

SPRING
2018



CONNECTION

CLEVELAND CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL



Also inside:

CCC salutes alumni proudly serving
in U.S. Armed Services

Class of 2018 Senior Standouts

LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION

CCC promotional videos hit social media

CCC Teacher's spiritual pilgrimage on
el Camino de Santiago

And more...

Sister Allison Marie, SND,
celebrates 15 years
at CCC



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**.



Contents SPRING 2018

From the President and Principal

Letter from Leo Hyland, President.....	4
Letter from Sr. Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND, Principal.....	5

Feature Articles

Sister Allison Marie, SND, celebrates 15 years at CCC.....	6
Sr. Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND, Scholarship established	7
CCC salutes alumni proudly serving in U.S. Armed Services	8
Class of 2018 Senior Standouts.....	11
LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION! CCC promotional videos hit social media.....	14
CCC Teacher’s spiritual pilgrimage on el Camino de Santiago	16
PhD candidate Taylor Darden ‘10 expands skills to impact disadvantaged communities .	18

Advancement

Beacon of Hope campaign nears finish line.....	20
15th Annual Calcutta Auction a success	22
Local businessman invests in CCC students.....	23

School Notes

.....	25
-------	----

Sports Round Up

Winter athletic teams enjoy HOT season	26
Alumni named for induction in Athletic Hall of Fame.....	28

Alumni

Alumni Golf Outing.....	29
Alumni News	30
In Memoriam.....	31



Administration:

Leo P. Hyland, President
 Sister Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND, Principal
 Dr. Lanny Hollis, Associate Principal

For more information regarding giving opportunities, please contact:

Tip Hosack at 216-641-2034 or thosack@ccc-hs.org

To update your contact information or comment on this publication, please contact:

Jackie Keim at 216-441-4700, ext. 284 or jkeim@ccc-hs.org

Connection: a semi-annual publication of the Advancement Office designed to *connect* Cleveland Central Catholic with its alumni, families, friends, donors and partners in mission

Acknowledgements:

Writers: Margie Wilber and Jackie Keim

Design and Production: Write 2 the Point, Margie Wilber

Photography: Margie Wilber and Sr. Mary Seton Schlather, SND

Director of Advancement: Tip Hosack

Director of Alumni Relations and Annual Giving: Bill Sluzewski

Database and Information Manager/Research Specialist: Eileen Caneparri

Communications Manager: Jackie Keim

www.centralcatholichs.org





From the President

Leo Hyland

Hope and Gratitude

In the midst of our national angst it seems a bit ironic, but my heart is filled with joy, hope and gratitude. Our school recently participated in a solemn and beautiful prayer service to end violence in our world. This plague – and many others that afflict our society – is often more pronounced in our nation's cities.

Imagine what it must feel like to be an urban teen these days. Over 92% of Central Catholic students live in our city, and far too many of them know the sound of gunfire. We are well aware that many of our families have experienced violence in their lives. This phenomenon, of course, also extends far beyond our city's borders – and young people everywhere hope for safety in a dangerous world.

Today, we stood together, united as one community of faith, singing and praying – full of hope! There is no one single human solution to this epidemic, but our faith leads us to pray for Divine Intervention to this insanity. As we sang *Amazing Grace* together, it was obvious that our faith in God is what brings us together at CCC. It also reminded me that our school community is A BEACON OF HOPE!

While many of our students are still working on their faith formation, it was very powerful to see their faith and hope in action today. This was an affirmative appeal to God to change hearts and minds of those who commit violent acts – and those who allow these acts to be committed. I am most grateful to Bishop Nelson Perez and our other diocesan leaders, who openly supported our school's decision to make a positive community statement of hope and faith in our God today. It was an awesome display!

My profound gratitude extends also to the adults here at CCC, who care for and encourage our students to be a positive force for good in this world. While it is important to make good grades, it is equally important to serve others, participate in activities, and to learn and grow outside of the classroom. Our students readily acclaim that our faculty "takes the time" to work with them in a variety of meaningful ways. I have witnessed our students modeling this behavior to younger students – and it warms my heart.

This amazing environment radiates gratitude, as well. CCC's culture promotes a willingness to show appreciation – and to return kindness to others. Is this not what we are asked to do as Christians? I want to formally express our gratitude to all those who participated in CCC's Beacon of Hope Campaign. Now in its final months, the Campaign has generated over \$5.6 million in new financial commitments to our school. There are many stories of how this campaign became successful.

We are grateful to the donor who committed \$1 million, without ever seeing our campus or meeting our students. We are grateful to the faculty member who made an anonymous six-figure will commitment. We are most grateful to our school's Advisory Board members, who spearheaded the effort and made leadership gifts to ensure a strong start to the effort. Most of all, we are grateful to those of you who made a gift to CCC over these past three years – your gift is counted in our total!

The Beacon of Hope Campaign ends on June 30, 2018. A generous donor has provided a \$60,000 challenge matching grant to encourage us to hit a goal of \$6 million. On behalf of the CCC family, I invite you to consider contributing to this important campaign of hope – with our gratitude. God bless you!

"Today, we stood together, united as one community of faith, singing and praying – full of hope! There is no one single human solution to this epidemic, but our faith leads us to pray for Divine Intervention to this insanity."



From the Principal

Sister Allison Marie, SND

“Truly, that is what we want for our students: to face the future with confidence and hope and to deepen their faith.”

In the Fall of 2017, Cleveland Central Catholic embraced three significant initiatives for our school community. In the area of curriculum and instruction, we have taken strong steps to align our curriculum with State standards and to ensure that all students are learning. In addition to the formation of a “Professional Learning Community,” we also initiated Link Crew which is an onboarding program to assist freshmen academically and socially as they make the transition to high school. Finally, seniors and adult team leaders conducted our first Kairos three-day retreat for juniors and seniors. These initiatives are already bearing fruit.

When we administered the Iowa Tests of Basic Skills to our students in January, we saw an overall improvement in each content area as compared to May test results. In each subject area (English, math, social studies, and science) the passage rate increased by 12-22%. We can attribute the improvement to two factors: an additional six months of instruction and the implementation of instructional practices to enhance student performance through deep levels of collaboration among teachers.

With the implementation of Link Crew, we have seen a decrease in attrition in the freshman class and students have expressed appreciation for the extended support system they receive through the Link Crew leaders in grades 10, 11, and 12. There is an increase in student involvement in clubs and activities among freshmen over prior years and freshmen are asking how they can become Link Crew leaders in the future.

During the Kairos retreat student leaders and adults provided witness talks about knowing oneself, accepting Jesus in their lives, God’s friendship, and living in relationship with God. Participants shared in small and large groups and had quiet time for prayer and reflection. In a recent faculty meeting, one of our students, Timothy Shakespeare, shared what the Kairos retreat meant to him personally. It was powerful to hear him say, “During the adoration time, I felt like I was meeting God, face-to-face.”

Truly, that is what we want for our students: to face the future with confidence and hope and to deepen their faith. Each time students experience success in a classroom, positive social relationships, or spiritual growth opportunities, they are one step closer to achieving this goal.

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 live out the mission of Cleveland Central Catholic High School.

One with you in the Peace of Christ,

Sister Allison Marie, SND

Sister Allison Marie, SND, celebrates 15 years at CCC



Sister Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND, celebrates a milestone in 2018. This year represents her 15th year at Cleveland Central Catholic where she continues to serve as principal. Despite working at an inner-city school continuously faced with financial challenges, she unequivocally exclaims, “I love my work at CCC. When I first came to Cleveland Central Catholic, it felt like I had come home. This school is a good fit for me. I am able to work with students and families to help break the cycle of poverty.”

Always a smile on her face and quick to lend a helping hand – whether for students, their families, faculty or visitors – Sister Allison Marie radiates what Cleveland Central Catholic is all about. Priority #1 is the students. “I really like our students. They are genuine, open, welcoming to others, and don’t put on airs,” she passionately describes.

Sister Allison Marie recognizes the excellent faculty employed at the high school. “The staff members at CCC are truly committed to the ministry of our school. I particularly see this in their work creating a Professional Learning Community,” she describes. “I believe the Professional Learning Community will be the vehicle to improve student achievement. The whole idea of a Professional Learning Community is teachers working together in teams and developing common ‘must knows’ for students based on state standards, a common timeline for instruction, and common formative assessments with the goal that all students master content. Our staff is all about what is good for the students!”

As a student, Sister Allison Marie earned a BA in mathematics and education from Ursuline College in 1974; MST (Master of Science and Technology degree) from the



University of New Hampshire in 1978, and a M.Ed. (Masters of Education degree) from Ashland College in 1998. Quite impressive! She made her first vows as a Sister of Notre Dame in 1983.

As Sister reflects on her 15 years at CCC, she acknowledges, “I am pleased that we are working to make sure that our students are career and college ready and that we continue to increase the number of students who are accepted into college from Cleveland Central Catholic. I am also proud of our well-developed special education program at CCC. We have embraced the inclusion model for special need students and also provide direct services such as social skills, study skills and directed study.”

Prior to coming to Cleveland Central Catholic, Sister Allison Marie taught and served in administration at other north-east Ohio schools and in Virginia. Still, she sees the difference: “Our students at CCC need us. In affluent communities, parents are able to supply the extra resources to further students’ advancement. At Cleveland Central Catholic, we need to provide these valuable interventions so our students can succeed.”

Sister Margaret Gorman, SND, Provincial Superior of the Chardon Province, says, “Sister Allison has always had a big heart for families in the city, so she really understands and loves the kids at Central. She is patient, very meticulous, flexible—so she

“I am most proud of the fact that we continue to increase the number of students who are accepted into college from Cleveland Central Catholic. I am also proud of our well-developed special education program at CCC”.

Sister Allison Marie, SND



is willing to work with students one at a time to find the right answer for each person. She’s a perfect fit for CCC, and CCC is the right fit for her.”

Frank O’Linn, Interim Superintendent of Schools for the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, adds, “Sr. Allison Marie has been a tireless champion for Cleveland Central Catholic. She is an expert educator whose vision and commitment to excellence have led the school to new heights. She also generously shares her expertise to assist others throughout the diocese. For example, she has been an essential leader for Better Together, our diocesan effort to increase inclusion in Catholic schools. Her leadership continues to be a blessing to Cleveland Central Catholic as well as the wider community.” Sister Allison Marie says she is always quoting Bishop Anthony Pilla, who said, “We do this, not because the students are Catholic, but because we are Catholic.”



“The Catholic religious have a tradition of helping the underserved,” Sister Allison Marie says. “CCC is a coeducational school rooted in the Gospel values of Jesus Christ and focused on college 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.” ■



Sr. Allison Marie Gusdanovic, SND, Scholarship established



In recognition of Sister Allison Marie Gusdanovic’s 15-year anniversary serving as principal at Cleveland Central Catholic, a scholarship has been created in her name at the high school. This scholarship also recognizes the ongoing commitment the Sisters of Notre Dame have to the schools, including the congregation’s annual gift of \$10,000 to be used for tuition assistance for students with financial need.

A \$100,000 goal has been established to fund this scholarship. Interest from the earnings on the fund will be used to offer tuition assistance to students interested in attending Cleveland Central Catholic but who are unable to do so due to financial constraints.

Please join us in our mission to educate and prepare diverse young men and women for the future and deepen their faith to responsibly serve God, church and community by giving to this scholarship. To make a gift, please call Tip Hosack, Advancement Director at CCC, at 216-641-2034 or email: thosack@ccc-hs.org



CCC salutes alumni serving in **U.S. Armed Forces**

Almost every year, several of Cleveland Central Catholic's graduating seniors selflessly decide to serve in one of the U.S. military branches. Whether they select the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force or Coast Guard, these brave young men and women risk their lives to ensure our national freedom and keep America safe.

Cleveland Central Catholic proudly acknowledges these forever Ironmen as they pursue careers of excellence and service, committed to the values of Duty, Honor and Country. Let's meet a few of these outstanding alumni.



Madison "Maddy" Skerkavich '13

Maddy Skerkavich had no immediate plans to join the military as she crossed the stage to receive her diploma from Cleveland Central Catholic in the late spring of 2013. During high school, Maddy's leadership skills were already apparent as she served on Student Senate all four years and president of the student body her senior year.

"My fondest memories of Cleveland Central Catholic are probably centered around homecoming games and dances. All the planning and set up was a great time," she recalls.

Upon graduating from CCC, Maddy became a licensed State Tested Nurses Aide (STNA), compassionately caring for the sick or injured at home. "I enjoyed the medical field and also provided hospice care for patients. I was very influenced by one client who served in the Navy many years ago," she explains. "That's when I decided to pursue military medicine."

Today, Maddy's rank is E-3 Hospital Corpsman in the Navy, having served since April 2016. She completed boot camp in Great Lakes, Illinois and transitioned to San Antonio, Texas for corpsman "A School" from June to October 2016. Since that time, Maddy has been based in Yokosuka, Japan.

“I decided to join the military because I wanted to be more than average. I wanted to be able to say I was a part of something bigger than myself.”

Tre'Shaun Anderson '17

“We serve active-duty members of all branches of the armed services and their families, as well as contractors and Department of Defense employees,” Maddy says. “I have never been to a combat zone. I give much credit to those who make that sacrifice.”

“The best part about the military is the people I work with. They’re all in my age group, so in a way, I guess they are like siblings. We are in close quarters most of the day, and we push each other’s buttons, but we also have a lot of fun and support each other,” Maddy admits. “There is really nothing like being in the Navy. My biggest struggle serving in the military is pretty much the same as everyone else’s here – I miss my family and friends. However, I have a wonderful support system spread across the States.”

As a female in the U.S. Navy, Maddy reports she has not experienced or witnessed prejudices in the military – whether due to sex, gender, race, background, etc. “Diversity is a huge strength of the military,” she emphatically insists. “We need the differences and skills of every individual to accomplish the job. Women and men certainly have unique strengths, so essentially, we will never be able to do the ‘same’ job, but all pull the same weight. Everyone contributes.”

“I appreciate all of the freedoms in the United States. I miss being able to drive and having simple things back home that are considered privileges here,” Maddy continues.

“I would encourage people to join the military for the minimum amount of time to try it out,” says the proud soldier. “That’s what I did. Think of it this way – you can only benefit. Many, many benefits exist for career advancement inside the Navy, and schooling can end up being completely free once you are discharged depending on your path.”

Maddy plans to leave the military in the next three to five years to further pursue a career in hospice nursing. “I was passionate about that before entering the military, and I would like to get back to it,” she states. “I plan on having a family, and there are too many struggles with having a family in the military that I hope to avoid.”

“I would encourage anyone at CCC interested in joining the military to get the most information you can and do not settle for a career path you are unsure of – whether it is the military or not,” Maddy suggests. “I do not have a bias to any military branch because each branch is very different. There

is a fit for every individual. Explore your options. You will definitely set yourself up for success by joining one of the U.S. Armed Forces, whether for four years or 20!”

Maddy’s brother, Carson Skerkavich, is currently a junior at Cleveland Central Catholic. Her sister Allison graduated from CCC in 2016.

Tre'Shaun Anderson '17

Tre'Shaun Anderson is another proud Ironman serving in the National Guard. His rank is E-3, which is Private First Class. “I have been in a little over a year, and I am in the infantry,” he describes.

“I have not been in a combat zone,” Tre'Shaun says. “The best thing about being in the service is all the benefits you get. The hardest struggle for me is that one day I will have to be away from my family.”

The young man has many fond memories of Cleveland Central Catholic. “My fondest memory would have to be when I was picked to help change the uniform dress code to what you see at CCC today,” he says. “I also played chess as an Ironman, if that counts as a sport.”

“I do feel like Cleveland Central Catholic prepared me for the military because it taught me how to be patient,” considers Tre'Shaun. “I decided to join the military because I wanted to be more than average. I wanted to be able to say I was a part of something bigger than myself.”

“I love my country,” exclaims the National Guardsman. “I feel it is important for young people to join the military service because you get to see a whole different world than you do now. In the future, I hope to become a sergeant and then go higher than that.”

Tre'Shaun offers this advice to current CCC students, “If you are planning to enter a branch of the U.S. military in the future, be mentally prepared for it because the physical part you can get by, but once your mind breaks, it is over.”



Continued on page 10



Continued from page 9

Raya Brackins '16

Another female CCC alumna just entering the U.S. Air Force is Raya Brackins '16. "My fondest memory of CCC is when our Varsity Boys Basketball Team went to State, and we all got to miss school and go to the game," she happily recalls.

Not one to shy away from the challenge of breaking female barriers, Raya wrestled all four years as an Ironman: freshman year, 105 lbs., sophomore year, 113 lbs., junior year 120 lbs., and senior year, 120 and 126 lbs. "My teammates welcomed me. They never really saw me as a girl; they saw me as their equal, as a teammate, as a wrestler. My coaches at Cleveland Central Catholic treated me the same as well. The first thing Coach T asked me when I met him was, 'Are you a wrestler?' and I said, 'Yes.' He said, 'Alright, let's get to work.'"

Raya's hard work paid off. She took second at State her junior year in the girls wrestling category. "I also won a lot of matches my junior year against the boys," she recalls with a grin.

Raya says she decided to serve in the military after initially attending college. "Everyone, even my teachers, encouraged me to go to college. I went to Bowling Green State University my freshmen year, majoring in Criminal Justice. I finished both semesters with straight A's and a 4.0 GPA. I even took summer classes, but I decided when those classes were over to join the Air Force and let them pay for the rest of my schooling," Raya explains, as she looks forward to beginning boot camp this spring.

Raya is from a military family. Her mother served in the Navy as a commander; her father served in the Marines. She also has cousins and uncles serving in each branch. "It's in my blood," she states matter-of-factly.

Currently, Raya's rank upon entering the U.S. Air Force is E-2. When she completes tech school, she will have an E-3 rank.

"I love my country," Raya exclaims proudly. "Being an African American and a woman, I have a lot of opportunities that people years ago and people in certain countries today do not have. I think young people should want to serve their country. It gives them a way to try to change the world. It gives them something to fight for."

Raya is not completely sure she wants to make the military her career. She is considering becoming an FBI agent. "Being in the military is a good way to reach that goal," Raya says. "I would like to cross train from material management to security forces in the U.S. Air Force to be able to make my career goal of becoming an FBI agent.

"I would advise CCC students to give joining the military serious consideration," Raya suggests. "Look at all the options you have before you make a decision. Follow your own path. Do not do what others think is best for you. Do what you think is best for yourself."

In closing, Raya shares a quote that she lives by every day: "God gives his toughest battles to his strongest soldiers." ■



"CCC helped me to grow. Coming from middle school, I was not the best student. My attendance was poor. I was labeled the class clown. Here, I have matured a lot. I get all A's, maybe 1 or 2 B's. I want to aim higher now."

Devonne Ferebee '21
Student Senate, Varsity Volleyball, Student Ambassador

Class of
2018

Senior Standouts

The CCC Class of 2018 is busy with finishing academic requirements and eagerly preparing for commencement. Cleveland Central Catholic's administration, Advisory Board, and faculty would like to recognize six, Senior Standouts for their outstanding accomplishments in academics as well as the arts, athletics and in service to their school and communities.



Tatu Wadesisi

Tatu Wadesisi knew the meaning of adversity and survival at an early age. At age five, she and her older siblings and mother immigrated to the United States from the war-torn country of Mozambique, leaving behind memories of hunger, poverty and the scars of war. Thanks to the intervention of Catholic Charities, Tatu and her siblings learned English and came to Cleveland Central Catholic in pursuit of a good education.

"Cleveland Central Catholic gave me an opportunity to grow academically, in my faith, and as a person," exclaims Tatu, looking back on the past four years. "It feels good to be recognized as one of six Senior Standouts in the Class of 2018 at Cleveland Central Catholic."

Tatu certainly earned the distinction of Senior Standout. She graduates with an overall 4.1 GPA (Grade Point Average). In addition, as a student at CCC, she participated in a host of extracurricular activities and service opportunities. Her strong leadership skills were tapped as a member of Student Senate, National Honor Society, and Drama Club. Her strong faith was evident as she actively served in campus ministry, including volunteering as a server at Mass and as an active member in Catholic Schools for Peace and Justice (CSPJ).

Along with her many commitments at school, Tatu embraced CCC's call to serve within the community, volunteering as a server at Mass at her home parish of St. Colman Church.

"I feel as though all my hard work these four years is paying off. Sometimes, as a high school student, it's hard to see why you are working so hard until the end," confesses Tatu. As she considers the future, Tatu admits, "I will miss the relationships I've made at Cleveland Central Catholic."

Tatu plans to major in mathematics, engineering or pre-law at either the University of Notre Dame, in South Bend, IN or Case Western Reserve University.



Marlon Robertson

"Faith is very important to me," says Marlon Robertson, who will graduate from CCC with an overall 3.9 GPA. "My grandma and granddad were my role models. Grandma went to church every Sunday and would take my sister and me. Whenever things get bad, I pray."

Marlon considers attending Cleveland Central Catholic a prayer answered. In order to off-set tuition costs, Marlon worked all four years on the cleanup crew at the high school as part of the Third Federal work study program.

"I believe coming to Cleveland Central Catholic gave me a better education than I would have received at a public school," Marlon states. "I will miss my friends and my teachers. The teachers at CCC are very good. They really are here to help students. They teach in a way that makes it easier to learn."

The bright, respectful young man plans to major in pre-med at Kent State University. He will be the first in his family to attend college.

Continued on page 12



Continued from page 11

Darryl Bacon

Darryl Bacon's personal life goals are to be successful and give back to those who have helped him along the way. "I want to give back to my mom, dad, grandma and grandad, as well as the community," Darryl insists. "Everyone goes through struggles, particularly in this community. I want to one day offer help."

Darryl is well on his way to achieving his first life goal, graduating CCC with an overall 4.4 GPA. Simply outstanding! In addition to tackling very challenging coursework throughout high school, the focused young man competed for two years in wrestling and on the cross country team. Darryl also exhibits outstanding leadership skills as a member of Student Senate, National Honor Society and in CSPJ.

"Cleveland Central Catholic enabled me to thrive as a student," states Darryl enthusiastically. "CCC prepared me in more ways than one." Darryl explains that through the school's rigorous academics, athletic programs and service opportunities, "I have become a better person over all."

The proud Ironman plans to major in Sports Medicine and Business Management at Kent State University in the fall.



Daphne Myers

An immigrant from the Philippines, Daphne Myers is a transfer student to Cleveland Central Catholic where she flourished as a student. She will be graduating CCC with a 4.01 GPA overall and plans to pursue a degree in Medical Technology from either the University of Toledo or Baldwin-Wallace University before heading to medical school to become an OB/GYN.

Daphne appreciates the excellent education and service opportunities she received while a student at CCC. "Cleveland Central Catholic prepared

me for college, where I know I can expect even harder academics," she acknowledges. "I do feel prepared for college coursework. I took physics at CCC, which was very hard, but I was able to keep up with the work. No matter what grades I achieved in classes, I always strived even harder to improve."

Daphne believes one of the greatest strengths of Cleveland Central Catholic is the diversity of the student body. "I was given the opportunity to communicate with many different people. At CCC, we don't look at race. People have their own ability and uniqueness. God made us all different and unique."

Mr. Aaron Eatman, Dean of School Engagement at CCC, is one of the school's many teachers impressed by the young woman. "Daphne is polite, puts in the hard work, and has an undying thirst for knowledge. She is one of my favorite students in the 12 years I have taught at Cleveland Central Catholic."

To this, Daphne smiles demurely and responds, "I will miss Mr. Eatman; Mrs. Croll, my physics teacher and librarian; Mrs. Davies, who was always there for me; and all my teachers and friends."

Daphne has come a long way since arriving to the United States at the age of 14!



Keije Brown

INVOLVED is the word that best describes Keije Brown. In addition to achieving a 3.8 GPA overall, the outgoing young man played tight end, wide receiver, defensive end and long snapper for the Varsity Football team all four years. Keije also found time to become a member of Link Crew, National Honor Society and served as a Student Ambassador.

"I feel Cleveland Central Catholic gave me an excellent education," Keije says. "When you struggle in class, the teachers will ask if you understand the material and will even stay after school to offer additional help. They are concerned and want us to have a great day."

Keije insists, "My CCC teachers have made a big difference in my life. They helped me to overcome my fear of speaking in large groups. They really do want students to succeed."

As he looks to the future, Keije says he plans on majoring in Digital Arts at either Bowling Green State University or Texas Christian University. "I would also like to be involved in the theater, making costume designs," he adds.

Keije considers himself fortunate to have attended a faith-based high school. "Faith is very important to me. I feel faith brings people together; brings us closer to each other," he describes. "I would recommend Cleveland Central Catholic to others. When you come here, it's a whole different experience than what you might have heard. The tuition is low, academics are high and the graduation rate is much higher than most schools."

He concludes, "It makes me proud to be recognized as one of the Senior Standouts. I am glad I can make my grandma and mom proud."

Mallory Wilks

Mallory Wilks became another familiar face around Cleveland Central Catholic during her four years – whether serving as a Student Ambassador, volunteering as a server at Mass, or helping those in need through Campus Ministry. The outgoing young woman loved to remain active throughout her high school years.

Mallory was also a member of National Honor Society and graduates with an impressive 4.0 GPA overall. She honed her leadership skills serving on the Student Senate. And for fun, Mallory enjoyed competing on the CCC Bowling Team and participating in the Drama Club.

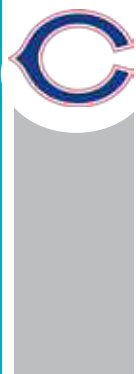
"I feel very prepared for college," Mallory says. "I will miss Cleveland Central Catholic and all the activities I've been involved in. Sister Allison Marie really helped me out when she learned I was interested in taking an art class but was unable to due to a schedule conflict. She arranged for me to take the class after school – one-on-one with the art teacher."

"I made a lot of friends at CCC," Mallory continues with a smile. "I also really appreciate the teachers here. They love to see us achieve our goals."

Mallory will be majoring in photography at the Cleveland Institute of Art in the fall.



Congratulations to CCC's six outstanding Senior Standouts. May you go out and impact the world! ■



"CCC is a really special gem in the heart of the city. The Class of 2003 was diverse on so many levels, but we never saw the differences in each other. We were a family. It was a unique experience to come of age in an environment where you do not see the differences in each other; you see each other as friends and teammates. It was beautiful."

Krystal Brandt '03
BA in Business, John Carroll University
Transformation Coach for high-achieving women



LIGHTS. CAMERA. ACTION!

CCC promotional videos hit social media

Cleveland Central Catholic has a great story to tell. No doubt about it. But, the question is, “How can we best tell the story about CCC in a way that reaches a broad audience, is adaptable to social media, and can be produced at relatively no cost?”

The CCC Advisory Board’s marketing committee answered this question by overseeing the year-long production of several videos featuring current students and CCC alumni. On the videos, 12 current students and two alumnae share their feelings about and experience at CCC. Viewers are left with the understanding that Cleveland Central Catholic is truly a vibrant, urban school, offering not only an excellent academic education but a supportive community which invests in students.

Ellen Zerucha, CCC Advisory Board member and Marketing Committee chair, oversaw this project. “Our marketing committee periodically discussed having videos to convey our message. Videos are such a great tool being used successfully in marketing today, particularly on social media,” Zerucha states. This committee included Chris Alvarado, Carmella Davies, Jackie Keim, Marie Kittredge, Jackie Studor and Chrissi Sanders.

Zerucha reached out to one of her good friend’s husband, Greg Hernandez, a skilled videographer and asked if he would be willing to volunteer his time and talents to produce videos for the school. Hernandez agreed. “At the time Ellen asked, I couldn’t think of a better opportunity as I had just retired from University Hospital of Cleveland as a Media Technology Strategist – a fancy title that encompasses most phases of video production and media technology. I also have a second connection to CCC. My nieces, Krystal Brandt and Vanessa Brandt Moos, graduated from CCC in 2003 and 2004 respectively.”

Jackie Keim, Communications Manager at CCC, recalls, “Initially, video was one of those out-of-reach ideas that would most likely be cost prohibitive for us. Thanks to Greg, who generously offered to donate his time and talents and shot all these videos for us, it became a reality.” Hernandez was also very helpful guiding production and providing suggestions to increase the impact as the marketing committee worked through the process. The professional video producer also owned top-notch digital equipment including Go Pros and drones that could be utilized in the video productions.

Keim says, the marketing committee brainstormed as to the best use of this opportunity. We felt student/alum testimonials are the most powerful message we have. Many students will tell us that the minute they walked thru the doors at CCC, whether it be a shadow or open house, the school picked them. They fell in love with the vibe at the school. We wanted to get that across in our videos."

Zerucha concurs, "Our goal is to be able to communicate our message to all the constituents or segments we are targeting: donors, potential donors, families, guardians, potential families, influencers at K-8 schools, and alumni. Our website and social media (Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube) will be the primary tools we use to reach these audiences. Our messaging goal is to communicate CCC's six tenets to these segments.



Zerucha says the plan is to produce various short, subject-matter-specific videos that address each tenet.

"Our desire is to show the school in a modern approach that will capture the attention of our constituents in a new and fresh way, explaining the advantages of attending or supporting CCC. The videos of students and alumni were shot before the holidays in December. Additional interviews with faculty, staff, and community partners such as Slavic Village Development and the City of Cleveland were shot early in the new year. Jackie Studor, co-founder of Make and Model Marketing, volunteered her staff to assist with video production. A nephew of Tip Hosack, Director of Advancement at CCC, is also helping with editing.

The young men and women videotaped represent the broad diversity that attends CCC. "Carmella Davies, Director of Admissions, did a fantastic job selecting a cross section of students. We wanted to show that CCC is a great fit for many types of individuals," Zerucha says.

Their unscripted responses pleasantly surprised the marketing committee, production team, and school administrators. For example, students were asked to describe Cleveland Central Catholic in one word. The overwhelming response was "Family" and "Home."

"We've been pretty blown away by the students' and alumni's responses on the videos," Zerucha admits. "The candor, maturity, perspective of these students has been amazing. After each interview, we're looking at each other saying, 'WOW! That kid is amazing and is going to go places.' It's been a joy to spend some time with these students and hear directly from them. One of the standout comments

was how much students respect and appreciate their teachers at CCC."

Here are a few additional quotes viewers will hear on the videos:

Tatu Wadesisi '18, a refugee from Mozambique who immigrated to the United States with her mother and older siblings in 2005, describes CCC: "Home because that's what it is. When you are at home, you are with family, and you are with people who love you."



Other student one-word descriptions of CCC:

- Friendship
- Strength
- Welcoming
- Greatness
- Solid

"I enjoyed working with the staff and students I met at CCC. I will say I was pleasantly surprised. It seems like one, happy family. My hats off to the teachers and staff at Cleveland Central Catholic. My personal takeaway from what I've seen is this is a great school, and they are doing a phenomenal job," Hernandez says.

Keim says the videos will help her as the Communications Manager at CCC. "I am always looking for positive messaging. There are hundreds of amazing stories at our school, and

these videos will give us an opportunity to showcase some of them. Initially, the shorter videos will be used as an Admissions recruiting tool on social media (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube) and at our events.

The CCC marketing committee would like to thank the students and alumni who volunteered their time to appear on the videos. "I would like to offer a very heart-felt thank you to everyone who delivered a lot of time and talent to the project. It was amazing to see so many people who did not attend CCC show such a commitment to helping educate Northeast Ohio about this treasure of a school," adds Zerucha.

And...cut. That's a wrap! ■



CCC teacher's spiritual pilgrimage on el Camino de Santiago



On July 11, 2017, Michael Palcisko traveled for 31 hours to reach St. Jean Pied De Port, France where he set out on a journey that would prove to become a defining moment in his spiritual life. He, along with his cousin, Annie Dregley and her husband, Lou Dregley, decided to hike a grueling 480 miles in 31 days, straight to the Shrine of St. James in Casa di Santiago, Spain.

“I was on a retreat at St. Ignatius High School in 2016 where we watched the movie, “The Way,” starring Martin Sheen. The movie is based on the Camino pilgrimage as Sheen’s character copes with the loss of his son. That evening I broke down in tears. I was that touched by the movie,” the 50-year-old CCC mathematics teacher admits. “I felt the spirit of The Camino calling me. I needed to do this hike for my deceased sister and father to honor them. I purchased a plane ticket that week for France and began planning and preparing for the Camino.”

“Admittedly, the long journey was not going to be as difficult for Annie and Lou. They are experienced hikers, having walked parts of the Appalachian Trail, Pacific Northwest and Grand Canyon. Lou also competes in triathlon events – bicycling, running and swimming. I was the rookie hiker in the group,” Palcisko abashedly qualifies. Palcisko knew the pilgrimage would require all of his spiritual, mental and physical strength.

Historically, Camino de Santiago was one of the most important Christian pilgrimages during the Middle Ages. However, the Black Death, the Protestant Reformation, and political unrest in 16th century Europe led to its decline. In October 1987, the route was declared the first European Cultural Route by the Council of Europe and was named one of UNESCO's World Heritage Sites. Today hundreds of thousands of Christian pilgrims set out each year from all around the world from their front doorsteps, or from popular starting points across Europe, to make their way to Santiago de Compostela. Most travel by foot, some by bicycle, and a few people travel as some medieval counterparts did, on horseback or by donkey.



“El Camino attracts an international crowd,” Palcisko describes. “We enjoyed a real spirit of camaraderie. I applaud everyone who finishes el Camino.”

“A few weeks into the journey, my feet were suffering with nine blisters and two of my toenails came off,” recalls Palcisko. “I was feeling sorry for myself due to the pain and on the verge of quitting and going home. As I sat on the side of the trail contemplating this, a Polish youth group stopped and asked if I was okay. A doctor in the group worked on my feet for 45 minutes, applying antibacterial ointment. I was soon good as gold. There were many such angels along the way. Their beautiful souls come into your life and save you when you are at your worst.”



Palcisko says he found overnight accommodations on his pilgrimage at local hostels dotting the route.

“The journey breaks you down and builds you up,” describes Palcisko. “You experience true suffering. I wanted to experience the suffering of my sister who struggled with a drug addiction; the suffering of my father who battled lung cancer. I believe when you suffer in life, you know what is important: your faith, family and friends.”

Palcisko says the hardest day was a 10-mile hike through the Meseta – the road that Caesar of Rome built. “Imagine – Caesar traveled on this same road! Hot is the word that best describes this day – scorching hot, particularly carrying four liters of water and a 15-pound backpack. Many people over the years have met their fate on the Meseta.

“Walking the Camino de Santiago truly changed my life,” exclaims the CCC teacher. “It was an emotional journey; a journey for the soul. I made it with the help of Jesus Christ, Blessed Virgin Mary, my deceased sister and father. If you don’t believe in God, always remember when you feel helpless and abandoned, that is when Jesus Christ is walking right next to you.”

He continues, “I learned how to be more patient with myself and others. You are not going to get to your destination in an hour; it can take several hours or the whole day. I’ve learned to love people where they are at and not judge them. Patience is the key to any relationship.”

Palcisko says his faith grew as a result of this experience. “Your faith is dead without good deeds and actions,” he insists. “I know, through my faith, the greatest gift of living is giving of one’s self. Sometimes you have to suffer and give of yourself for others – like Jesus Christ did for our sins on the cross. I know in my heart my father and sister are in heaven. They walked the Camino with me, every step of the way. I never would have made it without them. I love them with all my heart.”

Today, Palcisko says he wants to incorporate what he learned on el Camino in the classroom and his other relationships at Cleveland Central Catholic. “I want to make an impact on the lives of my students,” he passionately states. “I want to give them hope. When you are in a bad situation, pray and place your hope in God alone. I try to model the love that Jesus Christ has for each and every one of us. The students need to know they are loved by each and every teacher. Hope is the key to a better future.”

Editor’s note: Michael Palcisko, Jr., teaches Algebra 1 at Cleveland Central Catholic. He earned four college degrees: Associate degree in electronic technology from ETI Technical college, a BS degree in Electronic Engineering Technology from Walsh University, and two Master’s degrees in Education from John Carroll University. He is now in his 20th year of teaching, 10 of those years at Cleveland Central Catholic. ■



“If I was to give anyone a glimpse of Cleveland Central Catholic, I would tell them that the teachers are very passionate, and they will help you.”

Ace Joseph '19
Varsity Football, Student Ambassador, Drama Club



PhD candidate **Taylor Darden '10** expands skills to impact disadvantaged communities

As a student at Cleveland Central Catholic, Taylor Darden '10 embraced the high school's call to service. Today, serving others is a way of life for the impressive alumna, as she researches the prevalence of escalated cardiovascular diseases within racial minorities and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. This research is only part of her demanding workload as she pursues a PhD in Clinical and Community Psychology at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, Maryland.



"I am currently researching how racial discrimination can lead to cardiovascular disease (CVD) by way of chronic stress in the black community," Darden explains. "I think this is important work when you consider the high prevalence and incidence rates of CVD in racial minority communities, especially African American."

She explains how research demonstrates the risk still remains when traditional CVD risk factors are controlled, suggesting alternative social factors, like racial discrimination, contribute to this racial health disparity.

After graduating from CCC, Darden earned a BA in Psychology from the University of Dayton in 2013 and a MA in Counseling Psychology from Towson University in Baltimore County, Maryland.

"I decided to pursue a PhD in Clinical and Community Psychology in 2016 so I could expand my skills and ability to impact disadvantaged communities, such as racial minorities and those from lower socioeconomic backgrounds. I could have stopped with my master's degree and just do therapy/counseling, but with my PhD, I can not only do therapy but teach, do research and make a difference in communities through several avenues, like program implementation, evaluation, and influencing policy decisions – especially since I am so close to the nation's capital," says the passionate woman.

"I lived on the east side of Cleveland while attending Cleveland Central Catholic, specifically the Lee-Harvard/Lee-Miles area. I definitely believe my upbringing and background inspired my career and research," she explains. "I have always been interested in

"I absolutely loved CCC. I received a great education, and I grew and developed as a person and student there. It was nothing short of a family."

Taylor Darden '10

psychology because, as cliché as it sounds, I knew it was a field where I could help people similar to myself and my peers from the neighborhood."

Darden says clinical and community psychologists are able to make a positive difference and influence change in racial minority and economically disadvantaged neighborhoods and communities. "Growing up in and around struggles within my community made me want to pursue a career that enables me to be an agent of change to help improve conditions in these neighborhoods," Darden explains. "The field of psychology allows me to do this – whether on an individual level by counseling people one-on-one to improve their mental health or on a community level through initiating impactful programs and policies that affect communities."

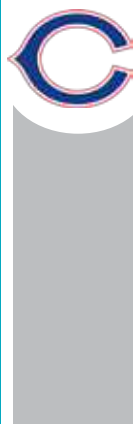
Darden reflects on her four years at Cleveland Central Catholic: "I absolutely loved CCC. I received a great education, and I grew and developed as a person and student there. It was nothing short of a family."

She continues, "My fondest memories were spending time with teammates on the basketball and volleyball teams. Whether it was after school waiting for practice to start, study hall, practice time, game time or road trips, it was

always fun hanging out with them. I hope that one day, when I finally finish school and earn all my degrees, I can return to Cleveland and give back to CCC."

"My advice to CCC students who want to pursue a degree in psychology is to be prepared to go to graduate school," Darden says. "I didn't realize it before I declared my major in undergrad. Knowing this ahead of time will mentally prepare you and allow you to be strategic in undergrad so you are competitive enough to apply to graduate school when the time comes. Also, don't be afraid to volunteer or take unpaid internships to discover what you like. There are a lot of subfields and subdivisions within psychology. It may take you awhile to figure out what you like. Volunteering and experimenting will help. I dabbled in Forensic Psychology, Marriage and Family Therapy before deciding on my career and degrees."

Faith continues to be important in both her career and throughout life. Darden says, "It allows me to embrace the process. There will always be ups, downs, moments of self-doubt, etc., but having faith that everything happens for a reason and that I have a purpose helps me get through life and my education." ■



"The most important thing I learned at CCC was a service mindset. It is ingrained here and it has a faith-based culture. Dedication to others is a real tenet that I walked away with. Stepping out the doors of Central Catholic at graduation, I felt like an adult, truly prepared to make my own decisions and go on to the next step academically and explore my future."

Vanessa Brandt Moos '04
BA John Carroll University
Master degree in Public Administration,
California State University, Dominguez Hills



Beacon of Hope campaign nears finish line



In July of 2015, Cleveland Central Catholic officially launched its “Beacon of Hope” campaign. Money raised would be used to address critical needs at the high school. Priority #1 was to increase scholarship funding to ensure as many young people as possible could attend CCC and receive a faith-based, quality education. Priority #2 was to address the facilities and systems improvements critically needed to maintain the school building, which was built in 1921.

A campaign goal of \$5.175 million was established and enthusiasm ran high. Thanks to the overwhelming support and generosity of many, Cleveland Central Catholic achieved its campaign goal one year in advance of the campaign’s established closing date of June 30, 2018. Amazing!

The Beacon of Hope (BOH) campaign committee, co-chaired by George M. Chase ‘61, Jerry Kysela and John A. Peca ‘70, decided to see the campaign through to its established end date and continue to solicit contributions for this already successful campaign. As the Beacon of Hope campaign nears the finish line, the Cleveland Central Catholic Advisory Board, administration, faculty and entire community stand in awe of what God has accomplished. They humbly ask all those still able to contribute, or to make an additional gift, to please do so today to help Beacon of Hope reach a new, \$6 million goal by June 30.

There are many unsung heroes to thank – those who generously gave of their time, talent and treasure to the Beacon of Hope campaign. Several of these individuals insist on remaining anonymous. One such donor came forward at the beginning of 2018, pledging a \$60,000 match gift, doubling the value of each new gift received up to \$60,000. Hopefully, this incentive will help push the campaign donations to CCC’s \$6 million goal.



George Wasmer, former CCC Board Chair, provided the vision and leadership which set the Beacon of Hope campaign in motion. He helped convince the CCC Advisory Board and administration that the time was right for the BOH campaign. He also graciously served as an honorary co-chair and provided seed funding for the campaign.

Richard B. "Dick" Fisher, another Catholic education advocate, propelled the campaign's momentum by donating \$1 million to the Beacon of Hope campaign. Amazingly, Mr. Fisher had never visited the high school! What a tremendous testament to his personal commitment to Catholic education and philanthropic causes.

Then, there was CCC Board chair John Cvetic and his wife Laurie who creatively and generously gifted a \$500,000 life insurance policy to the high school. Third Federal Foundation generously contributed \$500,000 to be used to complete Stefanski Stadium. Additionally, an anonymous and generous estate gift was made by a CCC teacher, and an innovative gift from the Sisters of Humility of Mary enabled CCC students to engage with the Learning Center for Autism at Cleveland Clinic.

"These are all compelling stories of the campaign," states Leo Hyland, President of Cleveland Central Catholic, as he reflects on the Beacon of Hope campaign.

"I would also like to acknowledge the generosity of the CCC Advisory Board members."

"The Beacon of Hope campaign has already far exceeded my personal expectations," Hyland states. "Our campaign counsel originally suggested a goal of \$4.5 million, which clearly has been surpassed. It feels great to have already achieved the campaign's goal. We are now focused on attaining a goal of \$6 million by June 30!"

Hyland says there are many reasons for the success of the Beacon of Hope campaign. A few reasons are:

- This was the right campaign at the right time. It was about addressing fundamental needs and putting CCC on a firm foundation for the future.
- CCC was fortunate to benefit from experienced and wise campaign counsel who guided CCC through the pre-campaign planning, creating a clear and convincing case statement, conducting a thorough feasibility study that tested the support for the case, and who supported the efforts of the Campaign Leadership Team throughout the process.

Hyland continues, "We acknowledge that \$1.7 million of the campaign total consists of deferred gifts. Therefore, it is imperative we continue to seek and secure cash (and non-cash) gifts that will allow CCC

to move forward with its immediate campaign priorities. We have already begun addressing some of our most pressing needs, including a new roof on the main school building, new windows and tuck pointing. We are currently addressing our HVAC issues. Remember, this building was built in 1921, so there is considerable work to do."

"We are also working on a comprehensive Campus Master Plan, along with our friends at St. Stanislaus and other key community partners," Hyland adds. "Our plan will help better define and secure our campus, increase available parking space, improve the flow of pedestrian and automobile traffic – all while making our campus more attractive and safe."

"We are forever grateful to all who gave to the Beacon of Hope campaign," Hyland concludes. "You are investing in the future of our school, our neighborhood, and our community."

Please join us as we strive toward \$6 million. All new donations will count toward the established match, increasing the value of your gift. An envelope is enclosed in this issue of Connection that you may use to make your contribution to the Beacon of Hope campaign. ■



15th Annual Calcutta Auction a success

The event grossed more than \$164,000 for tuition assistance.



PRESENTING SPONSOR
Third Federal Foundation

CHAMPION SPONSORS
Ancora Advisors
Kurtz Bros. Inc.
Medical Mutual of Ohio
The Musca Family Charitable Fund
Thomas Richlovsky
Wasmer, Schroeder & Co.

MVP SPONSORS
Benesch, Friedlander, Coplan & Arnoff LLP
Credentialing Corp. of America
US Bank

ALL STAR SPONSORS
Aon
Cohen & Company
Ernst & Young
Galaxy Balloons Inc.
Hyland Software
Industrial Manufacturing Co.
John G. Johnson Construction
Jones Day
Merrymeeting Inc.
Surety Title Agency
The Swagelok Foundaiton
Vocon





Local businessman invests in CCC students

Ted Rieple already had enough on his plate. The successful businessman runs sales for Park Place Technologies, a global leader in third-party, post-warranty computer maintenance, storage and server support. The company employs more than 900 people, reports annual revenues over \$200 million, and operates four offices in the U.S. as well as Toronto, London, Frankfurt, Netherlands, Singapore and Malaysia. Still, Rieple carved out time from his busy schedule to help serve underprivileged youth in Cleveland's urban neighborhoods.

Why? Rieple learned that approximately 36 percent of Cleveland's youth do not graduate high school and another 89 percent do not graduate college. The compassionate businessman wanted to help turn these numbers around. He decided one way to help was to provide financial support so interested students could attend one of the 11 Breakthrough Schools operating in Cleveland. These high-performing, college-preparatory, nonprofit, public charter schools serve nearly 3,300 students and are located in the most underserved neighborhoods in Cleveland. And talk about return on investment -- Breakthrough students consistently outperform all eight urban school districts in Ohio.

Then, the philanthropic businessman decided to take it a step further by contributing annually to CCC to help provide tuition assistance so three Breakthrough students could continue to receive an excellent education by attending Cleveland Central Catholic this fall. This annual gift will help cover some of the tuition cost so these freshmen could attend CCC all four years and graduate as Ironmen.

"Cleveland Central Catholic President Leo Hyland sent me a listing of the students that will receive these scholarships" said Rieple "They all look like great choices -- good kids that will, hopefully, go on to do great things and remember the great foundation that CCC provided."

In addition to this financial gift, Rieple recently sponsored Matt Wallenhorst, Campus Minister, Geography and Theology teacher at CCC, on a mission trip to El Salvador in January, planned through St. Dominic's Church in Shaker Heights.

Rieple describes when he first went with this group to El Salvador: "It was the trip of a lifetime for me. I returned with a sense of gratitude for all the great things in my life and a plan to use the trip to inspire change in my life. One of the things I wanted to do was to give others the opportunity to see and expe-

Continued on page 24



Kennedy Rieple grinding corn for papusas



Kennedy Rieple and Allie Peterlin with farmer from farm co-op



Kennedy Rieple, Allie Peterlin and Michael Adelman with hosts from Chiltipuan



Matt Wallenhorst, CCC Campus Minister



Ted Rieple Jr with El Salvadorian child



Continued from page 23

rience what I did. I was fortunate as a non-St. Dominic's parishioner to make the trip as it usually fills quickly with St. Dominic parishioners. I was also fortunate that I had the means to cover the \$1,300 trip cost."

This year, Rieple worked with Jodi Bowers and Brian Boswell, from St. Dominic's, to plan another El Salvador mission trip he would sponsor. He emailed Hyland, asking if he knew of a CCC a faculty member or staff who would like to join the group, and Ted would happily sponsor him/her. Wallenhorst jumped at the opportunity.



department of El Salvador. It is one of the poorest areas in El Salvador. The average annual income in Chiltiupán is \$600 or \$1.64 per day. The average family size is four to six children and the unemployment rate is high.

Wallenhorst had the opportunity to meet Rieple at the first information meeting for the trip. "I got to know him better on the trip where I found out we were actually connected through

my godfather and cousin because they went to John Carroll and played football together. It seems like circles get smaller and smaller the more you find out about someone," Wallenhorst says with a smile.

"Ted is a great guy!" exclaims Wallenhorst. "First and foremost, he is a good dad. His daughter Kennedy went on the trip with us, as did his niece Allie. He was always looking out for them. He is also able to roll with the punches easily. We missed our connecting flight in Houston, and Ted didn't panic at all. He just worked it out and made the most out of what could have been a messy situation. We also would barely be able to travel very far on foot without Ted going up to someone and asking how they were doing – usually finishing off each question in Spanish for 'my friend' or 'my brother.'"

Wallenhorst enjoyed the opportunity to travel to El Salvador. When he heard of Rieple's generosity in sponsoring some CCC students, the campus minister was not surprised. "I would like to tell him that his generosity makes a difference in Cleveland, just like it did in El Salvador. It's about changing the trajectory of a kid's life!" ■



"First, they did not call it a 'mission' trip but a 'relational' trip," Wallenhorst clarifies. "In El Salvador, we did a few home visits where we brought basic needs to a family: a tub of food, cleaning supplies, and other things they could use. Most of the houses we would call dismal at first glance – a lot of corrugated steel and, in some cases, mud walls. But, we were always welcomed into the homes. The Salvadorians were very proud to have us there and talk with us. At the end of each visit, we offered a little home blessing, usually led by one of the Salvadorians who worked with us, a man named Raoul."

Wallenhorst says their group also visited various parts of town that St. Dominic's helps with funding for college scholarships, a school and a health clinic. "If Chiltiupán did not have this health clinic, they would need to take an hour bus ride to the capital of San Salvador for basic treatment," CCC's campus minister states. "Another day, we put on a field day at a local soccer field. We had all the kids from school come and play in relay races and games, eventually ending in a few big soccer games. Each kid received a shirt, soccer ball and shin guards at the end." Chiltiupán is a municipality in the La Libertad



"I am Asian, and there is huge diversity in this school. Central Catholic is a very good school. My teachers are really helpful; everyone is here to help you. You have all the resources you need."

Daphne Myers '18
Physics, Chemistry, Pre-Calculus studies
Aspires to become an OB/GYN



Inaugural Kairos Retreat a Success

During the first week of March, Cleveland Central Catholic juniors and seniors participated in the school's first-ever Kairos Retreat at Camp Asbury in Hiram. Kairos is a retreat program for Catholic high school students which gives students a chance to contemplate God's role in their lives. Senior Ironmen and members of the Campus Ministry team led the retreat. Despite snowy and icy weather conditions on the third day, the students had a wonderful experience.



Honors American History and English students visit Maltz Museum of Jewish Heritage

The sophomore Honors American History and English classes, led by Mrs. Erin Williams and Mrs. Desiree Moyer-Stephens, visited the Maltz Museum in February. The students were studying World War II and read Elie Wiesel's memoir, Night, in preparation for the trip.



Talented Music Students Recognized at Ohio Music Education Association Competition

Congrats to our talented music students! In January, our students competed at the Ohio Music Educator Association solo/ensemble event at Mayfield High School. Emanuel Griffin '20 earned third-highest rating for his instrumental solo. The following students earned second-highest ratings for their instrumental solos: Juan Hernandez '19, Amari Galloway '19, Deysha Tolliver '18, Sherelle Thomas '21, Austin Hall '19, Kaitlin Cooper '21, and Katie Caceres '21. Marcus Rutledge '18 earned highest rating for his vocal solo.



Winter athletic teams enjoy HOT season

Girls Basketball

The Lady Ironmen had a good season under first year head coach Dave Murphy. They finished the season with a 7-15 record with a 54-51 loss in the second round of the OHSAA Division II District Tournament to Orange. The Ironmen led most of the game but couldn't hold on for the win.

Chantel Barnett '20 was named to the North Coast League First Team and Tationna DeLargy '19 was named to the Second Team. Phylicia Jackson '20 and Ashanti Hall '19 earned Honorable Mentions.

Boys Basketball

The Varsity Ironmen boys' basketball team finished a strong season under third-year Head Coach Jordan Duke. The Ironmen finished the season with a 18-6 (7-1 conference) record. The Ironmen lost to Shaker Heights in the Division I District semi-final. This was the Ironmen's first year in Division I. The Ironmen are losing seniors Zakee Ali, Anthony Billups, Jerry Coleman III, Lamar Egler, Jr., Dwight Love, Delshawn and Dyshawn Jackson.

Coach Jordan Duke was named the North Coast League (NCL) Coach of the Year for the second year in a row! The following players also received NCL honors:

First Team – Delshawn Jackson '18, Dyshawn Jackson '18

Second Team – Jerry Coleman III '18, Dwight Love '18

Honorable Mention – Anthony Billups '18, Taryl Davis '19 and Trevon Wells '19

A special congratulations to Delshawn Jackson who was selected by the Ohio Prep Sportswriter's Association to the Division I All State Team Special Mention.

Wrestling Wrap-Up

The Ironmen wrestlers advanced out of the Sectional Tournament at Bay High School and wrestled in the District Tournament in Norwalk. Congratulations to: Darryl Bacon '18 (4th place), Maurice Inge '20 (6th place), Curtis Jenkins '21 (5th place), Dekairi Johnson '21 (4th place), Alex Mathis '20 (6th place), Chris Morgan '18 (5th place), Trent Proctor '21 (6th place), and Justin Thrash '10 (6th place).

Indoor Track

The Indoor track team coached by Todd Hunter performed very well in their inaugural season. Congratulations to the Ironman on outstanding performances at the OATCC Indoor State Track Meet on March 3rd at the Spire Institute. Junior Qu'Juan McGlothlin and senior David Lee set personal bests in the 200 meter dash with Lee placing 9th overall! Congrats to David Lee for setting a school record in the 60 meter dash, a record previously held by John Lundy Jr. '09. Lee also ran the second fastest indoor 200 meter dash in school history!





Alumni named for induction in Athletic Hall of Fame

The Cleveland Central Catholic High School Athletic Hall of Fame was founded to recognize individuals and teams that have made a significant contribution to the athletic program at CCC or one of the founding schools: Our Lady of Lourdes, St. John Cantius, St. Michael the Archangel and St. Stanislaus. We are proud to announce the list of inductees for the Athletic Hall of Fame Class of 2018. These individuals will be inducted at an awards ceremony and dinner on April 29, 2018.

Jerry Petkoff '72 - First CCC athlete to earn Baseball Press Star, pitch no-hitter, earn baseball PD Dream Team and beat Elyria Catholic in any sport; **Baseball:** career average 330, captain, All-Conference '72, Honorable Mention '71; **Basketball:** Co-captain, All-Conference '72, Senior: led team assists, steals, 6 triple-doubles; '82 All-World Softball Outfielder hitting .840 in World Softball Tourney; Attends all CCC Class reunions and CCC Golf Outings.

Ed Kall '79 - Three sport athlete; **Basketball:** member of '78-'79 team that was first in CCC history to play in NCC Championship game and have overall winning record. Honorable Mention Press Star; Cross Country: CCC's 2nd place finisher in all cross country meets; **Baseball:** All-NCC 1st Team, Greater Cleveland West All-Star, Press Star Honorable Mention, batted .309, perfect 20/20 stolen bases, team finished 23-11, NCC Co-Champs, Sectional Champs.

Shawn Michael Bodnar '93 - **Basketball:** Two-time First Team All-NCL, NCL League MVP, team MVP. Honorable Mention All-State, City All-Star games Cleveland State and Tri-C, PD All-Scholastic Honorable Mention, captain; teams from '91-93 won three consecutive NCL Basketball Championships, three Sectional Championships including one District Championship and set record for 20 game home win-streak; Played four years at Wittenberg (senior captain) with 100-21 record, and D3 final 4.

Eugene White '96 - Four-time All-NCL football & basketball; **Football:** All-District, All-State Honorable Mention as junior; All-State, All-District as senior; MVP East-West All-Star game 180 yards, three touchdowns. **Basketball:** junior Honorable Mention All-District and State, Senior All-League, Honorable Mention; All-District; Four years of football at DII Ashland University with three Honorable Mentions All-Leagues, and finished third all-time in receptions. Coached CCC Ironmen football and girls/boys basketball '05 - '06, '09 - '11.

Michael Duncan '02 - **Basketball:** Three year varsity starter, junior: Honorable Mention All-Conference, team made it to District final; senior: 1st team All-Conference, 2nd team All-District, team became first CCC boys team to State Final Four; at Tri-C was the '04 MVP of the National Championship team, 2nd team All-Conference, All-Tourney team; Livingstone College team MVP; Currently head coach at Tri-C with consecutive NJCAA District finals.

Otimbum Wilson '08 - All-Conference in three sports; **Football:** Two time captain, Junior 2nd team All-Conference, Senior 1st team All-Conference, 3 year, 2-way starter FB/TE & MLB, East West All-Star game MLB; Track: shot put All-Conference and Regionals; **Wrestling:** Sophomore All-Conference 275 lb. Football scholarship to Kentucky State. Masters in Clinical Psychology, Two years Ironmen Varsity defensive line and Head JV coach including 2017 NCL White Division Conference Championship Team.

John D. Lundy III '09 - **Football:** 3-yr letterman, NCL Honorable Mention; **Track:** All-NCL 1st Team, Two-time District Champion 100 and 200, five-time Regional Qualifier, three time State finalist Indoor 60, 200, State Qualifier 100, 200, State finalist 4x4. CCC record-holder in 100, 200; Notre Dame College: 4 year football; Track: All-Conference 1st Team in four events and Athlete of the Year, three-time NCAA National Qualifier; Professional: '15 - present Finalist/Qualifier/US-ranked.

Chall Montgomery '10 - **Basketball:** sophomore Honorable Mention All-NCL; Junior - 1st team All-NCL and 2nd Team All-State, Senior: team MVP, 1st team All-NCL, North South All-Star game, 1st team All-State and MVP of 2009 State Championship Game - the first and only CCC boys team to win a State Championship; Basketball at Walsh College: Won GLIAC Player of the Week for major role in three wins averaging 16.3 points, 6 rebounds 88% 3-pt

Please join us April 29th for the Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. Doors open 3:45 pm with reception and refreshments. Welcome and Blessing will start at 4:45 followed by dinner and inductions. Cost is \$25 for adults, \$10 for students and under 10 free. Make reservations before April 22nd to Jerry Fasko (jfasko@yahoo.com) 440-829-8827 or Bill Sluzewski (wsluzewski@ccc-hs.org) 216-441-4700 ext. 281. Check should be made payable to Cleveland Central Catholic High School, and mail check to Jerry Fasko, 968 Stanwell Drive Highland Hts. OH 44143 or paid in person CCC Advancement Office. ■



Ironmen Alum and Friends: Saturday, June 9th

Golfers: “Scramble” format at Valleaire Golf Course, Hinckley Ohio with lunch, all-day free drinks, steak, chicken or veggie dinner, gifts and prizes: **Pre-pay \$90 (\$100 at the course if openings)**. Registration 8:45 am-9:30 am; Shotgun start at 10:00 am. Spread the word among your classmates. Try to assemble your own foursome of CCC alum/friends (or we’ll pair you up) To reserve a spot contact Tim Myslenski 216-789-1216, myslenski@att.net or Jerry Fasko 440 829-8827, jfasko@yahoo.com **Please specify names, dinner selections and arrange pre-payment (see below).**

Sponsorship: CCC Alumni Association’s ONLY annual fundraiser.

This year all proceeds will be directed to revitalizing The Ironmen Track Team - starting with guaranteeing that all members have their own pair of track shoes.

For info or questions, contact: Jerry Fasko 440-829-8827 jfasko@yahoo.com, John Simon 216-687-7659 simon1549@sbcglobal.net or Bill Sluzewski wsluzewski@ccc-hs.org. We expect another huge turnout of over 130 CCC alumni and friends. Since the majority of profit comes from sponsorships, **please consider:**

- **\$500 Event Sponsorship** – Your personal or company name is displayed at the registration and dinner areas and on the program cover. The donation can be in the form of money, gifts for each of the 100+ golfers, or a significant prize to be raffled-off (TV, vacation condo etc.)
- **\$100 Hole Sponsorship** – A professional sign is printed with your personal (or company’s) name and slogan. The sign will be displayed at one of the golf hole tee-boxes and later at the dinner pavilion. Your name with slogan is also printed in the event’s program handout.
- **\$50 Program Sponsor** - Your name(s) and graduation year(s) listed in our program. Team-up with a sibling or fellow classmate.
- **Other Donations Items** – Company marketing trinkets, Indians/Browns tickets, Golf towels/balls, Goodie Baskets, Athletic gear, Bottles of cheer, etc. that could be used as participant-gifts, door-prizes or items to be raffled.
- **Volunteer** - Help with setup, registration, grilling, serving dinner.

Payments: (before June 1st please)

By credit card call CCC Finance Director Rich Goodrich 216-641-2002.

By check make payable to Cleveland Central Catholic HS and mail to Cleveland Central Catholic HS, Attn: Rich Goodrich – Golf Outing, 6550 Baxter Avenue, Cleveland, OH 44105 or mail to Jerry Fasko, 968 Stanwell Drive, Highland Heights OH 44143. before June 1st



Alumni News

Kayla Cooper '17 - earned a \$12,000 Deans Scholarship at Baldwin-Wallace University based on her outstanding overall achievements in high school.

Breya Hall-McDuffie '17 - has been awarded a first year Trailblazer scholarship. Breya is working toward her Bachelor of Science in Applied Science – Forensic Science.

Miryne Thomas '17 - a freshman basketball player at the University of Maryland Eastern Shore, was named Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Co-Rookie of the Week after averaging 19.5 points and 9.5 rebounds over two games for the Hawks. Miryne, a forward, is an alumna of the Boys and Girls Club of Cleveland King Kennedy location and was named the Boys and Girls Club Youth of the Year.

Tervell Beck '16 - finished an impressive season playing basketball at the University of Las Vegas. Beck spent a year in prep school and is finishing his freshman year for the Rebels.

Montell McRae '15 - Congratulations to the University of Buffalo junior on his impressive play, including a three pointer in the Bulls victory over the Arizona Wildcats in the NCAA March Madness Basketball Tournament.

Cara Guidaitis '14 - was named to the President's List at Youngstown State University for Fall Semester 2017. Guidaitis is studying Political Science at YSU.

Davie Gil '11 - has been named to the Dean's List at Baldwin-Wallace University for the Fall Semester 2017. Gil is majoring in Computer Network Security at BWU.

Winifred Wilson '13 - was among 19 students who participated in Baldwin-Wallace University's "Ghana Beat: The Drums of Tradition and Change" study abroad program, a transformative three-week learning experience in multiple cities in Ghana, West Africa. Wilson completed courses providing an in-depth understanding of Ghana's politics and society as well as West African traditional music before going on the three week experience. ■

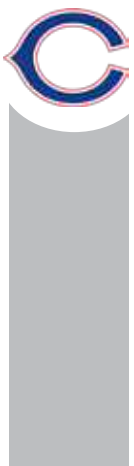
The 5/1 Campaign- Five Schools/One Future

For the second year in a row, we will be celebrating our founding schools with a campaign to raise funds for our current Ironmen! The tradition of excellence created by those schools - Our Lady of Lourdes, St. Michael the Archangel, St. John Cantius and St. Stanislaus, continues today at Central Catholic. Will you support our students?

Graduation rates at Cleveland Central Catholic continue to be high, an average of 99% over the past five years and an 89% college acceptance rate. Along with our successes, comes the continuing need for tuition support. The majority of our families continue to struggle, with the vast majority of them living at or below the federal poverty level.

5/1 is a 24-hour social media campaign focused on donors NOT dollars. All gifts, no matter the size, make an impact! Simply make your gift on May 1st, 2018 at www.centralcatholic.org/fiveone, then post, share, tweet or email your fellow Ironmen and Lady Ironmen. Together as a community we can make a difference during these 24 hours.

Challenge your classmates, teammates and friends to commit to the future of Cleveland Central Catholic. An anonymous donor has come forward, pledging a \$60,000 match gift, doubling the value of each new gift received up to \$60,000. ■



"My faith is very important to me. I know you can be a Catholic in a non-Catholic school, but it's just not the same. I wanted to go to a school where I could grow in my faith and academically. Central Catholic met both of these needs. The teachers at CCC are my favorite thing in the whole world; they are like my family. I love them so much. You spend so much time at school that you don't realize these people are becoming part of your life."

Tatu Wadesisi '18
Refugee from Mozambique
Student Ambassador, Drama Club, Student Senate
National Honor Society, CSPJ, Bowling

We need your help!

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

2018 Calendar of Events

Advancement & School Schedule

Calendar of Events

Lunch & Learn

Tuesday, May 1, 2018
Fr. Fiala Room

Commencement

Sunday, June 3, 2018
Stefanski Stadium

Baccalaureate Mass

Friday, June 1, 2018
St. Stanislaus

Alumni Golf Outing

Saturday, June 9, 2018
Valleaire Golf Club

Varsity Girls Softball – 2018 *Subject to Change*

Day	Date	Opponent	Place	Time
Wed.	Mar. 28	Lake Catholic HS	Home	4:30 pm
Mon.	April 2	Trinity HS	Home	4:30 pm
Tues.	April 3	St. Thomas Aquinas HS	Away	4:30 pm
Mon.	April 9	Maple Heights HS	Away	4:30 pm
Tues.	April 10	Villa Angela-St. Joseph	Home	4:30 pm
Thur.	April 12	Beaumont School	Home	4:30 pm
Fri.	April 13	Garfield Heights HS	Away	4:30 pm
Mon.	April 16	Warren JFK HS	Away	4:30 pm
Tues.	April 17	Trinity HS	Away	4:30 pm
Thur.	April 19	Laurel School	Away	4:30 pm
Sat.	April 21	Olentangy Liberty HS	Home	10:00 am
Sat.	April 21	Smithville HS	Home	10:00 am
Mon.	April 23	St. Thomas Aquinas	Home	4:30 pm
Wed.	April 25	Maple Heights HS	Home	4:30 pm
Fri.	April 27	Garfield Heights HS	Home	4:30 pm
Mon.	April 30	Villa Angela-St. Joseph	Away	4:30 pm
Tues.	May 1	Warren JFK HS	Home	4:30 pm
Wed.	May 2	East Technical HS	Away	4:30 pm
Wed.	May 9	Andrews School	Away	4:30 pm
Fri.	May 11	Magnificat HS	Home	4:30 pm



In order to reduce our carbon footprint, you can now receive Connection Magazine via email. If you would prefer to receive this digital PDF, please contact Jackie Keim at 216.441.4700 ext. 284 or email jkeim@ccc-hs.org and include your name, and preferred email address.

Varsity Boys Baseball – 2018 *Subject to Change*

Day	Date	Opponent	Place	Time
Wed.	Mar. 28	Wickliffe HS	Away	4:30 pm
Thu.	Mar. 29	Canfield HS	Away	5:00 pm
Tues.	April 3	Brush HS	Away	4:30 pm
Fri.	April 6	Thomas W. Harvey HS	Away	4:30 pm
Mon.	April 9	St. Thomas Aquinas HS	Away	4:30 pm
Tues.	April 10	St. Thomas Aquinas HS	Home	4:30 pm
Thur.	April 12	Lincoln-West HS	Away	4:30 pm
Fri.	April 13	Streetsboro HS	Away	6:30 pm
Sat.	April 14	Trinity HS (Double Header)	Away	11:00 am
Wed.	April 18	Cornerstone Christian Academy	Away	4:30 pm
Fri.	April 20	Maple Heights HS	Away	4:30 pm
Sat.	April 21	Buchtel HS	Home	12:00 PM
Mon.	April 23	Villa Angela-St. Joseph HS	Home	4:30 pm
Tues.	April 24	Villa Angela-St. Joseph HS	Away	4:30 pm
Wed.	April 25	Maple Heights HS	Home	4:30 pm
Sat.	April 28	Lake Catholic HS	Home	11:00 am
Sat.	April 28	Max Hayes HS	Home	2:00 pm
Mon.	April 30	Warren JFK HS	Away	4:30 pm
Tues.	May 1	Warren JFK HS	Home	4:30 pm
Thur.	May 3	Cleveland Heights HS	Away	4:30 pm
Fri.	May 4	Akron East HS	Away	4:30 pm
Sat.	May 5	Warrensville Heights (Doubleheader)	Away	11:00 am
Mon.	May 7	Clearview HS	Away	5:00 pm
Tues.	May 8	Shaw HS	Away	5:00 pm
Tues.	May 15	Crestwood HS	Away	4:30 pm

Varsity Track 2018 *Subject to Change*

Boys & Girls

Day	Date	Opponent	Place	Time
Tues.	March 27	Wickliffe HS (Tri-Meet)	Away	4:30 pm
Sat.	March 31	Western Reserve Academy Relays	Away	9:00 am
Tues.	April 3	Padua Franciscan (Tri-Meet)	Away	4:30 pm
Tues.	April 10	Beaumont/Benedictine	Home	4:30 pm
Fri.	April 13	Lakewood Ranger Relays	Away	4:30 pm
Tues.	April 17	Laurel School (GIRLS ONLY)	Away	4:30 pm
Wed.	April 18	Gilmour Academy (BOYS ONLY)	Away	4:30 pm
Tues.	April 24	Trinity (Tri-Meet)	Away	4:30 pm
Thur.	April 26	Villa Angela-St. Joseph (QUAD MEET)	Home	4:30 pm
Sat.	April 28	Archbishop Hoban Invitational	Away	9:00 am
Tues.	May 1	Bedford HS (NCL Conference Meet)	Away	4:00 pm
Thur.	May 3	Bedford HS (NCL Conference Meet)	Away	4:00 pm
Sat.	May 5	Laurel School (Girls Invitational)	Away	9:00 am
Sat.	May 5	Gilmour Academy (Boys Invitational)	Away	9:00 am
Sat.	May 12	Village Angela-St. Joseph (Catholic Meet)	Away	9:00 am