

COMMON Thread

SUMMER 2020 EDITION

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE XAVIER FOUNDATION

Serving on the Frontlines

Catching Up with XHS Alumna & ER Nurse, Stephanie (Greif) Klappholz (X06)

Together as One

XHS president, Chris McCarville (R97), reflects on Xavier's role in response to racial injustice

Forever Saints Day a Success!



"The Unsung Hero"

Spotlight on recent XHS graduate, Aubrey Jones (X20)

XAVIER
FOUNDATION
REGIS • LASALLE



Together as One

XHS president, Chris McCarville (R97), reflects on Xavier's role and our path forward as it relates to racial disparity.

Over the past month, we've seen protests across the country in response to the death of George Floyd. The message and demand for change regarding racial equality has been unmistakable across our entire country, including right here in our own community.

I want everyone to know, this call for change has been heard loud and clear by Xavier. In response, we are currently having real, purposeful conversations with our current students, parents, and alumni to understand how we can do better. These conversations will help us determine what our path forward will look like.

Change ... real change ... in this area involves having deep and honest conversations. It involves a place like Xavier, a predominately white Catholic school, needing to be prepared to hear feedback from these conversations that, quite honestly, might make us feel a bit uncomfortable at times. As Catholics, we are reminded that it is actually essential for us to venture outside of our comfort zones to lift the marginalized and disenfranchised as we are called to be Christ for one another.

In the Gospel accounts of Jesus, He is the one who many times initiates conversations. And often times, many of these conversations are tough ones. They are conversations He probably wished He didn't need to have. But time and time again, Jesus reaches out. And many times, He calls for deep, ever-lasting conversion of heart.

May the example of Jesus, the perfect model of love and compassion, continue to be our guide here at Xavier High School.



Chris McCarville (R97)
President, Xavier High School
@CRXPres | chris.mccarville@xaviersaints.org



The XHS Class of 2020

Celebrating Our Graduating Seniors with Our "New Normal"

On May 24th, 2020, we sent forth our 179 seniors with a virtual graduation ceremony due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The online event was streamed live for families and friends to join. The commencement ceremony featured an invocation by Very Rev. Mark Ressler (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton pastor); Opening remarks from XHS president, Chris McCarville (R97); Address from XHS principal, Angela Olson; Address from XHS student body president, Kieran Coe (X20); Performances by Xavier Chorale and XHS band director, Kelli Swehla; and benediction by Rev. Phil Thompson (St. Pius X pastor & XHS Pastoral Coordinator). The virtual event was followed by a series of "grad parades" comprised of faculty and staff who delivered various honors earned by our seniors to their homes.



Delivering Diplomas to All 179 Seniors

In the days prior to our graduation ceremony, XHS Principal, Angela Olson, and a small video production crew delivered diplomas to our 179 graduating seniors. We experienced a great amount of love, joy and creativity as the seniors were presented their diplomas. Celebrations featured confetti, balloons, a swimming pool jump, a motorcycle drive-by pick up, and even a releasing of chickens! The video was used to conclude our virtual commencement ceremony.



We encourage everyone to watch the great collection of video content celebrating the XHS Class of 2020, including our Baccalaureate Mass, at XAVIERSAINTS.ORG/2020.



The screenshot shows a Zoom meeting titled "FSD - Forever ASaint". The top of the screen displays the FSD logo and the hashtag #FOREVERASAIN'T. Below the title bar, there are two rows of video feeds. The top row has four feeds: Mike Schulte (X00), Mitch Fick (X05), Angela Olson (Peace, After High School), and Mitch Fick (X05). The bottom row has four feeds: Nick Ireland (X01), Katie (Mills) Giorgio (X99), Hannah Stolba (X00), and Mitch Fick (X05). The background of the Zoom window is a collage of FSD logos and the text #FOREVERASAIN'T. At the bottom of the screen, there is a chat window with a message from "Seth Bowler (@sethbowler)" that says "FSD Forever ASaint".



understand and pray for the many area businesses who were hit hard during this crisis, if your business is able to donate or possibly give a little extra this year to help close the gap toward our goal, we would truly appreciate your generosity.

The Xavier Foundation's 2020 Parish Appeal is being planned for the weekends of September 19-20 and 26-27 at our 11 partner parishes. This year's chairs are Kathleen & Jeff Bean of Immaculate Conception Parish and Tammy & Jamie McAllister of St. Joseph Parish.

More information to will be shared through our parishes in the coming months. We thank all parishioners in advance for supporting this important effort, which helps keep Catholic education financially within reach for our families!

Fond Farewells

New Assignment



Fr. Dustin Vu

Our campus minister/chaplain, Fr. Dustin Vu, has been asked by the Archbishop to serve as the priest/chaplain at Loras College and provide sacramental ministry at Clarke University in Dubuque starting July 14, 2020. The impact of Fr. Vu's faithful service since coming to Xavier in 2008 can not be understated. His work has ignited the Holy Spirit in our Saints and he has been an important part of Xavier's overall commitment to its Catholicity. His ability to connect with people of all ages has inspired them to be more fearless in Christ.

Fr. Vu has often noted a goal we should all share: Go to Heaven and bring as many people with us as we can. With that spirit always in our hearts, we will continue that pursuit.

Fr. Vu has been a blessing to us and blessings should be shared. To the Loras and Clarke communities: You have been blessed with a faithful servant and a difference maker for your students!



Watch a special "thank you" video to Fr. Vu at XAVIERSAINTS.ORG/VU

Happy Retirement!



Tim O'Brien

Retiring from his teaching duties is Tim O'Brien. Mr. O'Brien came to Xavier in 2007, where he has served as a teacher in various business courses, Business Professionals of America (BPA) advisor and as Xavier's head boys golf coach. He has played an enormous role in preparing our students for the 21st Century job market and has established an outstanding track record of helping students earn Microsoft Office Specialist certifications. Under his leadership, Xavier's BPA program has become exceptionally popular with high participation rates and significant state and national honors earned by Xavier students over the years. As Xavier's boys' golf head coach, he has led the Saints to three Mississippi Valley Conference Division championships and six state tournament appearances as a team. Mr. O'Brien will remain Xavier's head boy's golf coach next fall. He is also known for his "O'Brien Xpress" roller coaster, during basketball/football games and assemblies, where he leads the student section on a virtual rollercoaster.



Dave Schemmel

Retiring from his position as XHS Director of Student Services/Guidance Counselor, is Dave Schemmel. Mr. Schemmel has served our Catholic high schools for the past 44 years. He joined the Regis High School faculty in 1976, where he initially taught Typing and General Business. He then served as the Guidance Counselor at LaSalle High School in the 1986-1987 school year before returning to Regis in the fall of '87 to serve in the same capacity. Mr. Schemmel then assumed that role at Xavier when it opened in 1998, where he has remained ever since as a foundational piece of the school's staff. He has also served at Regis, LaSalle and Xavier in various coaching capacities over the years, most notably as the head varsity baseball coach at Regis (1977-1979; 1991-1998) and Xavier (1998-2015). He retired as Xavier's head baseball coach in 2015 after leading the Saints to the 2006 state championship, six state tournament appearances, and amassing a 431-234 win-loss record. His humble leadership, experience, and dedication to serving others will certainly be missed.

We wish both of these outstanding individuals all the best and God's blessing upon them as they sail into their respective well-deserved retirements!

Update: Return to Learn for 2020-2021

With school buildings being closed since March, and finishing the 2019-2020 school year via online continuous learning, we are looking ahead to next school year. In accordance with the Iowa Department of Education, our K-12 Xavier Catholic Schools are working together to make preparations as they relate to infrastructure, health, safety, academic standards, social emotional and behavioral health and equity of returning to classes and learning in the fall.

The Return-to-Learn Scenarios Include:

Required Continuous Learning: This is instruction provided through online learning. We would use this plan if the state requires we continue to learn from home as we have done this spring.

Hybrid Learning: This method combines Required Continuous Learning and On-Site Learning. We would use this plan in the same manner that restaurants are allowed to operate at 50% capacity. It allows for on-site learning but maintains social distancing and gathering guidelines.

On-site Learning: This is the traditional method of all students learning at school. We will use this plan once it is safe for us to operate our buildings at full capacity.

In all three scenarios, all students are required to participate, attendance is taken, work is graded, and credit is granted.



The View from the Frontlines...

Q&A with XHS Alumna/Nurse,
Stephanie (Greif) Klappholz (X06)

by Ella Schulte (X20)

As we continue to navigate the uncharted territory of the COVID-19 pandemic, we wanted to check in with an alum who is a medical professional to gain a better sense of how life has changed for them. We recently sat down with 2006 XHS alumna, Stephanie (Greif) Klappholz, who has served as a nurse for 10 years and currently serves as an Education Specialist III for the Emergency Department at Mercy Medical Center in Cedar Rapids.



Can you give us a sense of what life looked like in March and April?

March and April feel like a whirlwind and we are just starting to get our bearings again. My role in this pandemic has required that I remain very fluid and help where needed on a day-to-day basis. Every day that I presented to work, I was not exactly sure what I would be doing that day. Because I am a nurse, and clinical educator, my job is split between working the front-lines in the Emergency Department caring for patients, and teaching other Mercy employees to fulfill roles that they were not accustomed to. We did a great job at Mercy re-distributing labor where it was needed most.

States of emergency such as the COVID-19 pandemic are true trials of the strength of an organization and the teams within. I feel extremely fortunate to work for Mercy during this time, as the Mercy family has proven their strength time and time again through trials such as the flood, H1N1, and now the COVID-19 pandemic.

In comparison, what does life look like for you now?

Life now feels like it is slowly returning to a new "normal." The COVID screening tent has been taken down, clinics are resuming their day-to-day operations, elective surgeries have been on the rise, and now we feel like we have a little more room to breathe (behind our N95 masks that is)! I feel that we are now each learning a little more how to live with the pandemic, rather than against it. It has become a piece of everything we do, rather than the centripetal force. We, as healthcare providers, are still on high alert and are taking extra precautions.

How has COVID-19 impacted your home life?

Having young children at home has definitely put me on higher alert during this pandemic. Frontline healthcare workers are exposed to many infectious diseases every day, the concept of precaution is not new to us. I find myself doing all of the same things that I did before, but maybe more frequently, and more conscientiously.

I have also found myself being more conscientious of my and my family's overall general physical and mental health. Taking care of our bodies and minds is even more important now than it has ever been. Eating healthy and moving our bodies is one small way to provide yourself with the best tools should you actually become ill. Taking the time to assess your mental health during this odd time of isolation is also extremely important.

Are there any specific ways in which you have seen good come out of these times of such uncertainty?

We have seen a great deal of good come out of this generally negative time. I think healthcare workers feel more appreciated than ever through all of the community support. I see people appreciating other professions that they may have taken for granted before such as food distributors, sanitation workers, and teachers. We have really embraced the digital world of texting, phone calls, and Facetime; even my grandparents have learned to embrace more technology. We even recently partook in the trend of drive-by birthdays for our now 6-year-old, which I really actually enjoyed!

Do you have any advice to those battling COVID-19, or struggling with the outcome of it / the loss of a loved one?

This one is tough, but I suppose I would give the same advice that I give to anyone going through a tough time or overwhelming experience: Take things second-by-second until you can handle minute-by-minute, hour-by-hour, then day-by-day. Sometimes looking too far ahead can be overwhelming or discouraging.

How has your own Catholic education helped prepare you for not only your profession, but role as a wife and mother during a global pandemic?

My Catholic faith and education has played a much larger role in my identity than I ever anticipated. Stepping back, I realize that after attending Catholic schools for elementary, middle, and high school, I chose to continue my education at a Catholic college for my BSN and a Christian college for my MSN. I have even fostered my career in a Catholic organization, Mercy hospital. I have found that as I am surrounded by like-minded, Christian people, I am able to express and build upon my faith in everything I do. Faith has been a building block in every facet of development of my whole self. I have learned so much through opportunities such as volunteering over the years, and I cannot imagine an environment where we cannot start a day or a meeting without prayer!



Read more from our interview with Stephanie online at
XAVIERSAINTS.ORG/ALUMNI.



The Unsung Hero | by Ella Schulte (X20)

For some students who work in essential roles, when schools closed down, working hours went up. We visit with one of those students who, in addition to dealing with the circumstances as a senior, also has been spending more time working as part of Hy-Vee's Aisles Online department as grocers pivoted to better serve their customers during the pandemic. Recent graduate, Aubrey Jones (X20), talks about how these past few months have impacted her.

Tell us about how the pandemic has changed your role at work.

Before the pandemic I was just a normal checker, but due to the high demand for online shopping, I was moved into the Aisles Online department. At work, we are required to wear a mask and make sure that we are maintaining six feet of distance between others. With school closing, I have been working 40-hour weeks, which has actually helped with saving money for college next year.

Tell us about the final months of your high school experience at Xavier.

My family was super supportive throughout the whole experience. We celebrated every single moment just like they would've normally happened. Specifically, we got dressed up for prom and Baccalaureate. We also decorated the back yard for our virtual Mass, and facetimes family members so that we could all still celebrate together.

Has the pandemic in any way affected your relationship with your friends, siblings, or parents?

I wouldn't say that it's really affected any of the relationships I have with my friends, siblings or parents, but it is really hard not being able to see them as often. Luckily, my friends and I have been able to connect via Zoom pretty often and have gotten together for smores once or twice.

You've always been such a positive, kind, & uplifting classmate. Is there any advice you have to give to those struggling with the outcome of COVID-19?

I know for me the hardest part about this pandemic was the thought of all the things we were missing out on, and after shedding a few tears on the subject I took a step back and thought about all of the new and unique opportunities that have come out of this situation. I'm sure it's different for everyone, but some of the blessings I've found from this unfortunate experience was

the opportunity to actually eat dinners with my family ... something sports always got in the way of. I have added morning walks with my mom into my schedule. I've been able to work more now than I ever had which had allowed me to add to my college fund.

As a class, we had the opportunity to spend our graduation with our families in a more personal and intimate manner. We also got way more goodies than any class before us received, including the opportunity to keep our cords and being able to decorate our caps. I also think it very eye-opening to see how much our community loves us and how truly proud they are our class and our accomplishments.

What are your plans for next fall?

I will be attending Coe College in the fall and will be majoring in Early childhood education. The pandemic didn't really change my plans necessary because I hadn't made my decision on where I wanted to go yet. I did decide to stay closer to home instead of going out of state because I wasn't sure if we would be able to live on campus or not.

How has your time spent at Xavier helped prepared you for such an unexpected time, as well as your future?

Xavier has prepared me for my future through our course work and through the support of our great teachers and coaches who have taught me the importance of patience and hard work. I also feel I was prepared for this event through the love and lessons learned from our guidance counselors and campus ministry who taught me the importance of putting my trust in God.



Read more from our interview with Aubrey online at
XAVIERSAINTS.ORG/ALUMNI

WE REMEMBER...

IN MEMORY OF ALUMNI & FRIENDS

We continue to pray for the departed as well as their loved ones.

Thomas Eiben (R61)

1943-April 15, 2020

Richard Hendryx (R62)

June 18, 1944-March 21, 2020

Linda Nassif (R62)

December 28, 1943-April 27, 2020

Susan Carson Bach (L64)

June 11, 1946-March 30, 2020

Michael Rogers (R65)

February 16, 2020

Raymond Houser (L66)

August 30, 1948-February 8, 2020

Joseph W. Hronek (L67)

July 26, 1949 - June 3, 2020

Arthur Petrzela (L70)

October 23, 1952-March 22, 2020

James Joseph Bedell (R70)

June 4, 1952-May 17 2020

Randy Monserud (R71)

February 20, 1953-January 27, 2020

James "Jim" Merfeld (R73)

February 6, 1955-May 12, 2020

Robert Flanders (R74)

June 26, 1956-May 6, 2020

Michael Arthurs (R76)

October 21, 1957-April 8, 2020

Vicki Snarzyk (L77)

January 11, 2020-April 1, 2020

Cathi Chmelicek Havermann (R93)

May 29, 1975-March 5, 2020

Cullen Blasberg (X13)

May 11, 1995-February 24, 2020

The names of alumni and special friends who have recently entered eternal rest.

Their names are entered in to our Memorial Prayer Book at Xavier High School in the chapel.



We invite you to view our 2020 Legacy Wall featuring our graduates and their parents/grandparents who are part of our Catholic school legacy!

VIEW AT **XAVIERSAINTS.ORG/LEGACY**

RELIGIOUS:



Kyle Tietz (X11) was ordained to the Diaconate of the Archdiocese of Dubuque on May 20, 2020. Deacon Tietz then served as Deacon and offered a homily during Mass (which was live-streamed) at his home parish of St. Pius X in Cedar Rapids on Saturday, May 23.

WEDDINGS:

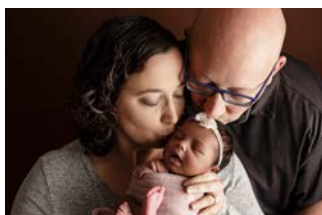


Patrick Fagan (X10) and **Allison Feltes (X11)** were united in marriage on April 25, 2020.



Matt Nelson (X14) and **Hayley Deutmeyer (X14)** were united in marriage on April 4, 2020.

ALUMNI NEW ARRIVALS:



Rebecca Pettit (X03) and her husband, **Brian Peloza**, welcomed their daughter, **Claire**, into the world on December 18, 2019.



Elizabeth (Hoffmann) (X10) and **Tyler Wright (X11)** welcomed their daughter, **Elin Elizabeth**, into the world on May 21, 2020.

XHS STAFF NEW ARRIVALS:



XHS teacher, **Stacy Mickelson** and her husband, **Zach**, welcomed their son, **Garrett James** into the world on March 6, 2020.



XHS activities director, **Adam McDonnell** and his wife, **Jill**, welcomed their daughter, **Isla Jo** into the world on April 16, 2020.

PROFESSIONAL UPDATES:



Ryan Jacobs (R94) is the head softball coach at the University of Northern Iowa who recently signed a four-year extension through 2024.

Rebecca Pettit (X03) was selected as a fellow to the American College of Clinical Pharmacy. Rebecca is working as a pediatric pulmonary clinical pharmacy specialist at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. She lives in Avon, IN, with her husband, Brian, daughter, Claire, and three dogs, Bailey, Bella and Kipp.

Kristin Freeman (X04) recently began her new position as Sales Operations Training and Development Leader at GreatAmerica Financial Services.

Maggie (Mills) Ireland (X04) was recently named to the Cedar Rapids Economic Alliance Leadership for Five Seasons' Adult Class of 2021.

Phil Behmer (X06) was recently named as a member of the "Best Product Agile Team" (IT Organization) at Palo Alto Networks.

Bryce Grimm (X14) was recently promoted to Core Room Manager/Warranty Manager at Sadler Power Train Truck Parts & Service.

Katie Neumeyer (X16) was recently promoted to Associate Financial Analyst - Atrial Fibrillation Solutions FP&A at Medtronic.

We would love to share your good news in our newsletter!

If you'd like to share about a great event or milestone in your life, email us at development@xavierfoundation.org OR complete the "Stay In Touch" form at XavierSaints.org/Alumni.



UPCOMING CLASS REUNIONS

LaSalle Class of 1970 - 50 Year Reunion August 29, 2020

Long Branch Best Western Hotel and Convention Center
Contact: LSHSCR1970@gmail.com
Website: www.lshscr1970.com
Facebook Group Page: La-La-LaSalle High Cohorts

Regis Class of 1970 - 50 Year Reunion POSTPONED UNTIL 2021

Xavier Class of 2020 - 20 Year Reunion POSTPONED

Return Service Requested

Parents: If this issue of the Common Thread is addressed to your son or daughter who has established a permanent residence, please notify us of that new address.

XAVIER FOUNDATION

Chris McCarville (R97)
President

Mary Harken
Director of
Advancement

Nick Ireland (X01)
Director of
Communications

Elizabeth Wright (X10)
Donor Relations &
Appeal Coordinator

Shari O'Rourke
Database Manager

Xavier Foundation Board 2019-2020

Officers

Most. Rev. Michael Jackels
David Schimberg (R91)
Mike Gannon
Barb Schmall
Ellen Bouchard
Rev. Philip Thompson

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Mary Harken
Tom Hoffmann
Joe Kirby
Chris McCarville (R97)
Jill Reicks
David Stoltenberg
Cynthia Sueppel

Board Emeritus

Michael Stallman
Gary Streit

Board Updates for 2020-2021

New Members



Josh Rank (L96)



PJ Cosgrove (R86)

The Xavier Foundation Board of Directors, staff and supporters are proud to welcome new board member Josh Rank (L96) and PJ Cosgrove (R86) who join the board effective July 1, 2020 for a three year term.



The board shares its heartfelt gratitude to outgoing board member, **Joe Kirby**, who relocated to Omaha, NE this summer.

Xavier High School Administration

Angela Olson
Principal
Gerry Miller
Associate Principal

Adam McDonnell
Activities Director
Fr. Dustin Vu
Campus Minister



ALUMNI BIKE RIDE GOES VIRTUAL

LaSalle, Regis, & Xavier alumni,
Join us for our virtual Alumni Bike Ride,
any day/time between
June 15th and 30th!

Upload a photo/screenshot of your ride to the event's Facebook page (find at Facebook.com/XavierSaints).

We'll be drawing winners of prizes from among those who participate.



Learn more about this event at
XAVIERSAINTS.ORG/ALUMNI
OR FIND THE EVENT ON FACEBOOK

Many Ways to Give!

As a reminder, there are many ways to support Xavier:

- Online: XavierFoundation.org/Give includes monthly/recurring gifts
- Check mailed to PO Box 10956, Cedar Rapids, IA, 52410
- Pledge/Commitment
- Gifts of Grain
- Employer Matching Gifts
- Gifts of Stock
- Gift Planning through Will or Estate
- Real Estate
- Life Insurance
- IRA Charitable Rollover

If you have any questions please contact Mary Harken at mharken@xavierfoundation.org or 319-378-4571 and always consult with your financial advisor on the best way to meet your goals.