

ROGERBACONTM

tradition

F O R W A R D T O G R E A T E R T H I N G S



Dear Alumni, Friends & Supporters,

Welcome to a new school year and yet another opportunity for the Spartan nation to shine. Our theme for this edition is “Spartan Strong” which is very appropriate for the very challenging times within which we operate. The good news is that we have our students back in the building and the Spartan nation is strong indeed.

The new school year also brings personal change for me. After the 2019 - 2020 academic year, I agreed to a newly created part-time position by the Board as President Emeritus. In this role I will focus on working with you to develop the support and resources necessary to assure that our Franciscan values and quality education continue to change the lives of young adults for many years to come.

The last seven years serving as President of Roger Bacon High School have been extraordinary for me both personally and professionally. Some of the highlights for me include, but are not limited to:

- *The opportunity to experience a pilgrimage to Assisi and Rome and walk through the sacred places travelled by St. Francis and St. Clare.*
- *Experiencing what it means to “be Franciscan” and appreciate the wonder of all creation and the opportunity to serve others, particularly the less fortunate.*
- *Being part of an outstanding team of faculty, staff and administrators who go above and beyond the call of duty to make Roger Bacon a unique and welcoming environment for all.*
- *Witnessing amazing random acts of kindness on a daily basis by young people who appreciate their own value and the value of others.*
- *Seeing the generosity and the willingness of our supporters to help upgrade and maintain our facilities, support exciting new program development and insure that our tuition and fees remain as affordable as possible.*
- *Having the opportunity to work directly with Roger Bacon students in their academics, athletics, extracurricular, spiritual and service activities. It is difficult to describe what an amazing group of students we have. You have to experience them personally to appreciate their goodness.*

It would be easy to go on and on, but I hope you get the point. I love Roger Bacon High School. I am very proud that we have created a culture where young people can thrive and where people helping people is the norm. Roger Bacon is a great place because of its past, its present and it will continue to be great into the future. Thank you all from the bottom of my heart.

Very truly yours,

Tom Burke '69
President Emeritus



TOM BURKE '69, PRESIDENT

October

- 25 OPEN HOUSE
- 26 NO SCHOOL
- 29 Fall Band Concert

D A T E S T O R E M E M B E R

November

- 2 First Friday Mass & All Saints Day Mass
- 11 Veterans' Day - NO SCHOOL
- 12 Alumni Association Meeting
- 20-22 Fall Play
- 25-30 Thanksgiving Break - NO SCHOOL

December

- 4 First Friday Mass
- 8 All School Mass
- 10 Alumni Association Meeting
- 17 Christmas Concert
- 18 Christmas Assembly
- 21 Faculty/Staff Christmas Party
- 23-3 Christmas Break - NO SCHOOL

January

- 4 Classes Resume
- 8 First Friday Mass
- 14 Alumni Association Meeting
- 18 Martin Luther King Jr. Day - NO SCHOOL
- 20 Celebration of Success
- 21 Athletic Sports Stag
- 28-31 March For Life - Washington, Dc

C O N T E N T S

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COVER: On Friday, September 25, the new Grotto was blessed and the senior athletes were invited to attend the ceremony. (more on new Grotto on page 16)

PICTURED ABOVE: Senior Noor Essakalli '20 and her dad drive past school one last time (graduation night).

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We welcome your comments and like to keep you updated on current events at Roger Bacon High School. Please send your new email address or feedback to shuerkamp@rogerbacon.org.

Keep in touch with high school friends and stay abreast of Roger Bacon events!



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SPARTAN STRONG

Due to constraints on the number of individuals who could attend this year's 2020 graduation ceremony, most members of our staff and faculty could not participate in the graduation ceremony at the stadium. However, an informal parade for the graduates took place along the main circle in front of school so faculty and staff could hold signs and wave to the graduates in their cars prior to their ceremony.

For this senior class who missed their senior prom, annual senior picnic, the Joe Kneip Awards Ceremony, Academic Awards Ceremony, state tournaments, Singing in the Rain musical, their final Senior Assembly in the Fine Arts Center and graduation Mass with their parents, graduation at the stadium was a huge success!

WORDS FROM MEMBERS OF RB '88

"When you face difficult times, know challenges are not sent to destroy you. They're sent to promote and strengthen you."

"As your years at RB have unfortunately come to a close early, the positives you can reflect on and now really cherish are the friendships, community and overwhelming sense of family RB has created for you."

"Being an alum of RB puts you in an elite class and we welcome you to the top of the world!"

Spartan Str

"You may be leaving your school behind and going out to uncertainty, but you are a Spartan who is strong and true for life."

"The relationships and memories you've made at RB will last a lifetime."

"Trust in the Lord as He leads you and when all of this is over, make something great."

"Reflect on the life lessons you learned, friendships you established and the knowledge you gained."

"While the end of your four years at Roger Bacon has changed dramatically, never forget the impact you have had on each other and the entire RB community."

"You are strong, you are special, you are Spartans and WE ARE RB....always!"

"Remember what Friar Roger Bacon said, 'that by the help of my work, others may go forward to greater things.'"

"Focus on what you have—lifelong friendships, memories and the only class with a heck of a story to tell!"

Julie Vehorn, Director of Academics

In early June, I found myself looking back at my calendar from the spring semester to complete my end of the year paperwork. My calendar was filled with the activity typical in a school: the monthly Administrative Team meeting, the weekly lunch with the teacher I mentor, the ongoing grading of essays from my AP® Language students. In early March, there was talk of temporarily closing school due to COVID-19, but I was bracing for the roller-coaster of April and May — testing, performances, concerts, award nights, senior week activities, exams, graduation.



responded to the stress of the world turning upside down. My students dug deep to find motivation and get used to discussing online.

I looked forward to my weekly 30 minutes of Zoom with my students, knowing it was not enough, but grateful it gave us an opportunity to connect and learn.

Teachers jumped out of their comfort zone because there was no other option. They made tutorials for each other and sent out supportive messages

to students each day. For all the stressful moments in my home (“Could you please stop breathing so loudly!”) there were the counterbalance moments of walking in the sun, chalking the sidewalk, and learning how to play Uno over FaceTime.

The end of this school year was not ideal. However, this experience of online instruction has pushed me to grow as an educator and a learner in my creativity

and my willingness to try something new, even if I am not sure it will work well the first time.

As I prepare for this next school year, I keep in mind the encouragement St. Clare offered to one of her sisters, written in a time of uncertainty, “Go forward securely, joyfully and swiftly, on the path of prudent happiness. Go forward, the spirit of our God has called you.”



In early June, I looked back at my March self and thought, “You had no idea.” I had no idea that I would have less than 12 hours to figure out what to tell my students on March 13 to set us up for 100% online learning. I had no idea that I would spend that weekend furiously planning instruction for the coming week and gathering resources for our faculty. I had no idea how working from home and helping my own children learn from home would push all of us to the breaking point. However, amid all the challenges of teaching online, I was continually uplifted by how people

Jake Mumper '20, Student Athlete

ARTICLE BY MIKE DYER, WCPO – *Jake Mumper is grateful for the opportunity to wrestle at Roger Bacon.*

Jake still visualizes competing on a wrestling mat at the Schottenstein Center (in Columbus, OH). "There's just got to be nothing like it, I would imagine." But Jake had to find peace with the fact that the Ohio High School Athletic Association canceled the state individual wrestling tournament due to the coronavirus outbreak.

Time has eased the disappointment for Mumper, a Division III state qualifier (152 pounds) who earned 44 wins this winter. He was ecstatic at qualifying for state for the first time in his career; he started to wrestle in the first grade. "That was supposed to be the culmination of 10

participate in the graduation ceremony at Roger Bacon. He had thought about the idea of getting up on stage and addressing his class, but that also

did not look like it was going to be possible. All he could control was his routine during the stay-at-home order. Jake wakes up at 8 a.m. each weekday and prepares for Advanced Placement Literature, Engineering, AP Calculus, Economics, AP Psychology, Biology and Theology.

"I think the biggest thing for me was to try to stay

positive. Especially for seniors, this is obviously not what we want. We want to spend the last couple of months of our high school careers



Spartan Str

years of effort and work," he said. "But the thing for me is I've just got to focus on the 10 years leading up to it, which were great. I got so much out of it. I wouldn't trade it for the world." Jake had 65 career pins which is third all-time in the Spartans program.

When schools across Ohio closed through May 1, 2020, Jake also grappled with additional uncertainty. He had a 4.0 grade-point average and tied for valedictorian honors. He simply wanted a final opportunity to see his friends and classmates and

with our classmates having fun, being with our teachers. Just look on the bright side; it's been a great four years."

"Jake had a 101-20 career record, including being fourth all time in wins in program history and second in career win percentage" said Assistant AD **Brandon Spaeth '11**. "The work that he put in was amazing," Roger Bacon head coach Jimmy Spears said. His 44 wins and 31 pins are also school single-season records. He had 31 consecutive wins to start this past season.

"Jake is probably one of the better wrestlers in the last decade here at Roger Bacon," Roger Bacon Athletic Director Steve Rossi said. "Just a quiet and unassuming kid. But with everything that he's accomplished in wrestling, he was also an all-league football player. He's either I or IA as far as the class rank goes. So you don't achieve all those things without being a focused individual, and that's exactly what Jake is." That's what made Steve Rossi's job so difficult March 12 — the day before the state individual wrestling tournament. Steve introduced Jake to cheering classmates during lunch as "sort of a tournament send-off."

"Roger Bacon is just an excellent place to be," said Jake. "You are surrounded by great people in the students, staff, alumni and coaches. It's a very tight-knit community. Everybody cares about everybody else." Two bells later, Steve Rossi informed Jake of the tournament postponement

cherish forever. They've since watched the replay of that match several times.

Few knew the journey Jake had experienced this past winter. He started cutting out carbs and sugars in mid-October; he was determined after an injury limited him his junior season.

Then in early February this year, he suffered a muscular neck injury. He competed with significant pain for most of the remainder of the season. He underwent physical therapy three times a week. "We kind of learned this sport together," Jeff Mumper said. "It has been a very great bonding thing for us. And to have it come to an end — it was very emotional."

There was no script on how families approached the ending to the now-canceled winter sports tournaments. Yet, the Mumper family has understood the bigger picture. "At first it was really hard

to come to grips with, but since then it's been really easy to put into perspective" Jeff Mumper said. "You see thousands and thousands of people suffering from this coronavirus and people dying all over the world. It's really easy at this point to put a wrestling match into perspective. Yes, of course, years from

now he's still going to regret this, but now I think he totally appreciates how lucky he is to have the experience that he had and that we are healthy."

Jake is grateful for his family's support. He also has learned a life lesson. "Obviously the state tournament — you never think that something that big is going to be canceled but nothing is guaranteed," he said. "Make the most of right now. Make the most of what you have and what you got. That's probably the biggest thing from this whole experience for me."

during biology class. Jake thought Rossi was joking. "I was heartbroken." (His family pulled him out of school at 1 pm that day—the news was overwhelming.) "I think we both sat down and cried, and I gave him a big, giant hug," said Roger Bacon assistant wrestling coach Jeff Mumper, who is Jake's father.

Jake Mumper shared an emotional moment with his father, RB assistant coach Jeff Mumper, when he qualified in early March at Troy for the state tournament. It was a moment father and son will

rong



Pam Rosfeld '77, Guidance Director

I have planned over twenty graduations during my time at Roger Bacon. Each year the ceremony brought its own concerns related to the heat (before the Fogarty gym was air-conditioned), cicadas, typos in the programs, speeches, the line-up of graduates, and on and on. One year we even had a neighborhood dog wander in! However, the 92nd graduation exercises for the Class of 2020 gave us all new and unpredictable challenges to meet!

We set out with our goal being, as always with commencement, to come together and honor and celebrate our graduates. This is a momentous occasion and the achieve-

After MANY revisions to our plans, June 3rd arrived hot but dry. Our faculty and staff gathered in the circle driveway in the front of school to

cheer and celebrate our 112 graduates as they drove through with their parents. From there, the graduates entered the stadium while “Pomp and Circumstance” played loudly over the speakers. As the name of each graduate was announced, they left their cars and walked towards the ticket booth with their parents/guardians and received their

diploma. Instead of applause, car horns honked in celebration when the graduates were told to “change their tassels!”



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ment deserves our thorough planning and attention to details. With a background of a pandemic and protests, we were challenged to respond to the ever-changing regulations and protocols required by Governor DeWine, the Board of Health, and the City of Cincinnati Police Department. Fortunately, our Bron Bacevich Stadium had undergone renovations to the parking lot and entrance just last fall, so we had an option that would allow us to meet our goals.

We came together, as Mr. Schad said in his welcoming remarks, just as Spartans have been doing for 92 years. I believe we honored our seniors by giving each one of them their moment of recognition, shared with their parents and guardians who helped them reach this goal. And it was certainly a celebration—decorated vehicles and loud car horns and all! We are so proud of the Class of 2020, and how they weathered this unexpected end to their high school years. Hail Spartans!

Steve Rossi, Athletic Director

Managing a high school athletic department during the Coronavirus has been challenging. The emotions and feelings have ranged from shock, confusion, disappointment, empathy and anger.

The first time it “hit” me that this was a very negative situation was when I had to tell senior Jake Mumper, who had qualified for the State Wrestling Tournament as an individual, that it had been cancelled. At first he thought I was joking, and I wished I was. But the truth was that we were just at the advent of the Covid situation and this was the first mark in a series of disappointments.

I had several zoom meetings with colleagues and we worked hard to put together plans and schedules for when the season would resume. Coaches felt in the dark as schools and facilities were shut down, so they were forced to be creative and had online practices and workouts. They did an amazing job of keeping the kids upbeat and positive. Together we created several versions of spring schedules in anticipation of a restart date, but unfortunately that didn’t happen.

We kept our athletes informed as best we could but unfortunately, the decision that all sports had been cancelled ending the season and all spring activities was received.



As winter tournaments were being cancelled the focus shifted to spring. Another difficult conversation I had was with spring sports coaches and athletes that the season was on hold. I couldn’t help but feel awful for our teams, especially all of the seniors. The baseball team led by Coach Tim McCoy, who was anticipating another long, successful season and trip to the state tournament with 11 seniors, had to move to the sideline and wait patiently. Our newly formed Girls Lacrosse team, who had been gearing up all year saw their season come to an abrupt end.

Luckily, we were able to move some summer projects to April and May. We painted the locker rooms and the hallway in Fogarty Center and added new flooring in the locker rooms with additional cosmetic improvements. We used that time productively to give our student-athletes and coaches a better atmosphere for when they returned to school in the fall.

In athletics you are always looking ahead and planning for the next season and beyond. This spring was disappointing to say the least but we pivot and continue to look ahead and do our best to make sure our student-athletes participate this school year.

Jon Powers '90 - Facilities Director

When the decision was made to temporarily close the doors of Roger Bacon to protect our students and teachers from the Corona Virus in March, it was “business as usual” in the halls of RB. Jon Powers (JP) and his crew began deep cleaning every classroom while the students were out of the building. Repairs and painting projects were also included during this time. For the facilities crew (Jon, Dave, Michael and Jeff), these projects were typical, but a bit more accelerated to complete while the students continued learning on-line and at home during the quarantine. With helping hands from Tom Bill, Brandon Spaeth and Steve Rossi, in



There was no life in the building and the overall feeling was sad and very strange” said JP. However, because so many extra “hands” came forward to help with the workload there was no extra expense—all work was done in-house.”

What will the school year 2020-21 look like? Orders from the President and the State seem to change frequently, but when the students return to campus all high-touch surfaces will need to be cleaned multiple times daily and

desks will need to be cleaned between classes. Social distancing will be practiced in the cafeteria; some of the students will eat in the gym.

Spartan Str

addition to a few of the RB football players, the entire lower level of Fogarty Center was also cleaned and painted. Locker room floors were coated and the trainer’s room and hallways were carpeted. Sometimes negative news can provide positive experiences. “The most difficult experience from the extra workload was the absence of our students in the building. Unfortunately, they were not permitted to return to school for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. The quiet halls and classrooms were somewhat depressing and sometimes the lack of sound was deafening.

Cleaning daily is already a huge task but JP continues to stay positive. “We’ll keep moving forward and see how it goes and will do our best to stay positive.”

Anna Korte '24 - Student

I chose Roger Bacon High School because of its Franciscan values. The environment allows and encourages you to grow as a person, academically, spiritually, and emotionally. Roger Bacon is the best place for me to discover more about myself and grow in many different ways. In academics, Roger Bacon has lots of opportunities to challenge myself and go beyond what I think I'm capable of in the Honors and Assisi Programs.

Before anything, I really want to get comfortable in my new environment and be ready to do my best as a student and person, but I fear that some of these things will be more difficult because of the

never seen it in a school setting. Classmates have been just an arm length away, and we have all been in one big group. At lunch, we were elbow to elbow, talking and laughing throughout the meal. With the necessary restrictions, things will never be close to that kind of normal.

At first, wearing masks will be an unusual sight for a school setting. Making and reading facial expressions with masks on is difficult. When you don't know a person very well; it will

be much more of a challenge. I look forward to making friends in my freshman year, but I do think that masks will make the first interactions tough.



coronavirus. In general, things will be very different. The differences will not be necessarily in a good or bad way, just overall not what we expected from this upcoming school year.

All the new health requirements for an average school day will change that picture. The atmosphere for school has shifted, and now every basic action is tinged with the fear of the virus. One new thing that will be difficult for me is being distanced from my peers. Though at this point, social distancing has become the norm, I have

Just like most people going to a new school, I have some fears about going into a completely new environment. I worry that I'll be underprepared, or that when I get to school, I'll be too confused to find my way around. Will we end up in remote learning again in the winter? Though I

know there are a lot of bigger concerns right now, I still wonder, will I end up losing some of my high school experience?

I believe that no matter the changes winter may bring, Roger Bacon will do its best to make sure that we have the best experience possible.

Anna Korte '24 is a graduate of St. Ignatius in Monfort Heights, and is in the freshman Honors program at RB. She is the first member of her family to attend Roger Bacon.

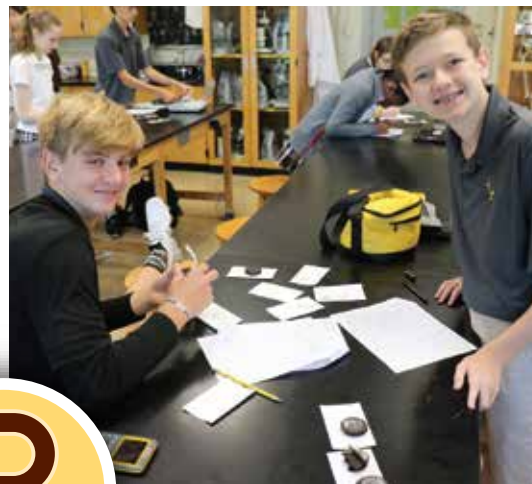
Spread the word

by Christine Ochs-Naderer, Director of Admissions

Exciting changes are happening in the Office of Admissions! Brandon Cowans, Roger Bacon's Director of Admissions and Communications for the past 11 years, has moved into a new role as Director of Advancement. I had the opportunity to serve as Brandon's Assistant Director last year, and I will now move into the role of Director of Admissions. Rob Rickenbaugh '90, a proud Roger Bacon alumnus and familiar face to many, will be the new Assistant Director of Admissions.

The upcoming school year offers many unique challenges and opportunities when it comes to admissions. Restrictions and guidelines due to COVID-19 have pushed us to be more innovative in recruiting future Spartans and promoting everything Roger Bacon has to offer. Rob and I are exploring new and creative ways to share our school with future students. No matter the circumstances, we will continue to shine a light on the core values that make Roger Bacon special — we are small and coed. We are diverse and Franciscan. Roger Bacon's true strength is revealed when we come together to overcome challenges like these!

We look forward to welcoming one of our largest classes of incoming freshmen this fall - 141 young men and women from all over the Cincinnati area make up our newest class of Spartans. We cannot wait to see what an impact they will make on our campus over the next four years!



If you know of a student interested in Roger Bacon, contact Christine Ochs-Naderer at 513.641.1313 or cochsnaderer@rogerbacon.org

GOTO
www.rogerbacon.org/future-spartans
TO LEARN MORE.



As I write this towards the end of July, the year 2020 has certainly presented challenges. There is a popular meme which shows Dr. Emmett Brown and Marty McFly from “Back to the Future” sitting in their time machine, with Dr. Brown warning, “Whatever you do, don’t set it to 2020!” While humorous, there is some truth in the sentiment. Our society seems to be chaotic, lurching from one crisis to another. COVID-19 and social unrest are just the latest in a long line of challenges we have faced together this year.

Yet in the midst of all these seemingly endless adversities, our Spartan community has risen to meet every challenge. “*We are all faced with a series of great opportunities brilliantly disguised as impossible situations*” observed Chuck Swindoll, an evangelical Christian pastor. Every time our community has come face-to-face with an “impossible situation,” we have seized the opportunity to shine. Online learning for the last 3 months of the past school year was a wonderful showcase of the resiliency and resourcefulness of our faculty, students and parents. As social unrest grips our country, our diversity and the sentiments contained in the Peace Prayer of St. Francis, recited as a community every Friday, embody who we are and guides our behavior, thoughts and actions. When we appealed to past generations of Spartans to help current Spartan families impacted economically by COVID-19, our alum responded magnificently. Watching our seniors at graduation was a wonderful reminder that we can rise above any challenge or situation as long as we stand strong, together.

As we prepare for another school year full of “brilliantly disguised opportunities,” we are blessed to be part of a generational family, empowered by our shared Franciscan charism, and united by the beliefs that everyone has value, and Spartan courage never fails.

SPARTAN STRONG. TOGETHER. RISE ABOVE.

On behalf of our faculty, staff and students, a sincere thank you for your support. Keep us in your prayers as we prepare for another school year. With your encouragement and assistance, we will continue to confidently move “*forward to greater things*.” God bless you, and God bless Roger Bacon.



Steve Schad
Principal/CEO



Each year, students from all over Ohio have the opportunity to present projects at the **STATE SCIENCE FAIR**. This year's event was held virtually, with students creating a video presentation to accompany their project. **Dylan Cianciolo '22** (pictured left) earned a Superior, the highest rating offered at the competition.

Dylan's project explored how the density of a medium affects the speed of light as it travels through it. Dylan said, "I chose this project after finding out I could measure the speed of light using



a protractor, some paper, and some simple math. I knew that the molecular structure of objects affected light in various ways, so I wanted to see if a certain property of the molecular structure, its density, would have any effect on the speed of light. As for my results, although my methods weren't perfect, I came to the conclusion that there didn't seem to be a direct connection between the two concepts."

Dylan competed at both the school and District science fairs, earning Superior ratings at both competitions before moving on to the state level. He has competed in science fairs since 7th grade. "One of my favorite things about the science fair has been the opportunity to learn and investigate new things in a unique way," Dylan said. "Instead of sitting behind a screen or book and reading about concepts, I get to play with the concepts. As someone who wants to do science for a living, specifically physics, I appreciate the Science Fair immensely as I have learned more and more about how to do good science."

THE HALLS @ RB

RB

2020...Lit Up the Nite Sky

On Tuesday night, April 14th, **BRON BACEVICH MEMORIAL STADIUM** lit up the night sky for 20 minutes and 20 seconds in honor of the **CLASS OF 2020**. As this year's seniors face uncertainty and challenges outside their control, they continue to stay positive, hopeful, and full of light. Roger Bacon High School is proud of our senior class, and we look forward to what the rest of the year will bring.



RB

It is our honor and privilege to announce the recipient of the **2020 JOSEPH A. KNEIP DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD** is **Jon Powers**. JP received multiple nominations and was selected by a committee of past recipients of the award. He is very deserving of this honor based on his dedication, knowledge, work ethic and willingness to do whatever is necessary to help Roger Bacon be the best it can be. *Pictured below is Joseph Kneip, whom this award is named after.*



Fine Arts @ Roger Bacon

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic which hit Italy especially hard, **THE ASSISI SCHOLAR PROGRAM** has been in close contact with Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs, the organization which oversees and coordinates our pilgrimages to Rome and Assisi. The September 2020 pilgrimage to Italy stayed "on the books" while administration closely watched how the pandemic affected both Italy and the United States. After consulting with the Franciscan Pilgrimage Program, the administrators have decided to reschedule the pilgrimage to April 5-13, 2021. **THE ASSISI SCHOLARS** will also have the opportunity (tentative) to visit a site for the first time – the Franciscan Sanctuary at La Verna. Located in the southern part of Mount Penna, in the Casentino Forest National Park, the Sanctuary is a destination for many pilgrims and the site where St Francis received the stigmata in 1224.

The safety and well-being of our students are paramount, and the changes answer many of our concerns. We also hope that an early notification will make arrangements easier.



The Drama Guild's much anticipated production of *Singin' in the Rain* was put on hold mid-March just three weeks before opening night. Costumes were being made, the Cast was working hard on the many choreographed numbers and the Crew was JUST about to make it really rain on the Roger Bacon stage. The 50+ Cast and Crew members put on a brave

face and entered quarantine still practicing and planning for this major production. Unfortunately, with the news of not returning to school at the end of April, the production was officially cancelled.

However, memories were made and through social media, the Drama Guild has been able to show the Roger Bacon community just what *Singin' in the Rain* was going to be. Rehearsals videos and pictures were compiled and the production's silent film "The Royal Rascal" was completed for all to enjoy. To see parts of the production, check out the Drama Guild on social media...

YouTube - Roger Bacon Drama Guild

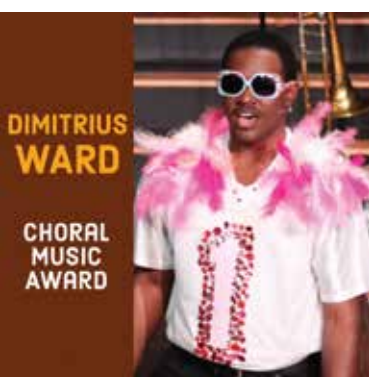
Facebook - Roger Bacon High School Music

Twitter & Instagram - @RBDramaGuild

Thanks for supporting our 60+ students in the Drama Guild throughout this school year. I hope that there is some normalcy to next year so that we can see not only the Drama Guild but both bands and choirs on the stage again!

By Catie Murray

Choir & Drama Director



THE CLASS OF 2020

Though they were separated physically, the Class will never be separated in spirit. While the last few months of their high school career included the heartbreak of missed spring sports seasons, prom, and other rites of passage, they have come together like perhaps no class ever has. They've stayed connected, kept each other's spirits up, and never lost the true meaning of being Franciscan and being Spartans.

One final time, we would like to celebrate **THE CLASS OF 2020**. Every single one of these 112 seniors brought their own unique personalities, perspectives, and talents to Roger Bacon. Every single one of them has left a mark on our school. Every single one of them has truly made RB a better place.

THE HALLS @ RB

Whether competing on the field or court, performing on the stage, excelling in the classroom, or serving the community, the 112 students in the Class of 2020 have lived their high school years to the fullest. We have cheered with them in success, mourned with them in loss, supported them through challenges, and watched them grow.

In the words of *Class President Annabelle Merz*, "The amount of love this class shares is truly special. I feel so lucky that I've gotten to spend every day with 112 of my closest friends. It seems like just yesterday when we walked into school, nervous and overwhelmed, as we performed the fight song for the very first time. Roger Bacon has been our second home for the past four years. Because of that, we've seen each other grow up—we've become a family."

THE CLASS OF 2020 will continue their education at colleges and universities around the state and across the country. Some of them will serve in the U.S. Military. Others will dedicate their first year out of high school to full-time community service. Some will enter the workforce. Many student athletes will continue to compete and improve their athletic talents at the college level. No matter their choices for the future, we know that each of these graduates will take the lessons and values they have learned at Roger Bacon into the world, making their colleges, workplaces, and communities better.





GRADUATION NIGHT

Most years on **GRADUATION NIGHT**, seniors and their loved ones would be gathering in the Thomas Fogarty gymnasium, reflecting on their memories at Roger Bacon and celebrating their achievements together one last time. Like so much else this year, graduation for the Class of 2020 looked a little bit different. On June 3rd, seniors gathered in the parking lot, their cars decorated with balloons, banners, and well-wishes. They paraded through the school's front circle, waving goodbye to teachers and staff one last time, before parking together at the Bron Bacevich Stadium. Instead of walking across the stage in the gym, graduates and their parents walked together to the stadium entrance to receive their diplomas. Cars honked in celebration as each name was called, each senior given one final moment in the spotlight.

CLASS OF 2020 TOP TEN STUDENTS

1. **Jacob Mumper** - Miami University, double-majoring in Finance & Economics
2. **Kelly Brenner** - Thomas More University, majoring in Biology.
Kelly has also committed to playing basketball at Thomas More University.
3. **Bryan Koch** - Ohio State University, majoring in Chemical Engineering
4. **Mia Grooms** - Cleveland Institute of Art, majoring in Animation
5. **Wongel Yohannes** - University of Cincinnati, major in DAAP Architecture
6. **Rebecca Mae Spears** - Becca will take a gap year in order to further explore her college options and future plan to begin college in the Fall of 2021.
7. **Lindsay Ballinger** - Thomas More University, majoring in Psychology
Lindsay has also committed to playing soccer at Thomas More University.
8. **Anna Juengling** - Franciscan University (Steubenville), double majoring in Communication Arts and Theatre
9. **Haley Fulton** - Wilmington College, majoring in Pre-Veterinary Sciences
Haley has also committed to playing soccer at Wilmington College.
10. **Megan Shooner** - Ohio State University, majoring in Statistics



HISTORY OF THE GROTTO *by Steve Schad*

"Change does not change tradition. It strengthens it. Change is a challenge and an opportunity, not a threat." This quote from Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh and husband of Queen Elizabeth II, captures the spirit of one of the latest changes on the campus of Roger Bacon. The grotto has been relocated to a more prominent site outside the entrance to the Thomas J. Fogarty Center.

The grotto was conceived by legendary football coach Bron Bacevich shortly after he was hired at Roger Bacon. Dedicated to "Our Lady of Grace," it was designed by well-known Franciscan architect, Bro. Cajetan Baulman. The grotto, surrounded by small fir trees, shrubs and flowers, had a sandstone

"Change does not change tradition. It strengthens it."

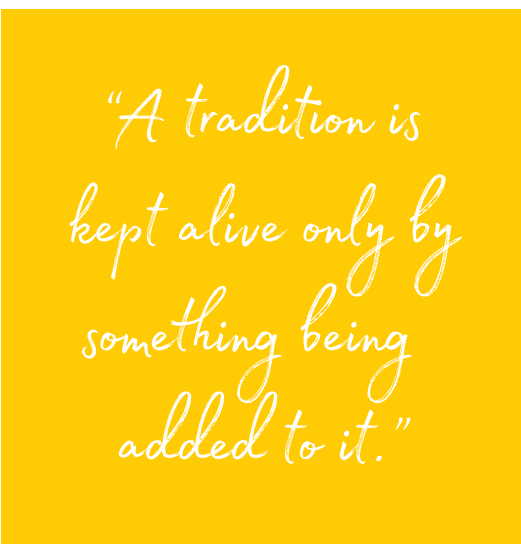
THE HALLS @ RB

finish. The white terra cotta statue of Our Lady displayed inside was made by the Kaletta Statuary Company located in St. Louis, Missouri. Inscribed on the marble base of the statue is a prayer to the Blessed Virgin: "Mother of Grace, pray for us."

Construction took place during the summer of 1955 by members of the Varsity Club and Dads Club. It was formally dedicated on Sunday, September 18, 1955. Monsignor Cletus A. Miller, pastor of the Church of the Annunciation, officiated at the dedication. Principal Fr. Andrew Fox, O.F.M., started the services by leading all present in the "Consecration to Mary." Fr. Paschal Varnskuler, O.F.M., an English teacher, gave the sermon. The friars sang the Gregorian "Salve Regina," "On This Day O Beautiful Mother," and closed the ceremony with the traditional hymn, "Ultima."

Coaches Bacevich, Gaughan, and Irvin, followed by the football players, were the first to offer a prayer to Mary at the grotto. Since that first prayer in 1955, the football team has gathered at the grotto before and after every football





game to pray to Our Lady of Grace, to ask for her protection, and to give thanks for their performance. This tradition has been a key part of the football program at Roger Bacon for 65 years.

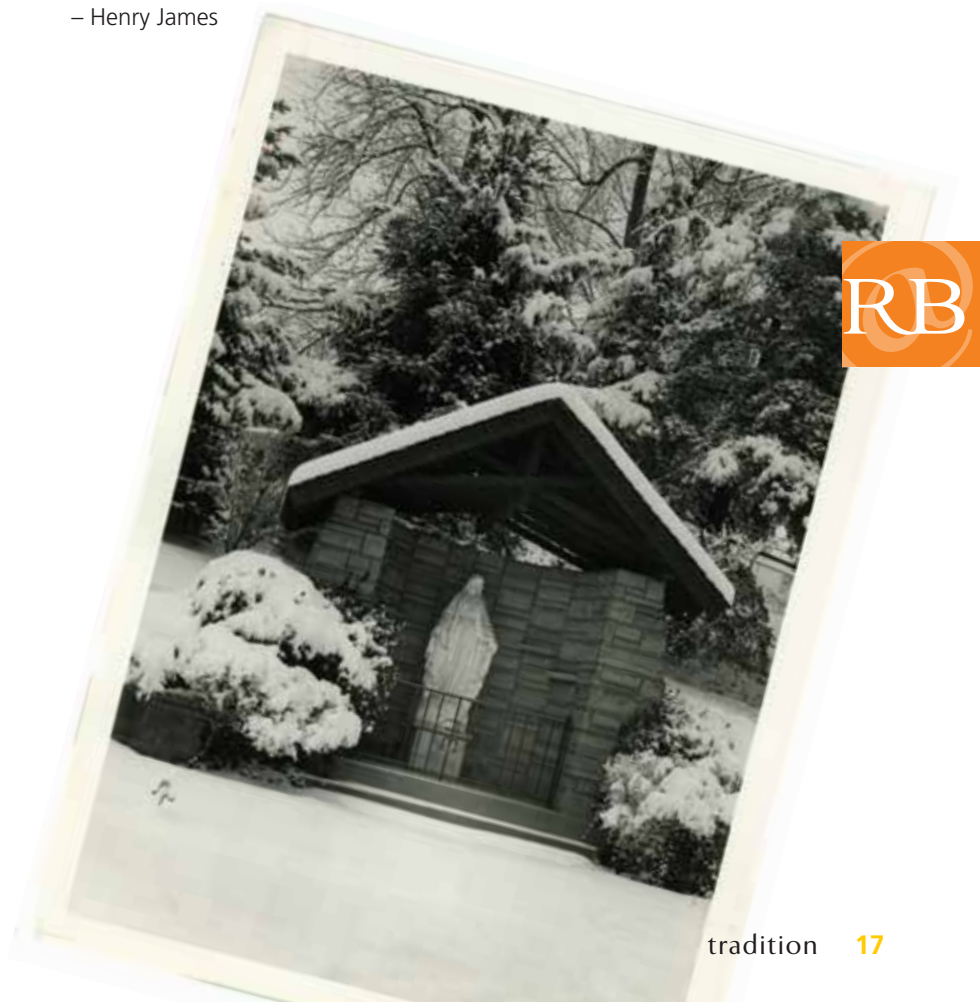
This year, that tradition will continue, but at a new location. The area where the grotto was built in 1955 is very different from the present day site. Several additions (i.e., east wing, storage barns, etc.) have made accessibility to the original grotto very difficult. There is very little student foot traffic in the area on a daily basis. With the exception of the football team, very few students have visited the grotto, and its location had become a trivia question during Freshmen Orientation.

The time had come to honor Our Lady in a more visible and accessible place. "Moving the grotto came after much deliberation, including consultation with the Bacevich family," indicated Principal Steve Schad. "The decision was logical. The new location puts the statue in the center of our campus so that our entire school community can appreciate and honor Our Lady. Not only will the football tradition continue, I hope that other athletic and school programs will start traditions of their own that include a visit to the grotto."

The work, completed by the maintenance staff and several student summer workers, is a beautiful testimony to Our Lady. Several aspects of the original grotto were incorporated into the new version to ensure the connection with our history continued. The new grotto was rededicated on Friday, September 25, 2020 – about 65 years from the date of the original dedication. "I hope when you are on our campus, that you visit the grotto and see that tradition is alive, well and growing at Roger Bacon High School," added Principal Schad.

"A tradition is kept alive only by something being added to it."

– Henry James



At the end of June, #94 NT JOEL HEATH OF THE DENVER BRONCOS, gave his time and a wonderful message to the defending MVC League Champs Roger Bacon Spartan football team! Joel was truly an inspiration to our team and coaches exemplifying our Faith, Family and Football values.



ATHLETICS @ RB



Why Wait... Heading South!

Instead of waiting for his announced commitment date of July 4, running back **Corey Kiner '21** announced his intentions to play for the defending national champion, the LSU Tigers. Corey is the #7 recruit in the state of Ohio, according to 247Sports.com, and the top senior-to-be in Greater Cincinnati. Among running backs nationally, he is #10! (courtesy of Cincinnati Enquirer)



2020 ATHLETIC SIGNINGS & AWARDS

GCLC *Spring All-Stars*

On Thursday, May 21, the following twenty-eight senior student-athletes in four different sports were honored via Twitter.

BASEBALL

- Jake Brookbank
- Tyler Bullock
- Dillon Fischer
- Tyler Gilman
- Chris Hoffmann
- Trey Jerger
- Evan Kelsey
- Patrick Mulcahey
- Ryan Sand
- Cole Stager

TRACK

- Jalen Childress
- Haley Fulton
- Charlie Johnstone
- Brooke Kinebrew
- Anna Klinedinst
- Ronnell Lackey
- Taylor Shearer
- Lucas Strunc
- James Thompson

SOFTBALL

- Arrington Walker
- Amaya Williams

VOLLEYBALL

- Kyle Dalid
- TJ DeWees
- Clay Feazell
- Bryan Koch
- Nick Nonnamaker
- Kyle Vogler
- Sam Zins



Listed below are additional seniors committed to play sports at the next level:

Tyler Bullock - BASEBALL
Albany State University

Chris Hoffmann - BASEBALL
Ave Maria University

Ronnell Lackey - FOOTBALL
Lake Erie College

Josiah McGee - BASKETBALL
Rose Hulman Institute of Technology

Karly Niesen - VOLLEYBALL
Wheeling Jesuit University

Owen Smith - FOOTBALL
Thomas More University

For the first time in over 150 days, a Roger Bacon team competed against outside competition (on August 8, 2020). The **SPARTAN GOLF TEAM** started the fall season the right way after winning the Reading Invitational for the second consecutive season! Freshmen, **Aden Walls**, led the way and earned tournament medalist after shooting a 31 in his first high school match! **Adam Trigg-Holdman '21** shot a 36 and **Carson Block '21** shot a 38 to help lead the way for RB.



The Athletic Department is adding a new **TV DISPLAY TO THE FOGARTY CENTER LOBBY** that will showcase our alumni who continued to play at the collegiate/-professional level. You may remember the old photo frames in the basement of Fogarty – this will replace those pictures. We need your help to gather data! If you played any sport at the next level after your career at RB, please send the following to **Brandon Spaeth '11** at **bspaeth@rogerbacon.org**

1. Photo of you in your collegiate/professional uniform (headshot/action photo)
2. Full name
3. Sport(s)
4. College/Professional Team
5. Year(s) played
6. RB Graduation Year

If you have family members that were also college athletes, please feel free to send that information or share/tag them as well! #HailSpartans.



NEWEST HOF INDUCTEES

Fantastic 4

We are proud to announce the four newest members of the Roger Bacon Athletics Hall of Fame for the upcoming school year!

HEATHER BELLEGIA ERNST – CLASS OF 1993

Heather ran cross country and track during her time at Roger Bacon. She earned multiple all-league/city honors during her high school career. She is one of five Spartans to have ever placed in the top-10 in the State Cross Country Meet after she finished 7th her junior year. Her senior year, she placed 6th in the 1600m Run at the State Track & Field Tournament.

CARRIE NELSON HAWKINS – CLASS OF 1995

Carrie played soccer, cross country and track during her time at Roger Bacon. She currently holds the school record for the 800m Run. She earned GGCL all-league honors and all-city honors in both track and cross country. She was also named GGCL co-runner of the year in track. She was a state qualifier in both track (800/1600 relay) and cross country as well. Carrie went on to run track at the University of Cincinnati and Morehead State University.

LISA BOCK CRAWFORD – CLASS OF 1999

Lisa played volleyball, basketball and track during her time at Roger Bacon. She earned 1st Team All-GGCL all four years in Track & Field. She qualified for Regionals her freshmen and junior years in the mile. Lisa went on to play volleyball at Denison University.

ASHLEY QUEEN-JANNING MANFRA – CLASS OF 2002

Ashley excelled in soccer during her time at Roger Bacon. She currently ranks 3rd all-time in career points (110), 2nd in career goals (45) and 5th in career assists (20). Other accomplishments include; Freshman and Sophomore 2nd Team All-League; Sophomore Honorable Mention All-City; Junior and Senior 1st Team All-League; GGCL Player of the Year; 1st Team All-City; 1st Team All-State. Ashley continued her soccer career at the University of Kentucky.

Congratulations to our newest members of the Roger Bacon Athletics Hall of Fame! These four will be inducted and honored in a HOF ceremony in the Spring of 2021. Once a date has been set, more information including ticket sales will be available.



ALUMNI*NEWS*

60
sixties

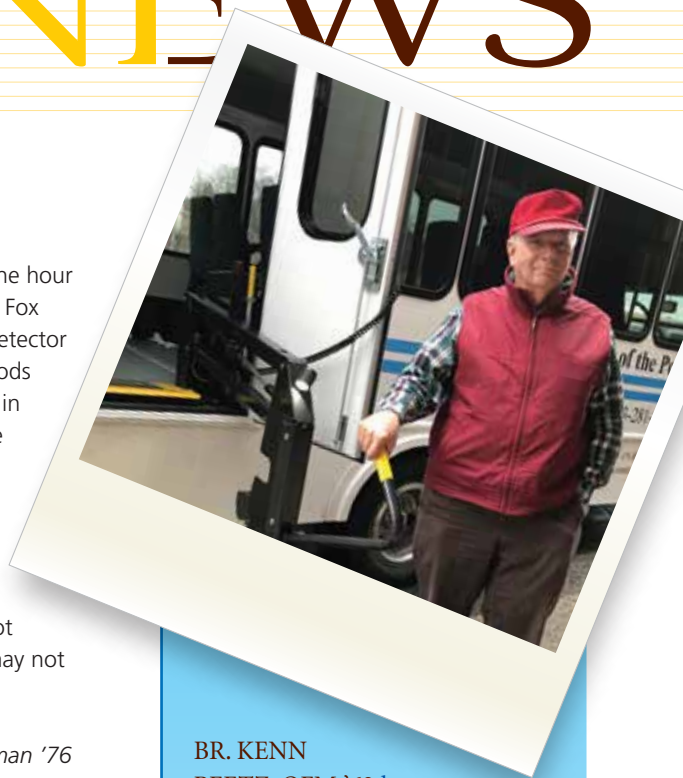
FR. BERT HEISE, OFM, who taught at Roger Bacon in the 1960's, has claimed the title of Senior Friar (by date of profession in 1949). The senior Friar by age is **BR. MARTIN HUMPHREYS, OFM** (at age 94).

70
seventies

Carolyn Knollmann sent this story about her husband **RON KNOLLMANN '76**. "I can't believe my husband is finally wearing his RB class ring again! He lost it while playing frisbee with friends on a camping weekend at the Winton Woods campground in 1976. Fast forward 44 years and out of the blue, we receive a message from the RB Advancement Office that a Roger Bacon class ring (1976) with the initials RGK was in the possession of a couple, George and Joann Fox. Joann was cleaning and organizing her home during the pandemic and discovered the RB class ring was still in her jewelry box. After receiving a call from the Advancement Office Ron immediately called the Foxes

and we were at their house one hour later. We learned that George Fox found the ring with a metal detector while camping at Winton Woods with his cub scouts sometime in the 80's." The Knollmanns are happy that Joann took the time to contact RB after all these years. Ron had the ring cleaned and again, 44 years later, is proudly wearing his RB class ring. If not for the pandemic this event may not have happened!

PICTURED BELOW: Ron Knollman '76 in the middle with Joann and George Fox of Colerain Township.



BR. KENN BEETZ, OFM '63 has been the bus driver for the Little Sisters' of the Poor (in Clifton) for over thirty-five years where his mother Hilda was a resident from 1981-2001. Outings are a vital part of residents' lives and those who are able to get out and explore Cincinnati through shopping trips, lunch days, Cincinnati Symphony excursions and Reds games enjoy these trips because they have a dependable driver! Br. Kenn has a CDL license as he drove a forty-passenger school bus when he helped the Sisters in Detroit. Because he holds this special skill he has been the only driver for the Little Sisters in Cincinnati for the last five years.

Br. Kenn has been a Franciscan for over fifty years. Previous to his job as a bus driver he worked for Franciscan Media in maintenance and also at St. Anthony Messenger Press. (If there are other eligible drivers in the RB family who might be interested in driving the bus to relieve Br. Kenn please contact The Little Sisters of the Poor in Clifton.)

ST. CLEMENT BOYS

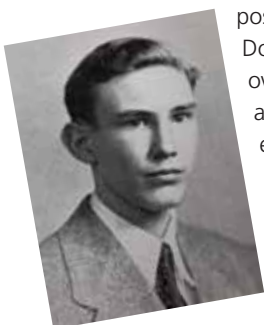
ENJOYABLE DAY TOGETHER!



Eight St. Clement grade school/Roger Bacon grads ('64 and '65) enjoyed a great day of golf together at Springfield Country Club in June, hosted by **DAVE FOLEY '65**. Pictured l to r: (standing) **Jim Brigger, Jim Klus, Don Schlosser, Ray Ludmann**. (sitting) **Dave Foley, Earl Leonhardt, Joe Beck, Gerry Dacey**.

MICHAEL MURRAY '78 writes: "During most of my time living in Ft. Mitchell, KY, I would occasionally see an elderly gentleman walking on the Dixie Highway with a book in his hand. He became known to many in the "Fort" as "The Walking Reading Bookman." He was cordial to anyone who stopped him to chat, although he didn't want any undue attention or publicity. On many occasions, people approached him about writing a story about him for the *Ft. Mitchell Living* or the *River City News*, but he always politely declined. Sadly, I learned that he passed away recently...many people were commenting on his passing on the *Ft. Mitchell City* Facebook page and were wanting to know of funeral arrangements. Someone posted the gentleman's name on the Facebook page and supplied some historical information. His name was **DONALD NERSWICK '45** (school picture below) and he was a graduate of Roger Bacon. I about fell out of my chair when I learned that the "Walking Reading Bookman" was a fellow Spartan! The

posting also said that Donald had 9 children, over 30 grandchildren and that he taught elementary and high school before being employed as a Benefits Director.



Congratulations to **STACEY SOLLMANN CAHILL '96** who was recently named Principal at Lakota Ridge Middle School! Stacey was the Division I Cincinnati and

Ohio Girls' Soccer Coach of the Year in 2007 while teaching math at Sycamore High School. She has been the AssistantPrincipal at Lakota Ridge since 2016.



a true spartan

As a graduate of Roger Bacon and Xavier University, **LIEUTENANT COLONEL (RET.) ALVIN J. MEYER '46** fully embraced the Franciscan values and "all-for-one" spirit of each



respective institution. A veteran of three American wars, Al was inducted in April to the Xavier University Hall of Fame.

Upon graduating from Roger Bacon, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, during the tail end of World War II and served from 1946-1948, reaching the rank of Corporal. He then decided to continue his education and moved to ROTC at Xavier University, where he served until graduation in 1952, while also finding time to marry his high school sweetheart, **Georgeann Dietz Meyer, OLA '50**. After graduation, Al began a 20-year career in the U.S. Army entering as a 2nd Lieutenant, serving as a commanding officer during both the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

Al earned the distinction of The Army Commendation Medal for meritorious service during events such as the Berlin Build-up and the Cuban Missile Crisis.

His exceptional, brave, meritorious service as commanding officer of the 75th support battalion during the Vietnam War earned him one of the highest honors bestowed upon our Nation's armed forces, The Bronze Star. His exceptionally meritorious effort also earned him The Legion of Merit.

Al's most memorable time during his Marine Corps years was when he was on guard duty at the Norfolk Mine Depot and President Truman walked by him on his way to the Presidential Yacht and he saluted the President.



Mr. Meyer later earned his Masters Degree in Business Administration from Syracuse University in 1967. After the military career Al worked for the University of Cincinnati

at Holmes Hospital, and then University Hospital Medical Center as Administrator.

Al and Georgeann have been married for 64 years and reside in Cincinnati, along with their children Al Jr., Marty, Mary Beth and Barb and with their many grandchildren and great-grandchildren. They are regulars at Roger Bacon's First Friday Mass.



Pictured above: Al Meyer (far right)

ALUMNI NEWS



PAUL '00 and Alison Zlatc were recently featured in a LaLanne Program Newsletter (*LaLanne Connections*) along with five other couples who met at the University of Dayton as educators in the LaLanne program there. As a teacher in this program at UD, participants benefit from two years of mentored teaching while also earning a Master's degree. LaLanne teachers make their two-year commitment to teach in an under-resourced Catholic

school and live together in a faith-based community, while pursuing professional and spiritual/personal development. Alison and Paul have celebrated thirteen years of marriage and the birth of five sons since their participation in the program. "We both would have laughed if you told us we were living with our soulmate in Detroit (where they started teaching). Our LaLanne experience helped God prepare us for each other. We grew and began to see we were better people together!" said Alison.



WOW! OUR ALUMS ARE INVOLVED WITH EXCITING CAREERS & EVENTS.

Stay connected with RB and write to us. We love to brag about you! Contact **Sue Huerkamp** in the Advancement Office at shuerkamp@rogerbacon.org or 513.641.1313.

If you've moved or changed your contact information please notify **Chris Newton** in the Advancement Office at 513.641.1313 or cnewton@rogerbacon.org.

The RB campus is alive with learning, activities and physical improvements. Come back for a tour and see for yourself. This is a great place! Call **Sue Huerkamp** to schedule a tour.

WEEKEND EXCURSION SIGHTS & MOONSHINE!



Several RB grads from the Classes of 2010 and 2011 took a nice weekend trip to Gatlinburg, TN in late July and enjoyed some interesting sights and moonshine! Pictured l to r: **Brandon Spaeth '11**, **Gus St. Clair '11**, **Tanner Sprong '11**, **Collin Waltermann '10** & **AJ Holt '10** (not pictured: **Brady Gardner '11**).



ROCHELLE

SPRINGS THOMPSON

'82 writes "I've enjoyed a career for 27 years in local government and have worked in three areas: housing development, economic inclusion and talent development. I'm currently the Employment and Training Manager at Greater Cincinnati Water Works, leading training and development initiatives for 500 employees.

Three interesting fun facts:

1. I hired the former City Manager Patrick Duhaney, after he served as my summer intern in the Office of Contract Compliance.
2. I wrote a political fiction novel titled "Full Pockets" that was published in 2015.
3. I served as a witness for the FBI in a local high-profile court case that involved a contractor defrauding local, state and other public entities of over \$2 million. (The contractor was convicted.)

Rochelle is the mother of *Brittney Thompson '03* and the grandmother of *Gregory Gilbert '23* who recently finished his freshman year at RB.



BRAD EVANS '07

moved from WPTZ-TV in Plattsburgh, NY, to WISN-TV in Milwaukee, WI last spring for a new job as Digital Media Manager. He manages content and digital strategy for the station's website, app and social media accounts. Brad still follows the happenings at RB and visits when he's in town.



JAKE BLAUT '16

graduated from Florida State University with a degree in Economics and Political Science in May, 2019. Currently he works as a field organizer for Joe Biden's 2020 presidential campaign. He traveled from New Hampshire, Nevada, South Carolina and back to Ohio to help Vice President Joe Biden win the Democratic nomination. Jake introduced Biden at a New Hampshire rally. Jake is now in Ohio and will be working for the former VP and Ohio Democrats through November, 2020.



Kara Ravancho recently wrote a note to Principal Steve Schad thanking Steve and the RB staff.

"The education my son

RJ RAVANCHO '17

received at Roger Bacon has given him great knowledge and skills, along with the dedication and perseverance to graduate from Miami University in only 3 years, while obtaining the distinction of Magma Cum Laude. The Franciscan values in each student at RB was evident by the awards presented to RJ while a student at Miami University. Those awards include: Departmental Award: Commerce, Employee Service Leadership Award, Presidential Service Leadership Award and the Senior Service Leadership Award...If it were not for your wonderful staff, to teach and guide him, he would not be where he is today."



about helping others

NIKKI BAUR '06 is a nurse who has courageously stepped up to save lives during the COVID-19 outbreak. She normally works as a team lead nurse in St. Elizabeth Hospital's cardiac

intensive care unit.

When St. Elizabeth started receiving COVID-19 patients, Nikki volunteered to be part of the Infectious Disease

Response Team, working on the containment and quarantine.

Since her time as a student at RB, Nikki has been passionate about helping others and lifting their spirits.

She was a cheerleader all four years in high school. After graduation, she earned her Associates Degree from Cincinnati State and started working immediately. Shortly after, she earned her Bachelor Degree from Ohio University.

Nikki credits her family for inspiring her to become a nurse. Her father, a recently-retired firefighter and paramedic for the St. Bernard Fire Department, served the community for over 30

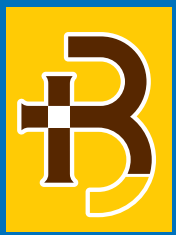
years. "He really inspired and supported my decision to pursue the medical field" says Nikki.

When concerns about COVID-19 started hitting close to home, Nikki was in California for a friend's wedding. Her family cut their trip short, and she called her manager right away, asking if she could end her vacation time early to lend a hand at work. Her manager asked if she would come in that night and be part of the Infectious Disease Response Team and Nikki didn't hesitate.

"I've been there working 55-70 hour weeks ever since and honestly,

I wouldn't change a thing. My family has supported me in every way possible and I also have a wonderful support group of friends and family, many who attended Roger Bacon with me!

Caring for her patients in the ICU is what "keeps her going." Nikki says, "It's seeing the patients who make it and come off a ventilator and go home to their families. Knowing I played a part in that, no matter how big or small, is something I can't describe in words."



ALUMNI EVEN

Reunions & Gatherings

NOTE: AS OF 9-30-20 THE INFORMATION BELOW IS ACCURATE BUT DUE TO THE PANDEMIC IT COULD BE CHANGED. PLEASE CHECK WITH THE CONTACT PERSON OF YOUR CLASS OR WITH THE RB ALUMNI OFFICE AT 513.641.1313 TO VERIFY.

- 43** The men of **RB '43** meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month for lunch at Foley's Irish Pub in Reading. Call **Paul Blom** at 513.761.3384 for more information.
- 51** The ladies of **OLA '51** continue to meet every year. Call **Mary Fisher** for information on future gatherings at 513.863.2194.
- 52** The men of **RB '52** meet at Foley's Irish Pub in Reading at 12:30 pm on the first Tuesday of each month. Please call **George McMahon** for information at 513.521.2812 or gmckm@juno.com.
- 55** The men of **RB '55** were planning a **65TH REUNION** at Montgomery Inn on September 12, 2020. This event has been postponed. Questions can be directed to **Tony Novello** at 513.860.5293.
- 56** The annual Roger Bacon **CLASS OF 1956** luncheon ("Celebration of our Graduation") was postponed. Contact **Bill Johns** at william.johns@fuse.net or 513.825.2821 for information on the next gathering.
- 57** The **CLASS OF RB '57** gathers three times a year on the first Monday of April, August and December. Contact **Rich Harmeyer** at 513.385.1727 for information on the next gathering.
- 58** The men of **RB '58** continue to meet at Pompillio's Restaurant in Newport, Kentucky. Contact **Jim Murphy** for more information at 513.237.0173 on future gatherings.
- 60** A **60TH REUNION** brunch is being planned for the **OLA CLASS OF 1960** on October 3, 2020, at Maketewah Country Club. Please call **Donna Baumgartner** for more information or to make a reservation to attend at 513.313.2821.
- 60** The **60TH REUNION** celebration for the **RB CLASS OF 1960** on May 30, 2020, at Pebble Creek Golf Club was cancelled. Questions can be directed to **Seton Staley** at fsstaleyjr@hotmail.com or **Chuck Helmes** at 513.939.0678 who hope to continue with reunion plans in 2021.
- 61** The men of **RB '61** meet on the 4th Friday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Back Porch Saloon. Contact **Tom Whisner** at tjwhisner2@gmail.com or 513.284.2754 for more information about these luncheons. **Barry Strasser** is taking the lead to plan a **60TH REUNION** on the RB campus for September, 2021. More information will be forthcoming.
- 61** A group of men from the classes of **RB '61, '62** and **'63** continue to meet monthly on the first Wednesday of each month at Crossroads Sports Bar (5790 Cheviot Road in White Oak) at noon. Contact **Don Ernst** at 513.922.8775 or **Joe Karaus** at 513.250.5552 or jkaraus@gmail.com for information.
- 62**
- 63**
- 65** The ladies of **OLA '65** meet on all sides of town for their gatherings. For information on the next gathering contact **Susan Cochran Parker** at 513.385.1680 or skparker610@gmail.com or **Marilyn Riechman Schnorbus** at 513.922.9518 or mschnorbus@yahoo.com.
- 65** The **RB CLASS OF '65** men are planning a **55TH REUNION** cookout on campus prior to the football game on Friday, September 18, 2020. Contact **Skip Schoettmer** for more information at skip.schoettmer@sbcinci.com or 513.780.0373. **THIS REUNION WAS CANCELLED.**
- 66** The men of **RB '66** continue to meet monthly for lunch on the 3rd week of the month, alternating days and locations each month. On the 3rd Monday of every other month they meet at the Back Porch Saloon at 1:00 pm. On the 3rd Friday of every other month they meet at the St. Bernard Pub at 1:00 pm. Call **Jim Uhrig** to verify this information at 513.284.2754.
- 67** The **RB CLASS OF '67** continues to meet on the first Monday evening of the month at 6:30 pm at Pebble Creek Golf Club. Contact **Rich Craig** at richardalancraig@yahoo.com for more information.

68 The Back Porch Saloon is the location for the **RB CLASS OF '68** to meet for dinner on the 2nd Monday of February, May, August and November at 6:00 pm. Contact **Rick Sollmann** for more information at 513.641.1313.

69 The ladies of **OLA '69** plan on meeting every third Tuesday per quarter for lunch. An email will be sent to classmates to check the RB Alumni page, Facebook and Twitter for the location of each gathering. The next luncheon will be on September 15, 2020, at Wiedemann Brewery in St. Bernard at noon. Questions can be directed to **JoAnn Ballinger** at lmbjab@fuse.net.

70 The men and women of **OLA/RB '70** had planned a combined **50TH REUNION** celebration on Saturday, September 19, 2020, in the Fine Arts Center at Roger Bacon. This event has been postponed until the fall of 2021. Questions can be directed to **Ralph Henke** at rhenke1@yahoo.com.

70 The **OLA 50TH REUNION** committee (**OLA '70**) has a new date – May 22, 2021. We are hoping to mark our milestone with a celebration and get together when we can have the kind of event that we really want to have. So we're setting our sites on Saturday, May 22, 6-9 pm, at the Pebble Creek Event Center in Colerain Township. Look for more info on the OLA Facebook page, and in a future mailing. If you have new contact information please contact **Pat Gilkey Frey** at pafrey2@gmail.com. We look forward to getting together when it's safer!

71 The angels of **OLA '71** have decided to meet regularly. Please contact **Pam Bollmer Feichtner** at pfeichtner53@comcast.net for information on the next gathering.

75 The ladies of **OLA '75** are planning a special **45TH REUNION** at Pebble Creek Golf Course. **SAVE THE DATE** for October 17, 2020, to celebrate! Questions can be directed to **Peggy Teed Hermes** at 513.258.1359 or Peggy_Hermes@yahoo.com. **THIS REUNION WAS CANCELLED.**

80 The **CLASS OF OLA '80** girls are planning a **40TH REUNION** for September 12, 2020. For information contact **Ruth Voss Ward** at rward@starone.com 513-779-9500 or **Mary Beth Mayborg Hausfeld** mhausfeld@rogerbacon.org, or **Terrie Heglin** at theglin6d44@hotmail.com. **THIS REUNION WAS CANCELLED.**

The **"80'S LADIES"** (group of OLA "80's decade" women) meet quarterly. Please reach out to **Teresa Heglin** via Facebook Messenger to be added to the notification list for information about future gatherings.

*In town for a visit or curious about the many changes and improvements on the Roger Bacon campus? Contact **Sue Huerkamp** at 513.641.1313 or **Shuerkamp@rogerbacon.org** to schedule a tour.*

Pictured: Young alums gather at the annual golf outing.



Bacon Legs

TO THE CLASS OF 2020

*This is likely the first issue of **Tradition** you have seen or read. Welcome to the club! In the previous issue, some of your classmates lamented the shortened school year, missing activities such as prom, sports, dances, Outreach opportunities and a myriad of other activities. Mostly missing friends, teachers, the principal and the president was a common theme. Each contributor expressed interest in remembering the good times at Roger Bacon and perhaps concern that some of this will be lost, even though “Once a Spartan, Always a Spartan.”*

Each generation of Spartans seems to have had challenges: World Wars, Korean War, Vietnam, Desert Storm, etc. Spartan courage prevailed. We can be certain that this, too, shall pass.

If you really want to stay connected to your classmates and all alumni, there are many opportunities. The Alumni Association meets the second Thursday of each month during the school year at 6:30 pm (August through May). Elsewhere in the magazine you will notice that many classes have regularly scheduled lunches, dinners and other outings with their classmates. You can get your classmates together and organize an event—you can even invite Mr. Burke and Mr. Schad to come—Life is Good!

*Individually, you may be able to find a way to stay connected with RB. Ask **Paul Zlatic '00**, **Annie Karle '06** and **Brandon Spaeth '11** how that works for them. Volunteer—I’m sure Fr. Roger, Mrs. Becker or Ms. Murray will always need help somewhere. I will not be able to sell Split-The-Pot tickets at games forever and a replacement will be needed. There are just a few suggestions. I urge you to act on giving back to your alma mater. You will feel much pride and accomplishment and may even inspire others to **Go Forward to Greater Things!***

You will go diverse ways after graduation. College, military service or a job will beckon many of you. Your Roger Bacon education will be a benefit whatever you do and you will find RB grads in many “fields.”

Finally as you progress don’t forget the Annual Fund Drive. No contribution is too big and I assure you that no contribution is too small. Stay connected with your classmates and the entire Roger Bacon Family! Hail Spartans!

Sincerely,

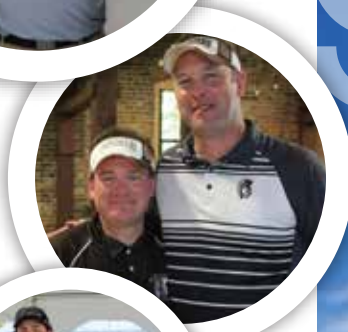
TOM DEHMER '63
RB Alumni Association

Pictured left is Tom Dehmer with freshman Parker Cribbs '24.





Bacon & Legs



A huge thank you to our many alums, friends and family who supported the 2020 Annual Alumni Golf Outing!

SOLD OUT!



ALUMNI GOLF OUTING

It was a great day for fun and golf. Congratulations to the winners – **Ben Asbach '01, Doug Scherpenberg '05, Drew Scherpenberg '01 and Kevin Cox.** Proceeds from this event will go to the RB Alumni Scholarship Foundation – we just awarded \$5,000 for the 2020-21 school year to some deserving young Spartans! This was a very successful event, even with the Corona Virus complications. Hopefully, we will continue to build on this success in the years to come!

Special thanks to the leadership of **Mark Bollmer '86, Eric Schulkers '91 and Beth Babel Powers '99,** baskets by **Kathi Clark '67** and Alumni Board members **Jim Clark '68, Rick Sollmann '68, Ed Noe '69, Mike and Missy Blaut '88, Kate Blanton '94, Br. Kenn Bettz '63, Lisa Wolf '88, Marcia Ruwe '57 and Sue Huerkamp '72.**

We had a very successful event even with the CoVid complications and hope to add onto our success in years to come! This golf outing was originally organized by **Jay Schildmeyer '54 and Mike Schlosser '61** over 50 years ago. Initially, this outing was started as a social event for alumni, not a fundraiser.

In Mike Schlosser's memory, the largest outing took place at the Jack Nicklaus Golf Course in Mason, OH with over 190 golfers. **Steve Asbach '77** stepped up as chairperson of the outing in 1991 and ran it through 2018 (27 years). A fine OLA/RB tradition carries on in 2020!

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EVENING *for* EXCELLENCE

Thank You

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Brian & Lisa Wolf

The **2020 EVENING *for* EXCELLENCE** took many twists and turns this year. Who could have known that a pandemic would rear its ugly head in March and the **EfE**, scheduled for April 25, would be rescheduled for June 27. However, as June approached it became clear that a mass gathering at the Fogarty Center just could not happen. So we quickly revamped and offered our first online auction for the week of June 22-27!

The program chosen for this new adventure enabled us to identify our generous sponsors throughout the week. Parent and Alumni chairs and our wonderful patrons were recognized, and continue to be recognized, on Roger Bacon's website under the Evening for Excellence section. Cash donors were also noted in this same section.

About 275 Silent and Live Auction items were offered through an online experience. The **2020 EVENING *for* EXCELLENCE** officially ended with the Grand Raffle drawing for \$10,000. We are hoping our world will return to normal by **April 24, 2021** – our next scheduled **EVENING *for* EXCELLENCE**.

Thank you to all who participated in this year's online experience including our sponsors, patrons, cash donors, in-kind donors, and all those who worked to make this event happen. In the fall, we will begin planning next year's **EfE**.

Barb and Rick Hunt, Sharon and Mike Emerine, Kathy and Randy Chrusciel, and Jean '75 and Kevin Holthaus have been patrons of the Evening for Excellence for many years. This year with the Corona Virus forcing the event to cancel the in-person evening, Barb and Rick Hunt chose to invite their usual table partners to their home, complete with cocktails and dinner. At the end of the evening, everyone agreed that they had a great time but they're all looking forward to seeing all of our Roger Bacon family next year on April 24th!



PICTURE ABOVE L TO R: "*Friar*" Kevin Holthaus, Jean Schwegmann Holthaus '75, Rick Hunt, Barb Hunt, Sharon Emerine and Mike Emerine.

Alumni Awards



EVERY YEAR FOUR MEMBERS OF THE OLA/ROGER BACON FAMILY ARE HONORED AT THE ANNUAL ALUMNI AWARDS MASS AND DINNER (SPONSORED BY THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION). THIS YEAR'S EVENT WAS SCHEDULED FOR SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2020. DUE TO CORONA VIRUS RESTRICTIONS ON HOSTING A LARGE EVENT SAFELY, THE 2020 ALUMNI AWARDS DINNER HAS BEEN CANCELLED FOR THIS YEAR AND WE WILL HONOR LORI, ED, LISA AND BR. GENE NEXT YEAR ON NOVEMBER 6, 2021.

LORI THAMANN DATTILO '72 • ED NOE '69 • LISA MULLIGAN WOLF '88 • BR. GENE MAYER, OFM
(Alumni Association Award Winners on following spread)

Alumni Association

2020 Amaranth Award

LORI THAMANN DATILO '72

This award is given to a graduate of Our Lady of Angels High School who has lived her life in true Franciscan spirit and has demonstrated significant achievements and dedicated service to the larger community since graduation.

Lori graduated from St. Clement Grade School in 1968 and Our Lady of Angels High School in 1972. Her mother was an OLA graduate, as were her four sisters. Lori received her BS in Education from the University of Cincinnati in 1975 and her Masters in Education Administration (Summa Cum Laude) from Xavier University in 1985.

She began her 21-year teaching career in 1975 with the Northwest School District. In 1985, Lori took a five-year break from teaching to stay home with her new son, Ryan, and care for her ailing parents. She returned to teaching in 1990, joining the Lakota School District.

Throughout her teaching career Lori was also very involved with the St. Michael School Parent Teacher Organization, serving as PTO President for two years. She also tutored students at home, in school, and in the hospital, often preparing them for their high school entrance exams. In her early twenties, Lori even visited the St. Clement Convent to tutor her former grade school Principal.

Retiring from teaching in 2001 and beginning a second career she joined her husband **Joe '70** at PAR Excellence Systems, Inc. as the Director of Human Resources and a member of the PAR Excellence Board of Directors. In early 2017, Lori and Joe sold PAR Excellence and retired. Joe and Lori have been married for 46 years and enjoy concerts, plays, trips to DC to visit their son Ryan, time in South Carolina, Notre Dame football games and dinners with friends, many from RB and OLA (except in 2020).

As a wife, mom, caregiver, teacher, PTO President, tutor, HR director, community outreach coordinator, friend and benefactor, Lori has lived a life inspired by the Franciscan principles and ideals taught to her at St. Clement and OLA. She has imparted those same principles and ideals on the countless students, employees, friends, and family, who have had the privilege of knowing her.

2020 Spartan Award Winner

LISA MULLIGAN WOLF '88

This award is given to a recent graduate of Roger Bacon High School who lives her/her life in a true Franciscan spirit, has demonstrated significant achievements and has dedicated service to the larger community since graduation.

While a student at Roger Bacon, Lisa participated in many activities but most notably was a member of the Flag Line and competed in the Winter Color Guard activities. She met her husband of 22 years, Brian Wolf at RB as well, and they have two boys who also became Spartans—**Logan '18** and **Alex '21**.

Lisa's family struggled financially when she was attending Roger Bacon. Her parents sacrificed and made it a priority for her and her sister to remain in Catholic school. The generosity of others also helped her family to stay afloat during this difficult time. This experience taught her two very important things in life. The impact that helping others can have and benefits of saving and managing finances appropriately. This was her primary motivation in pursuing a career in financial services.

She has been employed at Fidelity Investments for the last 22 years and spends her days coaching associates and leaders on the journey to reaching their personal best. She is a regular participant in Fidelity Cares events and helps groups such as Big Brother/Big Sisters and Junior Achievement by volunteering her time with those organizations.

Her children attended St. Michael School in Sharonville and the Wolf family are still active participants in their church festival and Mustang Serves group. Lisa chaired the parish Spaghetti Dinner for several years while the boys were in school there.

Her most recent endeavors have primarily been at Roger Bacon where she has taken a more active role in the Roger Bacon Alumni Association. Lisa also attended Student Senate gatherings to encourage activity from younger alumni as well. For the last several years, she has been the Roger Bacon team football mom helping with everything from team meals and picnics to the football banquets.

Award Winners

2020 Astrolabe Award Winner

ED NOE '69



This award is given to a graduate of Roger Bacon who has lived his life in true Franciscan spirit and has demonstrated significant achievements and dedicated service to the larger community since graduation.

Ed grew up in St. Monica's Parish and arrived on the Roger Bacon campus in the fall of 1965, and never left! "That doesn't mean I haven't graduated yet. I graduated in 1969, with my good friends who were also previous Astrolabe Award Recipients, *Ray Faller* and *Greg Jarvis*. We must have been a really dedicated class of Spartans!"

"I can honestly say that as I went through life, the values and work ethic instilled in me at Roger Bacon have led me to a life of dedication to continue the work and success of Catholic education in the communities where I have lived and worked, and also where my son, daughter and grandsons attended school. I started by serving my parish, St. Thomas (in Ft. Thomas) and served on the Parish Council and as president of the Booster Club. In addition, I also coached numerous soccer, basketball and baseball teams over the years and served as chairman of several parish festivals and fundraising events to ensure that St. Thomas students had the athletic equipment and educational equipment necessary to compete academically and athletically with the larger public schools."

In recent years, Ed has stayed connected to Roger Bacon by serving on the Principal's Advisory Board and as a member of the RB Alumni Association, most recently as President of the Alumni Association.

Ed has practiced law in Ohio and Kentucky. In addition, he has served as Chairman for several years of the CBA Municipal Court Civil Practice Committee.

"No one gets to where they are without the help of numerous friends and family. So this award is not just for me, but it includes many of my friends in Northern Kentucky and my friends from Roger Bacon High School and, certainly, my family!"

2020 Roger Bacon Award Winner

BR. GENE MAYER, OFM



This award is typically given to a non-Roger Bacon graduate (or couple) who believes and supports the missions of Franciscan education and has given time, treasures and talent to this institution.

My association with Roger Bacon began when I came down from Michigan to attend the high school seminary on Mill Road in 1963 (which we considered to be a sort of RB Annex). We were occasionally bussed down to football games and our Glee Club occasionally performed here.

Fast forward to 1973, when I completed initial formation and began ministry with TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) – a youth retreat program. I was working with Richard Rohr and living at Saint Clement Friary (where most of the friar-faculty members resided). In school year 1973-74, a number of friar-substitutes were needed and Principal John Bok, OFM, asked if I was willing to "baby sit" some classes for a week at a time. After two or three of those ventures, he asked me if I liked what I was doing, and I said yes. The next thing you know, he suggested to provincial minister Andrew Fox, OFM, that I be assigned here. As it was, Bro. Michael Wohler, OFM, was leaving RB for the Philippines, and I began student teaching under him in the spring of 1974.

That began my 22 years on the faculty, serving also as Student Senate Moderator, then Athletic Director for 11 years, and overseeing the "Bookstore" for the last two years. The whole 22 years I taught the Old Testament to freshmen. For a few years I taught the sexual morality course to sophomores and a brief stint teaching the marriage course to seniors.

Strictly as a side line, I got involved in things like doing the Christmas decorating in the entry areas of school (the PTA always took care of the cafeteria). The ladies in the front office sort of insisted that I pick up where I left off when I returned to school in the Advancement Office.

I am so thankful to the Alumni Association for presenting me with the award. It means about as much as receiving a diploma from this august institution!



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The CCCS has developed an informative cremation brochure. This brochure was developed to assist families and to help them understand their funeral and burial rites in the Catholic Church, especially when faced with making sensitive decisions at a very painful and stressful time.

DID YOU KNOW....

"The cremated remains of a body should be treated with the same respect given to the human body from which they came. This includes the use a worthy vessel to contain the ashes, the manner in which they are carried, the care and attention to appropriate placement, transport and the final disposition." (OCF #417)

Please visit our St. Francis of Assisi chapel in Our Lady of Angels mausoleum at St. Mary Cemetery and our Mother of God mausoleum at St. Joseph Cemetery. We built these final resting places, with private chapels, to guarantee continued service to our families for the future.

To speak with a grad about receiving our informative cremation brochure or to answer your questions, call Stephen E. Bittner '69 at 513.557.2306 ext. 319 or Arthur "Butch" Abrams '74 at 513.242.4191.



See us on Facebook & Twitter!

Born to Eternal Life

The following members of the Roger Bacon family have been born to eternal life. Please join us in remembering them and their families in your prayers.

Helen Rudolph Marten '39
Mary Tekulve Asbrock '40
Howard J. Mushaben '40
Dorothy Matre Parker '40
Ruth Schrott Seiler '41
Mary Dorothy Nurre Broad '42
Verna Fette '43
Ruth Matthews Boblett '44
Eileen "Corky" Bonekamp '44
Robert H. Schell '44
Donald J. Nerswick '45
Donald E. Romer '45
Ruth Ann Gardner Becraft '46
Raymond Brokamp '46
Donald Kleingers '47
Peter J. Lambing '47
Jean Schmitz Schmidt '47
Ernest Brauer, Jr. '48
Edwin Junker '48
William "Bill" Labermeier, Sr. '48
John "Jack" Mertz '48

Jack Nickert '48
Joseph E. O'Donnell '48
Joseph Huhn '49
Anna Marie Sciarra Parisey '49
Joan Claire Sicking Rogers '49
Ann Marie Bove Zaffiro '49
Edward C. Birkc '50
Anthony J. Sciamanna '50
Fred H. Zistler '50
Patricia M. Doerger '51
Mary Ann Sterbling Hafner '51
Joan Miller Brinck '52
William J. Ferris, Jr. '53
Ronald W. Stentz '53
Reginangelo A. DiPilla '54
Eileen Bonekamp '55
Jane Luers Brinkmann '55
Thomas Keyes '55
Larry Westrich '55
Barbara Ann Anderson '56
Joseph Siegel '56

Barbara Ann Kock '57
Joan Schroeder '57
Kathleen Kearns Ballenger '59
Robert Grethel '59
Kenneth E. Stoll '59
Mary Lou Yenke Wirthlin '59
Virginia Kathmann Baker '60
Barbara Ann Engel Croft '61
Harry F. Mulloy '61
Paul Francis Siefert, Sr. '61
Dennis Binder '62
Charles J. Kohl '63
Pat Brown Skrocki '63
James Woeste '63
Carolyn L. Fuchs '65
Paul E. St. Clair '65
Fred Feucht '66
Michael Joseph Madill '66
Robert J. Metz '66
Richard "Rick" E. Rettig '68
Mary Jo Grotjan '71

Steven P. Shaver '71
John M. Johnson '77
Paul Staubach '78
Dave Boback '80
James M. Cannon '80
Bruce Neal '94

RB Family:
Andrew Beard, Sr.
Lawrence "Fish" Fischer
Marian Wolfer Kistner
Joan Schoenlaub Murphy
Jane Francis Niehoff
Eugene "Geno" Schmidt
Helen Deidesheimer Temming
Mary A. Tieves
Paul Veid
Janet Wimberg



Support the Roger Bacon/OLA Alumni Association by purchasing a brick which can be designated for placement in the renovated *Bron Bacevich Stadium Entry Memorial*.
Senior parents... this is a great way to honor your son/daughter's four years of hard work.

\$150.00 PER BRICK OR 4 BRICKS FOR \$500.00

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Complete the lines below exactly as you wish the names of the individual to appear. Leave a space between names, numbers, and before and after &. Each brick has 3 lines with 14 characters per line.
Each name on the brick will be approved by the Alumni Association Board so we are looking for:

In memory of, In Honor of, or just your family names.

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HOW DID WE GET THE NICKNAME "SPARTANS?"

According to the 1968/69 Spartan handbook (for students and parents): *"Back in the early days of the school, a spectator at one of Bacon's football games remarked, 'Those Bacon boys fight like Spartans!' The name was picked up by a newspaper reporter, and thus it was popularized. Both the name and spirit implied have become a part of Roger Bacon High School."*

The 2008 spring *Reunion* magazine, in an article celebrating the 80th anniversary of RBHS, indicated it was Fr. William Faber, OFM, the faculty advisor of the Baconian Scholastic, who gave the football team the title of "Spartans" in memory of Greece's fiercest soldiers.

The November 1928 issue of the *Baconian Scholastic* (Volume 1, Number 1) contains the first reference to the nickname "Spartans." In a sports recap of the first football season, (specifically defeat to St. Xavier—the first game of the GCL) senior Raymond Wilkins '29 wrote: "The Spartans were greatest in defeat; so that's some consolation!"

The second issue of the *Baconian Scholastic* (December, 1928) contained a cartoon which referenced the "Spartans."

Regardless of how the name was derived, it is very obvious from the first year in existence, the students at RBHS have been referred to as "Spartans."

