athletic performances and service initiatives, the teachers, administration and staff congratulate the Class of 2019 for their outstanding accomplishments. This year they recognize five graduating seniors who will certainly become transformational leaders in our world.*

### Jazira Murphy

Heralding from Ohio City, Jazira Murphy attended Madison Community Elementary, a Constellation charter school in Cleveland, prior to entering Cleveland Central Catholic as a freshman. Jazira recalls, "I was very self-conscious and quiet when I entered CCC."

Today, the gregarious senior smiles as she considers her transformation from shy high school freshman to outgoing, confident senior. "Serving as president of Student Senate and on Link Crew helped increase my self-confidence," Jazira considers. "I'm also a member of Key Club, National Honor Society and was voted captain of the CCC varsity softball team."

Jazira will graduate CCC with a 4.2 grade point average (GPA) and plans to attend The Ohio State University's Fisher College of Business in Columbus this fall. She will participate in the college's honors program and plans to pursue a Business Administration degree, majoring in either finance or international business.

"Attending high school at Cleveland Central Catholic has been a great experience for me," she emphatically insists. "I felt supported throughout my four years here. I would rate this school 10 out of 10!"



*"Serving as president of Student Senate and on Link Crew helped increase my self-confidence."*

- Jazira Murphy

### Mark Lehman

Mark Lehman graduated from Metro Catholic Elementary School and was thrilled to be able to attend Cleveland Central Catholic, despite the across-town commute from West 139<sup>th</sup> Street. Mark says the decision to attend CCC was easy. "I have dyslexia. Cleveland Central Catholic's Special Education Department really helped me get through high school, particularly helping me write papers," Mark reflects.

Not only did he "get through" high school, Mark will graduate this spring with a 4.2 GPA and plans to major in either computer science or accounting at Cleveland State University.

*"My classmates are all very friendly, and the teachers are nice and really try to help students achieve."*

- Mark Lehman

During his high school career, Mark participated in Yearbook, Robotics and was a member of the National Honor Society.

"I'm glad I attended CCC," he says. "My classmates are all very friendly, and the teachers are nice and really try to help students achieve. It's like a family here."

Mark admits, "Graduation will be happy/sad for me. I'm happy to be moving on to college but sad when I consider leaving my friends."



## Arianna Segal

Time management will be no problem for Arianna Segal at college. Arianna immersed herself in challenging honors classes and extracurricular activities throughout her four years at CCC in addition to holding down three part-time jobs!

A stand-out athlete, Arianna competed in cross country, track, basketball and volleyball throughout high school. In addition, she served as vice president of Student Senate her sophomore and junior years, volunteered on Link Crew for two years, participated in Key Club for three years, and served as a Student Ambassador all four years.

"There is a lot to do at CCC," Arianna states. "I appreciate the many opportunities I've had throughout high school. Sports helped me to overcome my shyness. I served as captain of both the girls track team and girls varsity basketball team last year. The teachers at Cleveland Central Catholic are wonderful and offer to stay after school to help students. They never give up on you. Like high school, I definitely plan to get very involved at college. I want to be the face of OSU," says Arianna, who plans to pursue a criminology degree at The Ohio State University.

Off campus, Arianna serves on United Way's Youth Fund Distribution Committee. This group of high school juniors and seniors helps solve community problems affecting youth and collaborates with other young leaders. These students learn about the needs of the community and are charged with the task of identifying five organizations (from a pool of organizations that apply) that will receive \$5,000 each from United Way.

Arianna will graduate with a 4.4 GPA and has enrolled in the honors program at OSU in Columbus where she will pursue a criminology degree.

The Slavic Village resident will certainly be missed by Dave's Supermarket, Bob Evans Restaurant, and Ohio City Burritowhen she heads off to college this fall!

## Carson Skerkavich

Carson Skerkavich's two sisters attended Cleveland Central Catholic, and CCC seemed the obvious choice for him, says the determined young man. "I shadowed twice before deciding on CCC. I liked the atmosphere, and the students and teachers were very friendly," Carson recalls.

"I think one of the greatest strengths of CCC is the connection between the teachers and students. Even teachers you never had in class know you by name," Carson passionately describes. "The teachers really want to see every student succeed. Students feel comfortable sharing their academic concerns as well as personal problems with teachers here."

*"I think one of the greatest strengths of CCC is the connection between the teachers and students."*

- Carson Skerkavich

At CCC, Carson served as a Student Ambassador, on Student Senate, in Link Crew and often helped with school announcements. He says one highlight of being a Student Ambassador was meeting with Bishop Nelson Perez on several occasions. "My faith is very important to me. I am a Catholic, and

*continued on page 10*



*"I appreciate the many opportunities I've had throughout high school."*

- Arianna Segal



# Congratulations

## Class of 2019 Senior Standouts

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I feel very fortunate to have attended all Catholic schools. It's nice to be able to practice my religion freely and share common values. The CCC student body represent many faiths, and while the focus is on Catholicism, the high school is welcoming to all faiths."

The Newburgh Heights resident will be graduating with an impressive 4.3 GPA. Carson has narrowed his next step to attending either Ohio Technical College or Cuyahoga Community College, where he plans to enter a welding program.

"I'm interested in becoming a welder. There are many welders in my family including my father, two uncles and several cousins," Carson explains. "The insight they offered about the job really interested me. I want to work outdoors or inside where the sparks are flying. I do not want to work in a cubicle or at a desk."

"I come from a very close family," Carson adds. "Cleveland Central Catholic is also like a close family. I have taken primarily honors classes through these four years, so I have known many of my classmates through all four years. I am already looking forward to CCC reunions where I will be able to see what my CCC classmates became in terms of career and personal achievements."

## Nyamweru Adronic

Arriving to the United States as a refugee from Tanzania, Africa at the age of 6 — along with her parents and nine siblings — Nyamweru Adronic has overcome many obstacles and challenges. College should be a breeze for the dynamic young woman.

"When I arrived, I spoke Kirundie and Swahili," Nyamweru recalls. "I really don't remember much of it today."

As a child, Nyamweru attended Metro Catholic. She and four of her siblings were glad to be able to attend CCC. As an Ironman, Nyamweru was a Student Ambassador, served on Student Senate, and was a member of Link Crew, Key Club, National Honor Society and FLOW (Future Leaders of the World).

"Cleveland Central Catholic has really prepared me for college," she considers. "I believe the school's greatest strength is the communication between the teachers and students as well as the communication between individual students. We help one another out. Another strength is the diversity among the student body. I have always felt like I belonged here. I never felt like an outcast."

The hardworking, determined senior plans to attend either OSU or Duke University in Durham, North Carolina in the fall. As yet, she is undecided on a major but is seriously considering international business.

"I hope to one day return to Tanzania on a mission trip," Nyamweru says.

**Congratulations to CCC's five amazing Senior Standouts! ■**



*"I have always felt like I belonged here. I never felt like an outcast."*

- Nyamweru Adronic

# Welcome Back Earl Boykins '94

The CCC community welcomed back Earl Boykins '94 on Nov. 30, when the proud CCC alum brought his Douglas County High School Varsity and JV Basketball Teams from Castlerock, Colorado to face the Ironmen at home. The 5-foot, 5-inch former NBA player is currently serving as their head varsity basketball coach and thought it would be fun to see his players take on his alma mater's team, the CCC Ironmen.

Upon graduating from Cleveland Central Catholic, Boykins went on to attend Eastern Michigan University, where he also played basketball and earned national interest with his skill. During his college basketball career, Eastern Michigan won the MAC Tournament in 1996 and 1998. Boykins earned All Mid-American Conference first-team honors his junior and senior year. During his senior season, Boykins was second in the NCAA Men's Division I Basketball Championship, scoring an average of 26.8 points per game. He holds the school career record for total assists (624) at Eastern Michigan University. As at CCC, Boykin's jersey number was retired and raised to the rafters in a ceremony at Eastern Michigan University's Convocation Center.

Boykins was never drafted by the NBA, but he was signed by five different NBA teams before taking a five-year, \$13.7 million contract with the Denver Nuggets prior to the 2003-2004 season. On Nov. 11, 2004, Boykins scored 32 points in a 117-109 Nuggets' home win over the Detroit Pistons, making him the shortest player in NBA history to score 30 points or more during a single game. He later signed with the Milwaukee Bucks and Charlotte Bobcats.

**On Nov. 11, 2004, Boykins scored 32 points in a 117-109 Nuggets' home win over the Detroit Pistons, making him the shortest player in NBA history to score 30 points or more during a single game.**

and signed with the Washington Wizards. In 2010, he accepted a 10-day contract with the Houston Rockets and has since retired from the NBA.

His November return to Cleveland Central Catholic was celebrated with the presentation of an Ironmen basketball jersey in a shadow box and enthusiastic applause from those seated in the CCC stands.

"This was something I always wanted to do," Boykins exclaims with a broad smile. "This is my son's senior year playing basketball for Douglas County Huskies, and I wanted to give

Following the 2007-2008 NBA season, Boykins was an unrestricted agent. Instead of joining an NBA team, he chose to play basketball in Europe and signed a one-year, \$3.5 million net income contract with Virus Bologna of the Italian A League. This deal made Boykins the highest-paid basketball player in the Italian League. In 2009, his team won the EuroChallenge Cup. That same year, Boykins returned to the NBA



my family an opportunity to see him play. I thought it would be fun to see how my team stacked up against them."

Boykins explains that they were able to raise the money to fly his team into Cleveland and provide hotel accommodations through a series of fundraisers in Castlerock.

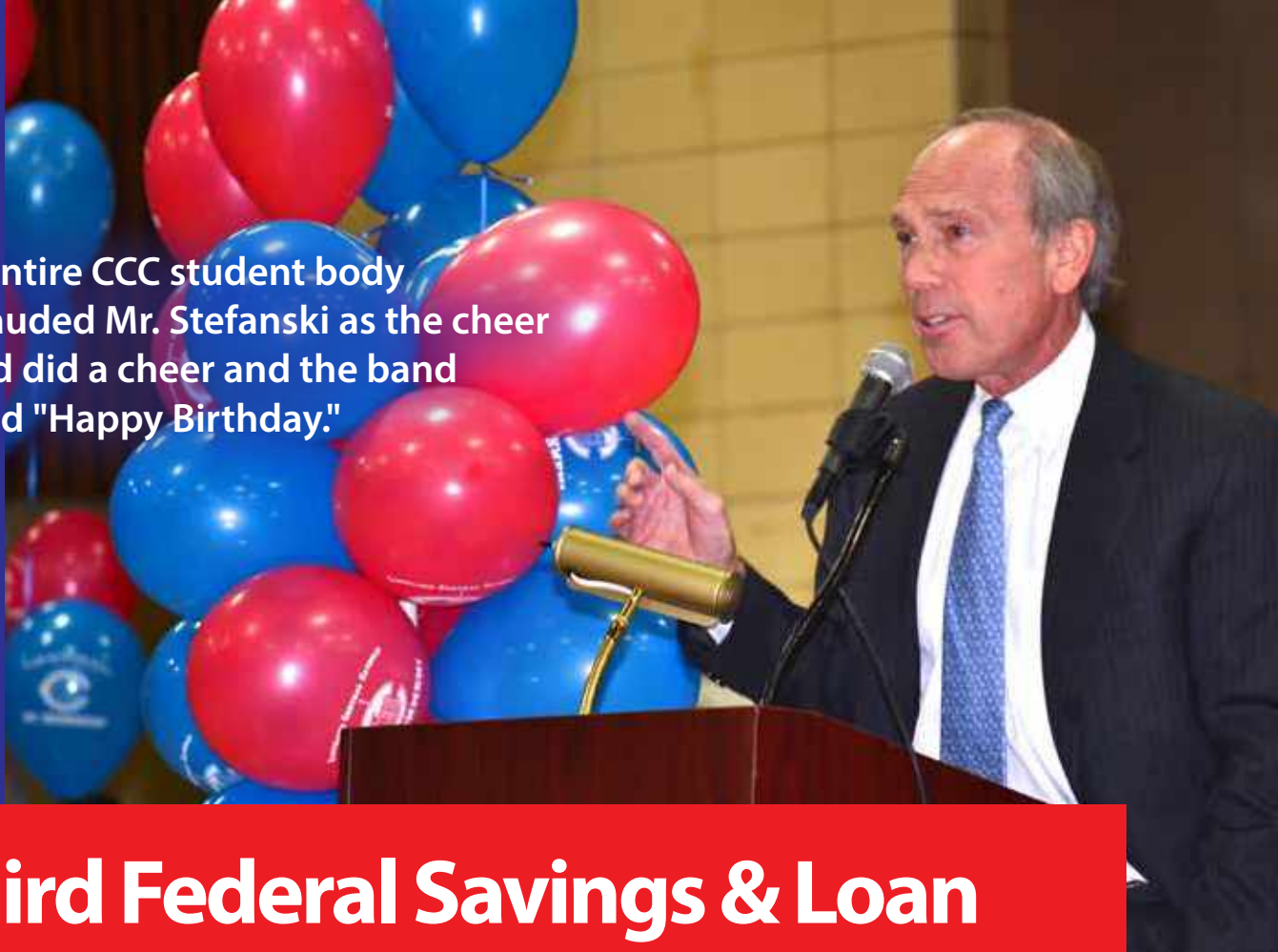
Boykins' mother, Charlene Horton, was on hand to watch the fun competition. "Earl was interested in basketball by age 3," she recalls with a smile. "I never thought he would play pro ball until high school. Earl put a lot of time into increasing his skills. I thought it was so nice that he wanted to bring back his team to play CCC."

Earl's grandfather William Boykins adds, "I am definitely proud of my grandson. He is a good man."

Earl's younger sister Charnella Boykins also played basketball in high school as a guard.

Several of Boykin's classmates were excited to reunite with him: Jeff Grendzynsk '94, Ed Bican '94, Michelle Santo (Bican) '95, Melissa Diaz '95 and Margaret Kulacz '94 were just a few to greet Boykins and share memories after the game. ■

The entire CCC student body applauded Mr. Stefanski as the cheer squad did a cheer and the band played "Happy Birthday."



## Third Federal Savings & Loan Chairman Visits Campus

While most couples wouldn't rank applying for a federal savings and loan charter at the top of their honeymoon "To Do" list, that's exactly what Ben S. and Gerome Stefanski did. In the 1930s — during the Great Depression — nearly one-third of Cleveland residents were underemployed or unemployed. The Stefanskis wanted to help Clevelanders achieve the dream of home ownership. With \$50,000 in capital provided by the members of the Slavic Village neighborhood, Third Federal Savings and Loan opened its first office on Broadway Avenue on May 7, 1938.

Eighty years later, the institution is still going strong. To celebrate the 80th anniversary of one of their favorite neighbors, Cleveland Central Catholic honored Marc Stefanski, chairman of Third Federal, at a pep rally on Nov. 14 in the St. Stanislaus Social Center. The entire CCC student body applauded Mr. Stefanski as the cheer squad did a cheer and the band played "Happy Birthday."

Stefanski was given an oversized greeting card made by the Art Department and a basket of cookies decorated with "80th". Stefanski was gracious in his remarks and indicated how proud the savings and loan was to be partnered with Cleveland Central Catholic.

Also attending the event were representatives from University Settlement, Vocon, First Tee, the Third Federal Foundation and Councilman Tony Brancatelli.

Third Federal is proud to support the Third Federal Foundation Service Scholarship Program. This is an opportunity for families to earn credit toward their tuition balance. Students and parents who participate receive \$10/hour per person in tuition credit. Families may earn up to \$1,500 in tuition credit per student per year. To qualify for the program, students must meet GPA guidelines and have a strong record in conduct and effort. ■



# Meet CCC Athletic Director MAGGIE LASH

Since her five years as Athletic Director at Cleveland Central Catholic, Margaret “Maggie” Lash has witnessed the high school’s sports program become a competitive presence in the North Coast League. Her passion for CCC’s athletic program teamed with her strong, unwavering faith makes Lash a true all-star.

Lash grew up in Avon Lake, Ohio, attending Lorain Catholic High School and then Notre Dame College, in South Euclid, where she earned a bachelor of arts degree in health and physical education. She served as Athletic Director for eight years at Regina High School as well as 15 years in the same position at Andrews School and Laurel School. In addition, the passionate athletic director also was the Head Swim Coach at Regina High School, Magnificat, Laurel and Andrews Schools. She taught physical education at St. Augustine Academy, Regina and Andrews School.

In her current position at CCC, Lash oversees and administers the interscholastic athletic program. “I love how the staff at CCC is so willing to pitch in when help is needed with games,” Lash insists, always eager to deflect attention away from herself. “Because of a dedicated coaching staff, I believe that CCC has a competitive sports program. We are very competitive in the North Coast

League. If money was no object, we could secure better facilities for our expanding wrestling program, have a dedicated strength and conditioning program, enlarge the weight room, and open a pool (She acknowledges the last item is a true pipe dream due to her love of swimming).”

Lash admits the biggest challenge, however, is to encourage more student involvement in athletics as a participant and spectator. “It is difficult when students are traveling from all over the city,” she candidly admits. “It is difficult for student athletes to get transportation to and from athletic events.”

Lash explains that as a coaching staff, they meet monthly to share common goals and problem solve challenges. “Because our athletic program is rooted in Christian values, we have added The Positive Coaching Alliance program which integrates character building for student

**“Because our athletic program is rooted in Christian values, we have added The Positive Coaching Alliance program which integrates character building for student athletes and coaches.”**

athletes and coaches. We are also working on a team chaplain program to begin in the 2019-2020 school year,” Lash announces enthusiastically.

Her personal interests are swimming, running and volunteering at the Cleveland Food Bank in addition to volunteering her free time at various dog organizations.

Thank you, Maggie, for your hard work and dedication to CCC’s athletic program. You are truly one of the high school’s treasured pearls.





*Congratulations*  
**Class of 2019!**







# Alumni Profile

## Sharqaua Smith Class of 2011

Alumna Sharqaua Smith '11 graduated from Cleveland Central Catholic confident in her educational foundation and passionate to follow her dreams for the future.

Upon graduating from CCC, she went on to earn a BSS in Mathematics Pre-Professional Science from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio, from where she graduated in 2015.

During high school, the determined young woman worked in the Cleveland Public Library and, later, at Alden Library at Ohio University. She also served as a peer mentor for the Office of Multicultural Student Access and Retention while in college.

After graduating, she moved to Los Angeles, where she served with AmeriCorps as a Promise Corps Academic Tutor for the Youth Policy Institute, located in San Fernando Valley. Later, she became a college advisor for the University of Southern

California College Advising Corp. in Compton.



"During my engineering internship, I changed my major after realizing that, while I loved science, I preferred to have more people interaction," Smith explains.

"I have now chosen to apply to medical

school. I am currently employed at Centennial High School with Compton Unified School District as the Higher Education Coordinator," she states. "My job is to ensure my students know that college is an option, that they find their match, and that it is the best fit when choosing a college." Additional job responsibilities include seeing students through to college graduation.

"In addition to my job with Compton Unified, I am still fulfilling my goal to attend medical school," she emphatically reiterates.

Outside of work, Smith is currently an intern in the Care Extenders Program with UCLA Health and attends evening classes to finish the prerequisites to apply to medical school.

"I feel CCC definitely provided me with a good education – to the point that I knew when to get help when I needed it, especially as a first-generation college freshman," she states with a smile. "I learned a lot inside and outside of the classroom at CCC. My teachers, counselor, and principal introduced me to new worlds which I fully explored. I learned what it meant to be well-rounded at CCC."

Smith says her favorite courses during high school were chemistry, physics, English and Theology in Film. "I remember my senior year, I would skip lunch to go to my physics teacher Ms. Corrigan's classroom to review the material when I was stuck," she recalls.

**"I wouldn't have chosen any other high school!"**

"Attending the football games at our home stadium the year it opened was monumental," she further reflects. "I went to every football game. Serving on Student Senate as the student body president was also a great experience for me during high school. I took part in planning school events and engaging with the student body. I also enjoyed the small moments of hanging out with friends in the parking lot after school and simply enjoying the times of just being a teenager with little to no responsibilities."

"I made some lifelong friendships at CCC," she states fondly. "I still keep in touch with my close friends — Tatiana Bennett and Darrielle Allen more than anyone — and I've befriended fellow alumni on social media. It's always nice to see what everyone is up to. I wouldn't have chosen any other high school!"

Smith concludes with this advice to current students: "Explore colleges that you're interested in attending before you choose to attend. Take advantage of overnight trips and prospective student events. In regards to finding a rewarding career, do what you love. Never settle for a job you won't be happy to wake up and go to. Don't allow anyone to let you think you can only choose one career path. If several things interest you, go after all of them. If they work for you, keep at them, but if not, drop what doesn't work and keep going." ■

SUCCESSFUL

BUSINESS

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MARK MUSCA '82

## Proud of CCC Roots

Keep on trucking. That's the mantra of Cleveland Central Catholic's own Mark Musca '82, who proudly wore an Ironmen jersey on Friday nights, playing center, nose guard and right defensive tackle on the freshman, JV and Varsity football teams under legendary coach Jerry Fasko '65. The lessons about discipline and leadership that he learned in the classroom and on the field served him well in later years as he started his own trucking company and grew it into a profitable enterprise.

Musca reflects on his days at CCC: "It was definitely my parents' decision to enroll me at Cleveland Central Catholic. They felt I could receive a better education at CCC rather than the public school system. The public schools were certainly a cheaper option, but they weren't necessarily the best option as they were experiencing many problems with busing, racial tensions, drug and alcohol abuse. Many students were giving up and dropping out before graduating. Mom and Dad made a very good decision and a bit of a financial sacrifice on my behalf. I'm so very grateful they did!"

"I felt very proud to attend classes wearing my Ironmen jersey on Friday nights before a game," Musca recalls. "I felt proud, happy and sad all at the same time at graduation. I will always remember all the great people I encountered at CCC, including teachers, coaches and fellow classmates – many of whom I am still in contact with today through Facebook, Ironmen football games, or an occasional social gathering."

Musca did not attend college directly after graduating. The young man went to work as a steelworker from 1983 through 2000. When layoffs occurred in 2000, Musca decided to enroll in Cuyahoga Community College, taking courses in business and computer networking. He completed two years at Tri-C, earning an associate's degree in business with a minor in computer science.

"Upon graduating, I decided to go into business for myself," Musca states. "I wanted to start my own trucking company. My accountant prepared all the necessary paperwork for my business to be filed as an LLC. I wanted to explore the dump truck industry because it included local deliveries only. That meant no over-the-road hauling, so I could return home every night."



The business was brokered through Ontario Stone Corp., located near the Flats in downtown Cleveland. "My business began with the purchase of a new 2003 Peterbilt, which I drove myself for about two years. Then, I decided to expand my business. I traded the Peterbilt for three new Kenworths," Musca says with a smile.

Expanding the business required hiring three good drivers, leasing a garage and hiring a full-time mechanic. The business did well, making local deliveries of stone to various construction projects as well as salt deliveries to all the local municipalities. "The expanded business afforded me the opportunity to stay home and take care of dispatching loads assigned to my company through Ontario Stone," he explains. "I also managed the payroll and tax books as well as scheduling maintenance for the trucks with my mechanic."

When gas and diesel prices skyrocketed and the cost of repairs, wages and taxes continued to rise as well, Musca decided to liquidate the company and retire. He sold the trucking company to his brother-in-law and served as an advisor.

Currently enjoying retirement, Musca resides in Strongsville, Ohio with his wife, JoJo. They enjoy having friends over for cookouts on their backyard patio and spending time with their two dogs, Jake and Rambo. Musca is also an avid bass fisherman and enjoys competing in bass tournaments.

"My advice to current CCC students is to seek a higher education," suggests Musca. "Be as versatile as you can. The more skills you have, the better. And avoid 'tunnel vision.' There are many ways to earn a living. What's important is you find something you enjoy and are proud of. Lastly, don't wait until you are 50 years old to start investing in a retirement plan. Whether it's a 401(k), IRA, or other investments, begin investing the maximum allowed as soon as you are eligible.

"Finally, always keep God first in your life. Whether it is at home, work or interacting with others, I can say with certainty that if you put God first in your life, He will surely shine some light on your path. And always be very proud to be an IRONMEN!" ■



## Dean Kinley Scholarship *Making a*



*Cindy Kinley, center, special education co-chair at Cleveland Central Catholic*

Thanks to the Dean Kinley Scholarship awarded annually, Cleveland Central Catholic students and faculty members receive much-needed tuition assistance that enables students to attend CCC and current teachers to pursue advanced degrees.

Dean Kinley, who majored in accounting at John Carroll University, joined the CCC staff in 1967 when the school was created with the merger of four urban parish high schools: Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Stanislaus on the city's east side, and St. John Cantius and St. Michael on the city's near west side. During his tenure at the high school, Dean was a coach, bus driver, bingo director, and master problem solver. Dean served as Business Manager and Buildings Director for over 20 years. His final post was as CCC's athletic director, which began in 1998. After 37 years of employment at CCC, Dean was forced to retire in 2005 due to declining health.

Dean died at age 63 from complications of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, nine days after receiving a lung transplant at the Cleveland Clinic. His

headstone bears the Cleveland Central Catholic logo. Dean will be forever be remembered for his quick wit and sense of humor as well as his ability to boost faculty morale. He is an eternal "IRONMAN!"

His wife, Cindy, taught special education at CCC from 1980 through 1991, and returned in 2001 until retirement in 2005. She later returned as a tutor following her husband's death. In 2012, Cindy was hired as Director of Special Education and currently works part-time as co-chair of the Special Education Department.

"The Dean Kinley Scholarship was established to help the recipient further his/her education," Cindy explains. "Dean was a firm believer in the power of education to stimulate personal growth. He always knew the needs of the students were paramount, but Dean also felt very strongly that the needs of teachers were also important. He recognized that teachers who sought to pursue advanced degrees were often hindered by the lack of funds. It was his view that investing in the education of teachers served as an investment in the education of many students. The teachers' educational

# Difference!

growth was shared with the students to receive an education at CCC to prepare for their adult life and chosen career.”

“Dean was always driven by the needs of the students and the importance of ensuring their education,” she continues. “He consistently looked for ways to keep kids in school. When he learned of a student in financial trouble, especially throughout the job losses when the local steel mills closed, he contacted local businesses to employ students after school and on weekends. He was creative in mind and spirit – inventing methods to raise money to supplement tuition and fund athletics. When coaches needed new uniforms or money for camps, Dean arranged fundraising opportunities. Athletes, coaches, parents, teachers and friends found themselves working the concession stands at Browns games, Indians games, the Cleveland Grand Prix and washing cars on many Saturdays. Dean believed that students needed to be a part of the efforts and that it built team unity, developed a work ethic, and instilled pride in the accomplishment. He would often enlist his own children to work alongside him and the CCC students. It was always a fun exchange between the CCC students and Dean’s kids because they were students at a rival school!”

Cindy adds, “I deeply loved my husband and all he stood for. His devotion to Cleveland Central Catholic was easily recognized and admired. Next to me and his family, Central Catholic was the focal point of his life. Each day I am at the school, I try my best to continue his mission of service and dedication to inner-city youth. Dean had a soft spot in his heart for the special education students. He drove the bus that transported them between campuses and would greet them by name as they boarded. Dean made it a point to talk to as many students every day that he could and call them by name.”

Without a doubt, Dean’s impact on students, teachers and administrators continues to be immeasurable. The “Kinley corner” sign in the CCC Athletic Office serves



Dean Kinley

as a reminder of how joyful life can be when you live a life of service. While his absence was greatly felt, Dean continues to make a huge impact today.

William Ready, Jr., CCC teacher and volleyball/basketball coach, received \$3,500 on two different occasions as he pursues a master’s degree in education at Cleveland State University. “Being a recipient of the scholarship has helped tremendously,” Ready states. “I would never have been able to afford the full tuition at CSU, which means that it would have taken me longer to complete the degree instead of finishing it in two years. With my wife and I celebrating the birth of our first child, it is extra nice to have graduated winter semester so I can spend more time being a dad.”

Ready is in his fourth year of teaching at CCC. He teaches U.S. History to sophomores and Government and Economics to juniors. His master’s degree enables him to also work as a Mild to Moderate Intervention Specialist.

“I would like to thank Cindy for the opportunity to continue my education,” he exclaims. “Cindy and her husband dedicated their lives to Cleveland Central Catholic, and their continued support through scholarships for teachers is just one of the many ways that they support our students. Through my classes at CSU, I have become a better teacher, and it would not have been possible without the extremely generous support of the Kinleys.” ■

# CCC Receives Anonymous \$1 Million Gift!

Cleveland Central Catholic is pleased to announce the receipt of a \$1 million gift. This is one of the largest gifts ever made to Cleveland Central Catholic, according to CCC President Leo Hyland.

“The gift was made by a Central Catholic graduate from the Class of 1971, in gratitude for the support and encouragement this person received as a student,” Hyland explains. “The individual insists on remaining anonymous, and we are honoring this request. Clearly, this donor has a sincere appreciation for the commitment of CCC’s faculty and staff, as well as great hope for the future of our students and school. We are thrilled to receive such a generous gift, and especially pleased to receive it from a CCC graduate!”

The \$1 million, unrestricted gift provides an opportunity to leverage other new gifts to benefit CCC. The school administration and Advisory Board are investigating the best possible use of this gift for the continued support of the school’s mission. ■





# Calcutta Wrap-Up

The 16th Annual Calcutta Auction held on March 20 set the bar high for future fundraisers. Corporate sponsorships soared to a record level as the event raised \$181,000 towards tuition assistance.

Highlights of the evening included sophomore Chloe Henry's beautiful rendition of the National Anthem, the Live and Silent Auction bidding, and a raffle for one week's use of a private home on Hilton Head, donated by an Advisory Board member.



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# School Snapshots

## CCC Spring Concert Hits Perfect Note

On May 7, the CCC choir and band members performed their spring concert under the leadership of Ms. Traci Jones and Sister Mary Seton, SND.

The following seniors were recognized for their contributions: Kitonna DeLargy (*Choir*), Miracle Austin (*Beginning Band-trombone*), Austin Hall (*Advanced Band-saxophone*), Amari Galloway (*Advanced Band-trumpet*) and Juan Hernandez (*Advanced Band-alto clarinet*). **CONGRATS, IRONMEN!** ■







# winter sports



## CCC Wrestlers Pin Impressive Numbers

Wrestling sophomore **Trent Proctor** (pictured) won the 116-pound weight class in the Hawken Wrestling Invitational. The team placed 4th overall. Congratulations on an impressive performance.



## Boys Varsity Basketball District Winners!

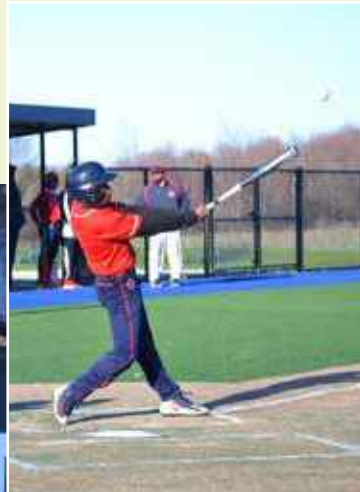
The Ironmen pulled away in the 4th quarter March 9 to defeat the Bay Village Rockets 55-40 in the District final at North Ridgeville High School. Leading scorers for the Ironmen were **Taryl Davis** 18 pts, **Jaden Williams** 11 points, and **Trevon Wells** 11 points.

*The Ironmen finished the season with a loss to Lima Shawnee 50-48 in the regional semifinals.*





# spring sports





# New Graduate Aspires to TV Anchor Career

By Melissa Smith '19

If you put your mind to it, you can do anything you want! Just recently I talked to someone about what I want to do with my life. I want to become a news anchor and make it on TV sitting behind the anchor desk. This has interested me since I was a little girl. I've been watching the news for a very long time, and as I got older I thought to myself, "This is interesting! I think I can do this in the future."

Through CCC Director of Admissions Carmella Davies, I was able to interview her friend, Rachel Domings-Rooney, the content producer of Channel 3 Eyewitness News (WFSB) in Rocky Hill, Connecticut. We talked a little bit about how I wanted to become an anchor at a young age. Then after that, I asked about her occupation. The first thing she said was that she knew when she was in high school but she initially wanted to be a broadcast meteorologist. However, she shifted that plan just a little bit in college when she found the requirement for meteorology a bit overwhelming.

Secondly, we talked about what she enjoyed most about her job. For her it is different every day. Even though she works in an office, it is not your typical job, she said, because she never knows what each day will bring for her.

Her inspiration to become a news anchor is what I found to be really fun and interesting. She said that she was actually not a news anchor; she works as a content producer. She also said that there are many, many different jobs in a newsroom beyond the anchor and reporters that you see on TV. She suggested that I explore all the different options that there are.

Mrs. Domings-Rooney stated that she has been working at her current station for eight years, but she's been involved in the

news since she was in college. She also went on to say that she had to find stories, write about them, then produce a show all together using those stories. She has had 15 years in the news business. She also told me that the most challenging thing about her occupation is that it can be a high stress job at times. She said first you will work really tough hours, you have to arrive at work by at least midnight or 1 a.m., and you have to work all weekends and even holidays. So it's important to know ahead of time that this is a 24/7 business.

On a normal day she works eight hours or so. But her days can become longer without much of a notice because of breaking news or weather. She worked on blizzard coverage for as long as 15 hours straight. She also mentioned that on big events like Election Day she works long hours.

You not only need to know how to work in a high pressure environment, but you also need to learn how to leave work at work. We also talked about colleges that would be good in order for me to carry on with what I want to do. She said to look into a college with a working news station so that way I can get some experience of the news business prior to working. She said that she attended college at Lydon State College which is now known at Northern Vermont University. She says that would probably be a good start.

I plan on interviewing other news anchors in the local area and all around the country as well. This will be helpful for me because it will help me get the news in all different perspectives from different varieties of news stations all around the country. ■



**JaMyah Hart `20** was accepted into Cleveland Clinic Aspire Nurses Scholar Program, which is funded by the Howley Foundation. Although many students across Northeast Ohio apply to be in this program, only a small group make the final cut. JaMyah was selected based on her GPA, a written essay, teacher recommendations and an interview. As an Aspire Scholar, she will attend 12 weeks of Saturday sessions that are designed to develop the student's understanding of a career in nursing. A few juniors are invited to return to the program as seniors, when they serve as mentors to incoming students and have the opportunity to earn a full scholarship to Cuyahoga Community College to complete an RN degree.

**Daphne Myers `18** earned a Fellow's Scholarship to Baldwin Wallace University. Daphne earned a \$10,000 scholarship based on outstanding academic achievements while a student at CCC. This scholarship is renewable up to four years with good academic and social standing. Daphne was named to the BWU Dean's List for the fall 2018 semester.

**Gina (Gentile) Green `00 C.P.A.**, has been made "Audit Partner" at her accounting firm Crowe LLP. She has worked very hard and long for this at her firm since 2004, we've relocated twice now since 2014.

## Old Ironmen Football Reunion:

Its CCC's anniversary of "50 years of football" and some of the very first football teams from the 70s and 80s have initiated a reunion for the Oct 5th home game. All Ironmen are welcome to attend. If interested in attending, let us know so we can register your name for free admission and recognition at the game. We also hope to recognize some of our departed teammates and coaches. There will be a big reception at the school following the game and perhaps some smaller get-togethers that weekend for respective teams or classes. Reserve with **Jerry Fasko**: [jfasko@yahoo.com](mailto:jfasko@yahoo.com) or 440-829-8827.

## In Memoriam

### John Papenfoth `97

**Delmar "Del" Stephens `80** passed away on May 28, 2019. Delmar leaves behind his daughters Arielle Bowen (Daniel Sr) and Asjerai Stephens, and grandchildren Daniel Bowen Jr. and Carmello Stephens. He is also survived by his sister LuJuana Nottingham Polk.

**Fredreen Marie (Schneider) Bernatovicz**, St. Michael Class of 1957. Beloved wife of Mike, mother of four children.

*The following St. Stanislaus alumni passed away this past year:*

**Regina Gacka `48**

**Raymond J. Krasnodembski `50**

**Rita Skowronski Griffith `52**

**Jan Kudlaty Storc `57**

**Terry Gorzelanczyk `58**

**Jim Orzech `59**

**Paul Rogers `59**

**Diane Curtis Walker `60**

**Dennis Kwiatkowski `61**

**Richard Lenczewski `62**

**John Kryska `65**

**We need your help!**

Send us your current contact information:  
alumni@centralcatholicshs.org

# 2019 Calendar of Events

## Advancement & School Schedule

*Dates Subject to Change*

**Advisory Board**

Mon., Aug. 26 @ 7:30 am  
Wed., Nov. 6  
Wed., Feb. 12  
Wed., April 22

**Lunch & Learn**

Wed., Oct. 2  
Wed., Dec. 4  
Wed., Feb. 5  
Wed., April 1

**Welcome Back Day**

Sat., Aug 31

**50th Anniversary Celebration**

Sat., Sept. 7

**Football Reunion**

Sat., Oct. 5

**Recognition Night**

Sat., Nov. 16

**Calcutta**

Wed., March 18

**Hall of Fame**

Sun., April 26

**Alumni Golf**

Sat., June 6

## Boys Varsity Football Schedule 2019

*Dates Subject to Change*

Day	Date	Opponent	Place	Time
Fri.	Aug 23	Cuyahoga Heights HS	AWAY <i>Scrimmage</i>	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Aug 31	Holy Name High School	HOME	1:00 p.m.
Sat.	Sep 7	Lake Catholic HS	Mentor HS	12:00 p.m.
Sat.	Sep 14	Benedictine HS	Bedford Stadium	1:00 p.m.
Fri.	Sep 20	Bedford HS	AWAY	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Sep 28	University School	HOME	1:00 p.m.
Sat.	Oct 5	Villa Angela St. Joseph	HOME	1:00 p.m.
Sat.	Oct 12	Gilmour Academy	HOME	1:00 p.m.
Sat.	Oct 19	Lutheran East HS	AWAY	1:00 p.m.
Fri.	Oct 25	Warren JFK HS	AWAY	7:00 p.m.
Sat.	Nov 2	Conneaut HS	HOME	1:00 p.m.

