His Heart for Heelan Will Touch the Future

Father John McGuirk, a 1962 Heelan grad, had a zest for life, a love of the priesthood and a warm place in his heart for his alma mater. A beloved priest in the Sioux City Diocese, he died Feb. 3, 2021 at the age of 76.

Before serving as a pastor, Father John was a high school teacher, counselor and elementary principal. He loved his 50 years as a priest and never forgot the impact of his Catholic education in Sioux City.

He left Bishop Heelan $1.1 million in his estate! We are eternally grateful to Father John and ALL donors who leave gifts of every size to Bishop Heelan to support our faith-based mission of education.

You can touch the future and support Bishop Heelan in these ways:

1. Simple Bequests
2. Life Insurance
3. Stock and Appreciated Assets
4. Beneficiary designation of bank accounts, brokerage accounts, certificates of deposit
5. Personal Property
6. Retirement Plans
7. Charitable Gift Annuities
8. Charitable Remainder Trusts

Contact Tom Betz about ways to leave a gift and join the Bishop Edmond Heelan Legacy Society
Ph. 712-251-1674 or tom.betz@bishopheelan.org.

New Giving Society Honors Clergy Leaders

Fr. Victor Ramaeker, a beloved and former long-time principal is credited for starting Heelan’s alumni data base, the Heelan Ball and the Crusader Connection alumni publication.

When he passed away last April, he joined other priests who were pivotal in the history of Bishop Heelan High School. The new Bishop Edmond Heelan Founders Society enables alumni to honor Fr. Raemaker and other Heelan clergy who led Bishop Heelan High School from 1949 to 2012 promoting faith, values and discipline along with academics.

You can join the Bishop Edmond Heelan Founders Society with a gift of $1,949 or greater. Give using the enclosed envelope or online at bishopheelan.org/annualfund.

Clergy Leaders in Heelan History

2. Fr. Lawrence Bauer 1959-1964
3. Fr. Armand Elbert 1964-1978
5. Fr. Paul Eisele 1990-1992
7. Fr. Al McCoy 1997-2003

Bishop Edmond Heelan Founders Society Dinner
All members are invited to this special event
Wednesday, March 9 at 5-7 p.m.
Bishop Heelan High School
The Crusader Connection is published once a year for alumni and friends of Bishop Heelan High School, part of the city-wide Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools PK-12 system.

Our Mission
The Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools relate the total student to God through an excellent education leading toward a lifetime of service.

Editor
Janet Flanagan ’71
Director of Special Gifts and Communications

Graduate Section Editor
Janet Flanagan ’71

Contributors
Patrick Detches ’59

Photo Credits
Janet Flanagan
Heelan Yearbooks
Heelan Staff, Friends and Alumni
Patrick Detches ’59

Design
Kari Nelson

School Leadership
Heelan System President
Dr. John Flanery

Heelan High School Principal
Chris Bork

Holy Cross School Principal
Wendy Roder

Mater Dei School Principal
Mary Fischer

Sacred Heart School and Dual Language Academy Principal
Kate Connealy

BHCS School Board Chair
Nick Hegarty ’96

Contact Us
Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools
50 13th Street, Sioux City, IA 51103
712-252-1350
www.bishopheelan.org
Follow us on Facebook and Instagram

On the cover
These senior girls using the Crusader Courtyard for lunch in September are from left Julia Snapp, Ireland Uhl, Mariah Augustine, Ryelle Stanek, Ava Higman and Anna Fenton.

4 Campus Gets Crusader Courtyard
6 2021 Grads and Alumni Parents
11 Award Winners at the Heelan Auction
14 Girls Basketball Starts in 1972
15 Dancing with Trophy
18 What’s Going on with fellow Grads

Get on the email list to enjoy news highlights each month in our Heelan Highline Enewsletters.
Email Tammy.eveleth@bishopheelan.org
He’s 2021 Rotary Student of the Year

Heelan senior Bereket Ware was voted as Rotary Club Student of the Year last May, selected from a pool of nine top students of the month from Sioux City high schools.

A native of Ethiopia, Bereket came to the U.S. at age 9 knowing no English. At Heelan he was student body president, Spanish Club president, a Miracle Makers and Environment Club member, Academic Tutor, on the Gold Honor Roll and a member of National Honor Society. He handled recycling duties at Heelan for four years.

Bereket now attends the University of Iowa.

Veteran Inspires at Heelan Assembly

Of the many memorable school assemblies at Heelan every year, one in September with Melissa Stockwell truly stands out as inspirational.

Now a paralympic triathlete she talked to students about how she lost her leg in the Iraq War in 2004 and found a brighter future as a Paralympic medal winner, business owner, speaker and author. Her visit was made possible by the Siouxland Chamber of Commerce.

Boosting Technology for Learning

United Way’s Siouxland Recovery Fund helped support BHCS students quarantined at home last year with a grant to fund chromebooks and hot spot devices to ensure home internet access.

Every Sioux City Catholic school received new chromebooks and 75-inch Samsung flip interactive TVs funded by government monies targeted to help students experiencing learning challenges caused by the pandemic. All BHCS K-8 students are now 1:1 with technology.

New Accountants Join System

Jeanette Frey is the new director of finance overseeing the school system’s accounting functions, payroll, monthly financials and more.

Frey formerly worked in accounting at Wells Enterprises, Morningside University and was an accountant for Henjes, Conner & Williams.

Frey received her accounting degree from Morningside and an MBA from Wayne State College.

Melody O’Connor has joined BHCS as an accountant. She previously served as a financial analyst and corporate auditor for Union Pacific Railroad and an administrative assistant at Mater Dei School. She has a BS degree in business from the University of Nebraska.

New Annual Giving Director

Patty Considine-McClintock is the new director of annual giving to lead the Spirit of Heelan Annual Fund, the Heelan Auction, Gold Club and other fundraising.

She joins the advancement staff of Tom Betz ’85; Janet Flanagan ’71, (now part-time) and Tammy Eveleth ’87.

Considine-McClintock has served in the U.S. Air Force and at the 185th Fighter Wing. She has also been a buyer and trainer of Gateway 2000, fitness studio owner and physical therapist assistant and clinic liaison for Physical Therapy Specialists.

A leader with Missouri River Runners, she has completed Iron Man Triathlons, a 50 Mile Trail Run, Adventure Races, marathons and more. Considine-McClintock has a business degree from Morningside University and personal training and physical therapist assistant degrees from Western Iowa Tech Community College.

An annual Heelan scholarship has been awarded for many years honoring her late husband, Tom Considine ’66, Commander of the Iowa Air National Guard 185th Fighter Wing, Col.

Now married to Bob McClintock ’85 with a son at Holy Cross School, Patty is also the mother of Mike Considine ’10, an F-16 fighter pilot, Kelly ’98, a pharmacist and the late Kristen ’01.

Students Helping Students

Juniors and Seniors in Heelan’s new PRIDE Peers program are now reaching out to freshmen to provide info and social and emotional support.

There is a renewed focus on mental health with the continuing pandemic, according to Allie Mousel, school counselor. Peer support and team building are important for all students, she adds.

“Freshmen benefit because they interact with trusted role models,” she says. “Juniors and seniors benefit because their experiences can establish and fine-tune leadership skills. Both will learn more about social emotional skills and resources that support high school students.”
Heelan Names Co-Athletic Directors

Andy Foster and Jay Wright are now co-athletic directors working closely with Alicia Porsch ’06, activities assistant. They oversee coaches, schedule all high school athletic contests for 19 boys and girls sports, line up team transportation, work on Gold Club support and more.

Foster, formerly assistant athletic director for 14 years, is a health and PE instructor and head coach of boys basketball.

Wright, a former Heelan dean of students and social studies teacher, most recently served as Iowa regional coordinator for TeamMates Mentoring. He was an assistant boys basketball coach for many years and girls varsity basketball coach last year. Former state championship coach Darron Koolstra has returned to coach girls basketball.

Campus Minister to Help Strengthen Faith Activities

Lexi Ricke ’17 has joined BHCS in the new position of campus minister to assist Heelan Chaplain Fr. Shane Deman with activities at Heelan and in the middle schools.

She is working with Fr. Shane and theology teachers in organizing Bible studies, prayer and ministry activities, liturgies, class retreats, service opportunities and faith conferences.

A 2017 Heelan grad, she earned a degree in theology from Benedictine College in Atchison, Kan.

An active student leader and athlete at Heelan, Ricke graduated sixth in her class and was selected as Sioux City Student of the month.

Two Heelan Seniors Earn National Merit Honors

Seniors Joseph Meyer and Jakob Wiest, the top academic students in their class, are National Merit Semifinalists and now up for finalist designation later this year.

Both have been students of the month in math and science and active in student council and Mayor’s Youth Commission.

Meyer has traveled to Africa on STEMM mission trips and runs his own baking business Jojo Bakes.

Wiest performs in band, show choir and Heelan musicals, runs on the cross country team and has worked part-time at a coffee shop.

Heelan has recorded 13 National Merit students in the last 10 years.

Augustine Receives Bishop’s Dinner Award

Long-time Bishop Heelan English Teacher Mary Kay Augustine received an Excellence in Education Award at the August 21 Bishop’s Dinner for Catholic Schools.

The ’71 Heelan grad is in her 41st year of teaching at Heelan.

“Having known Ms. Augustine since my days as a student, I can attest that she is committed to Catholic education,” said Heelan Chaplain Fr. Shane Deman ’99 in his letter of nomination. “I can also say that she sets high standards for her students, wanting them to perform at a high level of reading, writing and critical thinking.”

Augustine “has adapted to a variety of changes in education,” said Heelan Principal Chris Bork. “She does an excellent job of recognizing the ability of our students and coaching them to meet their potential, while holding them to a high standard of achievement.”

Carla Johnson, a fellow faculty member says Augustine has mentored many teachers in the Heelan English Department.

For Augustine, her faith has made a difference.

“Having great academics is important to any school, however we are able to offer so much,” says Augustine.

“I cannot imagine teaching in a place where I am not allowed to mention God, having faith, offering a prayer before class, or simply discussing literature from a more spiritual foundation. This is what we offer our students daily. In the world we live today, these things are more important than ever.

“Many people ask me how I have taught for so many years and why am I still doing it,” she adds. “The answer is simple -- the young people I have had the pleasure of meeting and interacting with every day. The energy and enthusiasm they bring daily is unmatched.”
Campus Gets Crusader Courtyard Addition

Students and Heelan friends are enjoying the new Crusader Courtyard – another campus enhancement recently added to new Heelan and never available before in the old high school.

After it was officially blessed by Bishop R. Walker Nickless of the Diocese of Sioux City, Siouxland Chamber of Commerce ambassadors cut the ribbon.

Students are using the new outdoor learning and community space for classes, lunches, study hall, hanging out and special events.

It is strengthening Heelan student experiences as well as covid safety measures.

The courtyard, just left of Bishop Heelan’s front doors, was developed from unusable sloping space next to the new O’Gorman Fieldhouse.

Larry Walsh, 1951 Heelan grad and grandfather of BHCS students, saw the possibility for the courtyard after supporting placement of the Blessed Virgin Mary statue from old Heelan next to the fieldhouse doors.

When the pandemic hit it reinforced Heelan’s need for a safe outdoor space for students, according to Dr. John Flanery, BHCS president.

Walsh and Flanery recruited supporters to create a design and install foundation fill, retaining walls, terraced concrete, hand railings and landscaping.

Volunteer project manager Terry Hegarty worked with Ryan Callaghan ’90, LiteForm, RP Constructors, Haugen Incorporated, Masaba and Bacon Creek Construction and Design. It has been fully funded by a grant and donors. (See page 20.)

Honor a Loved One or your Heelan Class

Sponsor a Table for Our Crusader Courtyard

You or your Heelan class can sponsor an outdoor table.

The name you choose will be engraved on a plaque on the Sponsor Table.

Yes I would like to sponsor a Table for ____ $5,000

___ Enclosed is my check made payable to Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools

___ Bill me for my sponsorship

___ Please charge my credit card

Name/Company/Class Name: ________________________________________________________________

Today’s date: __________________________

My Name: ____________________________________________________________

Address: ___________________________________________________________________________

City: __________________________ State: ____ Zip: ________

Phone: _____________________________________________________________________________

Email: _____________________________________________________________________________

Credit Card Number: ___________________________ 3 digit verification code: ____ ____ ____

Expiration: __________________________

Chosen Name for Bronze Plate __________________________________________________________

By sponsoring a table, bench or other features you are supporting our PRIDE Plus One to assist with our school bond retirement.

Jebro story.) Donors and Siouxland BIG GIVE gifts are funding tables and benches. See below.

“We are incredibly grateful for our donor and community support,” says Flanery.

Heelan Unveils Friendship Terrace

Heelan also has named the outdoor table area next to the high school doors “Friendship Terrace” and dedicated it to Patty (Betz) Thompson, a 1982 Heelan grad who died in 2013. (See more on page 20.)

Jebro, Knife River Support Courtyard

A $50,000 grant was awarded to Heelan in August from Montana-Dakota Utilities Foundation and Sioux City’s Knife River Construction and Jebro Incorporate to help fund the new Crusader Courtyard.

“We are proud to support this project,” says Rod Birdsell, Jebro HR manager. “One of our core values is our commitment to our community and this project is a perfect representation.”

TABLE and BENCH Inscriptions to Date

In Memory of

Bob & Jackie Lawler
Greg Vondrak ’83
Barbara Krage Nicknish
Greg ’83 & Steve ‘81 Vondrak
Al & Freda Coury
Marilyn Krage Higgins ’53
Alois & Carol Tschampl
Bud & Betty Fortin
Karl Rasmussen ’92
Arlene Berger
Gary & Mary (Donohue)
Greg Vondrak ’92
Bob & Bobbi Rehal
In Memory of

In Memory of

In Memory of

In Memory of

Sponsored by

Bob & Bobbi Rehal
Gary & Mary (Donohue)
Uhl ’68
Class of 1995
Class of 1956
Class of 1970
Class of 1971
In gratitude – Liteform
McGrath Family
Sharon & Larry Walsh ’51
George & Vickie Tsiobanos

Planters and Receptacles

In Memory of

Karen (Boes) Oman ’71
Tom Hicklin ’85

Crusader Courtyard

Bishop Walker Nickless blesses the Courtyard.
Students PRIDE in Action

Heelan students around Kindness Sign.

“9 to 5 The Musical” was presented in November starring Mara Aesoph, Asia Keane, Lydia Greene and Jakob Wiest.

Heelan’s 2021 Homecoming court from left are Luke Payer, Joslyn Verzal, Ian Gill, Audrey Johnson, King Levi Meis, Queen Ellie Betz, Korn Khunanopparat, Anna Erickson, Cesar Hernandez and Ellen Halbur.

Bishop Walker Nickless with Heelan servers.

“9 to 5 The Musical” was presented in November starring Mara Aesoph, Asia Keane, Lydia Greene and Jakob Wiest.

Mitchell Joines Wrestling at 2021 State Tournament.

Volleyball players ticket punched for state. They fell to Western Dubuque, the state champion.

Heelan’s 2021 Homecoming court from left are Luke Payer, Joslyn Verzal, Ian Gill, Audrey Johnson, King Levi Meis, Queen Ellie Betz, Korn Khunanopparat, Anna Erickson, Cesar Hernandez and Ellen Halbur.

Volleyball players ticket punched for state. They fell to Western Dubuque, the state champion.

Students served non-profits and city sites again during Homecoming Service Day in September.

Students served non-profits and city sites again during Homecoming Service Day in September.

Cheerleaders and fans 2021.

Cross Country runners Delaney Saulsbury and Brooklyn Stanley ran at State with Coach Todd Roerig.

Heelan students around Kindness Sign.

2021 All State vocal music students.

Miracle Maker students are raising funds again this year for Make a Wish Iowa.

Heelan students around Kindness Sign.

Students served non-profits and city sites again during Homecoming Service Day in September.

Miracle Maker students are raising funds again this year for Make a Wish Iowa.

Cross Country runners Delaney Saulsbury and Brooklyn Stanley ran at State with Coach Todd Roerig.
Alumni Yearbook Photo Feature
Class of 2021

These pages are dedicated to our graduates with parents, grandparents and great grandparents who are alumni of Heelan, Trinity and Cathedral High Schools. We pray for their success and God’s blessings in the years ahead.

Highlights of 2021 Graduating Class

- 94 graduates in Class of 2021
- Co-valedictorians: Mary Catherine Fitzsimmons and Avery Nelson
- 95% planned college, 82% to four-year institutions
- $14.3 million in academic scholarships
- $1.1 million in athletic scholarships
- 80% participated in college credit courses
- 80% were offered college scholarships
- 59% graduated with honors
- 56% earned silver cord community service hours
- 39% have Heelan grad parents or grandparents
Class of 2020 Additions

William Barkley '61  Beth (Barkley) Venne '90  Max Venne '20  Anthony Kathol '20  Brenda (Combs) Kathol '83

Charles Happe '67  Carol (Gerch) Happe '66  Kristin (Happe) Malenosky '91  Alycen Malenosky '20  Larry Miller '64  Carol (Murray) Miller '64  Brady Miller '20

Spencer Pick '20  Danny Pick '91  Mike Sokolowski '71  Joni (Shay) Sokolowski '71  Aaron Sokolowski '99  Hope Sokolowski '20

Class of 2021

Our college-bound Class of 2021 with their chosen colleges.
Heelan Auction Enjoys Tailgate Success

Over 400 guests scored a fun and casual evening in Heelan’s O’Gorman Fieldhouse and raised over $345,000 to support our Catholic schools at the Heelan Auction “Tailgate for Heelan” June 9.

Guests wore their favorite team’s colors and shirts, and enjoyed dinner served from tailgate tents honoring Iowa, Iowa State, Nebraska and Heelan.

An army of volunteers, including Heelan sports teams helped set up and tear down, providing invaluable support to make the event happen in the fieldhouse -- another first for our new high school and Heelan Auction.

The evening included mobile bidding, a Live Auction, a raffle and PRIDE Blitz that enables out of town alumni to show support. The Fund-A-Cause raised funds for the weight room. (See Sidebar)

The Heelan Auction is the only annual fundraising event that supports Heelan and PK-8 schools.

Save the Date: Heelan Auction Saturday, April 2, 2022

Award Winners at 2021 Heelan Auction

He’s “Crusader of the Year”

Larry Walsh, a 1951 Heelan grad received the honor of “Crusader of the Year” at the Heelan Auction.

Walsh is devoted to the sanctity of life, the Blessed Virgin Mary and to giving back to Catholic causes.

He has been a long-time member of Heelan’s Legacy Society and was chief cheerleader of the Holy Spirit Retirement Home caregiving staff when his late wife, Sharon, received care there.

At Heelan, the ’51 grad donated a Lady of Guadalupe statue for Heelan’s Duffy Hall Commons, helped create an outdoor shrine for the Blessed Virgin Mary, and led the charge to develop the Crusader Courtyard next to Heelan’s fieldhouse.

He has been active and generous with Blessed Sacrament, now Holy Cross Parish, Trinity Heights, Holy Spirit, KFHC Radio and many other Catholic entities.

Walsh grew up in Cathedral Parish, attended Trinity and then Heelan and went on to found Sioux Preme Packing Co, a pork processing company.

“Larry has made a difference in the Catholic community and to our Bishop Heelan students,” says BHCS President Dr. John Flanery.

They are “Volunteers of the Year”

Sid and Linda (Lagan) Shoemaker were presented with the Distinguished Volunteer of the Year Award for 2021 for their work as volunteers at Heelan football games and champions for our Catholic schools.

Sid has led a team of volunteers to serve hot chocolate and coffee at Memorial Field for the past 11 years, long after their children Jessica, Dylan and Chase graduated from Heelan. Sid also has served on the Bishop Heelan school board.

As a CPA, Linda ’81 has educated clients on the Monsignor Lafferty Tuition Foundation, enabling hundreds of students to attend our Catholic schools. She has served on the BHCS tuition appeals committee to address hardship requests from families in our system. One or both have been active in Catholic radio, their parish, Knights of Columbus and more.

“Sid and Linda have both lived the Bishop Heelan mission of serving others,” says BHCS President Dr. John Flanery.
WE ARE HEELAN!

As we continue to enjoy our 2021-22 school year at Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools, we thank all of our Crusaders from the past for leaving us a legacy to build on. We are especially grateful for all of our alumni, parents and friends who have supported us in our 2020-21 Fiscal Year. (You can see the record of their gifts on the next page.)

WE ARE HEELAN because of great alums, parents, students, faculty and friends. Your commitment to our schools demonstrates the Lifetime Advantage we provide for our students that is felt in the classroom, in competition and in our faith formation.

Our schools were in class every single day during the 2020-2021 year with in-person learning. Our families knew the difference our schools were making by continuing the education each day safely inside our buildings. I could not be more proud of the efforts our faculty and families put forth to keep our students learning, developing and forming their faith.

While the old high school from our inception in 1949 is no longer a part of our landscape here in Sioux City, our new building is flourishing every day with great kids and faculty.

I continue to meet more and more of you that hold a special place in your heart for the Heelan experience. The connections you made here, the people that impacted your trajectory and the understanding for the greater good for community are living out daily in your life because of your formation at Heelan. That common bond is shared by thousands of Crusaders and will propel our school system for generations to come.

Thank you and God bless you today and always.

Dr. John Flanery
President,
Bishop Heelan Catholic Schools
2020 Annual Giving Report

Total Support for 2020-21: $2.57 Million

PK-8 News Highlights
- Every school stayed open all year with students in facemasks.
- Students at home continued to learn through Google classroom when they were confined because of Covid in the home.
- The Dual Language Academy expands and moves to the Epiphany Center across from Cathedral.
- Additional chromebooks and hotspots supported student education at every school.
- Holy Cross School presented “Little Mermaid” last May. The musical is based on the Disney movie co-directed by Ron Clements, Heelan ’71 grad.

Heelan High Highlights
- Students attended Mass every Tuesday in the O’Gorman Fieldhouse rather than attending mass in Cathedral to better socially distance.
- Heelan High presented the musical “Cinderella.”
- A Heelan senior scored a perfect 35 on his ACT.
- Pat Sitzman marked 50 years of teaching in Catholic schools.
- Heelan’s Weight Room received new stations, benches, weights and more.
- Memorial Field’s Grandstand became the “Brendan Burchard Grandstand” with a naming gift from Denny Walker ’63.
- Heelan landscaping honored the late Miss Mary Castle, long-time journalism teacher.
- The Heelan Auction “Tailgate for Heelan” raised $345,000 with a first-time event in new Heelan fieldhouse.
- The show choir invitational was restructured as a clinic where students were masked, but still able to perform.
- Our Crusader Courtyard was created to provide outdoor learning, lunch and social space.

2020 ACT Achievement Data

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Testing Area</th>
<th>Heelan</th>
<th>Iowa</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>20.1</td>
<td>19.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>20.5</td>
<td>20.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>24.3</td>
<td>22.0</td>
<td>21.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>23.5</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Composite</td>
<td>23.9</td>
<td>21.1</td>
<td>20.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Over 90% of Heelan students take the ACT representing all levels of academic strength

95% Of grads are attending College

Higher Test Scores = A Brighter Future

PRIDE Campaign Gifts for New Heelan $1,269,120

$1.27 Million PRIDE Campaign Gifts

$1.3 Million Restricted and Unrestricted Gifts

Restricted Gifts $497,563

Unrestricted Operations Support $811,149

Auction $345,084

Gold Club $135,320

Bargain Center $50,000

Annual Fund $270,274

Big Give $10,471

Memorials $27,527

Tuition Assistance $12,527

Crusader Courtyard/Mary’s Place Shrine $200,000

High School Scholarships $87,358

Athletics $135,784

2020 ACT Achievement Data
The Tip-Off of Girls Basketball at Heelan
How it All Started 50 Years Ago

Heelan Girls Basketball turns 50 this school year. John Adams, the coach who started it all and ultimately launched girls state-sanctioned athletes at Heelan, plans to join former athletes to celebrate the half-century mark of girls basketball at Heelan Saturday, Jan. 15.

While rural schools offered girls basketball for years, Heelan didn’t offer it till Adams arrived. In its five decades, Heelan Girls Basketball has scored 10 trips to the state tournament and 3 state championship titles, the most recent in 2020. Adams launched it all while coaching and teaching at Heelan from 1972 to 1977.

A colorful story-teller he relates how it all started.

What girls sports were offered in 1971?
“No school offered major girls sports in Sioux City in 1971. They played country club type sports like tennis and golf, but there was no organized sports in Sioux City sanctioned by the Iowa Girls Athletic Association. Rural schools offered 3 on 3 girls basketball, but it wasn’t in the big schools in Iowa.”

How did you arrive at Heelan?
“In 1971 I was coaching girls at Westwood High School in Sloan and a friend of mine said ‘Beanie Cooper is looking for a coach’ so I call Beanie and say ‘I hear you’re looking for a coach’ and he says ‘no, but I’ll go talk to Fr. Elbert.’ The next day he says ‘Fr. Elbert wants to see you tomorrow after school.’ Well Fr. Elbert and I visit… and the next day Beanie says ‘Okay you’ve got the job. You’re going to start coaching girls cross country and girls track.’”

Cross country?
“Cross country is really what started girls basketball. There was no cross country at Heelan, but I got it started in 1972. We finished high in the first cross country meet and ended up in the top 10 in the state (a time where there was no Class 4A, 3 A etc.) After it’s over I go into Beanie Coopers’ office and say ‘Look we have a money issue. All these small towns around us have Christmas basketball tournaments. Down the road we’ll start basketball. Let’s have a girls Christmas holiday tournament and we’ll invite four surrounding schools. Fans will fill this gym and we’ll have money to pay my salary and buy more track and cross country uniforms.”

Next thing I know … I go to school and there’s a note in my box that says ‘Stop in my office. I want to see you,’ Beanie.

Beanie tells me ‘Fr. Elbert says, order the uniforms.’ I say ‘we already have cross country uniforms, and he says ‘No, the basketball uniforms!’ I say ‘Beanie, you gotta be kiddin’ me!’ It was early November and the tournament is in December. How do you start girls basketball in 7 weeks and get the uniforms?

“That’s up to you,” he says. ‘Order the uniforms and get the teams lined up.’”

Then what?
“"Well, we announce ‘Anyone who wants to play, show up for try-outs.’ I run down to Sportsmans and I get a rack of six basketballs. With the help of Beanie, Ken Heying, Jon Olson and others we had the try-outs in the CYO and 180 girls show up. I remember that night I pulled the curtains back and looked out on the

50 Years of Girls Basketball at Heelan
Saturday, January 15, 2022
4 p.m. Heelan Girls vs Council Bluffs Abraham Lincoln
Bishop Heelan O’Gorman Fieldhouse
Looking Back

Patti (Lohr) Tritz ’72 looks back 50 years ago when she played on the first girls basketball team at Heelan and in Sioux City.

Why did you go out for girls basketball in its first year at Heelan?
Well, I always enjoyed playing intramural basketball at the CYO and was encouraged by my parents, friends and other coaches since they felt that I could make the team. At the time, I was doing work-study to help pay my tuition and was Beanie Cooper’s “administrative assistant” in the athletic office.

What was it like being part of Sioux City sports history?
It was all new to us and to the Sioux City community (Public schools started the following year). Being the quiet, shy person that I “was,” I was nervous! We were all inexperienced playing 3 on 3 against all the small, Iowa teams in Iowa who had WAY more experience than us! We were learning and made the best of it. Great friendships developed and we learned how to accept defeat with smiles on our faces. Via social media, I still stay in contact with Paula Shinkunas ’72 and Kathy Keane ’73.

Describe Coach Adams
Coach Adams was very patient! He had a great sense of humor and made it fun for all of us. I wanted to play a forward so I could shoot the ball, but Coach Adams wanted me as a guard because of my speed and how quick I was, (boy, did I fool him!) It took a while to get used to not being able to cross the center line and to only dribble twice. He was nice enough to dismiss me a couple of minutes before half, so I could change into my drill team uniform for the halftime performance.

Are you proud you played?
Sure, I was. I love sports! I only wished that organized sports were initiated earlier. The class of ’71 one year ahead of me had a LOT of athleticism! My sister Barb Tritz, Mary Ann Rudersdorf, Mary Walling, Terry Meacham, to name a few. I would have loved to have been given the opportunity to have played with such talent and to have learned from them!

What was the best part of playing on that first team?
It taught me to be a team player and really helped me with self-confidence. Although our record wasn’t very good, we never quit. We had fun! We built friendships, trust, team-playing and could only hope that we could be role models for the underclassmen both on and off the court. Plus, it helped me to prepare for the first track season.
Tom Kreihbel '86 is the head basketball coach of Boys Town in Omaha, an experience boosted by his years at Bishop Heelan. When he’s not coaching basketball, he works in development there.

How long have you been at Boy’s Town?
21 years total – 19 as head coach. Prior to that I spent 5 years at Omaha Skutt – 26 years total coaching at the high school level.

What inspired you to become a coach?
I love athletics and competition – even when I was in a business career I wanted to help out and be a part of a program and help kids – Basketball was something I could do at night – not being a traditional teacher/coach. Coming to Boys Town allowed me to stay working and be a head coach.

What are the biggest challenges at Boys Town?
We typically get a player one and two years – not four – so trying to build relationships and change behaviors in a short amount of time can be challenging. Every year presents different challenges in terms of talent level and chemistry. It’s different than having groups of kids 4 years.

What is the key to success at Boys Town?
I think continuity and consistency has been a big key to our success. When you have so much transition as the nature of your program; you must have a clear vision and message for the kids. Our identity has not changed in 19 years – how we play and how we act is the same from day one. This helps new players understand quickly and adapt; there is no confusion.

What is the key to success at Boys Town?
I was shown at Heelan what service to others looked like. I didn’t understand or appreciate it at the time but the examples that were set by teachers and coaches had an impact on me as an adult. How to have standards and hold kids and players to those standards was modeled for us every day. From an athletic standpoint I learned what hard work was and how to meet the expectations of your coaches. Every day I go to work with my team I am using that skill set that was taught to me 30+ years ago at Heelan. I can never repay those coaches and teachers for that lesson but I am trying to pass that along to my players today.
Dancing with Trophy

By Patrick Detches ’59

(Editor’s Note Our guest writer Patrick Detches, is a 1959 Heelan grad, a father of two, retired from a career in construction and has written previously for the Connection. He lives with his wife, Genevieve, in Columbia, SC.)

In 1959, Catholic boys at Heelan did not dance ballet. It was 1959. It was OK for Catholic girls at Heelan to dance ballet. This is about one of those girls.

After graduation in 1959, I studied modern dance at Morningside College to enhance some work I was doing at the Sioux City Community Theatre (the old Victory Theatre on 5th Street). At Morningside, we did presentations for various venues. After two years, our troupe was invited to choreograph a piece for the Sioux City Civic Ballet in 1961. During the performance I was exposed to classical ballet up close and personal. I wanted to be part of it. It was where I first met Marie.

Marie was a Junior at Heelan and a member of the Sioux City Civic Ballet. When I met her, I felt like the oxygen was sucked out of the room. She was quick to smile, laughed like a happy child, her eyes flashed with joy, and she moved with incredible grace. She was everything a ballerina should be.

The dance studio in the Commerce building was ... (ahem) up a very steep and narrow staircase. Although we danced in some of the same presentations, I remained deferential in Marie’s presence due to her skill and years of classical training. As a guy from the South Bottoms with about two years of dance and low self-esteem, I could not measure myself to one who devoted most of her life to the art.

As inept as I felt, Marie treated all of us with the same kindness and consideration. She was the flame that we were drawn to.

Rimsky-Korsakov’s Capriccio Espagnol was an ambitious piece of choreography. The class rehearsed for weeks before presentation. Sometime after that performance, I got a call from photographer Jean Card, who wanted some staged ballet shots for a photo exhibition. Marie and I met at the Community Theatre with costumes in tow, and I got to meet her mother. You guessed it. Stage Mom. But the good kind.

We spent most of the afternoon going through costume and prop changes. We staged poses, did goofy stuff, laughed, sweated, and touched, all under the discerning eye of the camera and her mother. That glorious afternoon I had Marie all to myself ... almost. It was the last time I saw her.

She went off to college, and to the Miss Iowa Pageant where Marie “Trophy” Mushro, class of 1963, was crowned Miss Iowa of 1965. True to herself and her art, she also won the Talent Competition and was awarded Most Talented Dancer. At the subsequent Miss America Pageant, she scooped up awards for Miss Congeniality and Most Talented Dancer. Both included scholarships for two weeks of intensive dance study in Chicago and New York.

Marie’s devotion to the American Heart Association and her work there have been exemplary, particularly for a girl who, at age 13, had a two dime-sized holes in her heart repaired in 1959. She has been a spokesperson and ambassador with AHA since.

We moved on to our future lives and future loves. Four large photos of me and the girl I still call Trophy hang in my study. The photos are there to remind me of her larger-than-life spirit.

In the ballet, Les Sylphides, Sylph is a mythological spirit. The ballet tells the story of an impossible love between a human and a spirit, and man’s inherent temptation for the unknown and sometimes dangerous life. But Sylph is not a lighter than air creature, nor is she dangerous. I know. I danced with her.

Patrick Detches ’59 wrote memorable accounts of candy bar sales and an Elvis in concert in Sioux City in previous Crusader Connections.

Trophy Mushro ’63 and Pat Detches ’59 in ballet poses.

Marie (Mushro) Lopresto ’63 today lives in California.
1960s

Brendan Burchard ’60 turned 80 this past summer. He is here with family celebrating at Memorial Field.

John Aguirre ’65 after moving around in a 27+ year active duty career in the US Army, traveling around Europe, a subsequent career as the Human Resources Director for Franklin County Government in Pennsylvania and retirement, my wife and I moved out west to beautiful Wyoming. I recently retired from my position as the Human Resources Director for the City of Gillette, Wyoming. We sincerely enjoyed Wyoming and have moved to Chambersburg PA to enjoy full retirement, and spending more time with family and grandchildren. I plan to travel and continue fly fishing and hunting.


1967 grads after lunch at Chilis are from left: Judy (Conway) Johnson, Pat (Goldsmith) Hoelker, Margie (Flanagan) Dretsch, Marianne (Nooney) Buford and Linda (Wille) Pratt. Back: Skip Hoelker, Dorinda (Denison) Kloprodt, Don Manley, Leslie (Unger) Welch, Craig and MaryAnn (Morin) Tordsen.

Clockwise from front left are 1968 grads and 2 spouses Margie (Homan) Thompson, Mary Nitzschke Lindbloom, Colleen Beacom Peg Meacham Nacke, Steve Packard, Mike Thompson, Gary Uhl, Jerry Nacke, spouse of Peg, Ed Beacom, Tom Lindbloom, Sue Fitzpatrick and Mary Donohue Uhl.
1970 Heelan grads from Blessed Sacrament at their 50th reunion are from left (with maiden names): Jim Coury, Jeanne Young, Frank Cosgrove, Greg Lohr, Karen Rodgers, Rick Sweitzer, Molly Murphy, Debbie Lennon, Rick Meacham, Lynn Chicoine and Mary Joyce Callaghan.

Pete Hittle ’74, trumpet player extraordinaire, performed with the Assunto Dukes of Dixieland Tribute Band at the 2021 Elkhart, Indiana Jazz Festival. The Assunto family is an icon in the history of Jazz in New Orleans. The original Dukes of Dixieland were widely popular from 1947 to 1974, appearing at Carnegie Hall, The Tonight Show and Ed Sullivan Show, and recorded 150 albums. The current band, organized in 2019 with Hittle, appears in the New Orleans area and Jazz Festivals in areas of the country. Pete lives in Prairieville, LA.

Happy Anniversary to Heelan’s 1971 football squad named State Champs in Iowa.

These 1974 classmates visited the Annenberg Gardens in Palm Springs, CA while vacationing. Terry O’Brien, Jan (Erickson) Snyder, Janelle Spain, Kim Hickman spouse of Phil ’74, Laurie Hagan Rawles, Anne (Trienen) Hanson. Had “a fabulous time!!!”

Jeff Mangold ’73 wrote a book with professional sports writer Peter Botte entitled Power and Pinstripes My Years Training the New York Yankees. Publisher is Triumph Books. www.triumphbooks.com

Mangold served as the head strength and conditioning coach for the New York Yankees from 1984 to 1988 and from 1998 to 2006. During his tenure, the Bronx Bombers won nine straight American League East titles, appeared in five World Series, and won three World Series championships in 1998, 1999 and 2000. As the first full time strength coach in Major League Baseball history, Mangold played a key role in building the Yankees dynasty of the 1990s and 2000s. Mangold also worked for the New York Mets and designed the strength and coaching facilities at both Yankee and Shea Stadiums. In this account he shares stories from his many seasons behind the scenes. He now lives in North Carolina.

Kansas City Crusader Reunion


Leslie (Boyle) Bredlove ’89 joins Diane (Boden) Alexander ’89, and Laura (Cannon) Radke ’93 and Nancy (Cannon) Davidson ’89 in Kansas City.

Tommy Greer ‘80 (right) joins friends at a Heelan gathering at The Other Place in Kansas City. Tom Walsh ’89, Janet (Moore) and Al Berding ’80 and Tommy Greer ’80 (now a Deacon.)
Omaha Crusader Reunion

Tom Duggan ’61 (back left) posed with Heelan grads at an October gathering in Omaha. Front Tony Jones ’61, Kevin McCoy ’68 and back Tom Wood ’72 and wrote this email to classmates. “Had a nice visit with Tony Jones, Denny Walker and some other Heelanites young and old. Tony is running again and hopes to do another marathon. Think that’s great, but I assure you, I don’t have any similar goals! Tom Betz was the MC and did a nice job. One of his stories was about Jim Hettinger who quarterbacked the football team in ’61 that ranked 5th in the nation, the year after our senior team. Jim and his wife toured the new Heelan building and Memorial Field with Tom Betz, then died two days later, having fulfilled his last wishes! Nice story. He also mentioned Brendan Burchard who has recently turned 80 and is in his 53rd year teaching. He also served in Viet Nam along with many years of duty in the Nat. Guard! Burch, you make us very proud! Always good to be with other Heelan people. We were lucky to grow up when and where we did! Those were good days that got us ready for life in our futures.”

1980s

Dan Hicklin ’81, and his family recently celebrated the wedding of his daughter Stephanie in New York. Dan is the founder and CEO at Werewolf Therapeutics in Cambridge, MA, an oncology research company working on the development of new immunotherapies to treat cancer. Dan, an immunologist and biopharmaceutical executive, has been working on oncology drug development for the past 30 years. He and his wife, Cathy have two daughters, Stephanie & Natalie.

Heelan Unveils Friendship Terrace

The late Patty (Betz) Thompson ’82 has been honored at Heelan’s “Friendship Terrace,” the outdoor table area next to the high school doors. Patty died at age 48 in 2013 after a courageous battle with cancer. A plaque that pays tribute to Thompson reads, “Her vivacious personality and exuberant nature left a lasting impression on everyone who met her. If you were lucky enough to have known her, remembering her gifts brings a smile to your face.” Thompson was active at St. Michael Catholic Church and owned Thompson Interior Design. She and her husband, Bob, had two Heelan grad children Nicole (Thompson) Hoesers ’03 and Alex Thompson ’05. Nicole’s children are now BHCS students at Holy Cross School.

Rick Niles ’84, a talented wood craftsman when he’s not working for the state judicial system, created this special board capturing the very spot on the floor in the PIT where Brendan Burchard stood for 50 years watching Heelan basketball. Nice work Rick!

Tom Betz ’85 enjoyed a fun summer visit with Jeff Ingrum ’86 and Al Jones ’86 in Colorado.

Bob McClintock ’85 married Patty Considine Oct. 23, 2021 (now BHCS Director of Annual Giving). Celebrating with them are Mike Considine ’10 right and his wife, Lisa, left, and Tyler McClintock ’31 middle. Mike is now a fighter pilot in Sioux Falls.

(Blessed Sacrament) Heelan grads from left front Corey Noonan ’69, Henry and Linda (Murphy) Metz, ’68. Back Pat Rudersdorf ’70, John Holdenried ’68, Holly Holdenried ’77 and Liz (Noonan) Rudersdorf ’73.

Mary Jane and Jim Fitch ’68 and Tom Fleming ’61.

Patsy Dougherty ’75, Janet (Thoman) Flanagan ’71, Patti (Tritz) Lohr ’72 and DeDe (Dougherty) Crowley ’78.

Laurie (Welte) Dougherty ’80 with Sarah Goodwin ’03 and Elizabeth (Anderson) Perkins ’05.

John Flanery, BHCS president, left, with John Marley ’50, Don Cimpl ’50 and Ed McCarthy ’52.

Kyle and Kelsey (Jeratowski) Bennett ’06 and Mike Noonan ’01.

Heelan Unveils Friendship Terrace

Rick Niles ’84, a talented wood craftsman when he’s not working for the state judicial system, created this special board capturing the very spot on the floor in the PIT where Brendan Burchard stood for 50 years watching Heelan basketball. Nice work Rick!

Tom Betz ’85 enjoyed a fun summer visit with Jeff Ingrum ’86 and Al Jones ’86 in Colorado.

Bob McClintock ’85 married Patty Considine Oct. 23, 2021 (now BHCS Director of Annual Giving). Celebrating with them are Mike Considine ’10 right and his wife, Lisa, left, and Tyler McClintock ’31 middle. Mike is now a fighter pilot in Sioux Falls.

(Blessed Sacrament) Heelan grads from left front Corey Noonan ’69, Henry and Linda (Murphy) Metz, ’68. Back Pat Rudersdorf ’70, John Holdenried ’68, Holly Holdenried ’77 and Liz (Noonan) Rudersdorf ’73.

Mary Jane and Jim Fitch ’68 and Tom Fleming ’61.
In Memory

1940s
Mary Rita O’Connor ’49, Cathedral High School, (Heelan predecessor) June 22, 2020
Dorothy Keane ’40, Cathedral High School, Sioux City, Oct. 25, 2021

1950s
JoAnn (Prince) Eriksen ’50, Sioux City, Sept. 9, 2021
Gele (Lorenz) Avery ’51, Sioux City, April 2, 2021
Richard Ostrihonsky ’52, Sioux City, May 14, 2021
Sr. Peggy Brennan ’53, Sinsinawa, WI, April 5, 2021
Don Kellen ’53, Sun City, AZ, March 23, 2021
Carolyn “Ki” “Dogo” (Alvana) Peterson ’53, Sioux City, March 24, 2021
Leslie “Tooter” (Ewald) Roeder ’57, Sugar Grove, IL Sept. 12, 2020
Marylin (Krag) Higgins ’53, Okoboji, IA, Oct. 5, 2020
Tom Priestman ’53, Sioux City, Jan. 13, 2021
Virginia Krier ’54, Pocahontas, IA, June 29, 2020
Rita (Rush) Flanagan ’54, Sioux City, May 15, 2021
Brian Delaney ’55, Sioux City, March 22, 2021
Mary (Clark) Huisenga ’55, Sioux City, May 8, 2021
Maryann (Ryan) Woloschek ’55, Sioux City, Jan. 17, 2021
John Glossinger ’56, Mill Valley, CA, March 17, 2021
James Manning ’56, Sioux City, July 18, 2021
Harlan Miles ’56, Cole Camp, MO, Jan. 6, 2021
Rosemary Sheehan ’56, Dakota Dunes, SD, June 18, 2021
Joseph Polley ’57, Sun City West, AZ, July 10, 2021
Beverley Cosgrove ’58, Sioux City, Oct. 23, 2021
Diane (Haman) Stocklin ’58, San Diego, CA
Stephen Keane ’58, Springdale, AR, Sept. 9, 2020
Gene Manley ’59, South Sioux City, Oct. 7, 2020
Elaine Huss ’59, Fort Dodge, IA, May 29, 2021

1960s
Martin Bosse ’60, formerly of Jefferson, SD., Feb. 13, 2021
Dan Martin ’60, Ponca, NE, March 13, 2021
Richard Jeffries ’60a, Omaha, Jan. 19, 2021
Lorraine [Rowe] Kohl ’61, Sioux City, May 5, 2020
Earl “Chooch,” Counter, ’61, Sioux City, May 2, 2021
Helen Mullin ’61, Wahoo, NE, Aug. 22, 2021
Michael Murphy ’61, Sioux City, April 17, 2021
Greg Cabana ’61, Sioux City, Aug. 2, 2021
Boyd “Tom” Brazzell ’62, Sioux City, Jan. 17, 2021
Daniel Fitzpatrick ’62, Sioux City, Sept. 25, 2020
Richard Giesen ’62, Rockford, IL, March 6, 2021
Jim Hettinger ’62, Johnston, IA, March 6, 2021
Fr. John McGuirk ’62, Sioux City, Feb. 3, 2021
Jeanne (Jan Nixa) Johnson ’63, West End, NC, August 14, 2021
Lael Theresa Larkin ’63, Sinsinawa, WI, May 8, 2021
Lawrence Guillaume Jr. ’64, Sioux City, June 13, 2021
Mary Hansen ’64, Sioux City, Sept. 18, 2021
Judy Kirkpatrick ’64, Sioux City, May 28, 2021
Gary Mow ’64, Le Mars, IA, April 8, 2021
Leon Popevis ’64, Sioux City, May 1, 2021
James Alvin Fox ’65, Sioux City, June 27, 2021
“Mac” Smith ’66, Sioux City, Feb. 3, 2021
Janice (Fritz) Smith ’66, Dec. 26, 2020
Phil Karpuk ’66, McCook Lake, Dec. 27, 2020
Cynthia (Gabriella) Haag ’66, Omaha NE
John Happe ’66, Dec. 22, 2020
Randy Leedom ’66, Hillsboro, OR, July 19, 2020
Jody (Shumansky) McArthur ’66, Sioux City, March 2, 2021
Mary (Danger) Hazen ’67, Eaton, CO, Dec. 3, 2020
James “Weasel” Franco ’68, Sioux City, June 27, 2021
John Edward Reinheit ’69, Sioux City, Sept. 18, 2021

1970s
John Kinney ’70, Sioux City, Sept. 11, 2021
Patrick Manning ’70, Sioux City, April 10, 2021
Michael McCormick ’70, Sioux City, June 22, 2021

Family Members
Eileen Silva, mother of Jason ’94 and Stefanie ’97 and wife of Art, former Heelan teacher & worked in BHCS Advancement, Sioux City, June 24, 2021
Ruby Marie Cooper, wife of beloved Heelan football coach Beanie Cooper and mother of Mike ’72, Pat ’75, Tim, Mary, Linda ’80, Chris, the late Gary ’70, Kathy ’73 and Thomas, Sioux City, Jan. 24, 2021
Donna Rae Furlong, mother of Michael; Dave; Lori and late Lynn and Kent, Sioux City, Nov. 11, 2020
Al Ruge, husband of Mary Pat (O’Hern) Ruge ’62, Decatur, NE, April 30, 2021
Barbara Wenthner, wife of Joe Wenthner ’60, Knoxville, TN., May 29, 2021
Kenneth Welch, husband of Lesley (Unger) Welch ’67, Omaha, July 17, 2020
Mary Goff Frye, mother of Debra Frye ’73, Sandra Frye Otting ’75 and Cynthia Frye Watkins, Kansas City, April 24, 2020. (Father Rolland Frye May 16, 2004.)
Jody Welch, mother of Billy ’00, Becka ’01 and Brooke ’01, Sioux City, Aug. 23, 2019
Dan Glasson, Sr., husband of Diane (Nyhus) Glasson ’73, father of Dan Jr.’99, Deb (Glasson) Thiele ’01 and grandfather of Lauren Nacke ’24. Sioux City, Nov. 14, 2020
John T Corio Jr., father of John ’70 Jefferson, SD., Feb. 28, 2021
Richard Everist, father of Richard Jr., Rob, Barbara, Dianne, the late Ellen, Juliana and Janet, Lenexa KS, Feb. 3, 2021
Walt Whitecotton, long-time Heelan magazine rep, Fort Dodge, IA, March 6, 2021
Jim Goertz, spouse of Cheri (Fahey) Goertz ’67, Fargo, ND, June 28, 2021
Dave Gorsett, spouse of Peggy (Watkins) Gorsett ’67, Oct. 24, 2020
Thomas Rush, 65, brother of Gary Rush ’67, Nov. 21, 2020
Eugene Manley ’59, brother of Don Manley ’67, South Sioux City, Oct. 7, 2020
Genevieve McCullough, mother of Theresa McCullough McTaggart ’67, Emerson, NE, July 29, 2020
Kenneth Welch, spouse of Lesley (Unger) Welch ’67, July 17, 2020
Mattie Dunn, mother of Patty (Dunn) Budden ’67, June 20, 2020
Evelyn Alvey, mother of Karen (Alvey) Schramm ’67, April 9, 2020
Eleanor Beacom, mother of John, David, Barry, Kevin, Brian and Matt, Sioux City, March 24, 2021
Marcella Hamm, mother of Mary Ellen (Hamm) Vortherms ’67 Sept. 28, 2021
June Heeney, mother of Mary Jo Heeney ’67, June 5, 2021

Please send In Memory information to tammy.eveleth@bishopheelan.org
Class Notes continued.

1990s

Sheriffa (Wright) Jones '98 is executive director of the Spencer Chamber of Commerce since 2019. She earned a BA in Art & Design from Iowa State and a MS degree in historic preservation and a minor in non-profit management. She and her husband have two children and they love living in Spencer for the short “commute”, access to recreational opportunities, and the ability to be involved in local and state community development.

Neal Fisher ’99 was recently promoted to lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army at Fort George G. Meade, MD and married to Vanessa Lopez of Sealy, TX at Holy Cross Catholic Church in Baltimore, MD.

Tony Fravel ’01 returned to his wife Christy and kids in August after 10 months serving in Kosovo. At right is mom JoEllen (Williams) Fravel ’76.

TJ Schulte ’02 emailed this to Tom Betz in summer... last night my older son Theo and I were outside playing catch in the front yard. A gentleman pulled up in front of our house and started commenting on how he loved seeing us playing catch and how he used to live there. I immediately knew who it was, it was the Heelan legend Don Wengert. I told him to loop around and park his car to visit some more. He hung out with us for like 10-15 minutes and even gave Theo a few pitching tips. It was awesome. He mentioned he comes to town every week right now to see his elderly mother. Thought the story was a good reason to reach out and say hello!

Alicia (Skaggs) Porsch ’06 and her husband Eric celebrated the birth of their fifth child, Clara, in October. She is joined by Sophia, Cecilia, Eloise and Charlie.

2000s

Joe Bisenius ’01 with his parents Amy and Jim Bisenius and wife Katy (Youngblade) Bisenius ’10 and their infant daughter celebrated with his former teammates as Heelan retired his number at the 20th reunion of Heelan’s 2001 Baseball State Champion team.

Heelan’s 2001 Baseball State Champions Reunite
From left front are: Casey Moore, Mike Winklepleck, Jared Small, Bryan LaFleur, Eddie Griesel. Back are Coach Jeff Happe, Head Coach Tim O’Neill, (now at Dowling) Chad Moreland, Brady Rossiter, Joe Bisenius, Shyler Boatman, Dustin Jones, Nick Kellen, Coach John Tritz and Coach Chris Bork.

Kyle Walsh ’11 married Madalyn Rasor, of Palatine, IL, June 6, 2020. Both are 4th year medical students at the Carver College of Medicine in Iowa City.

Cory Kruse ’11 will launch his next book in December, “Grace in the Dirt: Poems, Songs, and Other Reflections on Life!”

Simona Terracciano ’11, a Heelan exchange student who lived with Dave and Mary (McElroy ’72) Bishop, graduated cum laude from the University of Rome “Tor Vergata” with a PhD in Public Law on June 18 2021. She defended a thesis on “The sanctionatory power of the public administrations and the role of the pecuniary administrative sanction in the procedural obligations.” She is currently living in Roma Italy where she practices law and works at the university as an assistant professor in the courses of Substantial Administrative Law and Judicial Administrative Law.