

FATHER SCECINA

Magazine



SUMMER 2021



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2021



Through this year's walkathon in May, Scecina students and staff raised more than \$8,700 for computer equipment for Scecina's TV production department. For the first year, Campus Crusade had local business sponsors: BitterSweet bakery, Montgomery Tent & Awning Co., Oakley-Hammond Funeral Home, and Yard Greetings. ■



**SCECINA
MEMORIAL
HIGH SCHOOL**

The *Father Scecina Magazine* is published by the Office of Advancement Scecina Memorial High School 5000 Nowland Avenue Indianapolis, IN 46201 www.scecina.org

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On the cover: The Class of 2021 Baccalaureate Mass took place May 27 at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral in Downtown Indianapolis. Father Rick Ginther of Our Lady of Lourdes was the principal celebrant. Father Bob Gilday of Little Flower Catholic Church and Father Michael O'Mara of Holy Spirit Catholic Church were concelebrants.

CONGRATULATIONS, CLASS OF 2021, ON BEING ACCEPTED INTO THE FOLLOWING INSTITUTIONS:

Aurora University, Ave Maria University, Ball State University, Bellarmine University, Bethel College, Butler University, Central State University, DePaul University, DePauw University, Earlham College, Fisk University, Franklin College, Goshen College, Grace College, Hampton University, Hanover College, Hillsdale College, Hope College, Howard University, Indiana State University, Indiana University, Indiana Wesleyan University, IUPUI, Ivy Tech, Kent State University, Loyola of Chicago University, Manchester University, Marian University, Mercyhurst University, Miami University, Michigan State University, Millikin University, Mount St. Joseph University, North Carolina Agriculture & Technology University, Oakland City College, Ohio Northern University, Olivet College, Pennsylvania State University, Purdue University, Rose-Hulman University, Saint Louis University, Saint Mary's College, Saint Xavier University, Spelman College, St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, Trine University, University of California-Davis, University of California-San Diego, University of California-Santa Barbara, University of Cincinnati, University of Dayton, University of Georgia, University of Illinois, University of Indianapolis, University of Northwestern Ohio, University of Southern Indiana, University of St. Francis, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Valparaiso University, Vincennes University, Virginia Wesleyan University, Wabash College, William Woods University, Wilmington University, Wittenberg University, Xavier University of Louisiana

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

June 2021

Greetings, Scecina Community!

We've arrived at another summer, looking back on yet another school and fiscal year of accomplishments and opportunities in the 68-year history of Scecina Memorial High School.



We've grown, adding the Class of 2021 to a list of alumni that tops more than 8,000. We are even stronger and better, having achieved the success of the **Our Faith, Our Journey, Our Time** capital campaign while overcoming the pandemic obstacles of the past 15 months.

I'm so proud to be the president of this esteemed school that holds a dear place in the hearts of so many. I promise to continue our work to sustain the school's mission while we prepare them for college, career, life, and heaven.

In this magazine, you will see how we have persevered and succeeded in all aspects – academics and sports, spiritual development, extracurricular activities, and alumni outreach.

Your intercessions through prayer, words of encouragement, and financial donations have been and continue to be immensely helpful, especially in the past year. The Scecina faculty and staff work incredibly hard. You – our Scecina Community – remain pillars of strength that keep pushing us to do our best for our students.

I want to wish three staff members the very best as they begin retirement. Sister Sheila Hackett returns this summer to the Dominican Sisters of Houston motherhouse in Texas after many dedicated years as our librarian. Paul and Dee Anne Sinclair, who have taught visual arts and physical sciences, respectively, are moving to Michigan in their retirement after decades of teaching in the public school system and at Scecina. We send our thoughts and prayers with them as the next stages of their lives begin.

Again, it's been another tremendous year. I thank you for all you have done and for staying faithful to Scecina.

May the Lord always be with you and your loved ones,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Therber". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Joseph S. Therber
President

OUR FAITH, OUR JOURNEY, OUR TIME

This summer/fall, we will send you the first **Our Faith, Our Journey, Our Time** Capital Campaign Accountability Report with testimonials and information about campaign finances, projects, and participation. Please look for it! Also, on page 16 of this magazine you'll find a quick visual glimpse of capital campaign statistics.

CLASS OF 2021

MAJOR AWARDS

VALEDICTORIAN

Olivia Smith

SALUTATORIAN

Daniel Linn

JOHN J. HENNINGER MEMORIAL
CHRISTIAN SERVICE AWARD

Grace Swinefurth

OUTSTANDING SENIOR GIRL

Amori Curiel

OUTSTANDING SENIOR BOY

Anthony Hentz

ATHLETIC SCHOLASTIC ACHIEVEMENT

Olivia Smith **Daniel Linn**

MENTAL ATTITUDE (ATHLETICS)

Emily McDonald **Thomas DeFreese**

CAROLE J. HAMILTON (ATHLETICS)

Kaylee Spears **Allison Minton**

MICHAEL C. MCGARVEY (ATHLETICS)

Jack Eichholtz

SISTER LAVONNE LONG OUTSTANDING
SENIOR FEMALE ATHLETE

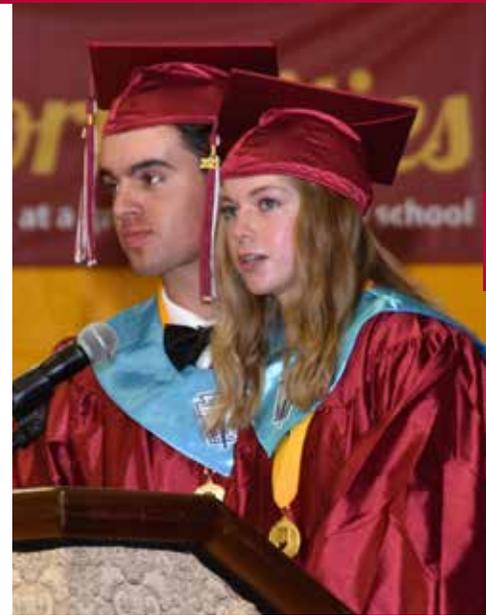
Olivia Smith

KENNETH LEFFLER OUTSTANDING
SENIOR MALE ATHLETE

Jameson Welborn

INDIANA CROSSROADS CONFERENCE
MEDAL OF HONOR

Mallory Cox **Amori Curiel**
Jacob Sitzman **Anthony Hentz**



CONGRATULATIONS!



SCECINA MEMORIAL CLASS OF 2021

VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN

Besides succeeding in class, the Seccina Class of 2021 valedictorian and salutatorian have played sports each year and taken advantage of their opportunities at Seccina.

Olivia Kriech

Smith is the valedictorian.

She is the daughter of Ruth and Jason Smith, a parishioner at

Holy Spirit Catholic Church, and a graduate of Holy Spirit Catholic School.

Through four years at Seccina, she has achieved a 4.39 grade point average.

Olivia will attend IUPUI. At Seccina she has been involved in Student Council, Student Ambassadors, and National Honor Society. She played basketball and soccer all four years



Valedictorian Olivia Smith

and has been on the Crusaders tennis team for two years.

“Throughout my time at Seccina, I have learned the importance of faith, perseverance, and a strong community,” she said. “These values, along with my lifelong friends, are things I will forever cherish.”

Daniel Stephen Linn is the Class of 2021 salutatorian. He is the son of Catherine and Chad Linn, a parishioner at St. John the Evangelist Catholic Church, and a graduate of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic School. He has a 4.29 grade point average.



Salutatorian Daniel Linn

In the fall, Daniel will attend the Kelley School of Business at Indiana University in Bloomington.



The Guidance Department hosted a lunch for Olivia Smith and Daniel Linn with Principal David Dellacca (left) and President Joe Therber.

He’s been a member of the Crusaders for Life Club and Student Ambassadors.

Daniel played varsity baseball for four years and basketball for two years.

“In my time at Seccina, I was welcomed into a strong community that desired to make me better as a student, a person, and a Catholic,” he said. “I will never forget all that Seccina has done for me.” ■

SCECINA'S NEW PRINCIPAL: DAVID DELLACCA

For two years, including 15 months under a pandemic, **David Dellacca** served as a steady presence under pressure as Scecina's interim principal.

Those qualities make him suited to take on the position permanently, said Scecina President **Joe Therber** as he announced on May 20 that Dellacca would become the school's 12th principal.

"David worked steadfastly this year in collaboration with our staff and students under conditions that have been both challenging and inspiring," President Therber said.

He is "a spiritually mature, student-centered educator who strives daily to collaborate and model the spirit of service and sacrifice for which Scecina is known."



David Dellacca

Dellacca has a master's degree in Information and Communication Sciences from Ball State University and has completed the school building level administrator program at Marian University. He and his family are members of St. Michael Catholic Church in Greenfield.

"I am truly excited and humbled to serve Scecina's students, teachers, and staff in this capacity. I thank Mr. Therber for his support and for this opportunity," Dellacca said. "Guided by Christ, I will continue to use all my God-given talents to the best of my ability to serve our Scecina community." ■

FAREWELL, SISTER SHEILA



After 15 years of serving as the librarian at Scecina, **Sister Sheila Hackett** has decided to pack up her apartment at St. Francis Hall and return this summer to her convent of the Dominican Sisters of Houston (Texas).

The first thing she plans to do, she said, is ... nothing.

"When I get there, I want to do nothing for three weeks to a month, except settle in and enjoy my surroundings," she said. "After that, the No. 1 thing I want to do is have a story time for the little tots at the preschool (Assumption Catholic School in Houston)."

Sister Sheila, 85, was born and raised in South Tipperary, Ireland, and grew up bilingual, speaking both Irish and English. She warmly recalls her family and the home filled with books.

She wanted to join a religious order of education, so she left Ireland for the first time for Houston to join the Dominican Sisters, where she has served as archivist, researcher, and writer.

She earned a master of arts from Loyola University in Los Angeles and a master of science from the University of North Texas. She has served in various roles in education in Texas, California, and Indiana at Scecina and Bishop Chatard Catholic High School.

As Scecina's librarian, she spent hours perusing journals to choose books to order for the library.

She also was able to give input into and witness the renovation of Scecina's library, which was completed in 2017.

Scecina has honored Sister Sheila with the Father Tom Award and the Super Booster Award. She was a regular at Crusaders basketball games, her favorite sport. ■



The Archdiocese of Indianapolis' Office of Catholic Schools recognized four Scecina teachers for their 25+ years of Catholic education service: Teacher and football coach Ott Hurrle, 44 years (left); librarian and former teacher Sister Sheila Hackett: 47 years; teacher and coach Kurt Guldner, 39 years. Not pictured: Math teacher Elizabeth Williams, 25 years.

STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE GLOBE

By John Hegarty, Director of International Student Program

The 2020-21 school year was different for each of Scecina's 12 international students. Several were never able to return to Scecina during the school year and completed their classes online. A few students were able to return at least for a while. And some were able to fulfill their dream of studying at an American high school.

The students came from Brazil, China, Italy, Jordan, and Nigeria. Three graduated from Scecina in May: **Lorenzo Bender**, **Tommaso Iachelini**, and **Jimiao Zhang**.

Lorenzo Bender came to Scecina as a sophomore and was having the greatest experience of his life. He was excelling and deeply involved at Scecina when, in March 2020, he had to return to Brazil because of COVID-19. He was never able to return to Scecina as an in-person student. Lorenzo has decided to continue his education at a Brazilian university.

As the pandemic started, Jimiao Zhang first moved to Florida to live with family and complete classes online. In October 2020 he returned to Indianapolis but continued classes online. In December Jimiao returned to China and completed his high school career online from his home. He will attend the University of Wisconsin.

Tommaso Iachelini, on the other hand, moved to Indianapolis from Italy early in the school year to join us as a full-time in-person student. He graduated from Scecina in May, taking part in all of the ceremonies.

Two other short-stay Italian students are returning to a fifth year of high school in Italy.

We hope to double the number of international students for 2021-22.

We receive new applications weekly and need families who are willing to host. ■



Tommaso Iachelini of Italy at the Class of 2021 Commencement with Scecina classmate Matthew Keen.

BE A HOST FAMILY!

Would you like the experience of hosting an international student? The host can be a Scecina family or not, have children in the home or not, be single or married. Contact Director of International Student Program John Hegarty at jhegarty@scecina.org or 317-258-5159 if you have any interest or questions.



IRISH CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

The Athletic Club Foundation selected **John Hegarty** as the Indianapolis Irish Citizen of the Year for 2021. The honor goes to a man or woman who exemplifies the spirit of their Irish heritage through their continued service to the Indianapolis community, to their family and other selfless acts that personify being Irish.

Hegarty, Director of International Student Program, grew up in his mother's hometown in County Donegal. In Indianapolis, he has long been involved in the Irish community, including the Ancient Order of Hibernians and the Indy Irish Fest. ■

NOWLAND NEWS



From left, Cierra Lathrop, Class of 2023, with her parents, Jennifer and Jeff '96 Lathrop; Janiya Scott, Class of 2021, with her mentor, her grandmother, Emily Pryor; and Anthony Higgins (second from left) with his mother, Judith (Joson) '84, mentor and brother, Jonathan '12, and father Jeff.

THE PRESIDENT'S ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

The President's Academic Excellence Award was established in 2001 to recognize the top 10 students in each class and the students with a GPA of 4.0 or above.

The senior class recipients are recognized in a special way. They are given the opportunity to choose a mentor who has had an important and positive impact in their life. Both the senior and the mentor submit written reflections depicting the importance that each has played for the other. Congratulations to all of the student recipients, their families and the mentors!

CLASS OF 2021

Simbiat Abdul
Lorenzo Bender
Amori Curiel
Thomas DeFreese
Stuart Donlan
Amiya Fullen
Cirilo Gonzalez
Anthony Hentz
Anthony Higgins
Tamyra Hunt
Tommaso Iachelini
Daniel Linn
Elizabeth Lozano
Emily McDonald
Allison Minton
Liam Rolfson

Owen Schreiber

Janiya Scott
Jacob Sitzman
Olivia Smith
Joshua Thomas
Olivia Wilson
Madeleine Witsman
Jimiao Zhang

CLASS OF 2022

Faith Bakemeyer
Hope Bakemeyer
Henry Carey
Alexis Dohleman
Alonso Gutierrez
Miriam Herrera
Kylie Manley

Stacey Montgomery

Isabelle Smith
Luke Soultz

CLASS OF 2023

Alexander Benson
Arthur Mason Beriault
Andrew Causemaker
Isabelle Comley
Gabrielle Deiter
Paola Esparza
Cierra Lathrop
Abigail McCoy
Rafe Morris
Fatima Quintero
Ava Smith
Theodore Waninger
Lucille Williamson

CLASS OF 2024

Isabella Adams
Zoe Adcock
Hannah Anglemyer
William Battles
Eliza Frank
Matthew Hentz
Reanna Hollada
Maxwell Krause
Tanner Messer
Katelynn Patino
Aidan Patrick
Charley Potthast
Gavin Turner
Susan Williamson
Olivia Young ■

A 'BEAUTIFUL, GRACE-FILLED' EXPERIENCE

By KJ Fallon, Director of Campus Ministry

Then the LORD said: Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will pass by. There was a strong and violent wind rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—but the LORD was not in the wind; after the wind, an earthquake—but the LORD was not in the earthquake; after the earthquake, fire—but the LORD was not in the fire; after the fire, a light silent sound. When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. – 1 Kings 11-13

Just like Elijah found God in the silence, Scecina’s Senior Retreats are an amazing opportunity to pause and see God. Retreats are a unique time to reconnect with God and to remember that God is always present in our lives. My own spirituality has been formed through retreats. Retreats often

feel ordinary because, as Elijah experienced, God is found in quiet, ordinary moments.

This year was anything but ordinary. Out of love and safety, we retreated from each other, to keep one another safe from the coronavirus. However, this past April and May, the Class of 2021 journeyed to their Senior Retreat. God allowed us to safely join and pray together, and what a wonderful moment we had to experience God.

Many journeyed with us, and I was blessed to have so much help from Scecina faculty and staff during retreat. When I asked **Ben Potts**, Scecina’s academic and testing project manager and retreat small-group volunteer, about his retreat experience, he said:

“It was truly a beautiful, grace-filled, and incredibly fun experience! Seeing kids being kids again after a long and hard year was wonderful. I don’t know how it could have been any better, and it was a privilege to learn from and minister to our amazing young people. They are simply the best!”

What happened on retreat? Well, much of what we experienced on retreat cannot leave retreat. However, I am humbled to have seen God move throughout the Senior Retreat. During this very tough year, God worked in amazing ways at retreat, and many (including myself) saw Jesus present. This year, it was tough to feel God’s presence. However, like Elijah, we know that in chaos God is one quiet moment away. ■





RED AND GOLD ROYALTY

The Crusaders' Red and Gold Week went on as scheduled. Seniors **Amori Curiel** and **Carlos Guerrero-Torres** were crowned the Red and Gold Queen and King during halftime of the Crusaders basketball game.



SENIOR MASS

Some seniors were able to attend the annual Senior Mass at SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral with the archbishop. The archbishop annually celebrates a Mass for the graduating seniors from all high schools in the archdiocese.



JUNIOR RISING STARS

The Indiana Association of High School Principals recognized the top four students in the Class of 2022 as Rising Stars for their academic achievements: **Faith Bakemeyer** (left), **Hope Bakemeyer**, **Kylie Manley**, and **Isabelle Smith**.



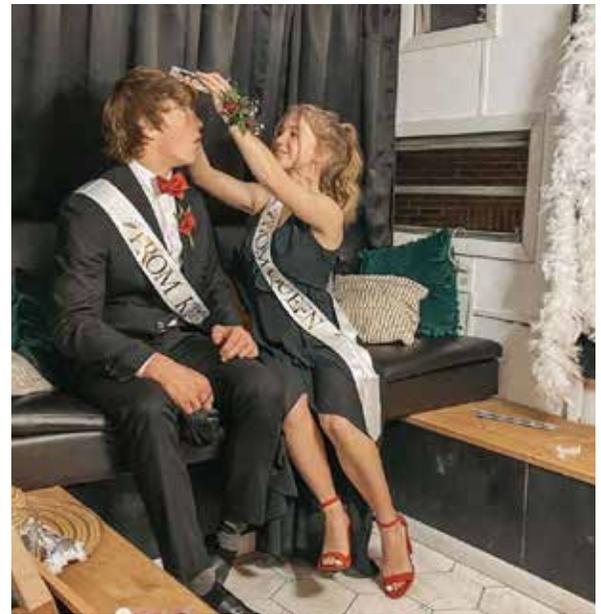
CANNED FOOD DRIVE

The Student Council moved its annual canned food drive to the spring and collected 8,348 items of nonperishable food to donate to the needy in Indianapolis. The sophomore class topped all classes by collecting 2,221 items.



MUSIC IN THE PARK

The spring musical, “The Drowsy Chaperone,” featured tap dancing numbers, singing, and a humorous take on a 1920s musical. Seccina’s Theatre Department, under the direction of **Leslie (Zimmerman) Young ’99** and **Margaret Zeh Fulford**, staged the musical outdoors at Garfield Park, one of the city of Indianapolis’ IndyParks.



PROM PAIR

Olivia Smith and **Jackson Eichholtz** relax in the prom photo booth after they were crowned Prom Queen and King. The prom theme was “Rustic Garden.” The photo booth company, Pixie Gypsy Camper, is operated by Seccina graduates **Tasha (Gregory) Leavell ’08** and **Chuck Leavell ’06**.



FUTURE CRUSADERS

Holy Spirit students (from left) **McKenzie Maddox**, **Arianna Washington**, and **Diana Machuca** with their Class of 2025 Seccina acceptance boxes.



LACROSSE CLUB CHAMPS

The Eastside Crusaders lacrosse team won the Indiana High School Lacrosse Association's 2021 club state championship in June. Seccina's **Brendan Keen** scored one of the team's nine goals in the title game.

ATHLETICS

A MESSAGE FROM OUR ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



Greetings, Crusader Nation!

Our student-athletes and coaches performed admirably in another challenging sports season during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Seccina Memorial believes it is essential to the physical and mental well-being of student-athletes to return to organized physical activity and build team relationships with peers and coaches.

Seccina is dedicated to following all safety measures possible for student-athletes and coaches to remain healthy and safe while participating in the sports they love.

This year 13 athletes from the Seccina Class of 2021 committed to continue their playing careers at college. Seniors **Emily McDonald** and **Thomas DeFreese** captured major honors. Emily was named to the All-State Softball Team. Thomas was selected to play in the 2021 Indiana Football All-Star Game in July and was honored as a 2020-21 Scholar Athlete by the

Indiana Central Chapter of the National Football Foundation.

Coach **Dave Gandolph '68** became the sixth Indiana high school baseball coach to win 800 games; the Indiana Football Coaches Association honored Crusaders assistant coach **Ben Dugan '11** and senior kicker **Anthony Hentz**. You can read more about these achievements in these pages.

Also, a shoutout to our Franciscan Health sports trainer, **Brooke Taylor**.



Brooke Taylor

Brooke always treats athletes in a first-class way. She communicates with the coaches and parents very well. She gives up a lot of time to make sure the athletes have everything they need.

We have a great team at Seccina! Go Crusaders! ■

*Jason Kehrer '88
Athletic Director*

2020-21 INDIVIDUAL HONORS

ACADEMIC ALL-CONFERENCE

Osighe Akpeokhai '21 TRACK
Henry Carey '22 TENNIS/WRESTLING
Thomas DeFreese '21 WRESTLING
Stuart Donlan '21 WRESTLING
Alexis Dohleman '22 GYMNASTICS
Jack Eichholtz '21 FOOTBALL/WRESTLING
Daniel Linn '21 BASEBALL
Allie Minton '21 BASKETBALL
Alissa Monday '21 BASKETBALL
Stacey Montgomery '22 TENNIS
Jackson Pruitt '21 BASKETBALL
Owen Schreiber '21 GOLF
Jacob Sitzman '21 TRACK
Olivia Smith '21 BASKETBALL
Luke Soultz '22 BASEBALL
Mya White '22 GYMNASTICS
Madeleine Witsman '21 TRACK

ALL-CONFERENCE

Aidan Battles '21 GOLF
Chris Bullock '22 WRESTLING
Emily McDonald '21 SOFTBALL
David Mendez '24 BASEBALL
Jacob Sitzman '21 TRACK
Jameson Welborn '21 BASEBALL

ALL-CITY

Stuart Donlan '21 WRESTLING
David Mendez '24 BASEBALL (SECOND TEAM)
Olivia Smith '21 BASKETBALL
Jameson Welborn '21 BASEBALL

ALL-CITY TOURNAMENT TEAM

Olivia Smith '21 BASKETBALL

ALL-STATE

Emily McDonald '21 SOFTBALL

THOMAS DEFREESE #3

2021 INDIANA ALL-STAR | SOUTH TEAM

7:30 p.m. Friday, July 9, 2021 at North Central High School

Senior **Thomas DeFreese**, a co-captain for the 2020 Crusaders football team, has been recognized as a 2020-21 Scholar Athlete by the Indiana Central Chapter of the National Football Foundation. He is one of a handful of players selected by schools throughout Central Indiana and was recognized at a banquet on June 13. ■

IFCA HONORS COACH DUGAN

Coach **Ben Dugan** has been recognized as the 2A Assistant Coach of the Year by the Indiana Football Coaches Association. Dugan is a 2011 graduate and has coached at Scecina since



Ben Dugan

then. This past season he served as the Crusaders defensive coordinator as well as outside linebackers coach.

Scecina's defense was the strong point of the 2020 season, holding opponents to an average of just 10.5 points per game. Prior to becoming defensive coordinator, Dugan led the Crusaders JV team to two consecutive undefeated seasons. ■

KICKER EARNS GOOD WORKS HONOR

The Indiana Football Coaches Association honored Scecina Crusaders kicker **Anthony Hentz** as a member of its first Good Works Team, which recognizes players, groups, and entire teams who have committed themselves to serving others. All nominees have served in an extraordinary way and are tremendous representatives of the power of football to make a difference in our communities.

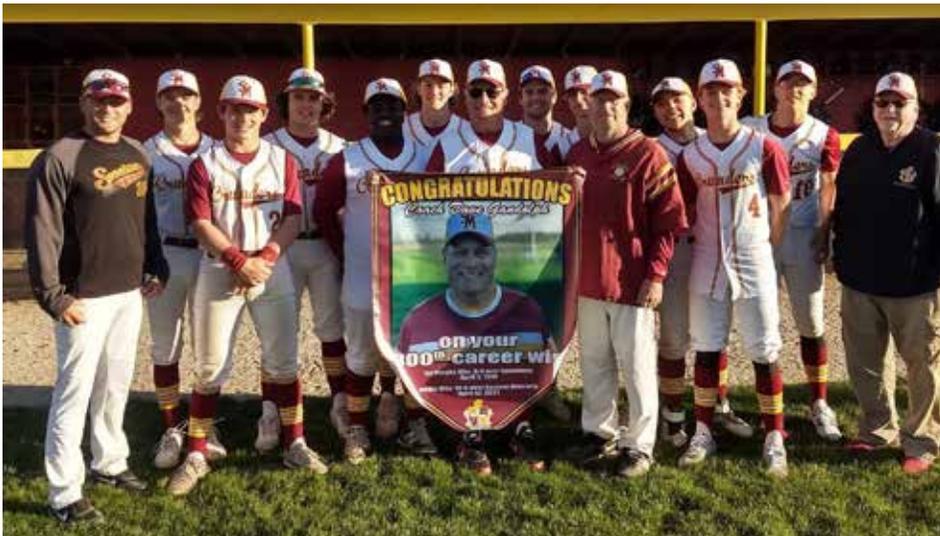
In announcing the honor, the coaches association noted Anthony's volunteer work with Scecina's technology

department and his volunteering at the local food pantry and soup kitchen. Anthony also was a member of Scecina's Liturgy Club and sets up and tears down all school Masses. "Anthony does all of this while earning a 4.3 GPA, playing varsity soccer, and performing as an all-conference and all-city football player," they wrote. ■



Anthony Hentz

GANDOLPH WINS 800 GAMES



On May 12, Coach Dave Gandolph '68 celebrated his 800 wins with current Crusaders assistant coaches and players, as well as past players and Class of 1968 classmates. Gandolph received a banner.

Crusaders baseball coach **Dave Gandolph** in April became the sixth coach in the history of Indiana high school baseball to win 800 games.

Gandolph, a 1968 Scecina graduate, was thrilled with his major achievement, but he can only keep thinking ahead about the next game and about improving.

“It feels good, and it means I’ve been around for a while, which is fine. I think the kids were happy to get that and celebrate a little bit. I think that was good for them. Me, I was happy when it got over so we could concentrate on getting better.

“(The 800th win) happened in the third win of the season, and I wish we had gotten a few more than we did after that.”

His 800th win was delayed a year because COVID-19 wiped out the 2020 season.

“The good thing about this year was, we played. We didn’t play at all last year ... at least we played baseball this year,” he said.

Gandolph has been head coach at his alma mater since 2014. He also has been the head coach at Cardinal Ritter, Carmel, and Center Grove high schools. At Center Grove over 33 years, he won 701 games, including 15 Sectional titles and four Regional championships and made one final four appearance in 1996 in the one-class system.

With the 800-win mark, the Indianapolis Star’s **Kyle Neddenriep** wrote about Gandolph “coming home” to Scecina.

“I’m an Eastsider so it was kind of a neat thing for me to come back home,” he said.

“I can’t imagine Dave having any more passion than he does right now,” Athletic Director **Jason**

Kehrer told Neddenriep. “Dave on the baseball field is where he is happy – maybe even more so now.”

Gandolph and his wife, **Ann (McAtee) Gandolph '67**, have four adult children and several grandchildren.

Retired from teaching, Gandolph also spends countless hours grooming Scecina’s baseball field.

And that’s what he was doing recently when he said: “I don’t have any plans to stop (coaching) at any particular time. I’m going to be here as long as I can. I got nothing else to do, and this is what I want to do.”

As Crusaders coach, Gandolph has 88 wins.

“One thing I’m kind of looking forward to, that would be 100 wins here.” ■



JACKIE ROBINSON DAY

Scecina and opponent Park Tudor wore No. 42 jerseys to celebrate Jackie Robinson Day on April 15 at the Crusaders field. The Indianapolis Clowns of the Negro American League also were honored during the game. ■



Emily McDonald bats during the first inning of the Crusaders' first game at their new home field, McNulty Park. Emily walked, stole second, and then came home on Alison Daves' fly ball to left field to score the first run in the new park.

SOFTBALL TEAM GETS NEW HOME

The Crusaders softball team this year moved into a new home field at McNulty Park. The park is operated by the nonprofit Irvington Sports Association (ISA).

McNulty Park is located at 6949 E. Raymond Ave. The Crusaders play on Field 4.

The Crusaders softball team has won three Indiana state championships, in 2007, 2013, and 2017. **Holli Streeval**, a 1997 graduate of Scecina, is the Crusaders head coach.

Under the terms of the agreement with ISA, Scecina will add fencing,

a scoreboard, and other field improvements.

"We're very grateful to the ISA for welcoming Scecina as partners at McNulty Park," said Scecina President **Joe Therber**. "We're also thankful to IndyParks for their longtime partnership with Scecina while the Crusaders played at Brookside Park."

"We won a lot of games at Brookside and have good memories of playing there," said Scecina Athletic Director **Jason Kehrer**. "Now we're looking forward to keeping the Crusaders' winning softball tradition alive at our new home field." ■

ALL-STATE TEAM



Senior **Emily McDonald**, captain of the softball team, was named to the 2A All-State Softball Team. She batted .654 this season, with seven home runs, 10 doubles, and four triples. ■

ATHLETICS

WINTER SEASON RECAPS

BOYS BASKETBALL

For the third season in a row, the boys basketball program saw an increase in wins, including tripling the amount of wins in the conference. The boys were led by seniors **Jomo Cole**, **Josiah Smith**, and **Jackson Pruitt**. Smith finished the season as the leading shot blocker for the ICC. Sophomore **Keaton Thibo** earned All-Conference honors. ■

GIRLS BASKETBALL

The 2020-21 season began with **Jacob DeWilde** taking over as head coach of the Crusaders. After a rocky 1-9 start, the girls found their rhythm at the Crothersville Holiday Tournament, where they took home the title. Riding the moment off the tournament, the girls beat Irvington in the first round of Sectional before losing in the Sectional championship. Senior **Olivia Smith** set a school record for steals in a career while on her way to being named All-Conference. ■

WRESTLING

The season was a roller coaster for the Crusaders. With numerous events rescheduled or canceled due to COVID-19, the boys had to be flexible and always ready. Senior **Stuart Donlan** won the 132-pound City Championship to lead the Crusaders to a fourth-place finish. In the Indiana

Crossroads Conference tournament, senior **Thomas DeFreese** (138 pounds) and junior **Chris Bullock** (120 pound) earned All-Conference honors by winning their weight class. In the state tournament, Bullock, DeFreese, and Donlan made it to the New Castle Semi-State before their respective seasons ended. ■

SWIMMING

Michelle Schultz took over as the head coach for the Scecina swimming program. Coach Schultz took over a young program with no seniors. Hard work throughout the season led to the swimmers constantly improving and breaking their own personal records. Freshman **Charley Potthast** led the team in many events. With so much youth in 2020-21, the team's future looks bright. ■

GYMNASTICS

Third-year head coach **Peyton Egan** welcomed the largest team she has had at Scecina. Returning juniors **Mya White** and **Alexis Dohleman** led the way for the Crusaders. The team welcomed freshmen **Hannah Comley**, **Sydney Deiwert**, and **Reanna Hollada**. With all the girls returning next year, the Crusaders are setting out to win Conference and City. ■

SPRING SEASON RECAPS

BASEBALL

Senior captain **Jameson Welborn** led the way for the Crusaders. After missing last year's season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Crusaders set out to defend their back-to-back Sectional titles. In preparation for postseason play, the boys faced one of the more difficult schedules in all of 2A. Behind the pitching of juniors **Aidan Ray** (4-6, 3.60 ERA) and **Luke Soultz** (4-3, 2.92 ERA), the Crusaders finished third in the Indiana Crossroads Conference with a 9-5 conference record and 11-17 overall. Welborn earned All-City and All-Conference honors, while freshman **David Mendez** earned second team All-City Honors. ■

TRACK AND FIELD

First-year head coach **Christian Gleason** inherited a young Crusaders team. Senior **Jacob Sitzman** set the pace for the boys, while **Madeleine Witsman** and **Camille Schroeder** led the girls. Freshman **Seth Sunderland-Trimble** won the Freshman City Championship in the high jump. At the Warren Central Sectional, Sitzman placed third in the 3,200 meters to advance to Regionals. He earned All-Conference honors. ■

SOFTBALL

Captain **Emily McDonald** led the way for the Crusaders with a .654 batting average, seven home runs, 10 doubles, and four triples. The Crusaders



COLLEGE SIGNINGS

began the season 3-9 before the girls rebounded with a 5-2 record before entering postseason play. The Crusaders won their Sectional opening game over Heritage Christian before falling in the championship to Eastern Hancock. McDonald earned All-Conference, All-City, and All-State honors for her play on the diamond this year. ■

GIRLS TENNIS

This season, Coach **Angie Therber** welcomed one of her younger and more inexperienced teams. Led by returning junior **Cierra Berry**, the girls knew this season was not so much about results but more about improving every practice and match. The highlight of the season was that all the girls advanced to the second day of the City Championship. ■

BOYS GOLF

Matthew Schroeder was named head coach of the Crusader boys golf team after longtime coach **Ott Hurrle** stepped away. Senior **Aidan Battles** was the only returning golfer from the pre-COVID golf team. Fellow senior **Owen Schreiber** and juniors **Patrick Berg**, **Conor Moriarty**, and **Aidan Ray** joined him for the 2021 season. Led by Ray's 14th-place finish, the boys finished sixth in the City Tournament. During a wet day at Pleasant Run Golf Course, Battles earned All-ICC Honors by finishing sixth in the City Tournament. ■



Mallory Cox
Volleyball
Hanover College



Miles Dais
Football
University of St. Francis



Thomas DeFreese
Football
Marian University



Stuart Donlan
Wrestling
Olivet College



Nicholas Guevara
Soccer
Franklin College



Anthony Hentz
Football
Trine University



Jack Longshore
Football
Mount St. Francis



Emily McDonald
Softball
Mount St. Francis



Jackson Pruitt
Football
Mount St. Francis



Camille Schroeder
Track
William Woods College



Jacob Sitzman
Track
Wabash College



Josiah Smith
Basketball
St. Mary-of-the-Woods College



Jameson Welborn
Baseball
Mount St. Francis





Our FAITH, *Our* JOURNEY, *Our* TIME

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
FOR SCECINA MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL

**\$6.85M
RAISED!**

\$6M GOAL

Thank you to the 750+ donors who made this campaign possible through generous and sacrificial pledges. Your gifts truly helped Scecina reach an amazing feat. Thank you to the 160+ volunteers who spent their evenings and weekends with Scecina, helping us reach more people in our Scecina Community. And thank you to all who prayed for the success of this campaign. It is because of YOU that this moment has come.

Thanks to your generosity and God's grace, Scecina has reached \$6,857,080.17 in pledges!

\$500,000+
ADDED TO THE
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE FUND
AND THE FACILITIES ENDOWMENT

750+
DONORS

160+ **99%**
VOLUNTEERS ON-TIME PLEDGE
FULFILLMENT RATE

CLASS OF
1969
GRADUATING CLASS
WITH THE HIGHEST
PARTICIPATION RATE

CLASS OF
1961
PLEGGED OVER
\$1M
100%
ALUMNI CLASS
PARTICIPATION

ALUMNI NEWS

Class Reunions Guide

Below are the upcoming Seccina Class Reunions. If you need information or have questions regarding your reunion, please email **Lauren Lay** at llay@seccina.org or 317.352.3228.

Class of 1960 | 60th Reunion
Pending

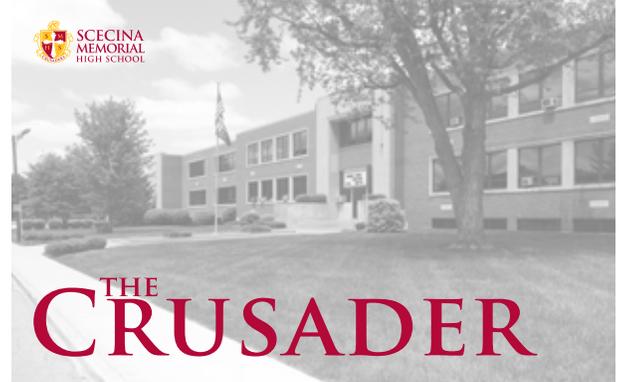
Class of 1970 | 50th Reunion
Saturday, October 9, 2021

Class of 1971 | 50th Reunion
Saturday, October 2, 2021

Class of 1986 | 35th Reunion
Saturday, July 17, 2021

Class of 1996 | 25th Class Reunion
Saturday, August 28, 2021

Keep up to date at:
seccina.org/alumni/class-reunions/



STAY CONNECTED!

Stay up to date with current Seccina news by giving us your email address! While the Father Seccina magazine is published twice a year, The Crusader e-newsletter is sent monthly to your inbox. Scan the QR code (right) with your cellphone camera or call **Gia Spaulding** to give us your email: 317.352.3229. ■



HOMECOMING 2021

Save the date for Seccina's Homecoming in the fall: September 3, 2021. The Crusaders football team will play Cascade at Roncalli.

At Homecoming 2021, the golden anniversary 1972 football team will be honored before the second quarter. Seccina will be celebrating members of the Class of 1997 at halftime for their 25th anniversary.

Questions? Contact **Rose Branson** at rbranson@seccina.org. ■



DEVELOPMENT

CLASS OF 1963 RAISES \$100,000

Cathy (Corsaro) Dezelan '63 says she “almost fell off her chair” when fellow alumnus **Stephen Morris** said their Class of 1963 could raise \$100,000 to establish an endowment to create scholarships continually for returning Scecina students.

“Steve really had the vision,” she said of Morris, who is retired from Indiana University, where he had done fund-raising.

In the year before its 50th reunion in 2013, the class had raised about \$15,000. They were able to give one student a scholarship each year.

Morris helped the group focus on the \$100,000 target. With the growing fund, the class has started giving two \$1,000 scholarships each year to a boy and a girl. This spring, the Class of 1963’s endowment did top \$100,000.

“We are thrilled to know that our efforts have resulted in an

endowment that will help Scecina students for many years to come,” Morris said.

“Steve pushed on, and the persistence paid off,” said **Jim McGuinness**, Scecina’s director of development and alumni relations. “We were pleasantly surprised that they stayed on course and reached the original goal.”

“We didn’t do it quickly,” said Dezelan, “but we did do it.” The scholarship is named the William F. Kuntz “WE CARE” Scholarship and goes to a student returning for his or her sophomore year at Scecina. The students are nominated by the faculty and staff and must demonstrate a caring attitude toward family, school and community and academically be working to the best of his or her ability.

Dezelan said the class chose to honor the late Scecina teacher and administrator **Bill Kuntz** because “he

was just a fantastic teacher. He had such a wonderful sense of humor, and was a friend yet was still the teacher.”

Kuntz also was a Scecina football coach who had the words “We Care” painted on the Blockhouse. “So, we wanted that as part of the scholarship,” Dezelan said.

Kuntz also coached with Dezelan’s husband, Joe, at Arlington High School. Because of their affection for Coach Kuntz, some former Arlington football players also have contributed to the Scecina endowment, she said.

Dezelan and Morris said the committee continues to meet each year. They keep the fund-raising going with letters to the class about every six months and photos of the scholarship winners.

“I just think it’s wonderful that we can do this and can help a kid stay at Scecina,” Dezelan said. ■

East Deanery Parishes and Scecina Partner Schools

Holy Cross Central School
Principal: Cara Swinefurth

Holy Spirit Parish and School
Pastor: Rev. Michael O’Mara
Principal: Rita (Branson) Parsons ‘76

Little Flower Parish and School
Pastor: Rev. Robert J. Gilday
Principal: Kevin Gawrys

Our Lady of Lourdes Parish and School
Pastor: Rev. Rick Ginther
Principal: Chris Kolakovich

St. Michael Parish and School
Pastor: Rev. Aaron Jenkins
Principal: Ruth Hittel

St. Philip Neri Parish and School
Pastor: Rev. Jeffrey L. Dufresne
Principal: Kari Buchinger

SS. Peter and Paul Cathedral Parish
Rector: Very Rev. Patrick J. Beidelman

St. Rita Parish
Priest Moderator: Very Rev. Patrick J. Beidelman

St. Mary Parish
Pastor: Very Rev. Patrick J. Beidelman

St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
Pastor: Rev. Robert J. Hankee



SWC scholarship winner Jania Weathers

2021 SCECINA WOMEN'S CIRCLE SCHOLARSHIP

Since 2017, the Scecina Women's Circle philanthropy group each May has awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to an outgoing graduate to use for their next phase of life.

The Class of 2021 recipient is **Jania Weathers**. Jania is the daughter of Danielle Jackson.

All Scecina seniors were asked to write essays on "A Life Lesson I Learned at Scecina." Jania's essay was chosen as the favorite of voting SWC members.

"I really appreciate the scholarship, especially being the daughter of a single mother," Jania said. "We really appreciate it, both me and my mother, and I really look forward to using it in my future."

Jania is an Indiana 21st Century Scholar and has been accepted to the University of Indianapolis.

The Scecina Women's Circle welcomes all women. By joining the SWC, you connect to one another, the community, and the student life programs the circle supports at Scecina.

Learn more at scecina.org/womens-circle. ■

WAYS TO GIVE

When it comes to giving, there are more ways than you may think to donate to your favorite high school. These ways to give will depend on your unique life situation.

Among the many ways are:

- Cash/Check
- School Scholarship Tax Credit (SSTC)
- Insurance
- Stock (Appreciated Securities)
- Real Estate
- Bequest/Planned Giving
- IRA/Required Minimum Distribution (RMD)

If you'd like to talk to someone about the various ways to give, Director of Development **Jim McGuinness** would be happy to help. Contact him at 317.352.3227 or jmcguinness@scecina.org. ■

SAVE THE DATE: OUR SECOND DAY OF GIVING

Join in virtually for Scecina's second Day of Giving on October 21, 2021.

Day of Giving is a community-wide, all-day event to raise funds for a specific cause – your favorite high school.

Scecina's first Day of Giving last October was a huge success, with more than 170 people donating throughout the 24 hours, taking part in fun social media interaction, and competing for Scecina swag.

Thank you to all who helped Day of Giving 2020 bring in \$29,250. We look forward to another successful Day of Giving in October 2021. ■

CLASS NOTES

1960s

Sister Barbara James, O.S.F. '60 is celebrating her 60th Jubilee as a Sister of St. Francis in Oldenburg, Ind.

Joe Hurley '63 and his wife, Martha, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on May 22, 2021.

Tom Blandford '65 received a Sagamore of the Wabash on his 70th birthday.

Stephen A. Peterson '66 was interviewed about his new book "There's A New Kat at Scecina" on iHeart radio on June 2, 2021.

The annual **David C. O'Connor '66** and All Veterans Memorial Mass will be held at Little Flower Church at 5 p.m. Saturday, July 31. The celebration will continue after Mass at the Irish Mutt. Memories of David and others who have served will be shared and followed by a brief presentation.

1980s

Dave Seago '83 was the Turn-3 spotter for champion Helio Castroneves at the Indy 500 on May 30. A spotter communicates via radio with the driver about what is happening on the track.

Rob Coop '88 was re-elected as president of Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity, for a one-year term.

1990s

Joe Miller '95 opened his own restaurant, Our Table, where he is the head chef in Bargersville, Ind.



2000s

Jenny Troutman '00 is now the Chief Financial Officer for the Marion County Clerk's Office. She will be continuing to build upon over a decade of public service for the State of Indiana and Marion County, Indianapolis.



Emily (Schenkenfelder) Davis '02, her husband, John, and son Finn welcomed a second child to their family. Jack Garver Davis was born on September 12, 2020.



Tom Branson '01 and his wife, Rose Branson, Scecina Director of Development Operations, welcomed their new daughter, Evelyn Róisín Branson, on May 11, 2021.



Josh Mullins '02 started his own business and is now the proud owner of OpenBox Roofing & Restoration.

Kathleen (Laratta) Stewart '03 married Darren Stewart on October 24, 2020.



Courtney (Frick) O'Malia '05 and her husband, Casey, welcomed their first child, Caroline, on September 10, 2020, in Grand Rapids, Mich. She was born at 32 weeks and weighed 3 lbs. 11 oz. Even though she was born early, she is happy and healthy.



Robbie Laratta '05 and **Mitchell Elmore '11** are serving together on the Noblesville Fire Department.

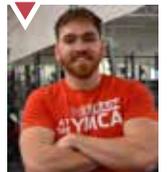


2010s

Luke Eichholtz '11 is serving as a firefighter in Greenfield, Ind.



Sean Murphy '16 graduated from IUPUI's Kelley School of Business with a degree in accounting and finance in December 2020 and began his new job as associate wellness director of the Ransburg Y. Sean also became a certified personal trainer in January 2021.



2020s

"Reflection," a watercolor painting by **Eliza Leffler '20**, is on display at the U.S Capitol in Washington, D.C. Eliza was winner of the 2020 Congressional Art Competition for the 7th Congressional District in Central Indiana. Her art is on display along with the winning pieces from throughout the country. Eliza is studying art education at Ball State University.



Class Notes from Scecina alumni are compiled each month in The Crusader e-newsletter and twice a year into the Father Scecina magazine.

Did you receive a promotion? Have a baby? Get married? Please share your good news with us! Submit your Class Note to: scecina.org/share-your-news

IN MEMORIAM

ALUMNI DEATHS

Lawrence Hembree '57
Judith "Judy" (Rathz) Sonderman '57
Joseph Bordenkecher '58
Frederic Leo "Ric" Mahaffey Jr. '58
Mary Jo [Jody] (Burke) Robinson '58
John K. Griffin '59
Robert Fulton '60
Sharon (Wilson) Nester '60
Jerry Buchman '61
Judith (Burke) Zinkan '61
Joseph Sabotin '62
John Steele '62
William Bevan '63
Thomas Carson '63
Jim Crouse '63
Sharon (Strange) Ellington '63
Stephen Koers '63
Karen (Gebhart) Blacketer '64
Jean "Jeanie" (Jones) Shea Curtis '64
Millie (Graf) Arvin '65
Maryellen (Finn) Bein '65
Robert Beltrame '66
Thomas L. Osburn USA (Ret.) '66
Barbara (Hibbert) Schrader '66
Joyce (Reilly) Eaton '67
Gail Rowe '67
Ann (Dwyer) Sharp '67
John Burns '68
Patricia (Crofts) Gutzmer '68
Arthur Petzl '68
Kevin Seaman '68
Frank Hagerty '71

David Clark '74
Kevin Fahey '75
Michael O'Connell '75
Gail (Arney) Eisenhut '76
Thomas Hendrix '80
Helen (Warner) Heckman '81
Mary Brassie '82

FORMER FACULTY AND STAFF DEATHS

Father Peter Gallagher
Rita Gibson
Sam Rhinesmith
Frank Velikan

FRANK VELIKAN

Frank served the Scecina Community as assistant principal for many years.

Frank was a trusted mentor and confidant to Scecina teachers, students, and parents. He also enjoyed being a frequent announcer at Crusaders home baseball games.

Scecina honored him with the Larry Neidlinger "We Care" Award in 2004. ■

SEAMUS DIGIUSTO



Seamus was a sophomore at Scecina when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor in early 2020. He died on March 5, 2021. ■

BILL BEVAN '63



Bill came to Scecina in 1959 as a student and never left until his death in December

2020. Bill played basketball for the Crusaders and was involved in the Father Tom Club and the CSMC, among other activities. In 1969, Bill began assisting the Crusader football and basketball coaching staffs.

In 2019, Bill retired as official scorer for the Indiana Pacers after 51 years.

He continued at Scecina as a substitute teacher.

Scecina recognized Bill with several honors: the Clarissimus Amicus Award in 2000, the Larry Neidlinger "We Care" Award in 2006, and the Father Thomas Scecina Award in 2018. ■

FR. PETER GALLAGHER



Father Peter ably served Scecina as chaplain from 1996-2005 and taught Catholic theology. Beloved

for his ability to humanize the priesthood and help bring young adults closer to God through everyday experiences, Father Peter connected with students not only through his devotion to his vocation and his knowledge, but also through his ability to relate and have fun. ■

*Class Notes and In Memoriam reflect notices received on or before May 31, 2021.
To update your information (home or email address), submit a class note, or report an alumni death, please contact Gia Spaulding, Advancement Coordinator, at gspaulding@sccecina.org, or submit information via the online form at www.sccecina.org/alumni.*



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