



Press On to the Goal *Philippians 3:14*

# Alumni NEWS



**Spring 2018**

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 From the Principal
- 2 Calendar of Events
- 3 Service & Academics
- 4 Cover Story
- 6 Winter Sports Scoreboard
- 7 Reunion News
- 7 Alumni Updates
- 8 Corvette Raffle Kickoff

**St. Anthony Seniors  
Leaving a Legacy  
Beyond the Court** - Page 4



# From the Principal



Dear Alumni,

We are pleased to welcome Fr. Chuck Edwards to lead our St. Anthony parish and school! Many of you alumni may indeed remember Fr. Chuck during his time here between 1987-1989. He also served as priest and pastor for parishes in Quincy, Springfield and Highland, Illinois. Throughout his previous pastoral assignments, Fr. Chuck has also been a religion teacher, director of adult Christian formation and Catholic school programs.

One of the things that is most exciting to me about having Fr. Chuck as our new pastor and school superintendent is his ministry goal regarding discipleship. He has stated that one of his goals in ministry is to create a discipleship with the people of God so we will want nothing more than to truly be disciples of God. He goes on to say that discipleship is a way of life and is how God calls us to live our lives.

St. Anthony High School has dedicated significant resources toward faith education and faith development. Our recent school chaplains of Fr. Alford, Fr. Edgar and now Fr. Michal have done an amazing job connecting with our students and providing them with an excellent example of how to be disciples. Our religion instructors have also been tremendous in teaching and guiding our students.

I am so proud of our students, teachers, alumni and supporters. Our schools are attracting students because of your examples of discipleship. Thank you and God Bless You!

**“Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” -Matthew 5:16**

Sincerely in Christ,  
**Greg Fearday,**  
Principal

## Calendar of Events



**WYSE State Competition**



**NHS & Academic Awards** 6:30pm, MPR



**Prom**  
Keller Convention Center



**Athletic Awards**  
2:00pm, MPR



**Spring Band Concert**  
7:00pm, MPR



**Graduation**  
7:00pm, St. Anthony Church



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Send us your updates to: [Alumni@StAnthony.com](mailto:Alumni@StAnthony.com) or  
St. Anthony Development Office • PO Box 764 • Effingham, IL 62401

# Service In Action

## March for Life Trip to Washington, D.C.

This year, St. Anthony High School took a bus of 40 students, and 12 teachers, parents, and parishioners to Washington, D.C. to the annual March for Life. The trip included visits to national monuments, a mass with the Springfield Diocese, and a Pre-March Rally on the National Mall.

This was the first time ever that a current and active president addressed the crowd. President Trump delivered a speech empowering and supporting the pro-life movement. Trump said, "The March for Life is a movement born out of love. You love your families, you love your neighbors, you love our nation, and you love every child, born and unborn, because you believe that every life is sacred- that every child is a precious gift from God."

Other notable speakers at the rally were Mike Pence, Paul Ryan, and Pam Tebow (mother of Tim Tebow). After the rally, participants headed to Constitution Avenue to begin the March. This year's theme at the march was "LOVE SAVES LIVES". As the pro-life generation, we march and stand up to protect all life from conception to natural death.



*Pressing on to the Goal of service to the LORD by stretching our intellect, confirming our values, and living our faith.* - **Phillipians 3:14**

## Arts

### ILMEA All-State Performers

Makenna Grubb and McKenna Steineman were selected for the ILMEA All-State Festival on January 25-27 in Peoria, with Makenna singing in the choir and McKenna playing flute. Out of over 25,000 Illinois high school students who auditioned, only 600 advanced to State. Congratulations on an amazing accomplishment, ladies!



## Academic Excellence

### WYSE Wins 3rd Straight Sectional Championship

St. Anthony High School WYSE team won their third straight sectional championship at Eastern Illinois University on March 8th. The team advances to WYSE State Competition at the University of Illinois on April 18th. SAHS members include Aidan Bailey, Alex Beesley, Saidee Bushur, Olivia Clausius, Ian Cople, Katie Kabbes, Suhyun Moon, Jack Nuxoll, Ethan Rozene, Maryann Saba, Carly Spraul, McKenna Steineman, Bryson Wall, Ava Wegman, John Hartke, and Sophie Moore (not pictured).





# Cover Story

# Leaving a Legacy Beyond the Court.

by Steve Raymond,  
Effingham Teutopolis News Report

## A special group of St. Anthony seniors leaving a legacy of friendship

It was March 2014. The St. Anthony Bulldogs had just lost to Dieterich in the finals of the sectionals. Cade Walsh was an eighth grader, but already confident in what he and his teammates could accomplish during their high school careers.

“We were in English class,” Cade recalled. “I said we wouldn’t lose that game and that we’d make it to the state tournament.”

“The teacher thought he was crazy,” added classmate Alex Beesley. But young Walsh was so confident he signed a contract, more or less assuring a state tournament appearance.

Was that confidence or prophecy? Maybe both. Ever since that day, that framed contract has been hanging in his bedroom.

“Even back then, I knew this was something we all wanted to do,” Walsh admitted. “We all had a chemistry, which along with the love we all shared for the game, made me confident that would happen.”

“We” – at that time – also included Beesley, along with Jack Nuxoll, Alex Deters and Wyatt Lawrence. As freshmen, that group took in Effingham High transfer Adam Levitt, and then two years later, Brandon Runge joined as a transfer from Altamont. This group of seven young men (all seniors at St. Anthony High School) has experienced winning basketball at every level. They went to the state tournament as seventh and eighth graders and continued their winning ways in high school.

A year ago, they walked off the Carver Arena Court in Peoria as Class 1A state basketball champions. And this year, they compiled a 27-5 record highlighted by an NTC Tournament Championship, a Regional Championship...

and of course, a regular season victory over neighboring rival Teutopolis.

Yes, this special group has won a lot of games. But along the way, they have developed a bond that few others can relate to. Theirs is a true friendship that will last a lifetime.

“I can’t imagine playing on a team where you’re not best friends with the other people on the team,” said Jack Nuxoll, regarded as the quietest of the bunch.

“It takes a certain kind of friendship to hold each other accountable,” added Walsh, described as the most vocal.

“There’s not a guy here I don’t trust,” Beesley noted.

“At the state tournament, we kept getting asked about our friendship,” Deters explained. “It was like it was weird for us to be such good friends. That blew my mind.” Just like the Bulldogs blew a lot of minds that weekend.

Before the opening tip of last year’s Final Four, Effingham’s small parochial school was considered by most as the fourth best team in Peoria. However, they opened with a 43-34 upset victory over Chicago Hope, the tournament favorite, and then followed with a 49-46 overtime thriller against Okawville that gave the school its first 30-win season and first state championship for boys basketball.

“There is really nothing like being in the locker room after a big win, but this was a whole new level,” Nuxoll said.

“Not only are these guys teammates to me, but they are also like my brothers,” Levitt added. “Celebrating state with them was something I’ll never forget and I wouldn’t want to do it with a better group of guys.”

“It was one of the greatest experiences in my entire life,” Lawrence noted. “We were able to achieve something we’d all worked so hard for.”

“To this day, I still can’t put into words what it was like to win state,” Deters explained. “It was just a moment that you had been dreaming of your whole life. Being able to accomplish that with my life-long friends is just so much more.”

“It was the best,” Beesley commented. “I wouldn’t have wanted to do it with any other group of guys. We all knew how much each of us had worked to make it possible to achieve that goal.”

“The fact that we are all close friends made the celebration even sweeter,” Runge said.

“Up to this point, it is easily the most rewarding and fulfilling moment of my life,” Walsh added. “It had been our dream as long as I can remember, and for it to finally happen with my best friends after years and years of hard work was a great moment.”

Most of the seven started playing varsity as sophomores, but by their junior year, four were in the starting lineup alongside the lone senior, Drew Gibson. Runge missed much of the season due to an ankle injury, but returned in time to help the team in the postseason.

This Bulldogs group is 57-9 in their two main varsity seasons. They notched their 55th win on February 13 when they beat the Altamont Indians 83-60 on Senior Night. It was an emotional evening for this group of seniors that played their final game at The Enlow Center, a home court where they lost just three times in two years. There were plenty of memories and some tears shed as they suited up for that final home contest. They talked about just “taking it all in” during warmups and the pre-game ceremony that honored the seniors. Before leaving the gym that night, both Walsh and Deters walked to center court and kissed the floor.

As reigning state champs, the Bulldogs had a bullseye on them from the beginning of the season. They knew every team would be pumped, looking for the opportunity to knock them off. They knew they would get everybody’s best effort. And if last year’s postseason wasn’t challenging enough, being bumped to Class 2A this year put yet another challenge in front of them. But to a player, each one truly believed they had a legitimate chance at making another postseason run. Eventually, that run

“ *This is so much more than a basketball team. It’s a family. I love these guys.* - Jack Nuxoll ”

did come to an end with a Sectional loss to 2017 Class 2A state runner-up Mt. Carmel.

Next up, they will be staring at high school graduation -- one of those milestones in life that offers new opportunities for the future, but requires a big change from the past. Each of the seven said even graduation will never change their friendship.

“It’s going to be hard” says Jack Nuxoll. “I can assure you tears will be shed. We will leave and go separate ways, but we will never break apart from each other. The bond that we have formed is unbreakable.”

This group of Bulldogs will be remembered for a long time. As state champions, this team will be legendary at St. Anthony. But they won’t just be remembered as stars, they’ll be remembered as friends.

Nuxoll summed it up very well. “This is so much more than a basketball team. It’s a family. I love these guys.”



Article and cover photo courtesy of Effingham Teutopolis News Report. Article has been edited for length.

Complete story, including additional content and player quotes can be found on the News Report website using the following address: [bit.ly/BulldogSeniors](https://bit.ly/BulldogSeniors)



# Winter Sports Scoreboard



## Boys Basketball

The 2017-18 St. Anthony Bulldogs boys basketball season started with much anticipation and excitement as the defending 1A state champions.

The Bulldogs earned a 6 point victory against Effingham, then went on to beat Robinson 50-31 for their first Turkey Tourney Championship since 2008. They won the Vandalia Holiday Tournament, defeating every team by at least 10 points.

In February, the Bulldogs cracked the Top 10 in 2A, earning a rank of 7th in the state while rattling off **18 straight wins**, including key victories over Breese Mater Dei, rival T-Town, and a second consecutive NTC Championship over Dieterich.

Last year's State Title forced the Bulldogs to play up at the 2A level in postseason for the first time in 4 years. They defeated Shelbyville in a hard-fought Regional Championship in Vandalia. This marked the schools first 2A regional win since 2009, making 4 out of 5 regional titles and their 3rd regional championship in a row. The team eventually lost to Mt. Carmel, the defending 2A state runner up from a year ago.

Finishing the year at 27-4, this group capped off a memorable 57-9 two year run, highlighted by that 2017 State Title.

Good luck to our special group of seniors: Alex Beesley, Alex Deters, Wyatt Lawrence, Adam Levitt, Jack Nuxoll, Brandon Runge, and Cade Walsh.



## Girls Basketball

The 2017-18 Lady Bulldogs, coached by Bart Wiedman, finished with a record of 13-17. They also finished 6-2 for a 2nd place NTC finish.

In two of their tournaments, they finished as the consolation champion at the Robinson Thanksgiving Tournament and 2nd in the NTC Tourney. They lost to Teutopolis in the semi-final of the 2A regional.

Congratulations and good luck to three seniors Maryann Saba, Keri McGuire, and Olivia Clausius. Olivia was selected to the Robinson Thanksgiving All Tournament Team and was 2nd Team All Conference.

Other individual accomplishments: junior Clare McHugh was selected to the Mattoon Holiday All-Tournament Team, NTC All Tournament Team, and 1st Team All-Conference. Junior Meg Richards made the NTC All-Tournament Team and was selected to the Honorable Mention All Conference Team.



## Bowling

Coached by Phil Zaccari, St. Anthony senior

bowlers, Derek Kruger & John Hartke competed at the Troy Triad Regional in January. The guys competed very well but fell short of advancing to sectional play.



## Belletes

The Bellette Dance Team, coached by Lynn Buenker,

finished one of their most successful seasons yet.

The team competed throughout the month of January, attending an IDTA Regional at Charleston HS and an IHSA Regional at Civic Memorial HS in Bethalto, IL. Their jazz routine finished 1st in Charleston and 4th in Bethalto. AJ Zaccari earned an individual "Rising Star" award for his standout performance in Charleston.

The Bellettes finished 6th at the IHSA Sectional Competition in Mascoutah, advancing them to the state competition in Bloomington.

The top 30 teams around the state competed in the IHSA 1A preliminaries Friday, January 26. The Bellettes advanced as a Top 12 finalist, ultimately finishing 11th. The dance team also had many exceptional home game performances.

Members of this year's team are seniors Jaden Bracey, Meg Deters, and Avery Elder; juniors Allie Dasenbrock, Kaitlyn Dust, Sophie Moore, and AJ Zaccari; sophomores Bryonna Meskiman and Catherine Willenborg, and freshmen Peyton Ellis, Megan Koenig, Macy Ludwig, Morgan Schuette, and Reagan Westendorf. Congratulations on a job well done, Bellettes!



## Cheerleading

St. Anthony competitive cheer team participated in three competitions

this season. A very young team, with more than half being sophomores, made tremendous improvement throughout the season and ended their competitive season hitting a personal best routine at sectionals! The team placed 3rd in the Vandalia Holiday Tournament.

The competitive squad consists of senior Kendall Fonner, junior Carly Spraul, sophomores Sophie Deters, Allison Niebrugge, Abby Cothran, and Audrey Niebrugge, and freshman Olivia Spraul. Alternates: sophomores Sophia Poston and Makenna Grubb. Injured Cheerleaders: senior Saidee Bushur, sophomore Avery Rogers, and freshman Trista Sears. The squad is coached by Cayla Myers and Taylor Hecht.



## Swimming

Gavin Braunecker and Derek Kruger swam at the IHSA Sectional on Feb. 17 in Urbana. Derek swam the 50m and 100m freestyle, achieving his personal best times in both races. Gavin swam the 200m and the 100m backstroke finishing 2nd and 1st in his races respectively, with personal best times in both. Gavin qualified for the IHSA State Meet in 100m backstroke. Good luck to senior Derek Kruger.

# Alumni Updates



## New Arrivals

**Paul** and **Jennifer (Hecht) Spilker ('01)** are the proud parents of a baby girl, Caroline Elizabeth Spilker, born March 20, 2017. Siblings are Madeline, Andrew, and David.

**Brian** and **Lynn (Vogel) Buenker ('02)** are the proud parents of a baby girl, Vivian Marie Buenker, born September 21, 2017. Vivian joins big brother, Henry, age 1.

## In Memoriam

**Jeaneane (McWhorter) Jenne ('95)** passed away Dec. 19, 2017

**Carol "Cookie" (Springer) Wolters ('65)** passed away Dec. 27, 2017

**Tim Flach ('57)** passed away January 15, 2018

**Sandra (Feuerborn) Fruchtl ('52)** passed away January 26, 2018

**Gerald Seiler ('56)** passed away February 2, 2018

**Oka Mae Dasenbrock** passed away February 19, 2018 at the age of 87. Oka Mae "Okie" was the office secretary at St. Anthony High School for 31 years, from 1971 to 2002.

## Reunion News

**The SAHS Class of 1957** celebrated their 60 year reunion recently at the home of Jane (Koester) Kabbes, enjoying a casual night out on the lake front home.

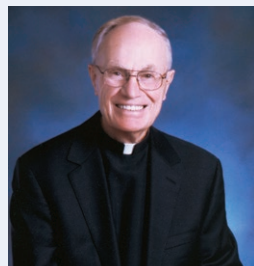
Pictured are first row: Rich Beatty, Marcella (Willenborg) Schutzbach, Phyllis (Sur) Utz, Rosemary (Lohman) Bushur, Betty (Bushue) Brown, Cathy (Spence) Bliss, Carolyn (Osthoff) Bowlin, Marilyn (Habing) Noonan, and Daniel Hauk. Second row: Bob Mhlbachler, Connie (Goekner) Broom, Joyce (Nacke) Kabbes, John Althoff, Jane (Koester) Kabbes, Frank Hoelscher, Ken Will, Jerry Schutzbach, Dot (Sur) Kochan, Judy (Kinkelaar) Goekner, Richard Stephan, Bernard Nieman, and Michael Sehy.

# Spring Gala

St. Anthony will hold their **4th Annual Spring Gala** on **Saturday April 7th**, at the Keller Convention Center in Effingham. The social event and dinner celebrates the strong tradition and support of St. Anthony Parish and Schools. The highlight of the night will be the 2017 Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony, including the presentation of the 2017 Booster Club Member of the Year. Join us for great food and fellowship. For more information visit our website at: [StAnthony.com/HallofFame](http://StAnthony.com/HallofFame)



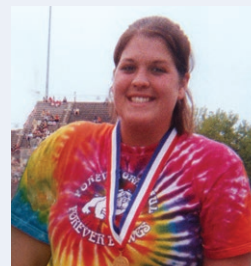
**2017 Hall of Fame Inductees**



**Alumni**  
Fr. Ben Meyer



**Friends**  
Dan Sr. and Gerry Hecht Family



**Athlete**  
Dr. Danielle Grunloh-Gumpenberger



**Booster Club Member of the Year**  
Mike and Shelly Martelli



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