

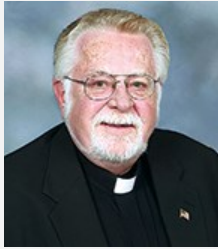
Rams 'n Ewes Newsletter

St. Xavier Catholic School

NOVEMBER 2015

In memory of Father Al Brungardt

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Father Al Brungardt, former pastor at St. Xavier.



Father Al, 72, died Sunday, September 20, 2015, in Hays.

Father Al was assigned to St. Xavier in 1971 and again from 1973-75. In 1997 he returned to St. Xavier as pastor along with Father Albert Dwyer, intent on continuing the tradition of St. Xavier High School following pressure to close the high school.

Following Fr. Dwyer's death in 2000, Father Al oversaw the parish on his own until his retirement in June of 2013.

Father Al retired from the priesthood in 2013 and returned to his family home in Victoria, Kansas.

Even after Father Al's retirement, he returned for the 2014 and 2015 auctions to support St. Xavier School.

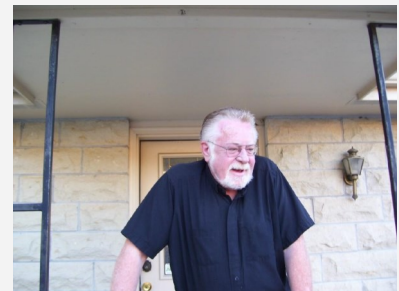
Father Al also returned for the first alumni basketball tournament last December. When the parish priests were introduced, Father Al was met with the loudest applause in the gym. Alumni from his assignment to St. Xavier in the 70's up to current students gave him recognition and were excited to see him.

Father Al was a great supporter of our "contributing the tradition" fundraiser and gave generously to the campaign last year.

A funeral Mass for Father Al was held at

the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria on September 25 followed by burial at St. Fidelis Cemetery. Many parishioners and alumni were present at his funeral Mass.

St. Xavier hosted a memorial Mass for Father Al on September 28. The church was packed with parishioners, community members, students and alumni who had been touched by his presence. He will be missed, but never forgotten.



GREETINGS FROM THE NEW PASTOR

Over these past weeks I have been reflecting on the life and ministry of a friend of mine, Fr. Al Brungardt. Following his passing, memories of this great priest and others who had served before him at Saint Xavier Parish, fill my mind. I think of names such as Keogan, Dwyer, Mattas, Coady, Kramer, and Ninemire. **Among the many noble tasks accomplished by these men during their years in Junction City, perhaps none of them were more important than that of watching over and guiding our wonderful school.** These men were given the mission of "continuing the tradition" of St. Xavier Catholic School, and they completed this mission well.

This opportunity has now been passed on to me. Allow me to introduce myself. My name is Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt, and I am the new pastor of St. Xavier Parish. I cannot hide my joy at being appointed to this parish. I am particularly excited about the opportunity of following in the footsteps of these aforementioned priests guiding our parish school. As a former Catholic school student, teacher and chaplain, I realize the benefit of keeping our school strong.

Looking back on the 16 years spent here by Fr. Brungardt, I realize that they were not always the easiest of years in regards to maintaining a parish school. In spite of the many difficulties, Fr. Al, through his faith and commitment, was able to keep the

tradition of St. Xavier alive, and now I fully intend, with your help, to do the same.

The good news is that St. Xavier's Catholic School appears to be heading toward a bright future. Our enrollment is up, and many wonderful things are happening. Please reference this newsletter to read more about the great things taking place with our school, students, staff and alumni.

As we strive to "continue the tradition," we now turn to you, St. Xavier friends and alumni, as we ask you to join our team once again. Within the next few weeks many of you, if we have your number, will be receiving a phone call from one of our students or school supporters asking for your financial assistance and prayers. We recognize that if we are to complete our mission, we cannot do it alone. (Please see page 5 for more information.)

Your assistance will help us to both continue our rich tradition, and also build for a lasting future where hundreds of students will be able to call St. Xavier home. Thank you in advance for your generous support. May the blessings of God be upon you, and Go Rams!

Fr. Gale Hammerschmidt





SAINT XAVIER ALUMNI BASKETBALL GAMES A HUGE SUCCESS

St. Xavier High School graduates had a chance to reminisce, share dinner, play basketball, bid on silent auction items, and contribute cash donations when they gathered for the first alumni basketball games on December 20 at the Bradley Gym.

Shawn Augustine, Principal, said the event initially began as what they thought would have a small turnout, but grew into something huge. He estimated that "we had close to 700 persons in attendance and it may have been bigger than that."

The bleachers in the gym and on the stage were full and many stood and watched the activities which included a video presentation with clips of former athletes, coaches, and teams, introduction of special guests to include former coaches and priests as well as the introduction of the teams.

St. Xavier alumni Dan ('04) Zoeller had the original idea for an alumni basketball game and organized the events. He put together an evening that will be remembered for a very long time.

Dan convinced many of St. Xavier's current and former players, coaches, and teachers to return for this event at St. Xavier which enabled us to raise \$10,000 toward keeping our school open.

Film director Kevin ('76) Willmott and radio host Mike ('64) Manns introduced the priests, players and honorary coaches, Ben Meseke and Jim Westerhaus, along with a host of other distinguished alumni. Coaches Roger Diekmann and Nick Linn were in attendance coaching as well.

Former priests in attendance included Rev. Frank Coady, Father Al Brungardt, Father Joe Popelka, and Father Keith Weber.

Following introductions, everyone gathered to watch a presentation Dan put together to celebrate the history of basketball at St. Xavier. Players and audience members clapped and shouted throughout the presentation as their favorite memories were recalled.

Bishop Edward Weisenburger opened with a prayer which was followed by the national anthem sung by former music teachers John Weber, husband of Pat ('64) Dixon, David Atchison and Anita Hernandez.

The women hit the court first, followed by the men. Former principals John Bergkamp and Don Haffner made the honorary toss of the jump ball during the girls' game while former principal Mike Schrant made the toss during the boys' game. Throughout the games, young and old alike played as though they were back in their prime, reliving some of the greatest memories of their youth.

Former teacher Penny Macumber said, "It was a wonderful night for the school and the outpouring of love for St. X was amazing. It was a treat to see so many former students and colleagues there, and it was especially fun to take my place on the gym floor, camera in hand, to shoot the ball games. It was a fantastic mix of old and young athletes coming together to support this wonderful school."

The next St. Xavier Alumni Basketball games has been scheduled for December 22, 2018, at 7 p.m. We hope to see you all there!



St. Xavier Catholic School | St. Francis Xavier Catholic Church

IN MEMORIAM

William ('42) Lichtenhan, Dwight, passed away Jan. 10, 2013. He is survived by wife Marjorie and daughters **Elaine ('72) Dean**, **Janet ('74) Haag**, **Anita ('75) Schmedemann**, **Pam ('76) Boller**, and **Vickie ('87) Kline**.

Cindy ('83) McGuire Craddock passed away Nov. 26, 2014. She is survived by her daughter, Chancey, grandson Tyson, and siblings **Terry ('67)**, **Pat ('68)**, **Marty ('69)**, **Dennis ('73)**, **Mary ('74)**, **John ('79)**, **Katy ('80)**, **Micky ('82)**, **Sandy**, and **Richard ('84)**.

Rose Mary Forkenbrock, former cook at St. Xavier Catholic School, passed away Nov. 16, 2014. She was preceded in death by her husband Ambrose. Survivors include sons **Ron ('62)** and **Bill ('72)** and daughters **Pat ('63) Cervera** and **Karen ('66) Eddy**, longtime alumni association organizer.

Nadine Wahle died January 20, 2015. She was married to **Jack ('48)** in 1953 at St. Xavier. She is survived by son **Bob ('72)** and his wife, **Terri ('72) Pollock** Wahle, daughter **Susan ('75) Bartosch** and husband Mike, son **Rod ('77)** and wife Susan along with seven grandchildren including **Steve ('95) Wahle** and **Jaime ('98) Wahle** Richling.

Mary Louise ('55) Cole Akers, sister of **Judith Cole ('57)**, passed away May 25, 2015, in Cummings, Georgia. She is also survived by her husband, Albert, her son, Frank, daughter, Martha, and five grandchildren.

Dorothy ('69) Root Smith, died February 2, 2014. She is survived by husband, Brad, five daughters and a son.

Howard G. ('50) Alexander, 82, of Ozawie, KS, passed away April 1, 2015. He is survived by his wife, Judy, and five daughters. **Henrietta ('48) Alexander** Welker, Howard's sister, of Dallas, TX, passed away October 2, 2015.

Gary ('70) Sanders died July 26, 2015. He is survived by his mother, **Iris ('46) Sanders** Spittles, brother **Mark ('75)** and three sisters, **Nancy ('71) Klaverweiden**, Marla Rate, and Mary Ross.

James "Jimmy" Frakes, brother of **Jerry ('58)** died February 16, 2015. He is survived by his daughter, Natalie.

Don Anders passed away July 12, 2015. He married to **Betty ('75) Schoendaller** Anders on November 12, 1982. He is also survived by sons Kevin and Ryan.

Manual J. Vega died in April 2015. He is survived by his wife Audrey and daughters **Gloria ('64) O'Blanc**, **Susan ('65) Filson** and son **Phil ('71)**.

Phyllis Mae ('45) McKinney Henry passed away Oct. 16, 2013, at Franciscan Villa in Broken Arrow, OK.

Richard "Dick" ('54) Paxton passed away Sept. 12, 2014. He is survived by his wife **Mary Kay ('56) Hinitt** Paxton and his children Craig, Chris, Laura and Pam as well as six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Dick worked for many years alongside his family on the auction. His memorial donations were added to the 2015 auction.

Julie ('99) Cofield Mitchell lost her grandfather, Bud Morton, on 9/20/15. Bud and his wife Darlene were long time supporters of St. Xavier.

KUDOS TO STUDENTS

A team of students from St. Xavier High School competed at the April 2015 Kansas State Regional Envirothon—which consisted of six categories: Rangeland, Current Issues, Soils, Forestry, Aquatics, and Wildlife. The team took First Place in the Aquatics Category and placed third in overall competition.

Megan Stenstrom and Adam Carpenter were named UCA All-Americans at cheer camp this summer. They received All-American medals and have the opportunity to attend the London 2016 Varsity Spirit Tour and perform in London's New Year's Day Parade.

National Honor Society inducted new members Won Woo Choi, Hyojin Park and Sydney Wood. Honorary members inducted included Ross Conner, former theology teacher, and Rebecca Cronander, librarian/counselor.

Megan Stenstrom and Kadi Lorentzson competed in forensics state finals and were awarded sixth place.

St. Xavier School Band participated in the K-State Band Day parade in fall of 2015.

Students were part of the Sunflower Bank Community Ambassadors' Program last year. Peter Paras and Leslie Reese were awarded a \$500 college scholarship for their work.

Band and choir members presented solos at the Hillsboro Regional Music Contest. Students earning ones attend the State Contest in April 2015 at Friends College in Wichita.

The Band and Choir attended the State Large Ensemble Contest in Beloit in April 2015 where both groups received two ratings.

St. Xavier students were selected to participate in the North Central Kansas Music Educators Association Honor Band and Choir. Honor Band members included Eli Noa, Krystina Sunley and Tyler Tanguay. Honor Choir members were Adam Carpenter and Simon Engelhardt.

Visit our school website at saintxrams.org and find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/saintxrams.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Blue & Gold Craft Market—3/5/2016
St. Xavier Annual Auction—4/16/2016
Alumni banquet—5/28/2016
Alumni basketball game 12/20/2018

2015 AUCTION ANOTHER SUCCESS

The 2015 auction "St. X Vegas Style" included buffet, drinks, and silent and live auctions. Raffles winners included alumni James ('59) Lutz and Josephine ('45) Rago.

The class of 2015 auctioned themselves off to do work and these bids brought in \$1,100.

We invite alumni to attend this event April 16, 2016, as we celebrate 30 years of auction success with the Class of '66.



WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST ALUMNI—THE CLASS OF 2015

St. Xavier's newest alumni graduated in May of last year.

Krystina Sunley, valedictorian, was awarded scholarships for volleyball and cheerleading at Kansas Wesleyan University. She is majoring in graphic design.

Peter Paras, salutatorian, is attending Kansas State University majoring in Criminal Justice. He is a member of the Pride of Wildcat Land—the K-State Marching Band.

Joshua Lorentzson is attending University of Northwestern majoring in pre-pharmacy.

Eli Noa is enrolled at Kansas State University majoring in Fine Arts.

Miranda Powers is working on her Associate's Degree in Business.

Leslie Reese is attending Kansas State University majoring in Business Administration.



2016 BANQUET

St. Xavier's annual reunion and banquet will be held May 28th at the Elk's Club (723 S. Washington) in Junction City.

Cost is \$20 if paid by May 15 or \$25 thereafter. The price includes dinner at 7:00 pm. Happy hour starts at 6:00 pm. Alumni Mass will be at 5:15 pm. School tours will given from 3:00—5:00 pm.

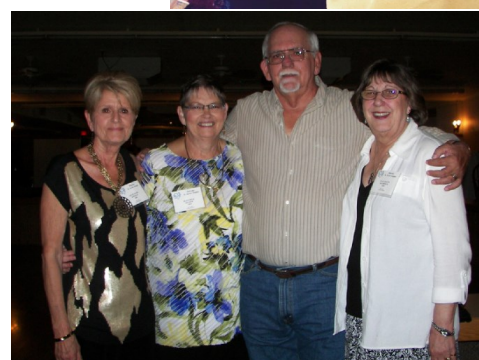
The classes of 1961 and 1966 are expecting many fellow friends to return.

We hope to see many of you there.

Make checks payable to St. Xavier's Alumni. E-mail stxalumni@cox.net for more info.



Celebrating 55 years at the 2015 Alumni Banquet were back: Marilyn Polach Stein, Connie Meis Willett, Mary Jean Jones Stavish, Becky Lucas and Sherri Rombeck Morales and front: Kathy Gardner Trost, Mary Kay Weines Bixby and Michele McCormick Bryant.



Angie Greenwood Roesler, Jean Field Snyder, Tom Long and Julie Gillen McCormick celebrated their 50th reunion this past May at the Alumni Banquet.

NEWS FROM FRIENDS AND ALUMNI

Father Jim ('52) Hoover is at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse in Concordia.

Roger ('57) Caldwell and his wife split time between Michigan and Kansas. He has been in contact with grade school nun, Sister Agnes Bernita Green—the oldest nun at the motherhouse—who turned 100 in October

Phil ('71) and Jolene ('72) Beavers Vega returned to Junction City in 2015. Phil is publisher of the Daily Union newspaper.

Christopher ('03) Breidenstein and wife Jessica welcomed daughter Anastasia on November 25, 2015.

Keonya ('14) Jackson is on the Student Senate at the University of Kansas.

Annie ('08) Wolford, daughter of Ron & Jeanne ('75) Hecker Wolford, married Marcus Emory on June 26, 2015 in Dallas.

Austin Boller ('02) married Rebecca Ann Perdue on September 27, 2014.

Kevin ('76) Willmott, filmmaker and professor at Univ. of Kansas, has a new film "Chiraq" coming out soon. The film is directed by Spike Lee and stars John Cusack, Samuel L. Jackson and Angela Bassett.

Autum ('09) Conley graduated with an MS from Akron University in 2015 and is working as a sports producer at Illinois State University.

Dr. Jimmy ('85) Jenkins has moved from his family physician practice to hospitalist at Geary Community Hospital.

Adam ('12) Whitaker and **Victoria ('13) Fuller** were married June 9, 2015. Adam recently joined the US Air Force.

Dee Dee ('98) Fortner Goodman and husband Michael welcomed daughter Ella Taylor on February 20, 2015.

Yavette ('98) Hunter Hill works for the Veterans Affairs in Kansas City.

Stefanie ('04) Kane Darrow recently accepted a position in Resource Management on post.

Heather ('98) Waters and Jeremy Snyder welcomed daughter Hannah Elizabeth on January 22, 2015. Hannah joins siblings Grace and Noah.

Lee ('02) Gustafson married Bria Hilgers on October 11, 2014, in Minnesota.

Nathan ('92) Roberts became Director of Residential Life at Missouri Western State University in January 2014.

Logan ('05) Gustafson married Emily Lewis at St. Xavier on August 29, 2015.

Nicole ('95) St. Julien Camueiras, online community moderator and administrator, recently earned certification as an online community manager.

Please send us your news for inclusion in the next newsletter via USPS or e-mail to alumninews@saintxrams.org.



CONTINUE THE TRADITION

We are ready to embark on an annual funding campaign "Continuing the Tradition" to generate funds to make necessary building improvements, provide increased funds for salaries for our outstanding staff, increase tuition assistance and improve and maintain facilities.

St. Xavier Catholic School has two main sources of income—tuition and charitable gifts. We must operate the school with extremely high standards and consistently seek to advance and improve school programs, equipment and facilities.

With the rapidly escalating costs of operating and maintaining our school, your partnership in our fundraising efforts is more important than ever in helping us continue the tradition for present and future generations of students.

We believe that St. Xavier Catholic School has positively affected all of its alumni and parents. The lifelong relationships and class unity formed are carried throughout our alumni and their parents' lives. Many gifts of faith and tireless service have been offered by the administrators, teachers and coaches to all students, past and present.

Alumni, parents and friends have made significant charitable commitments that have made it possible for all alumni to attend St. Xavier in every era, with

"Make the future even more glorious than the past. Leaders of the past gave their time and treasure. Now is time for all of us to do the same."

Fr. Cecil Friedmann

the expectation that this responsibility would be passed forward to future generations.

We hope that our alumni and their families are inspired to consider an annual gift (of any amount) for their alma mater in gratitude for their personal experience, in honor of continuing the St. Xavier tradition and to bring hope for the future of St. Xavier.

The Annual Fund Campaign giving year begins November 15 and concludes on December 31, 2015.

Through periodic e-mail, mail and phone calls, the long-term funding committee and current school students, staff and alumni will update alumni contact information, invite class members to school events and reunions, report alumni achievements and news, and encourage all class members to support St. Xavier School each year.

Staying involved with your alma mater and making it better for generations that follow are the acts and examples that set St. Xavier apart.

Thank for all that you have done in the past to help us improve our school's impact. We hope that you will consider making a gift this year.

All gifts are tax deductible.

CONTINUE THE TRADITION PLEDGE

Please accept my gift of: ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ \$2000 ☐ \$5000 ☐ Other

☐ I would like to fulfill my entire pledge today

☐ An annual commitment over the next ____ years, with the first installment enclosed in the amount of \$_____

I prefer to be billed annually beginning _____

Name _____ Alum Year _____

Address _____ City State Zip _____

E-mail Address _____ Phone _____

Check Enclosed (Payable to St. Xavier School)

Credit/Debit Card _____ Expiration _____

Name on card _____

**Gifts can be given securely online at <http://www.saintxrams.org/alumni/>

Please contact the Parish Office at 785-238-2998 with any questions regarding your gift to St. Xavier School.

BLESSINGS FOR (AND FROM) BECKY

Becky ('08) Keating, daughter of **Jeff ('82)** and Joan Keating is recovering from a double lung transplant in Dallas, TX, with the hopes of returning home to her family in Junction City this month.

Becky has been battling cystic fibrosis her entire life. In 2014, she moved to Dallas to begin her wait for new lungs.

In May of this year, the wait was over. Becky had a seven hour surgery in which she received a pair of new lungs, freeing her from an oxygen tank she had been on 24/7.

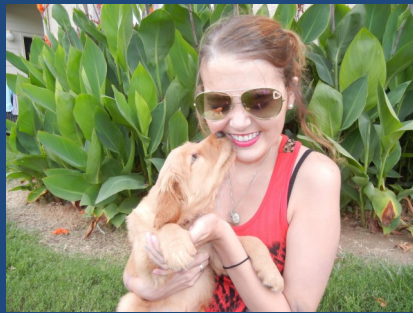
Becky had hoped to return to JC in July when an unexpected seizure landed her in the hospital.

At the end of July, a superbug spread through her incision and she was forced to undergo another surgery which had her using a wound vacuum and hyperbaric chamber in the hopes of rapid healing.

Becky has been a blessing and inspiration to the St. Xavier community as her faith throughout her trials and tribulations has been a shining example for us.

She has now received a service dog, which she has named Trinity, to assist her. Jeff has been working to train Trinity for Becky.

In Becky's lifestyle of "Battle Hard, Breathe easy" she has a Bible verse that has helped her through the her trials and tribulations, "Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass."-Psalms 37:5



OUTREACH

St. Xavier students serve as altar servers at parish weddings and funerals.



St. Xavier students host an annual "Baby Shower for Jesus" in December in which they bring gifts for Birth-line such as diapers, wipes, toys, formula and clothing.

During the month of January, St. Xavier students and staff collect donations for the local Food Pantry, which is housed in the former Sisters of St. Joseph convent across from the old grade school.

Students participate in "Prayer and Action," a summer mission in which students sign up to serve the most vulnerable community members in Kansas communities. Students serve week-long missions completing various projects for the needy.

Father Hammerschmidt started the "Prayer & Action" program in 2005.



- We want to connect with you!
- To learn how your St. Xavier experience has impacted and served you
- To update your records with the school
- To ask for your annual support to help continue the St. X tradition.
- Answer the call and help keep our future bright.

NOVEMBER 15-18, 2015

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St. Xavier Alumni Association

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