

# ALUMNI NEWS



PREP REACHES OUT  
TO TELL ITS STORY

14 | JESUIT SPOTLIGHT  
FR. MARK E. NIEMANN, S.J.

16 | LOYOLA  
DINNER

23 | MIKE HOGAN  
DRIVE

FALL 2012



## Prep Reaches Out To Tell Its Story

One of the great blessings of being able to serve Prep this year as President is that I have learned about this community from the inside. When I first arrived, a Prep faculty member said to me, "Your job as President is to help us tell our story." People keep telling me what happens here, in the lives of young men entrusted to our care. It is easy to see that Prep really does form men in faith and scholarship, in leadership and service, in the Catholic and Jesuit tradition. It is moving to see how that happens, with an outstanding education offered in a culture of personal care.

I wish everyone could see the excitement in the room when over a hundred 8th graders filled an auditorium on our first "shadow day." I could share dozens of stories about difficult situations when students who are struggling were helped by caring faculty. I am moved by our financial aid staff, as every effort is made to help families be able to send a son to Prep. A Prep Mom told me to be sure to tell people about the opportunities for students in band, the choir, the arts and academic decathlon saying, "There's something for every student at Prep." Alumni tell stories about how a faculty or staff member "turned my life around." One alumnus told me, "I learned how to be successful in business, because I learned about how important personal relationships are." Another told me, "Prep made me a man for others and that has made all the difference in the world for how the rest of my life turned out."

In this issue of the Alumni News, we are telling more of our story. We are inviting you to help us share that story with others. If you know a family deciding where to send their son in the year or two ahead, you would help us greatly by sharing with them what a transformative formation experience Creighton Prep can be for young men today.

Jesus told us not to hide our light under a bushel basket. He urges us to put it on a lampstand, where it can be seen. "Your light must shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father." (Mt. 5:16)

Together we give glory to God who has blessed us with so many gifts to share and with so many friends to help us share them.

Most gratefully,  
In him,

**Fr. Andy Alexander, S.J. '66**

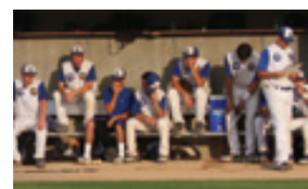


### 4 PREP REACHES OUT TO TELL ITS STORY

On a daily basis, my experience as principal at Creighton Prep reminds me why this is such a special place for young men and their families...



Long known to legions of Prepsters for his excellence as a teacher of English, Latin and Theology, Fr. Mark E. Niemann, S.J. ...



PI Midwest's quest to become the second Nebraska team ever to win the American Legion Baseball World Series came up just short...

#### INSERT

#### GIVE THE GIFT OF THE CREIGHTON PREP STORY

(tear out and fold)

- 11 AMDG Annual Fund
- 12 The Jesuit Community at Creighton Prep
- 14 JESUIT SPOTLIGHT
- 16 Loyola Dinner
- 19 Regional Gatherings
- 20 Here & There
- 23 Mike Hogan Drive Blessing & Dedication
- 24 Please Remember
- 26 Alumni in the Workplace
- 27 PI MIDWEST MAKES WORLD SERIES
- 28 The Men For Others Golf Classic

## CALENDAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2012  
**Christmas in the Cage**  
Heider Center

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2013  
**8th Grade Entrance Exam**  
Creighton Preparatory School

SATURDAY, JANUARY 26, 2013  
**6th/7th Grade Pre-Entrance Exam**  
Creighton Preparatory School

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27, 2013  
**Father/Son Mass and Breakfast**  
Embassy Suites La Vista

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2013  
**Mom Prom**  
Embassy Suites La Vista

**LOOK FOR 2012 CLASS REUNION  
PICTURES IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!**

CREIGHTON PREP  
**ALUMNI NEWS**



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# PREP REACHES OUT TO TELL ITS STORY

JOHN NAATZ ►  
PRINCIPAL



On a daily basis, my experience as principal at Creighton Prep reminds me why this is such a special place for young men and their families. I feel so strongly about the power of the Prep story and its need to be told more widely that I was quite pleased when I found out that the special section theme for this Alumni News would be "Prep Reaches Out To Tell Its Story."

To begin the telling of that story, I thought I would briefly share the story of our new president, Fr. Andy Alexander, S.J.

Fr. Andy is an Omaha native, attended St. John's Grade School and graduated from Creighton Prep in 1966. After entering the Society of Jesus that same year, he studied at St. Louis University where he received a Master's Degree in Ignatian Spirituality. He then taught at St. Francis High School on the Rosebud Reservation and at Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Reservation, where he also served as Assistant Principal for Discipline. Fr. Andy later studied theology at Regis College in Toronto, Ontario and was ordained in 1979.



After ordination, he was appointed the Director of Vocations for the Wisconsin Province then served as Assistant Provincial and Director of Formation. He also worked as pastor of the Jesuit-sponsored Gesu Parish in Milwaukee before coming to Creighton University in 1996, where he is Vice-President for University Ministry and the Director of the Collaborative Ministry Office. Fr. Andy has also co-authored two books: "Praying Lent: Renewing Our Lives On The Lenten Journey" and "Retreat In The Real World: Finding Intimacy with God Wherever You Are."

We are grateful for Fr. Andy's skill, dedication, and leadership during this time of transition.

I would now like to focus all of us on telling the Prep story to someone else this holiday season, a prospective student or parent who may not know about Prep or our mission. I truly believe each of us has a story about the Prep experience that can inspire someone else.

Our Prep community is certainly aware of the academic, athletic and service accomplishments of our students. However, there are many stories that happen here every day that involve our learning environment, counseling, business operations and recruiting that often go untold but, in my view, are vital to tell to those who may be unfamiliar with Prep.

Our personnel in the offices of the Customized Learning Experience, Counseling, Business Office and Enrollment Management often make first and lasting impressions with prospective students and their families. Because of this, everyone in our community should know who they are, what they do and how they help maintain Prep tradition while building our community for the future.

After you read about them, please consider telling their Prep stories along with your own.

## CUSTOMIZED LEARNING EXPERIENCE

PREP RECOGNIZES THAT ALL STUDENTS LEARN DIFFERENTLY

A DIRECTED STUDIES STUDY SKILLS COURSE IS AVAILABLE FOR FRESHMEN WHO NEED ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

ACCOMMODATION PLANS CAN BE MADE FOR STUDENTS WITH IDENTIFIED LEARNING CHALLENGES

Creighton Prep provides each of its students a Customized Learning Experience, something that many outside the walls of the school may not know. The major emphasis of this academic component is to strive to provide each student—whether an honor student, a student who struggles or a student somewhere in between—with a learning experience that is tailored to his needs, strengths and interests with the support and resources he needs to succeed.

To help make the Customized Learning Experience a reality at Prep, Andrew J. Simon '96 was hired in 2008 as the Learning Resource Coordinator. At the time, the position required that he handle all students on 504 plans (accommodation plans for those with verified learning disabilities), oversee Peer Tutoring and teach Directed Studies, a study skills course that includes lessons on organization, time management, goal setting, test taking, reading comprehension, vocabulary development, and study strategies and habits. In Directed Studies, students also learn how to advocate for their own needs and can ask questions or work on assigned homework for other classes.

In his first year of teaching, Andy had 35 students in his caseload. As word began to get out about the program, parents felt more comfortable with opening up about their student's challenges and the number of participants grew. At the start of the 2012 school year, he had 80 students with verified learning disabilities that were on accommodation plans.

Jeffrey M. Wellwood '98 was hired during the 2011-2012 school year to help ease the heavy load and he currently works with students who struggle academically while Andy continues to work with students on 504 plans and meets with parents regarding accommodations for their sons. He also applies to the College Board and ACT for accommodations for juniors and seniors.

Together they teach students with various learning disabilities such as hearing impairments, visual impairments, speech and

language disabilities, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), brain injuries and physical disabilities. These types of learning challenges have always been present, but now Prep has ways to help level the playing field for the students who have to live with them.

## A PEER TUTORING SUCCESS STORY

Creighton Prep freshman Onur Bas '16 decided to come to the United States from Turkey to stay with an aunt and uncle in Omaha. A brand new culture coupled with an intense language immersion made for an extremely difficult transition for Onur. Once at Prep, his grades quickly began to slip and summer school would mean missing the opportunity to head back to Turkey to visit his family. The situation looked bleak.

Andy Simon was asked to see if he could assist Onur with his grades and Onur was quickly paired up with senior National Honor Society (NHS) peer tutor Ivan Tunzer '13. NHS members are required to complete 16 hours of service per year with eight of those hours spent in peer tutoring.

After three extended sessions of Onur and Ivan studying together, it was clear that more time was needed for this unique situation after Ivan's eight-hour peer tutoring requirement had been met.



Ivan then approached Mr. Simon and asked if he could meet with Onur two days per week. He also asked if he could accompany Onur to his last hour science class that took place



on Friday afternoons, even though Ivan had that hour free to leave for the weekend.

After peer tutoring with Ivan, Onur retook an exam on which he did poorly and turned a failing grade into a 96 percent. The same

turnaround for Onur is taking place in other classes as well, and his future at Prep looks bright.

Mr. Simon describes Ivan's unselfish act as a "peer partnership that exhibits a very generous spirit." He was so proud of Ivan living as a "Man for Others" that he told Principal John Naatz and called Ivan's mother. Mr. Naatz proceeded to send Ivan a note of appreciation and Ivan's mother was extremely proud to say the least.

## FROM THE LEARNING RESOURCE COORDINATOR

"I have a poster in my office that is framed from around 1992. It is a Creighton Prep recruitment poster that was distributed to the Catholic grade schools when Prep would come for their recruitment meetings. I actually had this poster in my bedroom as an 8th grader. At the bottom is a catch phrase that I have heard over and over again but always sums it up best for me. It says, 'More than just a high school... A way of life for the rest of your life.'



"There is a reason that poster hangs in my office now as an adult member of the faculty. It reminds me of our mission. We are not just 'forming men of faith, scholarship, leadership and service' for their high school years, but as adults too."

**ANDY SIMON '96**  
LEARNING RESOURCE COORDINATOR

## DIRECTED STUDIES: A PARENT'S PERSPECTIVE

"I can tell you that Andy Simon's program was instrumental in my sons' success at Prep. It is a hands-on program in which the boys receive the 'best of the best.' They were never chastised for their shortcomings - however were embraced. The Directed Studies Program enabled them to excel not only in their studies but in their development as men.

"Andy has been able to utilize positive reinforcement with a lot of underlying discipline to direct them to success. If it wasn't for Andy and his program, God only knows where my sons would be. In addition, he definitely has the respect of the boys and the parents whose children are involved in his program. I have and continue to strongly recommend Prep to parents whose children have been diagnosed with ADD/ADHD or any other learning issues.

"I have a friend whose son was attending a public school through 8th grade and enrolled in Prep. A teacher noticed that he was struggling and contacted the parents. She contacted me and we discussed the Directed Studies Program since he was having problems focusing in class. I gave them Andy's name and they received an immediate call back and have been reassured of Prep's commitment to their son. They are extremely happy and a little surprised of the direct attention that they and their son are receiving from Prep.

"Because of Andy and the program, he has made the faculty and staff at Prep aware that not all Prep students are a specific type and intellect. Prep is made up of so many different types of boys with so many different talents. It has made Prep a better school and has made a great impact on these young men."

— Anne



## COUNSELING

TO SUPPORT THE SPIRITUAL, INTELLECTUAL AND PERSONAL MATURATION OF EACH PREP STUDENT

DEPARTMENT SERVICES ARE DESIGNED TO ENHANCE EACH STUDENT'S TALENT AND POTENTIAL

THE FAMILY CONNECTION WEBSITE HELPS STUDENTS AND PARENTS PREP FOR COLLEGE AND CAREER

Creighton Prep counselor Jim Swanson '82 tells his Prep story through the stories of the students he has advised and the parents he has befriended, stories of Prep experiences that inspire him in his daily work.

A simple example of this is when he asked a senior from North Omaha to give a ride to a freshman from the same neighborhood. Without hesitation, the senior said, "Sure." Since then, the two students from different ethnic backgrounds have become so close that the freshman wants the senior to be his Big Brother at Prep. "This is what this place is all about," says Jim, who speaks Spanish well and loves the language. He learned Spanish and a love for Latino culture through many visits to the Dominican Republic and eight months spent volunteering in Guatemala.

Another is when former Creighton Prep parent and Omaha attorney Joseph Ramirez told his Prep story to a prospective Prep Mom, recalling how the school positively affected his three sons: Daniel '04, Michael '04 and Gregory '06. She closely listened to his story, did her research, asked questions and ultimately decided that Prep might be a good environment for her son, too.

Then, rather than "waiting for the mountain to come to her, she went to the mountain," as she describes it, bringing her family to a Prep Open House. They came away from the event most impressed with the Fine Arts program, specifically architecture, as well as the various Social Studies extracurricular activities such as Harvard Model Congress. She also thought the students and staff at the Open House were welcoming and warm.

After receiving assistance from the staff at RM Marris Magnet Center in completing the application, the family made the decision to send their son to Prep. "We knew that financially, we would need help, but this was the right place with the right people and the investment was well worth it."

She credits Jim and Creighton Prep with challenging her son both in and out of the classroom. College, at one point, was a far stretch but, because of Prep, it is now expected. "My son's dreams are higher and he believes in himself. He has become a leader and, most of all, become a good person."

With her own Prep story to tell now, this Prep Mom has become a huge advocate for the school within her Latino community in South

Omaha. She feels they need to know about opportunities like Prep and she is doing her best to let others know that the school is open to anyone who wants to better themselves and create opportunities for the future. It is also her hope that Prep tells other Latinos that it is open to everyone since it has become "a new world for my family and for our community!"

Jim said he feels blessed to be able to serve Prep students and parents and to do so in great collaboration with his department colleagues Mr. Mike Culver, Mr. Chris Nizzi, Mrs. Karen Favor, Fr. Bob Tillman, S.J. and Counseling Director Mr. Steve Wertzberger.



When Steve was asked to tell his Prep story, he responded with the following:

"When I arrived at Prep to teach theology and work in the Counseling department, I learned two things that were very important to the mission of Creighton Prep: a motto and a slogan. 'AMDG' and 'The Happiest People in the World Are Those Who Live for Others.'

"That first freshman class I taught was the Class of 1986. There was a young man in that theology class named Tim. Tim was lost. He struggled academically and he was not sure how he fit in socially. A polite, shy young man, he did his homework and was very motivated to be at Prep.

"The little experiences like Freshman and Sophomore Retreat kept him going and gave him hope. In his senior year, he took a service class from Fr. Tony Wach, S.J. It was like a light switch going off in his head. He loved it. He shared some of the essays he wrote for the class; they were phenomenal. Fr. Wach and Ed Kult, our service director at the time, went out of their way to tell me just how wonderful Tim was as a student.

"It was about six years later that I ran into Tim again. I was taking a group of students to the Dorothy Day House for a service visit. There was Tim. He was pretty much running the place, just finishing up the lunch shift. He wasn't lost anymore and he was the happiest I had ever seen him.

"I've seen over a thousand 'Tims' since then. The opportunities at Prep to find yourself are many. When a student just learns to truly embrace those two little phrases, it all works out."

## BUSINESS OFFICE

HANDLES TUITION, FINANCIAL AID, WORK STUDY, ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE AND SETS ALL BUDGETS

WANTS TO HEAR FROM PREP STUDENTS AND FAMILIES WHEN THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES CHANGE

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED JUST INSIDE THE ADMINISTRATION ENTRANCE FROM THE EAST PARKING LOT

**Tuition levels and the challenges they impose** on the students and families of the Creighton Prep community may have changed since 1924, when tuition was first established at \$25 per semester with an additional \$15 requested for fees. But the compassion and flexibility born out of Fr. Henry Sullivan, S.J.'s caring nature and the desk-drawer cigar box where he first managed the finances of the school can still be found in abundance in the Creighton Prep Business Office.

Today, the four-person Business Office team handles tuition, financial aid, work study, accounts receivable and sets all budgets. They also help the school achieve a balanced operating budget and accurately report the financial position of the institution to all constituents.

But mostly what they do—much as Prep leaders did before them—is work compassionately and flexibly with the students and families of the Prep community to help them navigate the financial challenges of a four-year Prep education.

On a daily basis, these efforts are led by Mary Mortensen, Director of Human Resources and Business Operations, a 19-year Prep employee and a 2009 Creighton Prep Hall of Fame inductee.



"I think there's a misconception out there that, because we use the FACTS Grant & Aid Assessment system to collect information, there's no human element in the decisions made with students and families on tuition payment plans and financial aid," says Mary. "On the contrary, it's not a cookie-cutter approach. What

I say to parents is communication is key and time is money. I will spend time with you putting together a specialized payment plan. The human element, that personal touch is absolutely key in our decision-making."

Especially in this economy, Mary says that she spends a good deal of her time fielding requests from parents who are going through significant disruptions in their lives and helping them modify their commitment plans to Prep so that their sons have the best possible chance to complete their high school educations at 74th & Western Avenue.

"When a major life change such as divorce, a job loss or the expenses incurred by an unforeseen health crisis or the start of a new business venture is pressing on one of our families and affecting their ability to realize the dream of educating their son at Prep, we want to hear from them as soon as possible so we can go over all the options they have to stay here."

An unexpected job loss was exactly the situation facing a Creighton Prep alum and current parent with two sons at Prep in 2009.

"In the late 70s, my father's business was experiencing financial difficulties that were going to impact my ability to complete my education at Prep," says John. "When they heard about the situation, Prep not only helped work out a specialized payment plan for my family and me, they also helped me set up a monthly budget plan for my expenses. Then when I lost my job a few years ago with a freshman and a senior at Prep, Mary helped put a payment plan in place that worked for me, prayers were said and eventually my financial situation worked itself out."

Mary is quick to point out that resolving situations like these to the satisfaction of Prep parents and students is very fulfilling and a real team effort.

"We honestly could not be as flexible as we are without Mary McGuire's skill and knowledge in helping our parents who have questions on the phone or transactions to make at the Business Office window. She also manages the work study commitments of our students on financial aid. Or without Joyce Meyers' assistance in walking parents through the financial aid process or Mike Masek's leadership as our VP."

On her desk, Mary keeps a candy dish she was given by a past parent who could not read well enough to fill out financial aid forms on her own to remind her of the importance of her role in making Prep happen for so many families.

"We have kids here who come to school hungry every day and with other challenges at home that are almost unimaginable. I thank God we not only have the skilled, caring people they need to see in our office but also the financial aid we do. This aid would not be possible without the generosity of our alums, friends, parents, past parents and others who really care about and see the results of Prep's mission on an ongoing basis."

## ENROLLMENT MANAGEMENT

OFTEN THE FIRST POINT OF CONTACT FOR PROSPECTIVE PREP PARENTS AND STUDENTS

MANAGES THE "SHADOW DAY" EXPERIENCE FOR 8TH GRADE AND TRANSFER STUDENTS

INTENT ON ATTRACTING AN EVEN MORE DIVERSE GROUP OF STUDENTS TO THE SCHOOL

**In reaching out to tell Prep's story** to prospective Catholic and non-Catholic students and their families in the greater Omaha area, Enrollment Management staff members Joe Pick and Josh Luedtke are actively engaging these audiences in discussing what makes Prep special and using a variety of innovative methods to enable these important discussions.

In early September, they mailed a "Prep Pass" to a large number of prospective students, allowing them to attend any Prep-hosted event—sports, music, drama, etc.—for free as well as a "Football Friday" celebration where Junior Jays of tomorrow and their parents discussed the Prep experience informally with faculty and staff members over pizza and soda prior to a home game.

In September as well, Joe and Josh produced and distributed a new, full-color enrollment brochure that highlights Prep's formative mission, the academic profile of the school, testimonials from current students, the fall schedule of shadow days and the admissions calendar for the Class of 2017. At mid-month, they also held a luncheon with non-Catholic parents as part of their quest to tell the Prep story on a broader scale. As of November 9, Joe and Josh had also hosted a total of 174 prospective students via shadow days and 315 during the November 4 Open House.

In addition, the department recently invested in SchoolAdmin, a database management system that will help them stay connected with prospective students and families as they hope to personally assist each family in a focused enrollment process.

Prior to taking on the role of Assistant to the President for Enrollment Management this summer, Joe worked as Assistant Director of Admissions at Creighton University for five years, where he was responsible for enrolling Iowa and Millard Public School District students in the school. Before that, he was an admissions representative for Buena Vista University in Storm Lake, Iowa.



"Coming from Creighton University, I have a unique perspective because I couldn't tell you what the day-to-day experience was for Creighton Prep men, only its outcomes," said Joe recently. "The outcomes alone are enough reason to join the Creighton Prep community. Colleges and universities use a variety of ranking systems for high schools and, at Creighton, Prep is one of the highest ranking schools in their national system.

"It wasn't because of the history but because of the consistent success Prep students had when they attended the University. Creighton Prep students were respectful, prepared and already very well rounded. They were successful in every endeavor they pursued: academically, spiritually and socially. When I see those constant successful outcomes at the university level, it proves Creighton Prep is the expert in developing young men for others."



Joe joins Josh Luedtke '90, longtime Director of Admissions and Head Basketball Coach at Prep, in making sure Prep remains a leader in the competition to attract, welcome and retain a diverse group of students and families. They also join Fr. Alexander in asking each person in the Prep community to reach out and tell the Prep story to one prospective student or family this holiday season, and they look forward to hearing from you and them.

Joe can be reached at 402.548.3879 or [jpick@prep.creighton.edu](mailto:jpick@prep.creighton.edu), and Josh can be reached at 402.393.1256 or [jlued@prep.creighton.edu](mailto:jlued@prep.creighton.edu).

## A NON-CATHOLIC PARENT'S VIEW OF THE PREP EXPERIENCE



"When my son was in 8th grade, Creighton Prep was not even on our radar as a high school choice for him. We are not Catholic, and my husband and I were both public school kids.

"How we decided to take a look at Prep is a long story, but my son became interested after his first half day visit. He was impressed by the serious academic focus and the lack

of chaos he had felt in public school. We loved that too, but my husband and I were really hooked when we learned about the 'Prep Grad at Graduation' traits. I mean really, how many schools can say that they want their grads to be religious, loving and have a heart for justice?

"My oldest son graduated in 2012, and our next son is currently a sophomore. We have been so impressed with how well Prep's goal of creating 'Men for Others' has been integrated into everything my sons have participated in at Prep. This has reinforced what we have tried to teach them at home as well as the focus of our own church. Additionally, we have found that while the theology classes are taught from a Catholic perspective, they have essentially complimented our church's teachings. We expected to love the academic offerings at Prep, but have been surprised and pleased with how well the moral and religious training has meshed with home and church values.

"Overall, Prep has been a great choice for our sons and our family."

– Kay



## AMDG ANNUAL FUND



PROVIDING AN AFFORDABLE PREP EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE TO YOUNG MEN WHO LEARN TO LIVE THEIR LIVES FOR THE GREATER GLORY OF GOD.



**Remember your days at Creighton Prep?** Whether you are an alumnus, a current or past parent, a current or former teacher or a friend of the school, you most likely have vivid memories of experiences shared and friendships formed because of your connection to Prep.

Since 1878, Prep has been an institution for young men and families of many different socioeconomic, cultural and religious backgrounds. The rich tradition and history is the result of your commitment today and the work, dedication, and traditions you established as a student, parent or friend of Prep. Each of you in your own way has brought life to the building and helped pave the way for today's students.

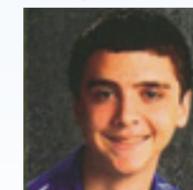
Through a contribution to the AMDG Annual Fund, you provide opportunities for current and future students to tell their Prep stories. Each year, Creighton Prep needs your support for two essential priorities:

- Covering the \$3,430 tuition subsidy provided to every student.
- Providing 45% of our deserving young men with over \$1.75 million in additional financial assistance.

Your gift will help us continue to offer the experience of faith, scholarship, leadership and service to qualified students and their families. Thank you for your continued support!

### THE AMDG ANNUAL FUND IN ACTION

Danny Fell, Class of 2014



"The experiences that I have had at Prep have been more than I could have ever imagined. The spiritual growth through retreats have enabled me to develop a closer relationship with Jesus, see God's presence through my classmates, and open my eyes to the world around me. The extra-curricular activities set Prep above the rest because of how varied and inviting they are. I personally participated in cross country, track and field, Operation Others, musical, and cycling club amongst other activities. I would never have been able to experience any of this without the generosity of Creighton Prep donors."

Todd & Amy Foje, Past Parents



"Prep offered our son the atmosphere of personal growth. The education and spiritual tradition fostered his faith, challenged his academic abilities, and encouraged his desire to lead outside the classroom, especially through service to others. He is passionate about using these gifts to help those around him. Nathan has taken these talents and applied them to his college experience. He serves in student government and has taken part in service opportunities through his university. Prep is dear to our hearts. We have had the privilege to observe firsthand the work that the people of Prep do to transform young men. We feel blessed to support them through prayer and financial support."

John Malloy Sr., Class of 1940



*(Excerpt taken from the book, Making John a Soldier: A Nebraskan Goes to War)*  
 "My mother, unbeknownst to me, met with Creighton Prep's principal, Fr. Sullivan. She explained our family couldn't afford Prep's full tuition and emphasized how badly I wanted to attend there. Reduced tuition was agreed on; mother took it out of her small house-hold budget. With that, I enrolled at Creighton Prep for my sophomore year; its total student body numbered about five hundred. I found myself in a learning atmosphere vastly different than I had ever experienced. Everyone got along well regardless of his family's finances. The depression had been a great leveler and social position or family income was disregarded at Prep. Later in life, I spent time in several colleges and universities as a student and faculty member. I never again met the same general level of competence, ambition, and dedication I found among the students at Creighton Prep."

### 2013 AMDG Annual Fund



Give Online at [creightonprep.org/giveonline](http://creightonprep.org/giveonline)

# THE JESUIT COMMUNITY AT CREIGHTON PREP

## REV. ANDY ALEXANDER, S.J. '66



A proud member of the Class of 1966 and current president of the school, Fr. Andy Alexander, S.J. entered the Society of Jesus after graduation and studied at St. Louis University where he received a Master's Degree in Ignatian Spirituality. He went on to teach at St. Francis High School on the Rosebud Reservation and at the Red Cloud Indian School on the Pine Ridge Reservation, where he was the Assistant Principal for Discipline. Fr. Alexander later studied theology at Regis College in Toronto, Ontario and was ordained in 1979.

After ordination, he served the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus first as the Director of Vocations then as Assistant Provincial and Director of Formation. Fr. Alexander was also Pastor of the Jesuit sponsored Gesu Parish in Milwaukee before returning to Omaha and Creighton University in 1996.

He serves as the Vice-President for University Ministry and the Director of the Collaborative Ministry Office at Creighton, supporting faculty and staff contributions to the school's Jesuit and Catholic identity. Fr. Alexander is also the co-creator of the Online Ministries website, which receives over 21 million hits a year from around the world, and the co-author of two books, "Praying Lent: Renewing Our Lives on the Lenten Journey" and "Retreat in the Real World: Finding Intimacy with God Wherever You Are."

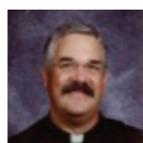


## REV. ROB KROLL, S.J.

Fr. Rob Kroll, S.J. is the superior of the Jesuit community at Creighton Prep and, in this role, serves as an ex officio member of the board of directors and on the executive committee. Fr. Kroll will also be teaching theology part-time at Prep and assisting with pastoral/Campus Ministry duties such as retreats and Masses.

Born and raised in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Fr. Kroll holds a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service degree from Georgetown University, a canonical baccalaureate degree in philosophy from Centre Sèvres in Paris and a Master of Divinity degree from the Weston School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts. In May 2012, he also completed a Master's in Clinical Psychology from the Institute for Psychological Sciences in Arlington, Virginia.

Fr. Kroll previously served as Director of Ignatian Spirituality for the faculty and staff at Marquette High School in Milwaukee, where he taught and coached as well. He has also served as pastor at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota and as the associate director of the Demontreville retreat house in Minnesota.



## REV. KEVIN SCHNEIDER, S.J.

Fr. Kevin Schneider, S.J. was born and raised in Green Bay, Wisconsin and is the second eldest of six boys. He graduated from Creighton University in 1982, the Weston School of Theology in 1993 and was ordained in 1994. He teaches sacraments, is the Director of Adult Spirituality Programs and serves as the assistant chaplain for many athletic teams. Fr. Schneider is also a lifelong Green Bay Packers and Creighton Bluejays fan.



## REV. JAMES SINNERUD, S.J.

Fr. James Sinnerud, S.J. is a member of the Oregon Province of the Society of Jesus. He entered the Jesuits in 1960 and spent most of his time in studies with the Oregon Province, with some of the time devoted to studying in Europe. Fr. Jim came to Prep in 1987 and taught theology through 2008. He also spent some time as a varsity football coach. He is presently serving as a substitute teacher, prefect and sacramental minister at Prep and occasionally says Mass for the Poor Clares.



## MR. VINCENT STRAND, S.J.

Mr. Vincent Strand, S.J. was born and raised in Dousman, Wisconsin. He attended Marquette University and graduated with majors in biological sciences and theology. Upon graduation from Marquette in 2005, Mr. Strand entered the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus. He professed first vows as a Jesuit in 2007 and was sent for studies to Fordham University where he completed a master's degree in philosophy in May 2010. In his regency at Prep, Mr. Strand teaches philosophy and theology.



## REV. GEORGE SULLIVAN, S.J. '62

Fr. George Sullivan, S.J. graduated from Prep in 1962 and served as president of the school from 1982 to 1988. In 1989, he accepted the vice presidency at the Gregorian University Foundation and lived in Los Angeles until 2006. After years of fundraising for the Gregorian, the Jesuit University in Rome, Fr. Sullivan returned to his home town of Omaha to assist Fr. Tom Merkel, S.J., Prep's former president, and now Fr. Alexander.

Fr. Sullivan holds a bachelor of arts degree from St. Louis University, a master's degree in divinity from Regis College in Toronto, Ontario and a juris doctorate from Creighton University.



## REV. ROBERT TILLMAN, S.J.

Fr. Robert Tillman, S.J. is originally from Mankato, Minnesota. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1966 and was ordained in 1977. After philosophy studies, he taught and coached at Creighton Prep from 1971 to 1974. In 1978, Fr. Tillman returned to Prep as director of guidance until 1985. He was an administrator at St. Francis Mission in South Dakota from 1985 to 1994 and superior of the Jesuit Community from 1989 to 1994. He became superior of the Jesuit Community at Prep in 1994 and currently serves as the director of college placement and varsity cross country coach. He lives in the Mulumba House Jesuit Community in North Omaha.



## MR. STEPHEN WOLFE, S.J.

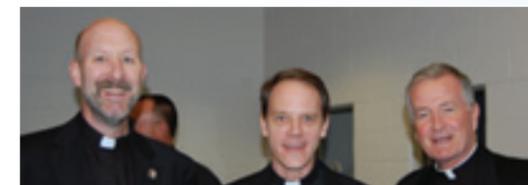
A native of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Mr. Stephen Wolfe, S.J. is in his regency at Prep, teaching Church History and Philosophy. He attended Marquette University, where he majored in classical languages and theology, and afterwards received his Masters in Theology. After entering the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus in 2006, he studied philosophy at Fordham University in New York City, earning a master's degree in 2011.

## IGNATIAN DINNER 2012

The Henry L. Sullivan, S.J. Campus Center at Creighton Prep was the September 26 setting for Ignatian Dinner 2012, which celebrated Jesuit/lay collaboration in Omaha.

Ryan Zabrowski '96, Chair of the Jesuit Partnership Council of Omaha, and his wife Molly served as masters of ceremonies for the event, where students from Jesuit Academy greeted guests who were treated to remarks by acclaimed photographer and Creighton University faculty member Don Doll, S.J. on his vocation as a priest and photographer, and to the presentation of the Ignatian Spirit Award 2012 to former Prep parents Howard and Rhonda Hawks.

Proceeds from the event went to support the healthcare needs of the St. Camillus Jesuit Community in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.



# FR. MARK E. NIEMANN, S.J.



Long known to legions of Prepsters for his excellence as a teacher of English, Latin and Theology, Fr. Mark E. Niemann, S.J. was born on August 16, 1918 in Burlington, Iowa. After grade school and high school in Burlington, he began studies at Creighton University in 1936 then entered the Society of Jesus the following year at St. Stanislaus Seminary in Florrissant, Missouri. Fr. Niemann went on to receive his A.B. in Latin/English, his Ph.L. in Philosophy, his M.Ed. in Latin/Education and his S.T.B. in Theology, all from Saint Louis University between 1942 and 1951. During this time, he also taught Latin and English at Saint Louis University High School and theology at St. Mary's College (Kansas).

After tertianship in Decatur, Illinois, Fr. Niemann was missioned to Regis High School in Denver, where he taught English and Latin and served as Dean of Discipline. Then, in 1954, he began as a teacher of English and Latin at Prep, where he would serve with great distinction on two separate occasions for a total of 42 years.

Just prior to his induction in the Creighton Prep Hall of Fame in 1987, the Prep Alumni News described Fr. Niemann's teaching reputation in much the same way many of his former students still remember him today: "thorough, demanding, patient, sympathetic, fatherly—whose prime concern has always been to help them develop their God-given talents to their very best, for the greater glory of God." Fr. Niemann focused on Latin and Theology instruction in the last 30 years of his Prep career, still teaching until a few weeks before his death as a member of the Prep community in 2002.



**I find it difficult to believe that it's been over ten years** since Fr. Mark Niemann, S.J. walked the halls of Creighton Prep. Even after all this time, it is still hard for me to imagine Creighton Prep without his presence.

Within a short time of teaching with him, he became both my mentor and a dear friend. He was, for me, the embodiment of what is best in Jesuit education. He cared deeply for the well-being of each one of his students, and he had a passionate commitment to maintaining high academic standards in the classroom.

I think what impressed me most about him was his willingness, in fact, his eagerness, to embrace change. He was the first language teacher in our department to use computers. While I, as the youngest member of the department, was still typing my tests on a traditional typewriter and filing all my papers in a traditional filing system, Fr. Niemann, by far our most elderly member, was printing out his class materials from a computer and saving his files to floppy disks. He was excited by any tool that he felt could improve his teaching.

Even while he was in hospice care and in his last few days of life, we were still working together to edit, prepare, and package Latin vocabulary cards for Creighton Prep students to use that following fall. I could go on for hours with examples of his kindness to his colleagues, his dedication to his students and his devotion to his mission here at Creighton Prep.

**Mark Haynes**  
Chair, World Languages Department  
Creighton Prep

**Mark was a great Jesuit!** I was his Superior for seven years. Every Jesuit Superior has what is known as an Admonitor. He is to correct the Superior about anything dealing with the actions of the Superior or his decisions which might need questioning. Mark was appointed by the Provincial to be my Admonitor.

When appointed, he came into my office and told me he didn't want to have this job, but obedience calls him to do it. He did exercise his office more than a few times. When he came into my office to admonish me, he would close the door quietly, stand there and clear his throat, state his admonition and then leave. I had told him that whatever he would say to me, I would always thank him and ask no further questions.

Several times he closed the door ending that admonishing and then open the door as if he hadn't been there moments before and we would talk as if we hadn't just met. Mark had just done his job, under obedience, and that was that.

**Fr. Larry Gillick, S.J.**  
Director, Deglman Center for Ignatian Spirituality  
Creighton University



**Never before or after did I have a teacher** who was so demanding, yet compassionate, so insightful, yet humble. Walking into his classroom, I always expected to be challenged, but I also knew I would receive all the support I would need to succeed.

So, now I am sharing Latin with some amazing young men, and Fr. Niemann is always present in my classroom. I even joke with students about it, and I will point to an empty chair and say, "Fr. Niemann came to observe me today to ensure I am meeting the standards he set as a Latin teacher here." The kids will laugh, but it gives me a small moment to share a thought or two about him and carry on his legacy here.

**Kevin Mortensen '98**  
Latin Teacher  
Creighton Prep

**At one time, Fr. Niemann was the go-to man** for counseling—about family matters, about college, about entering the priesthood or religious life, about discipline issues—before there was a counseling program at Prep. He was kind, direct, sensible, and clear about what the next step should be in your life, and also very measured in his conversation and teaching except for one morning. The day after John F. Kennedy was elected president he told each class with some passion, "You young men may not understand this but we as Catholics are full citizens of this country for the first time."

**Fr. George R. Sullivan, S.J. '62**  
Assistant to the President  
Creighton Prep



Creighton Prep Honors  
Four at the  
**Loyola Dinner**  
of Honor and Distinction

Creighton Prep honored four individuals for their service and loyalty at the annual Loyola Dinner of Honor and Distinction on Thursday, October 11.

The 2012 honorees were **John A. Nagl '84**, **Rev. Eugene M. Dutkiewicz, S.J.**, **Robert L. Willits** and **Mary Moeschler**.

The **Alumnus of the Year award** is given to an individual who embodies the values Prep aspires to instill in its graduates through a commitment of living a life devoted to serving others. John A. Nagl '84 was honored as Creighton Prep's 2012 Alumnus of the Year.

The **Hall of Fame award** is given each year to individuals who have displayed distinguished service to Prep as teachers, staff, coaches, alumni, parents or friends. The primary consideration is to honor individuals who have provided direct service to Prep and who are good examples of living personal lives of faith and service. The two members inducted into the 2012 Creighton Prep Hall of Fame were Rev. Eugene M. Dutkiewicz, S.J. and Robert L. Willits.

The **Ancilla Domini award** is given each year to a woman characterized by her caring, nurturing and unselfish dedication to her faith, family and community. The celebrated life is an example of how to use to the fullest the gifts given to her by God. This year's award was given to Mary Moeschler, a woman with an amazing record of service to the Catholic faith, Jesuit education, her community and beyond.

## John A. Nagl '84

LTC John A. Nagl '84, the Alumnus of the Year at Creighton Prep in 2012, has had a long and distinguished career in the military, becoming arguably the nation's foremost authority on counterinsurgency.

Following his years as a student at Prep, John graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1988 then served in the United States Army for two decades as an armor officer. His assignments in the military have included commanding a tank platoon in Operation Desert Storm, serving as an operations officer for a tank battalion task force in Operation Iraqi Freedom—for which he was awarded the Combat Action Badge and the Bronze Star—and commanding the 1st Battalion, 34th Armor Regiment, where he trained forces that would later embed with Iraq and Afghan military units.

Along the way, John was also recognized with the George C. Marshall Award as the top graduate at the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, where he earned



a Master of Military Arts and Sciences degree, and he studied as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford, where he received his doctorate in international relations.

John is widely known as the author of the book "Learning to Eat Soup with a Knife: Counterinsurgency Lessons from Malaya and Vietnam" and as one of the writers of the U.S. Army/Marine Corps Counterinsurgency Field Manual. He has been published numerous times, in national dailies such as The New York Times and Washington Post and in publications such as Foreign Policy and Joint Forces Quarterly. He has also taught national security studies

at the United States Military Academy and Georgetown University, and lectured worldwide at military war colleges.

Among his current duties, John serves as a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Center for a New American Security, as the Minerva Research Fellow at the U.S. Naval Academy, as a visiting professor at London's Kings College in the War Studies Department and on the Defense Policy Board. In addition, he is a Council of Foreign Relations life member as well as a member of the International Institute of Strategic Studies.

On July 1, 2013, John will become the ninth headmaster at The Haverford School, a prestigious college preparatory school for boys located outside Philadelphia, Pa.

"John was a delight to have in class," says Sue Stein, former Prep faculty member. "Once when his AP English class enacted the trial of a fictional character, John was so well prepared with textual evidence and so passionate in his delivery, his opposition had to completely revise its strategy. John never did anything by halves."

## Rev. Eugene M. Dutkiewicz, S.J.

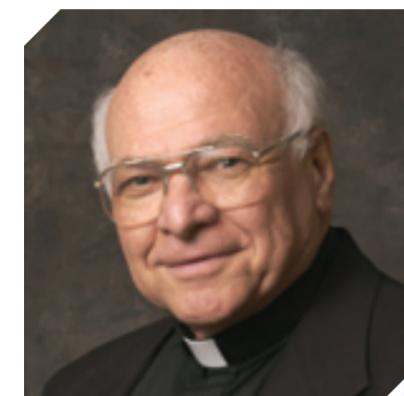
Reverend Eugene M. Dutkiewicz, S.J., affectionately known by many in the Creighton Prep community as "Dutch," enters the Creighton Prep Hall of Fame in 2012 after more than 50 years in the Society of Jesus, with 12 of those in great support of Prep as principal and math teacher.

Fr. Dutkiewicz was born on June 4, 1931 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and, after graduation from Marquette High School, entered the Society on August 15, 1948 at St. Stanislaus Seminary in Florissant, Missouri. He stayed at St. Stanislaus for four years before attending Saint Louis University, where he received a BA in Philosophy/Classics and a Ph.L. in Philosophy. He went on to complete his S.T.L. in Theology at St. Mary's College (Kansas) in 1963, the same year he was ordained at the Gesu Church in Milwaukee. He pronounced final vows on June 2, 1966 at Campion High School in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin.

His many assignments in the Jesuit order included two tours at Campion High School—first as a chemistry teacher from 1956-1958 and later as a math teacher and assistant principal from 1963-1969—and two at Prep, first as principal from 1969-1980 and then as a math teacher in the 1981-1982 school year.

Among Fr. Dutkiewicz's accomplishments at Prep were his strong backing of a student-led retreat concept that became Freshman Retreat, his hiring of numerous teachers who have also been inducted in the Hall of Fame and his leadership that helped put the school back together in one summer after it was ravaged by the Omaha tornado of May 6, 1975.

"The day after the tornado, we had a meeting and many thought the building was too damaged to save," says Walt Flint, Facilities Director from 1969 to 2007. "Dutch and I reviewed it and he had the attitude that anything could be fixed. So we just went at the project with that in mind. We worked seven days a week that summer and Dutch worked very long hours anyway.



You could find him in his office at 6:30 a.m. or 10:00 p.m. when we were not working on some other project outside the building."

After his time at Prep, Fr. Dutkiewicz went on to minister at the Weston Jesuit School of Theology in Cambridge, Massachusetts before embarking on a lengthy career of service to the Wisconsin Province as Province Treasurer/Assistant for Finance, in which he worked from 1986 to 2010. He recently retired from full-time Province work.

## Robert L. Willits

A core principle of a Jesuit education is “cura personalis,” the Latin term for “care of the whole person,” which calls many to take guiding roles in the intellectual, spiritual and moral development of students. It also calls those students to fully express who they are as “men for others” and, in guiding their self-expression through the fine arts at Prep. Robert L. Willits has played an exceptional role as their teacher, one worthy of induction in the Creighton Prep Hall of Fame.

Through his Basic Art, Introduction to Art, Advanced Art and Independent Study courses, Bob has helped countless Prepsters since 1978 express themselves at very high levels artistically through two-dimensional and three-dimensional works of art that have shown exceedingly well in competition.

During his tenure, Prep students have won over 500 local, regional and national art awards, including over 300 Scholastic Art

Awards and 20 National Scholastic Art Awards. In recognition of his excellence in art instruction, Bob was named Artist Educator of the Year in a statewide competition sponsored by Nebraska Wesleyan University in 1990-1991 and Fine Arts Educator of the Year by United Arts Omaha in 1998. He also coached wrestling at Prep from 1980 to 2003, including time as head coach from 1993 to 2003.

An award-winning artist in his own right, Bob was an original member of Omaha’s Artist’s Cooperative Gallery (1975-1986) and a founding member of the 13th Street Gallery (1986-2001). His artwork has been exhibited in over 50 local, regional (multi-state) and national juried art competitions and invitationals, garnering Merit Awards at the Joslyn Biennial at the Springfield Museum of Art in Springfield, Massachusetts; multiple awards at the Midlands Print and Drawing Competition and a place in the National Print & Drawing Touring Exhibit of Alice Lloyd College.

Bob’s works have also been exhibited in over 60 one-, two- or three-person shows and are



part of private collections in the cities of Chicago, Los Angeles and New York, and the states of Connecticut, Nebraska and New Mexico.

In discussing Bob recently, nationally-acclaimed artist and former student Jeremy Caniglia '88 said, “Bob Willits is a man of great character and exemplifies the phrase a man for others. I owe my life and passion to the arts to Bob. Those of us who were lucky enough to study under this master artist know that his gift is his ability to make us believe in ourselves and our artwork.”

## Mary Moeschler

Mary Moeschler, the 2012 Ancilla Domini award honoree, has served Creighton Prep with a distinction built on her Jesuit education at Creighton University and informed by her long career as a Sacred Heart teacher, where she says “the students’ commitment to a personal and active faith in God, a deep respect for intellectual values, a social awareness that impels to action, the building of a community as a Christian value, and personal growth in an atmosphere of wise freedom inspire me on a daily basis.”

Born to L. Bernard Egenberger '40 and Margaret Peter Egenberger, Mary grew up in La Grange, Illinois as the oldest of four children. Like her parents and siblings, she attended Creighton University, receiving her BA in English and German. During her time at Creighton, Mary also met her future husband, Bill Moeschler '66, whom



she later married at St. Frances Xavier Church in La Grange on the feast day of St. Ignatius of Loyola.

When Bill went to work for Mutual of Omaha in their Seattle group office, the couple settled in Bellevue, Washington. Over the next 20 years, Mary earned her master’s in English at the University of Washington, gave birth to sons Peter '97 and Michael '99, and taught at Forest Ridge School of the Sacred Heart in Bellevue.

After the family moved back to Omaha in 1991, Mary continued educating young women in the Sacred Heart tradition, teaching English at Duchesne Academy. While at Duchesne, she served on the Creighton Prep Governing Board for six years where she worked closely with Fr. Tom Merkel, S.J. on the Mission and Planning Committee, helping coordinate the Jesuit Sponsorship Review process and linking Prep with the Peter Kiewit Institute as the Committee analyzed the composition of the deserving young men entering the school for the first time. In 2011, Mary also helped launch the Creighton Prep Relevant Teaching and Innovation Fund, which awards grants to innovative teaching projects at Prep.

In commenting on her Ancilla Domini award honor, Jim Swanson '82, counselor at Prep, noted Mary’s “keen understanding of both Jesuit and Sacred Heart education” and that “her insights to the Creighton Prep Governing Board have been invaluable.”



KANSAS CITY



DENVER



MINNEAPOLIS



CHICAGO

# INTERSTATE



## REGIONAL GATHERINGS

For the second year in a row, the Creighton Prep alumni office hosted four regional gatherings in Kansas City (March), Denver (July), Minneapolis (September), and Chicago (October).

Fr. Andy Alexander, S.J. '66 spoke at three of the events as well, providing updates on Prep, including the advancements in the presidential transition process, and asking alumni what more the school can do to communicate with, engage and support them in their efforts to live out their Prep educations.

Thanks to all who attended the gatherings and look for similar gatherings in 2013!

# HERE & THERE

## 50s

**William H. Fogarty '50** of Houston, Texas was inducted into the Tenth District of the American Advertising Federation (AAF) Southwest Advertising Hall of Fame this past September. Bill, along with his business partner, founded and grew the advertising agency of Fogarty & Klein, Inc. into a top 50 U.S. agency with major practices in packaged goods, technology, consumer services and energy.

**Rev. Val J. Peter '52** was honored in June of this year with two awards. On June 2, he received the Community Leadership Award from the Arc of Omaha (formerly known as the Ollie Web Center) for his 20 years of work in partnering Boys Town residents with the organization's annual Honey Sunday fundraiser. Then, on June 20, Val was presented the 2012 Founder's Award by the Alumni Association of the Pontifical North American College in Rome. In 2007, he established the Val Peter Scholars Program for seminarians of great promise from poor missionary dioceses in the United States.

**Dennis P. Dunning '57** grew his hair out in support of his granddaughter's battle with leukemia and received his first haircut in five years this past summer. The ponytail was long enough to donate to Locks of Love, a non-profit that makes wigs for children with hair loss. Dennis is a retired speech pathologist in Omaha and recently celebrated his 55th class reunion at Prep.

**Rev. James E. Hug, S.J. '59** recently retired as president of the Center of Concern, a nationally known Catholic social justice center in Washington D.C. Fr. Hug grew up in Omaha, attended Holy Cross grade school, entered the Jesuits in 1959 and was ordained by Archbishop Sheehan at St. John's on the Creighton campus in 1972. From 1966 to 1969, he taught on the philosophy faculty at CU and worked in Campus Ministry. He joined the Center of Concern in 1985 after graduate school at the University of Chicago, teaching social ethics at the Jesuit School of Theology in Chicago and serving as a Senior Fellow at the Woodstock Theological Center in Washington. He succeeded Fr. Peter Henriot, S.J. as Director/President of the Center in 1989.

## 60s

**Gordon E. Yager '60** is Chairman of SCORE Omaha Chapter 40, a non-profit organization of volunteers who advise entrepreneurs in starting or expanding their businesses. Gordon was recently profiled in the Midlands Business Journal's "Business Minute" section, where he named his "teachers at Creighton Prep" as the mentors who helped him the most in his career.

**Jerome A. Merwald '62** has joined Gross & Welch P.C., L.L.O. as Of Counsel to practice in the areas of estate planning, probate, elder law, Social Security disability, real estate and corporate law. Jerry was in private practice for many years after serving first as Deputy County Attorney for Douglas County and as a deputy district attorney in Adams County, Colorado.

**Rev. Ronald J. Seminara, S.J. '62** recently celebrated 50 years in the Society of Jesus. Ron works at the Sioux Spiritual Center in Howes, South Dakota, where the Rapid City Catholic Diocese and the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus care for the spiritual and social needs of the Lakota people.

**John N. Letter '64** has lived in Florida for 26 years and is the owner and president of Omni-Pak International, a company that imports packaging film from eight different countries and markets it in 14 different states and four countries. Omni-Pak's products are used in a range of applications by a number of manufacturers, including those in the consumer food industry.

## 70s

**Donald W. Kleine '70** was the featured speaker at the Truancy Law Q&A, hosted in February at the Creighton School of Law by the Nebraska Family Forum. Don is the Douglas County Attorney and also a '77 graduate of the Creighton School of Law.

**Michael S. Bendon '72** and his wife, Martha, recently moved to Topeka, Kansas where he has been named manager of organization development, effectiveness and leadership for Stormont-Vail HealthCare.

**Thomas A. Burton '73** was named 2012 Engineer of the Year by the Omaha Public Power District Society of Engineers in recognition of his achievements in the engineering field, his continuing competence, his behaviors that create and support the culture at OPPD and his community service. Tom is the Manager of Design Engineering at OPPD and has worked at the company for over 30 years.



**Steve R. Brownrigg '74** is the Owner of Addiction & Recovery Services. Steve recently moved into a self-designed office space for his private practice and specializes in the treatment of adult clients with co-occurring disorders, generally clients who suffer from both addiction and one or more

other mental health disorder. He has a relatively new sub-specialty in the treatment of childhood-related traumas or later traumatic experiences, and is certified by the EMDR International Association (EMDRIA) in the use of Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing trauma therapy.



**Michael J. Higgins '75** and a group of past Prep parents and alumni including **Michael R. Higgins '69**, **Mark J. Higgins '71**, **Dr. John C. Mitchell '75** and **James G. Powers '76** participated in the Register's

Annual Great Bicycle Race Across Iowa (RAGBRAI) this past July. Team Bluejay, as they were called, joined 10,000 other bikers on the 470-mile trek across the rolling hills of Iowa.

**James M. Crotty '77** is a business of education columnist for Forbes, a political and cultural affairs commentator for The Huffington Post and HuffPost Live, and is finishing post-production on a feature-length documentary about South Bronx debaters titled "Crotty's Kids." Jim is also a partner in Monk Space, a Los Angeles production space for television, art, theater and film.

## 80s

**Kerry D. Trotter '82** was inducted into the Nebraska Black Sports Hall of Fame this past July. During his stellar high school basketball career, Kerry was named All-Metro three times and All-Nebraska twice. As a junior, he carried Prep to a state championship and was named to the McDonald's All-American team his senior year. He went on to compile 1,221 points, 569 rebounds and 158 steals at Marquette and play 10 years in the European League, where he was twice named Most Valuable Player.

**Michael T. Findley '84** has been appointed Chief Development Officer at See The Trainer, a multi-location sports medicine business that specializes in the sale of orthopedic bracing, home health & durable medical products and custom/over-the-counter orthotics. In his new role, Mike will lead a nationwide expansion of franchise operations. See the Trainer's president is **Maurie J. Maher '87**.

**Lawrence M. Zier '85** opened an occupational therapy clinic focused on the treatment of children with autism, sensory integration disorders, ADD/ADHD, learning and emotional challenges. The clinical approach is unique to Omaha in the belief

that development occurs within the context of the parent-child relationship. From this point, the child develops the capacity to self-regulate, share attention, be reciprocal, explore, learn and play.

**Mark R. Blankenau '86** was recently hired by NP Dodge Real Estate as a sales associate on the residential sales team located at the firm's Lakeside Sales Office. Mark is a member of the Omaha Area Board of Realtors and Great Plains Realtors.

## 90s

**Robert O. Miller '90** is currently Vice President for Advancement at Loyola Academy in Wilmette, Illinois. Bob previously served as Chief Advancement Officer at the American Junior Golf Association, where he raised millions to support junior golfers nationwide. He and his wife Jennifer are also the proud parents of three boys.

**Scott E. Vasek '90** has been appointed director of the Aviation Institute at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. In addition to his new duties, Scott will continue to serve as internship coordinator for the program and as faculty advisor to the Flying Mavs, UNO's competitive aviation team that was recently awarded the coveted Loening Trophy, given annually to the top aviation program in the country.

**Phil A. Anania '94** and Anne Cavanaugh recently opened their second restaurant in Dundee called The French Bulldog which is just around the corner from their first restaurant, Amsterdam Falafel & Kabob. The business serves house-cured meat, local cheese, soup, salads, roast chicken, sandwiches and also boasts a full bar.

**Scott T. Cavey '96** and his wife Arinn welcomed their third daughter Brooke into their family this past September. Scott is a Certified Financial Planner (CFP) for Illuminate Financial Group in Omaha and has distinguished his career in wealth management and planning for business owners and individuals since 2000.

**James E. Codr '96** has been designated a Chartered Life Underwriter by the American College in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania. He focuses on the life insurance market and is Vice President of Wiig-Codr Underwriters Co. in Omaha. Jim also serves as Vice President of Project Harmony Service League, a branch of Project Harmony that assists with fundraising for and public awareness of the organization's mission to support children who are victims or suspected victims of abuse and neglect.

# HERE & THERE



**Martin A. Stiles '96** and his wife Traci welcomed the birth of their first child, Emmett Marcus, this past February. The family lives in Omaha where Marty is a detective for the Omaha Police

Department. The couple also owns The Dancer's Edge dance studio near 156th & Maple St. in Omaha.



**Dr. William "Pat" Kelsey '97** and his wife Amanda welcomed their third child, Lauren Hadlee, into their family this past September. Pat is a periodontist and owns Kelsey Periodontal Group, LLC in Omaha.

**Christopher P. Costello '98** joined Heritage Financial Services LLC as a financial planner in August 2012, selling life, health and disability insurance. Chris and his wife Regina reside in Omaha with their three sons.

**Ryan W. Wade '99** was recently appointed Account Director at OBI Creative, an Omaha advertising agency. Ryan came to OBI Creative after a banking career at Wells Fargo and Union Bank & Trust.

## 00s



**Corey M. Gorden '02** and his wife Emily welcomed Henry Michael into their family on September 12. Corey is employed as a police officer for the City of Omaha.

**Steven P. Lenz '02** appears in the remake of Red Dawn as "Pete." He also has an recurring role in Kelsey Grammer's series, "Boss."

**Phillip O. Cusik '03** recently began his second year of law school at Gonzaga University and lives in Spokane, Washington with his wife Amanda.

**M. Ronan Conlon '04** was one of 51 people to finish the Death Race, an endurance race that took place in the mountains of Vermont this past summer. More than 300 participants entered. It took Ronan just over 60 hours to complete the race that included scaling Mount Killington, a six-mile climb, nearly a dozen times, hiking 25 miles with a small group of men, together carrying a kayak above their heads, chopping logs and carrying around 50-pound cement bags on little to no sleep.

**Kevin M. Clarke '05** spent the summer working with the Omaha Downtown Improvement District Association, managing public events and assisting with a new partnership aimed at the renovation

of Gene Leahy Mall. He recently took a job with Holy Name Catholic School as its Marketing & Recruiting Director. Kevin is looking forward to working within the Catholic school system and plans to continue his involvement in further strengthening Downtown Omaha.

**Edward "Ted" Stratman '05** is a licensed real estate salesperson in the State of Illinois and a member of the Young Real Estate Professionals of Chicago (YREP). He graduated from Marquette University with degrees in Finance and Commercial Real Estate and joined Interra Realty in Chicago in October 2010. He was recently appointed to the Center for Real Estate Advisory Board at Marquette.

**Michael P. Burns '06** recently completed his master's degree in clinical speech-language pathology at the University of Nebraska and is a licensed speech-language pathologist at Omaha North High School. In recent summers, Mike instructed at-risk students in New York City on literacy and language, and says that, "The spirit and community at Creighton Preparatory has instilled a passion in me to serve those most in need in our Omaha community."

**Robert M. Donovan '07** reports that, following his graduation from the United States Naval Academy and that of his classmate, **Rory J. Kelly '07**, from the University of Notre Dame, both men were commissioned as second lieutenants in the Marine Corps. Rob also says that he and Rory were then "shocked" to find themselves assigned to the same class and the same platoon of The Basic School, or TBS, in Quantico, Virginia. This is quite a coincidence given that there are six TBS classes every year, each containing about 280 officers and six platoons.

The six-month TBS training focuses on developing each officer into a provisional rifle platoon commander, following the mantra of "every Marine a rifleman, every Marine officer a rifle platoon commander."

Rob and Rory completed TBS on September 12, from which Rob went to work as a logistics officer and Rory to work as a signals intelligence officer.

## 10s

**James P. Richardson '11** is studying at The Chinese University of Hong Kong in the International Business and Chinese Enterprise program sponsored by the Darla Moore School of Business at the University of South Carolina. Jim is working toward a double major in international global supply chain economics and operations management, and recently completed a Chinese language immersion session—reading, writing and speaking Mandarin eight hours a day, five days a week.

## MICHAEL J. HOGAN '46 HONORED WITH MIKE HOGAN DRIVE BLESSING AND DEDICATION

In a special late afternoon ceremony on Wednesday, October 10 at the northwest corner of the Creighton Prep campus, longtime Omaha area land developer and manager Michael J. Hogan '46 was honored for his support of the school with the blessing and dedication of Mike Hogan Drive, now the official name for the road that connects the west parking lot to North 74th Street and Blondo.

"Mike understood our vision for creating development opportunities in the future and knew that his gift would make a transformational difference in Creighton Prep's footprint and future," said Fr. Thomas J. Merkel, S.J., former Prep president who presided at the ceremony. "We are so grateful for his support."

Numerous friends and Hogan family members attended the 6:00 p.m. ceremony, which began with a stirring rendition of "The White and The Blue" performed by the Creighton Prep Concert Band under the direction of Mr. Doug Johnson and sung by members of the varsity football team who lined Mike Hogan Drive.

Fr. Merkel then offered remarks and a blessing with holy water for all in attendance. After a ribbon cutting by Mike to officially open Mike Hogan Drive, the football team gave him three rousing cheers and the Concert Band closed the event with the playing of the national anthem. A reception followed in the clubhouse at Champions Run.



# Please Remember

June 16, 2012 to  
October 12, 2012

*Take, Lord, and  
receive all my  
liberty, my memory,  
my understanding,  
and my entire will. All  
I have and call my  
own. Whatever I  
have or hold, you  
have given me.  
I restore it all to  
you and surrender  
it wholly to be  
governed by your  
will. Give me only  
your love and  
grace and I am rich  
enough and ask for  
nothing more.*

## Alumni

**Samuel A. Ancona '40**,  
father of Tony '77, Mark '83, brother of  
Joseph '42 (deceased), Carl '48

**James O. Bailey '73**

**Michael E. Bresnahan '57**

**John R. Burnett '61**,  
brother of David '64, James '70, Bruce '74,  
Michael '77

**John A. Dowell '65**,  
step-father of Ross Driscoll '94, brother of  
George '62 (deceased)

**A. Robert Egan '54**,  
father of William '87, brother of James '50

**Anthony J. Ferro '75**,  
brother of Joseph '57 (deceased)

**James F. Jensen '54**

**James F. Kelly, Jr. '38**,  
father of Kevin '71, brother of Thomas '41  
(deceased), Alvin '45 (deceased), John '47  
(deceased), Gerald '48 (deceased)

**Gerald M. Korth '51**

**Joseph D. Lehre '49**,  
brother of Thomas '52

**John H. Maulick '37**,  
father of Michael '66,  
grandfather of Kevin '92

**John M. Mullen III '52**,  
grandfather of Nicholas Cerveny '06

**James F. Murnane '47**

**Warren E. Pizinger '46**,  
father of Jerome '74, David '77,  
grandfather of Robert Kassmeier '99

**Robert J. Rezek '63**

**Sam J. Russo '41**,  
father of Samuel '66

**David B. Verdirame '98**

**Robert M. West '72**,  
brother of William '70

**Edward J. Wilson '32**,  
brother of Frank '34 (deceased), Eugene '36

**Donald G. Wilwerding '47**,  
brother of Leo '48, Dennis '61

**Francis J. Zitka '56**

## Wives

**Linda K. Cavlovic**,  
widow of Francis '63, mother of David '88

**Bonnie J. Danze**,  
wife of John '40

**Marilyn A. Dodson**,  
widow of James '42, mother of Samuel  
'73, grandmother of Terrence Shanahan '99,  
James Sommer '04

**Margaret L. Gasnick**,  
widow of Raymond '49

**Cindy J. McCormack**,  
wife of Robert '58

**Barbara Hanrahan Miller**,  
widow of Thomas Hanrahan '47, mother of  
Patrick Hanrahan '85

**Magdalen M. Nemec**,  
widow of Edward '32, mother of Charles '58  
(deceased), Edward '59, James '76

**Norita Salerno**,  
widow of Sebastian '45, mother of  
Terrence '71, Robert '83, Richard '84,  
grandmother of Robert O'Malley '99,  
Chris O'Malley '01, Shawn O'Malley '05,  
Alexander Hansen '09, Matthew Salerno '09,  
Robert Casey '13

**Jeanette E. Semin**,  
wife of Frank '51

**June E. Wingate**,  
wife of Vincent '78

**Theresa "Peg" Zabawa**,  
widow of Robert '48, mother of Stephen '75,  
Timothy '77, David '80, Michael '82

**Mary Ann Zadina**,  
widow of Richard '60

## Fathers

**Anton J. Bilek**,  
father of James '75

**William Bourgeois Sr.**,  
father of Sean '89

**Thomas R. Burke**,  
father of Thomas '74, Timothy '77  
(deceased), grandfather of Matthew '99,  
Michael '03, Robert Marcell '04

**Louis H. Cappellano**,  
father of Vincent '98, Jay '98

**John A. Chisholm**,  
father of Scott '05

**Elias Dahir**,  
father of Stephen '69, John '73

**Jerome F. Gillogly**,  
father of Joseph '82, Sean '83

**James L. Hardick**,  
father of Jeffery '83

**George A. Homan**,  
father of Anthony '81, Gregory '84

**Andrew Incontro**,  
father of Andrew '80

**Sam J. Italia**,  
father of Terry '69

**Leonard M. Jaworski**,  
father of Thomas '61, grandfather of  
Michael '89, Mark '95

**W. James Jensen**,  
father of Philip '60

**Henry Kammandel**,  
father of Richard '75

**Glenn E. Margritz**,  
father of David '81, grandfather of  
Ryan King '11

**Bernard L. Moore**,  
father of William '70, Thomas '72,  
John '83, grandfather of Bernard '99,  
Benjamin '01, Jacob '06, John Simon '04,  
Patrick Simon '10, Thomas Heaston '02,  
George Heaston '04, William Heaston '11,  
brother of Richard '42 (deceased)

**Walter A. Novak**,  
father of Michael '76

**Charles S. Roberts**,  
father of Matthew '91

**Dan L. Rolf**,  
step-father of Lynn Coghill '85

**Richard J. Sampson**,  
father of John '83, James '98

**Jack L. Terry**,  
father of Chris '75

**Adolph Vomacka**,  
father of Richard '61, James '63, grandfather  
of Richard '87, Patrick '89, Michael '93

## Mothers

**Marilyn A. Berg**,  
mother of Thomas '66

**Janice C. Bergren**,  
mother of Jason Langenfeld '95,  
Sean Langenfeld '98

**Irene Burnside**,  
mother of Dennis '74

**Evelyn Byrne**,  
mother of Michael '70, Mark '75

**Margaret A. Christiansen**,  
mother of Mark Taylor '69, James Taylor '78,  
Scott Taylor '83, grandmother of  
Scott Taylor '99

**Irene B. Furst**,  
mother of Thomas '68

**Marvyl M. Hansen**,  
mother of Robert '66, Ronald '66,  
grandmother of Peter '99, William Rotert '93

**Clare Harris**,  
mother of Patrick '77, grandmother of  
Matthew Mullen '90, Kyle Mullen '92

**Mary Jean Hickey**,  
mother of Brian '92

**Anita I. Jagasits**,  
mother of James '85

**Margaret M. Kammandel**,  
mother of Richard '75

**Jean C. Keyser**,  
mother of Richard '66

**Virginia M. Krist**,  
mother of Robert '75, grandmother of  
Justin '00

**Angela Lusienski**,  
mother of Gerard '75, grandmother of  
Jeffrey Burks '93, Bradley Burks '00,  
Michael Stratman '92, David Stratman '95,  
Thomas Stratman '97, Matthew Stratman '00,  
Jacob Ferry '01

**Pauline Marcuzzo**,  
mother of Joseph '70

**Maria A. Marino**,  
mother of Joseph '65

**Marian Matyja**,  
mother of John '71

**Helen Mickells**,  
mother of Edward '71

**Carolyn E. Naughtin**,  
mother of Matthew '66

**Georgann Pesavento**,  
mother of Tony '75, grandmother of  
John '03

**Margaret Prince**,  
mother of Robert '54

**Phyllis M. Thorsen**,  
mother of Owen '71

## Children

**Christian D. Abts**,  
son of Becci Ruiz and Eric Abts '02

**Mark D. Bystrek**,  
son of Daniel '81

## Other

**Doris M. Synowicki  
(deceased 5/10/12)**,  
grandmother of Eric '10  
(Eric '10 was mistakenly omitted from the  
Summer 2012 Alumni News notice)

## WEDDINGS

Vincent M. Boulay '03,  
married Allison Eccker

Michael P. Burns '06,  
married Rachael Arens

Philip O. Cusic '03,  
married Amanda Baker

John M. Franco '06,  
married Hallie Burger

Jonathan B. Gorden '02,  
married Rachel Pfeifer

Matthew R. Kelsey '00,  
married Laura Cudzilo

Matthew J. Knowles '00,  
married Alicia Monnier

James N. Mockler '91,  
married Stephanie Coronel

Nicholas R. Ocken '05,  
married Amanda Smith

James M. Pakiz '95,  
married Elizabeth M. Lighthipe

Joshua J. Perreault '06,  
married Alysha Ipock

Shawn Perry, '03,  
married Sara Schwartz

Joshua D. Prenosil '00  
married Bianca A. Bautista

Brian J. Shreves '04,  
married Nixie Stoops

Vincent R. Struble '00,  
married Kami N. Hehn

John B. Sullivan '05,  
married Jesse A. Gonderinger

William Thomsen '04,  
married Amari Cheffer

## ANNIVERSARIES

33 Years

Lorraine and Robert Mickells '73

50 Years

Beverly and John Donahue '43  
Patti and Joseph Gehringer '60

Karol and Richard Kubat '56  
Rose and John Kuhry '57

60 Years

Josephine and Anthony Fucinaro '49  
Marilyn and Joseph Gasnick '49  
Margaret and George D. Johnson '45  
Virginia and Jerry Kube '50

## ORDINATIONS

On Saturday June 9, 2012, Paul A. Lickteig, S.J., was ordained a priest for the Wisconsin Province of the Society of Jesus. The ordaining prelate was Most Rev. John C. Nienstedt, Archbishop of St. Paul and Minneapolis. The ordination took place in the Jesuit parish of St. Thomas More in St. Paul. Fr. Lickteig taught theology at Prep from 2006 to 2009, was part of the liturgy committee and worked on sets for plays.



Attending Fr. Lickteig's ordination were (L-R)  
Pat Norton '09, John Schmidt '09, Mike Krause,  
Paul Lickteig, S.J., Oto Maxwell '10, Mike Malloy '09,  
Mark Stratman '09, Colin Lee '09 and Mike Beat '09.

# ALUMNI IN THE WORKPLACE



**Carat Security Group**

Protection. Innovation. Worldwide.

As CEO of the Carat Security Group (CSG), the largest manufacturer of armored commercial security vehicles in the world, Creighton Prep graduate Tom Letter '62 has taken the Jesuit tradition of "cura personalis" or "care of the whole person" to a level that even St. Ignatius himself may not have imagined.

Though his decisions today as CEO of a global enterprise are obviously more complex than those made in his youth, Tom recalls that the choice to attend Prep and be educated in the Jesuit and Catholic tradition was an especially easy one.

"Prep was always the choice. My parents, now deceased, never discussed an alternative. Academics, athletics, the opportunity to grow with the sometimes stern mentoring of our Jesuit professors was an opportunity/experience I believe all our parents realized was something that would be a key to success as we grew."



At Prep, Tom excelled in football and academics and also was a server at early morning Masses. Proms, sock hops, pep rallies and "the retreats we all participated in" also count as some of his favorite memories.

He credits Prep for preparing him to succeed in the classroom and on the football field at the United States Naval Academy,

where he graduated in June 1966. Tom and his wife, Diana, were then married the following year while he was stationed in Pensacola, Florida at Navy flight school. There, he trained to fly the F-8 Crusader, a single-seat aircraft carrier-based fighter, later serving two tours in Vietnam on the USS Oriskany and becoming part of a small group of pilots to complete the introduction of the Navy's newest fighter, the F-14 Tomcat.

Tom left the Navy in 1972 and worked as a commercial pilot for Eastern Airlines until 1978 when he started a company with another former Navy pilot to resell limousines and other modified cars manufactured by various suppliers. As the business grew in 1980, they purchased the Hess & Eisenhardt Company, a Cincinnati, Ohio-based security vehicle maker

"with an incredible heritage" that included the making of horse drawn carriages in the late 1800s and the production of all U.S. presidential limousines starting with President Harry Truman.



From there, the company expanded internationally with the opening of a European office in 1983. A period of rapid worldwide growth and expansion then followed in both the commercial and military markets, highlighted in 2008 when Tom and his associates at Belgium-based Carat Duchatelet acquired the other leader in mobile armored security solutions, Centigon, to form the Carat Security Group.

Today, CSG is the standard by which all others are measured in the armored commercial security vehicle industry. The company provides security vehicles for over 60 heads-of-state and operates seven manufacturing facilities around the world that produce products ranging from specially-modified SUVs and cash-in-transit vehicles to riot-control trucks and armored personnel carriers. Three of Tom's siblings—Steven '61, John '64 and Matthew '70—attended Prep and brothers Steve and Chris work with him at CSG today.

Tom and Diana have two daughters, Christine and Caroline, and still live in the small village outside Geneva, Switzerland where they moved in 1983 when Tom's business expanded to the European theater. They are also the proud grandparents of six that range in age from 2 to 11 and, "as all proud grandfathers would say, they are beautiful, exceptionally bright and obvious Prep 'A' class candidates."

In summarizing his story recently for the Alumni News, Tom said, "There is no question my life experience owes so much to the 'start' I received at Prep, and I am sure we all share this same appreciation for the friendships and experiences this exceptional school provided us and, during my visit last year I saw, continues to provide Prep students today."

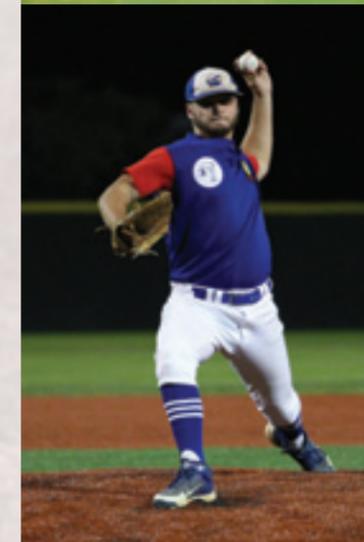
## PI MIDWEST MAKES FIRST WORLD SERIES APPEARANCE SINCE 2001

PI Midwest's quest to become the second Nebraska team ever to win the American Legion Baseball World Series came up just short this past summer as the squad finished fourth in the national tournament. The team was making its first World Series appearance since 2001 when they finished third.

The entire Creighton Prep student body gathered in the Henry L. Sullivan, S.J. Campus Center on Friday, August 17 to cheer PI Midwest to a first round victory against the Lakewood Lancers from Lakewood California, watching on the big screen via an ESPN3 Internet stream. North Carolina resident Antoine D. Beck '88, along with his sons Ashe and Dax, joined the Prep parents in supporting the team at the stadium in Shelby, North Carolina.

PI Midwest was eventually eliminated by a team from Brooklawn, New Jersey, finishing the season with a 51-10 record.

The only Nebraska team to win an American Legion Baseball crown was the 1939 Omaha McDevitts, which also consisted of players from Prep. On a side note, Dr. Samuel C. Buda '40 is now the only remaining member from the McDevitts squad as Sam J. Russo '41 passed away this summer.





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Omaha, NE 68114-1878

[www.creightonprep.org](http://www.creightonprep.org)



## THE MEN FOR OTHERS GOLF CLASSIC

The 2012 Men for Others Golf Classic was held on Monday, September 17 at the Omaha Country Club. Despite a rainy and cool morning, the sky cleared and the sun appeared in the afternoon making for a beautiful fall day. Mike Dahir '66 and Omaha State Bank served as title sponsor for the thirteenth consecutive year while Bob O'Keefe '67 and O'Keefe Elevator supported the outing by once again underwriting the dinner portion of the event. Classmates Ron Gartlan '65 and Jim O'Brien '65 took first place overall, edging out the team of Doug Munter and John Searl, both former Prep parents.

Thanks to all of the 28 hole sponsors, individual payers and volunteers for making this event a success!