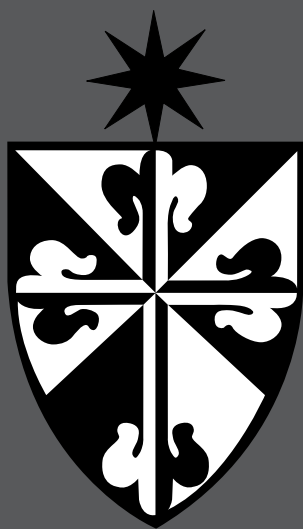


SPRING 2020



FRIAR REPORTER

The magazine for alumni, parents and friends of Fenwick High School



OUR CLASS OF 2020

E-LEARNING DURING
THE COVID-19 CRISIS

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

Outgoing Seniors Have Their Say

STEM in Space

Why Commute to Fenwick?

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Fenwick Friends,

Multiple choice. True or False. Fill-in-the-blanks. Essay. Short answer. As Fenwick Friars know, tests come in all kinds of shapes and sizes. Some may enjoy taking a test but, for most, tests are something to get through. Like them or not, tests have a way of accentuating our strengths and often help us see where we need improvement.

In his Easter homily this year, Pope Francis said that the coronavirus pandemic is putting our entire human family to the test. It is testing what we're made of; it is putting into relief our priorities, our individual and communal strengths and weaknesses. Faced with this test, Pope Francis challenges us to have even greater concern for the most vulnerable and to join our prayers with his for an end to the pandemic.

Toward the end of his homily, Pope Francis said that although the virus is extremely contagious, it has also produced "a contagion of hope." When we see the work of doctors and nurses, when we hear of the tireless work of scientists seeking a vaccine, when we witness selflessness on the part of first responders, we ought to be filled with hope. Simply put, the human family, upheld by God's loving presence, is strong and resilient. Even in the midst of tragedy and death, our hope for God's kingdom to come is unshaken.

As I hear about the response of our Fenwick community to the COVID-19 pandemic, I, too, am filled with hope. We have many alumni in the medical profession who are serving heroically. Current students have been hard at work in helping to produce PPE for first responders. (Read more in "Community Happenings," page 24.) Our collaboration with Catholic Charities of Chicago continues — albeit at somewhat of a distance.

When I think of the Class of 2020, I am also filled with hope. Members of this class have had much taken away from them because of the pandemic. Yet, their identity as Friars and their commitment to each other — forged over the past four years — can never be taken from them. As they take their place in the rolls of Fenwick alumni, they do so with the same excellence, leadership and tradition that has marked the Friars from the very beginning. The Class of 2020 will always be known as the class that passed the Coronavirus Test with flying colors!

May God bless the Fenwick community and keep us safe and healthy.

Sincerely,



Fr. Richard Peddicord, O.P.
President



Domini-CANS: Math Teacher Dave Setum holds up a message of hope on his iPad.

FENWICK'S MISSION

Fenwick High School, guided by Dominican Catholic values, inspires excellence and educates each student to **lead, achieve and serve.**

FRIAR REPORTER

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Fenwick High School is owned and sponsored by the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Albert the Great headquartered in Chicago, Illinois.

On the Cover

Members of the Class of 2020. [Click here to download a high resolution copy of the cover.](#)

This spring 2020 edition of the Friar Reporter is a digital-only issue. With the challenges facing all of us during this global pandemic, we decided it would be most beneficial to serve Fenwick's neediest families by reallocating our printing and mailing costs to help cover an increased need for tuition assistance. Our incredible alumni network continues to lead the way for future generations of Friars!

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PEDDICORD, O.P.**

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Solving for 'X'

By John Barron '76, Board Chair



John Barron

Way back in the '70s, sitting through my second or third year of Algebra, I used to wonder: When am I ever going to use this stuff?

Well, it has (occasionally) come in handy over the years, but never so much than during the last couple of months. It seems like all we do now is "solve for x."

X, of course, is the unknown in an equation. COVID-19 has scattered a bunch of unknowns into all of our lives.

At Fenwick, we're taking them on.

At the beginning of March, for instance, no one knew what going to school would be like ... if you couldn't go into the school. Thanks to the teachers, staff and students, Fenwick has stayed remarkably on course. (See page 6 for coverage on eLearning initiatives.)

With the postponement of the Blackfriars Gala in April, we initially weren't sure how we were going to fill the sudden arrival of a \$500,000 revenue shortfall for the fiscal year ending in June. Those funds are especially crucial since they are entirely used for tuition assistance. Thanks to some key supporters, Board members and the larger Fenwick family, we are now well on our way to meeting that financial aid shortfall via the "COVID-19 Financial Aid Challenge." (See below for more details.)

The Board of Directors and its various committees have also faced inevitable hurdles as they continue their service to the school. We've figured out ways to stay in close touch from a distance, becoming expert at video calls and email votes.

The Board is focused on the future of Fenwick, especially as we plan for the new school year. I'm pleased to report that, following weeks of intensive work, we recently approved a budget. It was a process unlike any I've ever experienced. Budgets are always driven by a little guesswork, but the current situation presented lots of opportunities to solve for x.

Like every educational institution, especially private ones, Fenwick is confronted with unknowns around enrollment and finances. What impact will pandemic have on returning students? What about our incoming freshman class? Will families need more financial aid? Will we still be dealing with the fallout in December when the entrance exam takes place?

In planning ahead, we took a very realistic approach, replete with contingencies for both potential upsides and downsides. Whatever we encounter, there is confidence that we're set to weather the storm.

Fenwick and I remain fortunate to have such a talented and engaged board. This group of 20 alumni, Dominicans, parents and past parents brings passion, wisdom and a world of experience to the challenges at hand. Even from a distance, they continue to exemplify the Dominican Pillar of Community.

As summer arrives, we all congratulate the heroic Class 2020. We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2024 when the doors at 505 Washington Boulevard open again. And we can't wait to get Algebra safely back in the classroom! ✨

COVID-19 FINANCIAL AID CHALLENGE

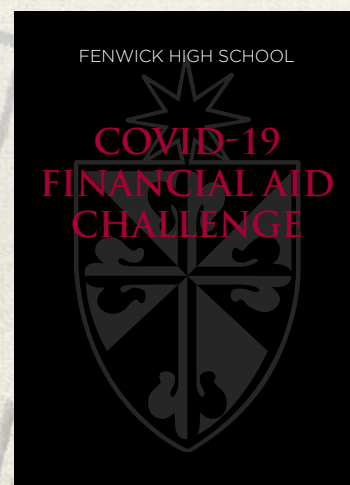
A group of Fenwick supporters has committed \$235,000 and challenged the rest of the Fenwick community to ensure financial aid remains available to Fenwick students during this crisis. They will match dollar-for-dollar any donations made by mid-June to restore financial aid lost due to the postponement of the Blackfriars Gala until November. You can help.

Only two weeks remain! Double your dollars! Every gift made to the COVID-19 Financial Aid Fund between now and June 15 will count toward the challenge. To date, nearly \$100,000 has been raised. The Friar community always rises to the challenge. Fenwick students and families face an unprecedented challenge.

Many members of Friar Nation have already stepped up. You can, too. **Please click here to make a gift to the COVID-19 Financial Aid Fund right now** or respond to the mailing you may have received.

Help ensure that Friar students like these can continue their Fenwick education and one day count themselves among Fenwick alumni.

Thank you!



68TH ANNUAL

Blackfriars Gala

THE 68TH ANNUAL BLACKFRIARS GALA
HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR

Friday, November 20, 2020

Drury Lane Theatre

2020 Honorees

Lumen Tranquillum

Rev. Richard C. LaPata O.P. '50

Hall of Fame

Mrs. Tracy Q. Brooker

Mr. Robert J. Callahan '67

Hosts

Mr. Thomas J. '67 and Mrs. Jane F. Monaco

Mr. Edward O. '80 and Mrs. Jodi Pacer

Mrs. Jeanne E. Ritchie and the late Mr. William H. Ritchie, Jr. '50



The Fenwick faculty and administration were well prepared and not caught off-guard by what the COVID-19 crisis means for brick-and-mortar school buildings. By Mark Vruno

Fenwick students have not seen the inside of their historic school building since Friday, the unlucky 13th of March, 2020. During the ensuing 47 school days, faculty members employed skills acquired over the past 18 months or more to help the transition to electronic learning (eLearning) proceed relatively seamlessly. As part of their ongoing professional development, teachers, administrators and staff members were required to become Google-certified in 2019. The timing of that peer-led initiative could not have been better.

Staff had been prepared for remote learning in anticipation of snow or cold-weather days; however, preparing for a viral pandemic has been an ongoing process. “Nobody envisioned this would be several weeks or months of the school year,” Director of Student Services Terry O’Rourke told the *Chicago Tribune* in mid-April. “The professional development we’ve done on the front end has reaped great rewards now.”

Before anyone had ever heard about COVID-19, Digital Learning Specialist Bryan Boehm was worried about different types of viruses at Fenwick: those of the computer-network variety. “eLearning is the hot phrase now because of what education has become around the country and the world,” says Mr. Boehm, “but Fenwick started down this path about seven years ago when we went 1:1 with [Apple] iPads. This gave teachers new tools in the classroom ...”

Nearly two years ago, each one of Fenwick’s 1,152 incoming students walked through the front doors with an iPad in her or his backpack. In fact, members of the Class of 2018 were the first Friars to have tablet computers in their collective possession all four years. With improved anti-cheating security measures in place, teachers now can administer online quizzes and tests via these iPads.

Approximately four years ago, Fenwick adopted a new learning-management system (LMS) called **Schoology**, “a platform that gave us the opportunity to place all class materials, including notes, homework, quizzes, tests, videos, etc., in one location,” Boehm continues. “Teachers have the option to place their class materials and even provide more [resource] materials to enhance what they do in an ‘in-person’ learning environment.”

While learning and implementing Schoology, the Technology Department recognized that our long-standing, on-premise file server was at its end of life. Rather than invest in a new server, the decision was made to move everything towards a cloud-based platform. “Fenwick chose to go with Google, whose efforts in education have been implemented in a majority of schools across the United States. Google Suite or their ‘Apps for Education’ are used from elementary schools to higher learning institutions,” points out Boehm, “and give us tools such as YouTube, Docs, Sheets and Forms, to name a few. Schoology and Google have a

Keep Doing Great FcosΘΔx!



"Fenwick's prior investments in iPads, Notability and Schoology are really paying off," believes Physics/Computer Science Dept. Chair Dave Kleinhans.

great working arrangement where Google is integrated into the platform.

"Although remote learning is new, different and definitely challenging, the steps that Fenwick has been taking over the past four to five years have made this transition easier — merely from an educational standpoint," Boehm adds. "Nothing can replace in-person learning and nothing can make up for the person-to-person social and learning aspects. But with our efforts, we at least made the best out of the situation and ensured that our students did not fall behind using the technology we've implemented."

So, how was eLearning accepted during the latter half of the second semester?

Survey says ...

Similar to classes in the hallowed halls of 505 Washington Blvd., the eSchool day started at 9 a.m. for students — there was no commuting, after all — and each class lasted 40 minutes. (See "A Day in the Life of eLearning" on page 9.) Student surveys conducted in late March and early April revealed that reception was "very positive," Mr. O'Rourke told the *Tribune*. "We asked how the home workload was compared with school. About 86% said it was the same or more work than they had been doing. We've been fortunate with the things that we've done; the kids are used to virtual experiences.

"It's an issue of putting a program together to ensure the kids are getting the material they needed and that we're actually facilitating that learning through this eLearning process," O'Rourke continued. "The two surveys of students show that. We had a high degree of participation where it shows the results are valid.

As far as two-way video-conferencing is concerned, that element did not come until later in April. "I was incredibly reluctant to allow live video conferencing when this began," admits Fenwick Principal Peter Groom. "As time went on, we continued to discuss it as a possibility and spoke with other schools. During this time period there were some schools that had tremendous difficulty with management issues and almost banned it. Additionally, privacy issues arose, which further complicated things," he notes.

Reviewing student surveys only made his conflict worse. "In the end, I felt that the educational and emotional benefit to the

continued on next page

STUDENT SERVICES FOR THE CLASS OF '21

COVID-19 has made things strange for the Junior Class, too. "Juniors and their parents have begun filling out invitations for teacher recommendation forms, parent recommendation forms and personal college 'brag sheets'



Richard Borsch

to begin their college planning," reports long-time Fenwick College Counselor Richard Borsch. Several colleges, including Emory, Johns Hopkins, Notre Dame, Salve Regina and Wash U., have produced a series of visual presentations on various aspects of the admissions process.

In addition to embarking on virtual campus/departmental/major tours and live, video interviews with admissions counselors and financial-aid officers, some junior students are talking with Friar alumni, too. "We've established an Alumni College Information Network," explains Mr. Borsch, "wherein our students can contact Fenwick alumni who are attending or graduated from a number of schools and who have volunteered to offer assistance."

Many junior families have expressed concerns about taking the ACT/SAT Achievement Tests and AP (Advanced Placement) tests. "An increasing number of colleges have joined the test-optional schools," Borsch reassures. "They will not require the submission of any standardized tests during the 2020-21 admissions cycle and have pledged that lack of scores will in no way negatively impact admissions decisions." ACT has announced the possibility of an in-home option that may be available this coming fall, Borsch notes.

In addition, a large number of colleges have issued statements that they will honor whatever grading policies high schools choose to employ during this exceptional period — and any system chosen will not be viewed as a negative factor on a transcript.

YOGA AND FAITH-SHARING

Like the ancient Greeks, Dominicans believe that a sound body equals a sound mind. In that balanced spirit, during the second semester this past spring, online yoga sessions for faculty were held two days per week by Expressive Arts Dept. Chair and Band Director Mrs. Rizelle Capito (at right).

Also, Campus Minister Mary Beth May offered weekly faculty and staff faith-sharing meetings via Zoom video-conferencing. "There was time for checking in, discussing Scripture and sharing prayer intentions" during the 45-minute sessions, says Mrs. May, who lives in Oak Park and came to us early this year from Notre Dame College Prep in Niles, IL.

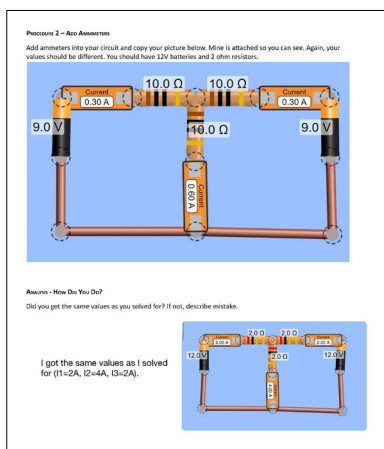


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student outweighed the negatives as long as proper training process was in place," Mr. Groom explains. Another concerning factor: more than 30% of students were experiencing bandwidth issues at home. "As synchronous learning increases, this will put a further strain on these students and can start to leave them behind," he warns. Groom encouraged his educators to be "very conscious of this and sensitive to it," adding that teachers may need to provide alternatives.

From a student's perspective, "eLearning in AP Physics I went very smoothly with Mr. Kleinhans," reports Aidan Breslin '21 (Westmont, IL). "The Zoom meetings maintained a classroom environment that our class had established this year; the Notability lessons were easy to follow, and the virtual labs helped to grasp difficult concepts."

Groom went on to thank the faculty members who provided training for their colleagues on Zoom conferencing and other applications that were used. In an internal memorandum, he praised: "I am inspired by your work and the feedback I am getting from our families."



A page from physics lab report with embedded pictures of a virtual circuit built by Aidan Breslin '21, who scored a 20/20.

Parental Perspectives

How are our families managing from the home front? "We are so grateful for the love, courage, compassion and commitment Fenwick has provided throughout this crisis," writes Mrs. Mary Gibbons (La Grange, IL), mother of a junior-to-be and wife of Friar **Kevin Gibbons '89**. "While our daughter, Clare, is sad for the 'missed opportunities' of springtime at Fenwick, and really sad for the Senior Class, she remains hopeful because of the leadership Fenwick is providing. She finds eLearning interesting, but definitely misses school (did we ever think we'd hear that?), her classroom discussions, teachers, classmates, coaches and teammates from 'normal life' at Fenwick."

Sheltering in place "is definitely bringing us closer together as a family!" adds Fenwick parent Michele Pavalon, the mother of junior Alexandra (Hinsdale, IL). "Spring is typically one of our busiest times with four over-scheduled kids. Instead, we are learning about an unknown: boredom! We will always remember and likely cherish the weeks of little to do, but we are ready to return to our pre-quarantine lives!"

Sandra Ruiz, mom of a senior Alyssa Ruiz (Chicago), notes, "This was our last year with Fenwick, and it is bittersweet given the circumstances. I do look forward to creating memories after this is over."

Kathryn Meade, another senior mom, put the situation in perspective: "I'm going to be honest: This is a very stressful time!" stresses Mrs. Meade (Lombard, IL). "I know my son [Jack, a senior] really misses his teachers, friends and classmates. I am so sad the Class of 2020 will miss out on so much but have faith that we will get to celebrate them and their accomplishments later in the summer. As a family, we are trying to take it day by day. Each sunrise is met with the promise of one day closer to normalcy." ✨

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF E-LEARNING

Some teachers shared their experiences during the quarantine: how they taught their students and unique ideas they found useful to help engage them. Computer Science and **Physics Dept. Chair Dave Kleinhans** reports that the format he used was “really the same as in class. We had three lecture periods a week in Physics,” he explains. “During these three periods, we conducted Zoom sessions where I took attendance and quizzed students on reading or on homework from the night before. Then most of the session is me going over and untangling problems in Notability [iPad app].”

Instead of working with Fenwick laboratory equipment, Mr. Kleinhans moved to virtual labs. “Several universities and open-source platforms create and publish online labs,” he offers. “Students did labs and then submitted electronic lab reports in Schoology for grading as before.

“Prior investments in iPads, Notability and Schoology are really paying off,” Kleinhans believes. “The biggest issue was self-motivation. This [eLearning] is great practice for university life,” he adds. “Students overslept sometimes or went back to bed after attendance. When that happened I called home on the weekends, usually pretty early, to speak to them!”

Science colleague and alumna **Brigid Baier Esposito '96** created her own lectures using the Recordit app, “so I could include videos and animations from PhET that I would normally show in class. All my lectures were in Edpuzzle, so anyone can look at them. I tried to break them up with little videos from outside sources and a lot of questions for students to answer as they went through the video — to keep them engaged.”

Mrs. Esposito adds that, while she could have used lectures from other sources, “I feel like my students were dealing with enough change ... [so] making my own lectures allowed them to at least continue hearing my explanations.”



Mrs. Esposito and sons

Listen in on some of Mrs. E's lectures (Click on the name of the lecture to play it.)

- **AP Physics I, Electric Fields**
- **Ir and Ic circuits ap c**
- **qual and quant electrostatics ap 1**
- **Inductors apc**
- **AP 1 Mixed Series and Parallel Circuits**

For the worksheets she assigned, Mrs. Esposito made a Notability video. “I worked through the worksheet so students could check their answers.” She also ran Zoom help sessions once or twice a week where students could ask questions. “Unfortunately, these help sessions were occasionally interrupted by one of my sons asking questions about his own school work!”

Esposito used PhET and Pivot Interactives for labs, “which went well,” she reports. “The biggest challenge for me was the upload speeds on my videos. I actually had to have my Internet Service Provider come out and increase my upload speeds. It was taking me two hours to upload a video, but now it only takes 20 minutes.”

As a demonstration, Mrs. Esposito played a short video from her personal, home recordings “since I cannot do the videos in person. It shows one of her sons observing a Van de Graaff Generator in action: **Watch the video here.**

EXTRA CREDIT

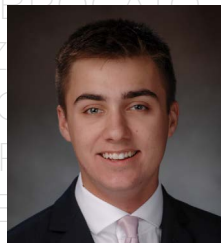
Click here to see how Mrs. Kaitlin Hasenbeck-Meyer maintained a “sense of normalcy” for her German and Theology students during eLearning.

Click here to view Dr. Tracey Gau's eLearning module for Fenwick English IV Honors.



“I Lived:” A Senior’s Reflection

By Colin Wright '20 (Elmhurst, IL)



As crazy as the past days, weeks, and months have been, this is still our senior year. As we continue to grieve our lost memories and traditions, and rightfully so, it becomes easy to feel hopeless and angry. However, as frustrating as all of this has been, I am so proud to call myself a Friar.

We arrived at these gothic walls as wide-eyed freshmen hailing from every nook and cranny of Chicagoland. We all funneled into the same hot, balmy auditorium on that fateful August morning. Excited but anxious, we donned our blazers as the Class of 2020 rubbed elbows with faculty and administration for the first time. I wasn't paying much attention to most of the speakers on orientation day. But I was suddenly awakened when Father Peddicord took to the podium. If I'm being perfectly honest, as loving and wise as Father is, the detail in his welcome that gained my focus was the mention of a certain satellite radio station on Sirius XM. I distinctly remember thinking, "This guy listens to The Pulse?!" Slightly shocked, I attentively listened as he explained his affinity and liking for OneRepublic's 2014 hit single "I Lived," a song which he had discovered on that very same radio station. Father talked of how he felt that single related to the new journey of high school on which my classmates and I would soon be embarking. As the song blared from the auditorium speakers and all of our parents began to burst into tears in the back of the room, I just sat and took it all in.

Freshman year came and went; we paid our dues and moved our way up the ladder to become the ever-so-popular members of the sophomore class. Our eyes caught the corners of the room in Speech and we skated around the gym in PE and before we knew it, junior year was right in front of us. We might have (slightly) slumped, but we were continuing to learn the ways of Fenwick.

Now I think everyone can attest that junior year is no walk in the park. The combination of a rigorous workload, standardized tests, and the infamous Christian Service Project can certainly take its wear and tear on a student. But again we stood tall, and for the first time, we began to think about what life off of Washington Boulevard might look like, and in an instant, we were seniors.

This is the hard part. We have all been dreaming of our senior year glory since the moment we first walked these halls four years ago. We've saluted our teammates on senior night. We've yelled our hearts out as members of BFG have given their final bows. We've sat through honors convocations. We've seen the pictures from senior prom. And heard stories of the roar of the crowd on graduation night. This lack of closure is extremely disappointing, but in a way, it reminds us of something important.

I could mention how the Class of 2020 is one of the most academically impressive in school history, but I'll spare all the underclassmen, and all of our friends at the other high school down the street from having to be flexed on too hard.

But while we're talking about that other high school down the street, I feel it's important to mention how lucky we were to grace these halls during one of the most successful periods in the history of Fenwick athletics. Fenwick teams competed on stages big and small, and battled the likes of Huskies, Roadrunners, and The Wolfpack on stages big and small. Friar Nation has witnessed the highest of highs and the lowest of lows, but regardless of how many wins and championships we may have won, we have stood by our athletic department with unwavering support.

However, what I find to be the most impressive and valuable thing about the Class of 2020 is the community we have developed with each other. I was talking with someone a couple days ago about how much we love going to Fenwick and how astonished we were to hear the love we felt for this place was not a common opinion among a lot of the other high schools in Chicagoland. Sure, the early mornings to get a good parking spot on Washington and the late nights spent cramming for an exam the next day were certainly not the most fun, but these and all of the other experiences we had at this place between sunrise and sunset defined and shaped us to be who we are today.

So with the rest of our school year gone and the fate of graduation and other traditions in serious jeopardy, it's important to remember that although these experiences are both important and pivotal scenes of our lives, they do not define us. Although we may not be able to return to this special place as students, we will always be welcomed back as proud alumni and Friars for life.

Colin Wright will attend Indiana University.

2020





Coronavirus Can't Take Memories, Friendships

By Eva Homberger '20 (Oak Park, IL)



At our freshman orientation, Fenwick Principal Peter Groom promised the class of 2020 that the next four years would fly by. I do not think anyone anticipated that not only would this be true, but also our time together would be dramatically cut short.

As the urgency of the COVID-19 pandemic has become more clear, our final months of senior year disappeared. Classes, extracurricular activities and competitions are canceled. Spring sports and performances have been put off. Now prom is canceled and graduation is in question. We have had no choice but to settle into a new normal of eLearning and social distancing.

Having these final milestones put to the side is a loss we are still grappling with. Senior year is supposed to be the culmination of our high school journey; a time to celebrate how far we have come, recognize all we have accomplished, and look forward to the adventure ahead. Even more difficult is the fact that we must reconcile our grief with the understanding that our problems are insignificant compared to the overwhelming fear, loss and tragedy sweeping across the globe.

A month ago, as my expectations for senior year began to crumble around me, I could not begin to comprehend how surreal my life felt. Since when did I live in a teen dystopian novel? Adjusting was, and is, difficult. However, as much as it hurts, I am trying to focus on the positives.

In an unexpected way, I have been blessed with extra time with my family, which is even more meaningful right before I leave for college. Instead of racing to keep up with my busy schedule, I now can enjoy family dinners every night. I can call my grandma without being pressed for time, and I have reconnected with people I have not spoken to in years. I have garnered a greater appreciation for the little things, like reading a book with a cup

of tea and sitting outside on a warm afternoon. The situation is certainly not all sunshine and rainbows, but focusing on the simple pleasures helps me stay positive.

Moreover, quarantine has strengthened my appreciation for my friends, my classmates and my school. Between the FaceTime catch-ups, motivational videos sent by faculty and students, and endless messages of encouragement, I am overcome with gratitude for the communities to which I belong.

Although COVID-19 has separated the class of 2020 physically, I believe it has also brought us together. We appreciate each other even more now that we are apart — we certainly are not taking anything for granted and we will not allow this pandemic to derail our senior year. Using technology, we stay in touch. We help each other with eLearning struggles, share random videos to brighten our days, and are always ready to talk. Our four years together has defined our bond, and our continued support for each other during these months is only strengthening it.

At our freshman orientation, Mr. Groom told us to look to our left and to our right: These would be the people we would spend the next four years of our lives with, all the way up to graduation. I may not have the opportunity to sit among my classmates one final time at commencement. I may not have the chance to look to my left and to my right and see the faces of friends who were once strangers. But it will be OK. We, as a class and as a society, will pull through this trying time with hope and mutual support.

Our class will celebrate together as soon as we can. In the meantime, we can take comfort in the memories we have made, the friendships we have formed, and the lasting legacy of the class of 2020 that we have built together.

This essay appeared in the Oak Park Wednesday Journal.

Eva Homberger will attend the University of Notre Dame.

On May 1, Fenwick seniors announced their college choices via video. [Click here to watch it.](#)



STEM in Space

28 years after earning dual degrees from MIT, a fellow Friar let present-day students glimpse his Jet Propulsion Lab work for NASA. By Mark Vruno

When alumnus **Dan Chang, PhD, '85** returned to Fenwick last November, he felt right at home talking to students in the school library. Ever since immigrating to northeast Illinois from Taipei, Taiwan, in 1976, Dr. Chang has had an affinity for libraries and books.

Ten-year-old Chang spoke no English when he came to the United States. His father was a diplomat for the Taiwanese consulate in Chicago. During the summer, when their mother was working as a medical technician, his sister Anne and Dan went to the public library “almost every day,” he told the *Forest Park Review* eight years ago, “and I read every book about physics, space and aviation.” Before applying for a scholarship to Fenwick as an eighth grader, the future rocket scientist attended Grant-White, and then Field-Stevenson elementary schools.

“Let’s talk about the universe,” Chang engaged one group of science students last semester, as he booted up a customized PowerPoint presentation. Over the past four decades, there have been some rather astonishing developments as the field of astronomy became less Earth-centric, he told present-day Friars: “When I was in high school, we didn’t know there were other stars with planetary systems. Now, we know there are nearly 4,000

exoplanets!” (An exoplanet, or extrasolar planet, is a planet outside of our solar system.)

“Did you know there are more planets than stars in the galaxy?” Chang continued. “Small planets are common, even in the Habitable Zone, but they are too dim to see through a telescope,” he added. In astronomy and astrobiology, the circumstellar habitable zone (CHZ) is the range of orbits around a star within which a planetary surface can support liquid water given sufficient atmospheric pressure. Such complexity is par for the course for Chang, who was a straight-A student at Fenwick, a National Merit Scholar Finalist and one of three valedictorians from the Class of 1985. (Chris Hanlon and Ray Kotty are the other two.)

Chang went on to study at the prestigious Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). He says he “held my own” at the private research university and earned a bachelor of science in aeronautics/astronautics, then a master’s degree in dynamics/control. After moving to the West Coast to work for NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL, see page 15), he would go on to a doctorate in electrical engineering and photonics, from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) in 2002.

In the aforementioned newspaper article, ‘85 classmate Kotty, who has taught math at Fenwick since 1993-94, described his former Computer Club and “mathlete” teammate as “a little bit more [of] a risk-taker than the other guys in the math-club group. He was always going to go ahead and blaze his trail.” Outside of school, the two mathematical whizzes attended weekend astrophysics classes together at Chicago’s Adler Planetarium — and have remained friends over the years.

Chang told students in November, “For the record, Mr. Kotty beat me in just about every math competition at Fenwick!”

Demanding yet kind

As a high-school student, Chang never experienced faculty legend Roger Finnell ‘59 (long-time Math Department Chairman) in the classroom *per se*. Mr.



Dr. Chang reunited on Nov. 22 with Math Coach Mr. Roger Finnell '59 (center) and old pal, classmate and Fenwick Math Teacher Ray Kotty '85.



Dr. Chang talks with students in Fenwick's John Gearen '32 Library.

Finnell was — and is — moderator of Fenwick's storied Math Competition Club. Chang fondly remembers what he calls "rigorous" teachers, including Mr. Ramzi Farran (chemistry and JETS coach) and Mr. John Polka (biology), both recently retired, as well as the late Mr. Edward Ludwig (calculus) and Fr. Jordan McGrath, O.P. (pre-calc.), who passed away in 2018.

"They all were very kind but very demanding," he remembers, adding that Ludwig and McGrath were not perceived as being kind, initially. "They seemed harsh at first. They pushed us," explains Chang, who jokingly refers to Ludwig as Fenwick's "Director of Happiness." Looking back, however, the former student appreciates these teachers' collective toughness.

Other Fenwick teachers were as influential, if not more so, to Chang's developing, teenage brain. "Math always was easy [for me] to do," he admits. "It is a rich but one-dimensional subject. Large, open-ended subjects, such as history and literature, are different." As a sophomore in 1982-83, he discovered cognitive enrichment in honors English with Fr. Dave Santoro, O.P., honors history class with Mr. John Quinn '76 and speech class with Mr. Andrew Arellano. In those courses of study, "I learned how to think and debate. I developed political opinions. The strategic thinking and soft-skills I began to glimpse then are arguably as important to my job today as the technical, 'hard-skills.'"

Back to school

This past November, Chang explained to students the discovery of exoplanets by employing the so-called "stellar-wobble" method, as well as the transit photometry method. Doppler spectroscopy (also known as the radial-velocity method, or colloquially, the wobble method) is an indirect method for finding extrasolar planets and brown dwarfs from radial-velocity measurements via observation of Doppler shifts in the spectrum of the planet's parent star; while the transit method essentially measures the "wink" of a star as an exoplanet passes before it. (The Nobel Prize in physics for 2019 was awarded partially for the first exoplanet discovery, employing the radial velocity method.)

Chang spent several years of his career on JPL's Stellar Interferometry Mission (SIM), which was an attempt to discover exoplanets using yet another method — direct astrometry, but with unprecedented precision. SIM proved to be too much of a technological stretch and was cancelled in 2009. "The technology is very difficult," Chang stressed, "measuring angle changes down to approximately 4 micro-arcseconds," which is about a billionth of a degree. (An arcsecond is an angular measurement equal to 1/3600 of a degree.)

During his nearly 29-year career at JPL, Chang's technical contributions and leadership have been recognized with numerous individual awards, including

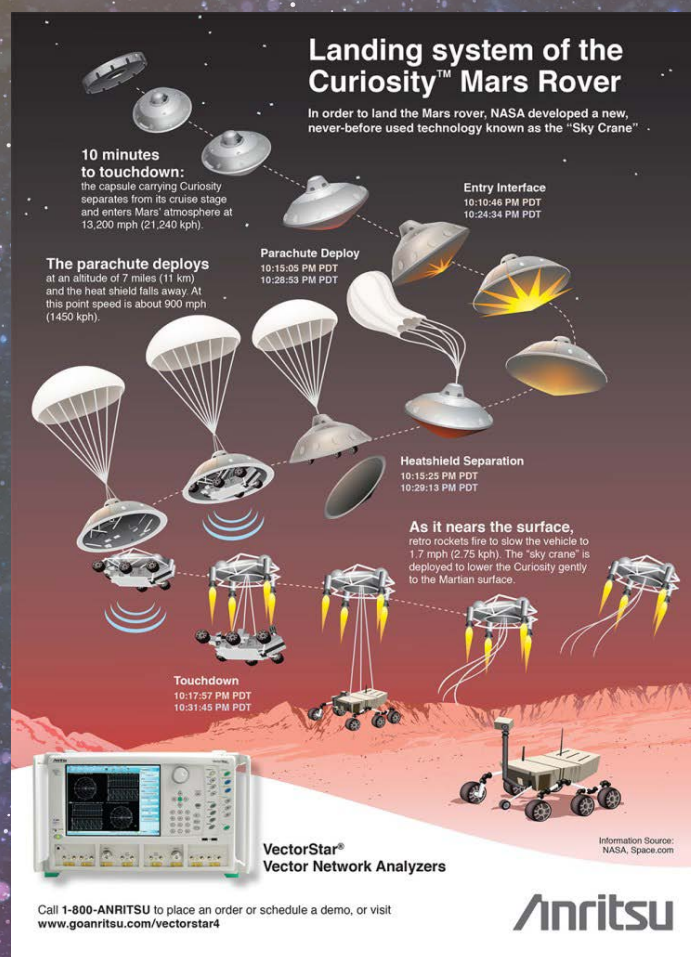
the NASA Honors Award in 2007. For the past three and a half years, he has been the project manager of JPL's Program Office 760, which is known as the "Technology Demonstrations Office." While details cannot be disclosed, he is responsible for the management and technical direction of the more than 100 people who work within the classified program. Chang, who reports to JPL's Director for Astronomy and Physics, was Office 760's chief engineer for two years prior to overseeing the program.

"This part of astrophysics is close to my heart, but let's now look at an engineering tour de force," he proclaimed to the young, fellow Friars, switching gears and delving into the basics of how the Mars landing system works.

"The United States still is the only country that has successfully landed vehicles on Mars (the massive Curiosity rover in 2012 being the most recent)," he informed the students. "We have been [remotely] driving around up there for seven years." From 2004-07, Chang served as a principal investigator under the Mars Technology Program (MTP), for which he helped to develop LIDAR for lander terminal guidance.

"With all the Martian craters and high-wind dust storms (up to 70 mph), 'how do you safely land a probe?' he asked. JPL succeeded in 1997 with its toy-car sized Pathfinder robotic spacecraft, which employed the new (at the time) technology of airbag-mediated touchdown. JPL returned again in 2004 with MER, again using airbags and a crude, wind-compensating rocket system called DICES. However, for the Mars Science Lab mission in 2012 that landed Curiosity — "essentially a nuclear-powered, 2,000-pound MINI Cooper — we had to resort to lowering the probe on a tether to solve the egress problem and other challenges." This technology is NASA's rocket-powered Sky Crane, developed for the Curiosity landing and will be used again when the Mars 2020 mission attempts its next landing. "It was surprising to us that it worked!" Chang remarked.

In less than nine months, another robotic rover could be roaming and exploring the "Red Planet" in a quest to answer that age-old question: Are we alone in the universe? Scheduled for a July 17 launch, Mars 2020 should touch down in Jezero crater (on Mars) on February 18, 2021. NASA has invested some \$2.5 billion in the eagerly anticipated mission. The new rover,



No crash landings with Sky Crane: NASA has spent more than \$200 million to develop a propulsive, soft-landing system using a massive parachute for potential use on Mars. The helium balloon has a 110-foot diameter — a canopy big enough to fill the Rose Bowl football stadium in Pasadena, California!

Perseverance, is expected to carry a small, autonomous rotorcraft known as the Mars Helicopter. Chang shared excitedly.

The Fenwick Standard

In college, when Chang wasn't studying or reading in the Cambridge, MA campus library, he blew off steam by rowing crew on the Charles River. These days, when he is not working at JPL or consulting for firms such as Skybox Imaging (acquired by Google and recently sold again to Planet Labs), his hobby is aviation. "I like fixing (mostly) and flying — when I'm not fixing — my plane," says Chang, who owns a single-engine aircraft.

He also enjoys spending time with his wife, Malina, and their teenage daughter, Natalie. While Chang contends that values, work ethic and good study habits begin at home with the family, he wishes he could find a private

secondary school in the Los Angeles area more like Fenwick, which he considers the standard. "I'd gladly pay for rigor and discipline, which are critical," he says. "Unfortunately, most private schools where I live primarily offer social segmentation."

Whether at Fenwick or MIT, "the textbooks teachers use are the same as at other schools," adds Dr. Chang, who has been interviewing undergraduate candidates in the LA area for his collegiate alma mater since 2006. "The quality of the student body is what determines how far teachers can go, how much they can push [their students]." The Dominican friars foster an egalitarian atmosphere, he concludes: "The relative wealth of the student body doesn't matter at Fenwick. One's own merit and accomplishments are what matter."

More on Dr. Chang

During his JPL tenure, Chang managed multiple projects with deliverables in photonics (laser metrology system) and large optics. Earlier in his career, he also was a cognizant engineer with a team of seven responsible for the attitude control system on NASA's Deep Space 1 (DS-1) test mission in the mid- to late 1990s. The DS-1 probe featured an ion propulsion system 10 times more efficient than a chemical rocket, allowing it to travel much farther on its fuel load.

In the early '90s he served as a staff engineer on NASA's Cassini-Huygens space-research mission to the planet Saturn. "Basically, everything we know about Saturn today came from this mission. It flew through live geysers of water vapor, CO, CO₂ and other organic molecules ... I was a guidance and control analyst on that project working on the Stellar Reference Unit, using what was then still new digital imaging technology," Chang recalls. "We also developed real-time hardware in the loop scene simulation for the Cassini-Huygens star tracker on the then state-of-the-art Intel i860/i960 platform."

"The Cassini probe was one of my first projects at JPL," he told the students while sharing vivid images of our sixth planet's rings and Saturn's stunning sunrise. JPL's next planetary mission, scheduled for launch in 2023-24, will travel some 390 million miles to Europa, an icy moon of Jupiter. "We won't go back to Saturn again until at the earliest 2034," he added — so "Saturn and its moons will have to wait for a while for a revisit."



The Mars 2020 rover now has a name: "Perseverance."

About NASA and JPL

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is an independent agency of the United States Federal Government responsible for the civilian space program as well as aeronautics and aerospace research. NASA was established in 1958, succeeding the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA).

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) is a federally funded research and development center and NASA field center in La Cañada Flintridge, California, near Pasadena, 14 miles north of Los Angeles. Founded in the 1930s, JPL later became part of NASA and is managed by the nearby California Institute of Technology (Caltech). JPL designed and built the United States' first satellite, Explorer-1, which was launched in January 1958, four months after the launch of the USSR's Sputnik. The lab's primary function is the construction and operation of planetary robotic spacecraft. It is also responsible for operating NASA's Deep Space Network.

Among the laboratory's major active projects are the Mars Science Laboratory mission (which includes the Curiosity rover), the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter, the Juno spacecraft orbiting Jupiter, the NuSTAR X-ray telescope, the SMAP satellite for earth surface soil moisture monitoring, and the Spitzer Space Telescope. It is also responsible for managing the JPL Small-Body Database and provides physical data and lists of publications for all known small Solar System bodies. JPL's Space Flight Operations Facility and 25-Foot Space Simulator are designated National Historic Landmarks. ✨

Watch video of one of Dr. Chang's presentations to Fenwick students.

Why Commute to Fenwick?

A sophomore student shares his Fenwick story — and explains why traveling from La Grange to Oak

Park is worth it. By Jack Henrichs '22

On a warm spring day at the end of 7th grade, I received a text message from my mom: “We are going to Fenwick’s Open House tomorrow.” Why would I be going there? I live within walking distance between two high school campuses where ALL of my friends would attend.

I argued with my parents until it was pointless. We attended the Open House and, of course, they loved Fenwick. They mentioned strong academics, Catholic values, small class sizes. I don’t remember



Standing 6’4” tall, the “Stork” cast a long, lean shadow during his freshman football season for the Friars in 2018. (This past season, his sophomore team posted an impressive 6-1-1 record.)

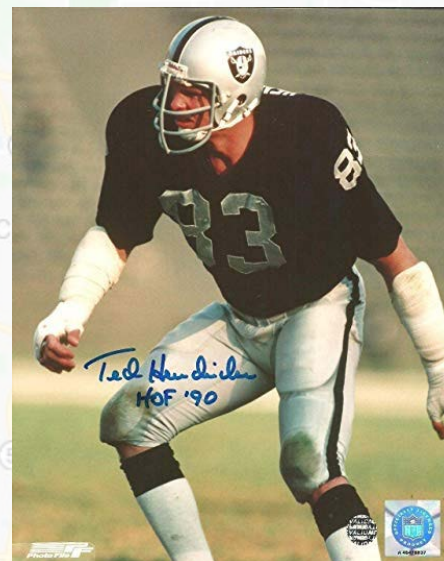
“Joining the football team made my transition to Fenwick so much easier.”

much about that night, but I did pass the entrance exam that fall. My life was ruined. Or so I thought.

I didn’t even know how to tie a tie on the first day of school. I kept thinking about how my friends were walking to school, wearing shorts and T-shirts and excited about high school. I was one of the only kids from my junior high school at Fenwick. When my dad drove a neighbor and me to the train station, we passed the public school. I took a car, train and bus to school. This seemed absurd. But I had been practicing football since the end of June with my new team, so I was excited about seeing my football friends in my classes.

Joining the football team made my transition to Fenwick so much easier. The first few days of freshman football summer camp were difficult though. I was nervous because I didn’t know a single person on my team. There were kids who were already friends with former elementary and middle school classmates, but there were also kids like me who knew no one around them for the first few practices. After several days of learning plays and running drills, we were all becoming friends. We knew we were going to be with each other for the next four years, and we were excited to prepare for our first high school season.

I entered the school year with a new nickname — “Stork.” Head Freshman Football Coach, Mr. Vruno, approached



Ted Hendricks, the original “Mad Stork” (and NFL Hall of Famer), prowled the gridiron for the Oakland Raiders in the 1970s.

me before a drill and asked if I knew who “The Stork” was. I had never heard of him, but he explained that Ted Hendricks was a 6’7” outside linebacker (and one of the best NFL players of all time), with my similar height and name. When a football coach gives you a nickname, it sticks. Teammates, classmates and teachers often call me Stork. A mom even called my mom “Mrs. Stork” last year. Joining a team had impacted my experience in ways I never thought it would, and it made my high school experience much easier.

School started and although I didn’t have many of my football friends in my classes, I saw them in the hallways, and we’d hang out before school. By the end of the first month of school, I was doing more work than I had done in my entire middle school life! I adjusted well to new teachers and classes, and even attending Mass (which was new for me since I attended a public school). I actually liked the prayers



Jack heads out for his first day of sophomore year this past August. (His mom, Michelle, made him pose!)

before classes and Mass was a reminder for me to keep God in my life.

My English teacher, Mr. Schoeph, made the class fun and interesting. He hopped up on desks and acted out stories for us. The grammar lessons were not as entertaining, but I knew they were important. Freshman year is said to be the hardest. And to me, it was. First semester was a challenge, but it prepared me for second semester, which went much smoother. I'm also glad I didn't have many football friends in my classes because I met so many new people. The school days were busy and exhausting, with football and then basketball after school every day and heavy homework every night. So when the weekend came, it was like a summer day. I felt like I deserved a break because of how hard I had worked.

'Do you want to transfer?'

At the end of the year my parents asked me if I was happy at Fenwick or if I

wanted to transfer. They insisted I give it a try freshman year and said we would reevaluate the decision in June. Several friends took the train home with me on the last day of school, and I couldn't imagine going to school anywhere else. I still had my neighborhood grade school friends, and I had my high school friends. It's the best of both worlds.

Sophomore year has been much easier than freshman year. My workload may seem less, but it's about the same because I've adjusted to the academics and expectations. I played football again this year and am still called "Stork" everywhere I go.

The nine-mile trek from La Grange to Oak Park — by car, train and bus — is well worth it, I now believe. Each day I enter Fenwick, I pass under the large mural in the foyer with these words: Prayer, Study, Community, Preaching.

Fenwick is the foundation where I met my closest friends and is preparing me for all of life ahead of me. This school is a special place that will give me many opportunities in my future, but for now I'm going to make the most of my last two years here.

It's never easy to admit when our parents are right, but I know my parents made the right decision in choosing Fenwick High School, and I am grateful. ✱

About the Author

La Grange resident Jack Henrichs attended Cossitt School and Park Junior High. As a Fenwick student-athlete, the 6'4" junior-to-be participates in football and lacrosse — and sings in the boys' chorus.

Have a Fenwick commuting story you'd like to share? Email us at communications@fenwickfriars.com.



The Henrichs family resides in La Grange, Illinois.



INSTITUTIONAL ADVANCEMENT UPDATE

Philanthropy During Crises

By Chris Ritten, Vice President of Institutional Advancement

For generations, Americans have proven time and again that we are the most generous country on earth. During times of crisis — man-made, natural, acts of God — the American people respond with generosity. This time during the coronavirus pandemic is no exception. Your support of Fenwick's COVID-19 Financial Aid Challenge, and all the wonderful acts of kindness and generosity among the Fenwick community highlighted in this digital *Friar Reporter*,* are evidence of that.

For several decades, charitable giving in the United States has closely tracked the growth in the American economy, annually accounting for +2% of GDP. For example, in 2018, the most recent year that data are available, U.S. gross domestic product was \$20.58 trillion. U.S. charitable giving in 2018 was \$428 billion, 2.08% of GDP. This percentage has remained remarkably constant over time. When GDP increases, U.S. charitable giving increases. When U.S. GDP declines, charitable giving declines.

However, in times of economic crisis and declining GDP, certain giving vehicles can play an outsized role in maintaining, or perhaps even increasing, that constant. Throughout much of the 20th and 21st centuries, during times of economic crisis, foundations have played a significant role in maintaining charitable giving. Foundations are legally obligated to give at least 5% of their assets annually, so their giving continues during good times and bad. Indeed, during bad times when other sources of charitable giving may decline, many foundations choose to distribute more than the required 5% to maintain or even increase their actual dollar amount of giving. Fenwick is a grateful recipient of grants from several family foundations.



Students, faculty and alumni all stepped up with PPE donations of face masks, shield frames and medical gloves.

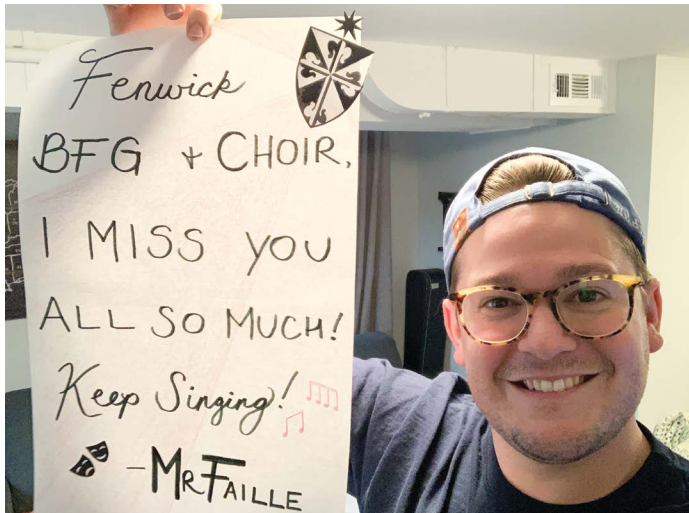


In April, the students responded to a faculty video with one of their own. [Click here to watch the video.](#)

In the past 15 or so years, a charitable giving vehicle known as a donor advised fund (DAF) has grown by far and away more than any other giving vehicle in the U.S. DAFs are generally sponsored by community foundations, like Chicago Community Trust, and money management firms, like Vanguard and Fidelity, which establish charitable arms to serve this business. DAFs have many of the advantages of foundations — significant tax advantages when established and professional money management, for example — without some of the disadvantages — cost to establish and a mandatory payout rate, for example. DAFs are not tools that only the wealthy can utilize. Many DAFs can be opened with a minimum of \$5,000 in funds dedicated for charitable use, and many are as easy to use as a checking account.

As DAFs have experienced dramatic growth in recent years and have become a greater share of charitable giving, they can play a significant role in dampening the effects of this current crisis, much as foundations have traditionally done. According to the 2019 Donor Advised Fund Report from National Philanthropic Trust, contributions to DAFs in 2019 totaled \$37.12 billion. Grants from DAFs to charities (donors receive immediate tax benefits when establishing DAFs and then can “direct” their gifts to specific charities over time) totaled an estimated \$23.42 billion, almost \$14 billion less than what was contributed to the DAFs. Total assets in DAFs at the end of 2018 were estimated to be \$121.42 billion.

Fenwick is fortunate to have many donors who support our school through DAFs, and we are very grateful for their support. DAFs are convenient and flexible giving vehicles for donors, and many Fenwick donors use them as intended — to provide support to their favorite causes on a timetable that suits their needs and their charities' needs.



Even while teaching from home, teachers found creative ways to stay connected with students. [Click here to watch the faculty video.](#)

In some of the philanthropy community, however, DAFs have not been universally acclaimed because there is no requirement to direct gifts to charities over a specified period of time. Thus, assets within DAFs, particularly at the large money management firm sponsors, have grown dramatically as grants made from DAFs have not kept pace with gifts made to DAFs and certainly not with the additional growth in assets due to investment returns.

Just imagine if, in 2018 alone, grants from DAFs to charities had been \$14 billion more than the gifts made to DAFs instead of \$14 billion less than the gifts made to DAFs, as was the case. That would have been \$28 billion more in the hands of charities instead of DAF sponsors (and that doesn't even account for the gain from investment returns). The tax benefits would have been the same for the donors, but what a difference that would have made to the charities.

Foundations have long understood their unique role in bolstering U.S. charitable giving during times of economic distress. With the rise in DAFs in the early 21st century, these donors too can play a significant role during this pandemic and future crises to ensure that charitable giving remains a hallmark of American exceptionalism. *

**This digital edition of the Friar Reporter will be the first of at least several. Given the budget constraints caused by this crisis, the FY '21 Friar Reporters — fall 2020 and spring 2021 — are also scheduled to be digital only. Please, please let communications@fenwickfriars.com know of any of your classmates, Fenwick friends, and other members of the Fenwick community who may not have received this. That means we do not have their email address and would like to add that information to our database so they can receive our e-communications. Thank you.*



Even as Fenwick has been closed since mid-March, construction of the **Michael R. Quinlan '62** Parking Center has continued uninterrupted during the shelter-in-place orders in Illinois and will be completed as scheduled in mid-summer. This is fantastic news!

[Click here to watch a time-lapse video of the construction of the parking center.](#)

When we return to school in the fall, 325 safe, secure and easily accessible parking spaces await our students and visitors. Now, when we welcome you back to Fenwick you'll have a place to park!



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

TEAMS STATE CHAMPS!

Before school closed due to the coronavirus pandemic, Fenwick hosted the Tests of Engineering Aptitude, Mathematics and Science (TEAMS) competition on March 13. The Friars' score of 174 placed them first in Illinois among large, selective schools!

The team had the second highest multiple-choice score in not only the state or nation, but internationally. The Varsity A team consisted of **Claire Hill**, **Dan Castellano**, **Dan Majcher**, **Eva Homberger**, **Joe Zawacki** (captain), **Nate Crowell**, **Ronan Kristufek** and **Sebastian Torres**. "I will miss this senior class," says Coach/Math Teacher **Kevin Roche '05**. "They are a brilliant, fun and charming group. I am grateful that Dan, Claire and Ronan will be around to help lead the drive for next year's team."

FRIARS WERE DOMINANT IN STEAM SECTIONALS, TOO

Team Fenwick swept the medal stand at the Academic Challenge in Engineering and Sciences (formerly WYSE) sectional competition in March. "Our Friars placed first at the ACES Central Sectional competition," reports proud Coach Dave Kleinhans, who is the chairperson of Fenwick's Computer Science/Physics Department. "We qualified as one of 12 schools with under 1,500 students in Illinois for the state finals," which, unfortunately, were canceled.

[Read about the individual winners here.](#)



Members of the Varsity A team worked together to earn a first place finish among large, selective schools. The State Champs and their fellow students got a day off from eLearning on May 1.



The Friars swept the ACES Sectional medal stand in March.

85 Seniors Named Illinois State Scholars

More than 30% of the Class of 2020 made the list! Who are they? [Find out here.](#)



All-Staters (from left): junior Kate Turner, a soprano, and seniors Joe Zawacki, tenor; Josh Richards, French horn; and Charlene Guerrero, clarinet.

MUSICIANS SET SCHOOL RECORD

Four music students were selected for the Illinois Music Education Association All-State Music Festival (January 30–February 1) — the most in Fenwick history! All four students were selected to the top groups at All-State.

Kate Turner '21 (soprano) and **Joe Zawacki '20** (tenor) were selected to the Honors All-State Chorus; **Charlene Guerrero '20** (clarinet) was selected for the Honors All-State Band; and **Josh Richards '20** (French horn) again was selected for the Honors All-State Orchestra (for the second year in a row!). The students performed with other top high school musicians from the entire state of Illinois under the direction of world-class conductors/music educators. “Congratulations to this ‘quartet’ for their hard-work and dedication, which has earned them this distinguished honor,” says Ms. Rizelle Capito, Chair of Fenwick’s Expressive Arts Dept.

[Read more about the ILMEA Festival.](#)

Craig Butler Receives Prestigious Recognition as a Posse Foundation Scholar

Fenwick 2020 graduate **Craig Butler** (Bellwood, IL) has been named a Posse Foundation Scholar. Butler will receive a full-tuition scholarship to the University of Wisconsin - Madison, which is one of nearly 60 schools that collaborates with the Posse program.



Butler

Fenwick Class Counselor Emily Anderson praises: “Craig is an incredibly determined, hard-working and deserving individual. I couldn’t be more excited for him. He will be among the first in his family to attend college, and I have no doubt he will prove himself to be a grateful recipient of the Posse Scholarship.” After applying, Butler progressed through an intense, three-stage interviewing process, explains Ms. Anderson.

The speedy Butler ran track for the Friars, making All-Catholic League in the long jump his first year. He tried out for the football team as a senior this past fall. A versatile student-athlete, Butler also is a member of the Fenwick chess and bowling teams as well as the National Honor Society (NHS) and Black Student Union. “Craig has volunteered his time every Tuesday morning to Friar Mentors, providing tutoring for those who need help in Spanish,” Anderson notes.

[Read more about Craig and how he found out about his scholarship.](#)



4 NATIONAL MERIT FINALISTS

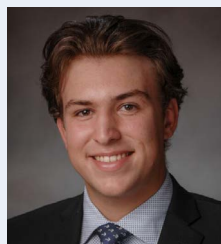
Four Fenwick seniors are among the National Merit Scholarship Corporation’s finalists for the 2019-20 school year (from left):

- **Eva Homberger**, Oak Park, Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School
- **Joseph Zawacki**, Oak Park, St. Giles Catholic School
- **Jacob Arquette**, Oak Park, Percy Julian Middle School
- **Elizabeth Rogowski**, Hinsdale, St. Isaac Jogues Catholic School

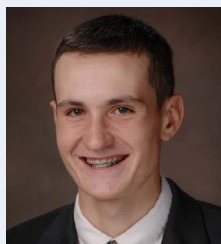
These four members of the Class of 2020 are being considered for 7,500 scholarships to be awarded by the National Merit Scholarship Corp., colleges and universities, and participating corporations.

5 SENIORS NAMED 2020 EVANS CADDIE SCHOLARS

The Western Golf Association (WGA) and its Evans Scholars Foundation have released the names of five Fenwick seniors who will receive the Chick Evans Caddie Scholarship for the 2020-24 school years:



Archacki



Daley



Feldmeier



Quinones



Sosna

Patrick Archacki of Chicago/Taft Academic Center, (Ridgemoor Country Club, Harwood Heights) – Marquette University (Milwaukee, Wisconsin)

Maximilian Daley of Oak Park/St. Vincent Ferrer – River Forest, (Oak Park Country Club) – University of Washington (Seattle)

Patrick Feldmeier of Western Springs/St. John of the Cross School, (Chicago Highlands Club, Westchester) – University of Notre Dame

Stephanie Quinones of Chicago/Uno Charter (Riverside Country Club) – University of Illinois

Martin Sosna of Chicago/Immaculate Conception School (Ridgemoor Country Club, Harwood Heights) – Miami of Ohio

These five recent graduates join more than 15 other former Fenwick students presently enrolled in universities as Evans Scholars, including four from the Class of 2019. Each award covers full tuition and housing for four years. An additional 256 Evans Scholarships are being awarded to other Class of '20 caddies from around the United States.

“The Evans Scholarship Program has provided a truly exceptional opportunity to our students over the years,” said Mr. Richard Borsch, Director of College Counseling at Fenwick. “Again this year, the selection committee has granted full scholarships to these five seniors. We are proud and grateful.”

[Read more about the Evans Scholarship here.](#)

Mathletes Win First Place at State Regionals

In February, the Fenwick Math Team qualified for the State Finals (which were subsequently canceled) for the 27th consecutive year. Members of the 36-person squad finished first or tied for first in nine of 10 events, earning the rare praise of long-time moderator and math guru **Roger Finnell '59**.

Their overall score of 692 ranked ahead of high-school teams from Hinsdale South (593), Glenbard South (520) and Riverside-Brookfield (435). Junior **Logan Maue's** performance in Algebra II was Fenwick's first perfect individual score in the 40-year history of the state contest!

[Read more about the Friars individual winners here.](#)



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, October 1, 2020
PASS THE TORCH

Friday & Saturday, October 2 & 3, 2020
CLASS OF 1970 50TH REUNION



FENWICK HIGH SCHOOL FRIAR COURTYARD

Personalize a gift for the Friars in your life. Commemorative bricks can be purchased now for installation this summer in the ever more beautiful Fenwick Courtyard. A brick makes the ideal Father's Day and graduation gift for soon-to-be young alumni from the class of 2020.

Orders are due June 5, 2020. For more information about the courtyard bricks, please contact Kristyn Rein, Development Associate, at krein@fenwickfriars.com. **Click here for the order form.**



THE 51ST ANNUAL FRIAR CLASSIC

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 2020
GOLF OUTING



FRIAR CLASSIC GOLF OUTING

Friday, August 14, 2020

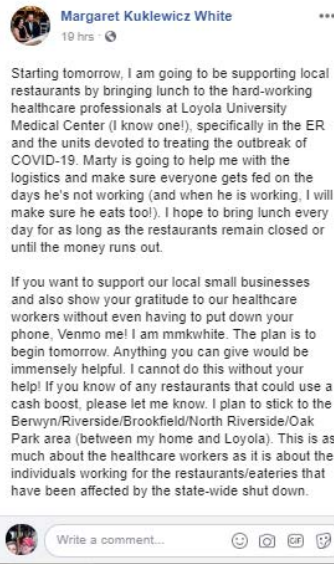
Cantigny Golf
27W270 Mack Road
Wheaton, IL 60189

fenwickfriars.com/alumni/friar-classic-2020/

COMMUNITY HAPPENINGS

Doctors Gotta Eat

Fenwick alumnus/internist **Dr. Marty White '03** helped his wife, Margaret (a Trinity grad), in an effort to support Chicago-area restaurants. The Whites brought lunches to the hard-working health-care professionals at Loyola University Medical Center (Maywood, IL), especially those in the ER and the units devoted to treating COVID-19.



Alumnus Chef Steps Up

In Chicago, Friar alumnus-turned-chef **Michael Ponzio '01** (center) and his Union League team are minimizing waste during closure by making soups and pickling produce. In April, they donated 30 cases of fresh veggies and other perishables for children's meals at Boys & Girls Clubs.



The Nurses of Fenwick

National Nurses Week (May 6-12) had special meaning this year. Fenwick salutes our alumni whose dedication and hard work often is taken for granted. Sometimes, it takes a health crisis such as the coronavirus pandemic to bring these medical heroes into the spotlight.



Heinimann

Alumna **Julianne (Comiskey) Heinimann '01** is one of at least 30 Friar alumni — women and men — who are registered nurses or nurse practitioners across the United States: from Chicago, Maywood, Oak Park, Downers Grove and Indiana to Washington (DC), Ohio, Arizona and San Francisco. Several of our nurses were highlighted on social media (Facebook, Instagram and Twitter) throughout the course of the week.

[Read more about the nurses of Fenwick.](#)



Sunset Serenades

Alumnus **Brian Costello '83** plays shelter-in-place, sunset serenades on the bagpipes in Elmhurst, IL. He mixes up sets but almost always plays "Amazing Grace" as a tribute to his late father and "When Irish Eyes are Smiling" for his late mother. Brian's nightly ritual has been featured in local media news outlets, including the *Chicago Tribune*. [Listen here.](#)

PPE Donations

The Fenwick Health Office and Science Department have donated ninety N95 masks to first responders at the Oak Park Police Department, reports School Nurse Donna Pape. Additionally, 3D printers from the school's Engineering & Innovation Lab are being used to manufacture COVID-19 shield frames (below, left) for nurses at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital in Melrose Park. All of the school's protective gloves and goggles have been donated to nearby Rush Oak Park Hospital.

Young alumnus **Ethan Baehrend '19** (center) reports that his Austin, TX firm's speedy DUO printer can produce 160 face shields per day. His mom, Diana, delivered a batch locally to his hometown of River Forest. Ethan is looking for Fenwick friends in Texas, so please reach out to him at Creative 3D Technologies!



River Forest delivery: Past Parent Diana Baehrend (far right) delivered face shields made in Texas by son Ethan's speedy 3D DUO printer.



National Police Week

National Police Week kicked off on May 10. School records show that at least 30 alumni are police officers. One Fenwick law-enforcement connection is River Forest, IL, Police Chief **Jim O'Shea '85** (right). Here is a sampling of other alumni who protect and serve:

Brian Kaniecki '03 and **Jeff Marek, '10** are police officers in Oak Park (and also work security at Fenwick). **Warren Hernandez '90** is a police officer in Bellwood, IL. From the Class of 1987, **Vito Angiulo** is a Cook County Sheriff, while **Michael Eck** and **Ron Lugay** are cops in North Riverside, IL, and Scottsdale, AZ, respectively.

Bob Wasielewski '81 wrote on Facebook to remind us that his Friar classmate, Lieutenant **James Prah**, proudly serves with the Chicago Police Dept. (CPD): "Always in my prayers, brother." **John Mirabelli '89** also works for the CPD. THANK YOU to all of our first responders!

If you know of an alumni police officer, please email us at communications@fenwickfriars.com so we can update the school records!



O'Shea



1st Response

Alumnus **Chris Przekota '00** (swimming/water polo) is a police officer in Wilmette, IL. He's also co-founder of custom swimsuit firm Tread 365, which donated hundreds of reusable face masks to fellow first responders in his department.



Church Services on Zoom

Friar alumnus **Fr. John Ouper '76** has been responding to the spiritual needs of his parishioners at St. Anne Catholic Church in Oswego, Illinois. "God longs to be present to us," says Pastor Ouper. [Take a look at St. Anne's YouTube Channel.](#)



FEED THE FRONT LINE

Billy Bricks Pizza, owned by Fenwick alumnus **Ric Gruber, Jr. '04**, has sent out more than 1,100 donated meals and matched that, totaling over 2,200 front-line heroes served! Billy Bricks has eight Illinois locations, including in Oak Park. [Find a location near you.](#)



Interactive Concerts Online

More than 3,500 people watched former Fenwick faculty member and current parent Matt Scharpf play some tunes on Facebook Live to keep people entertained during isolation. Since the shelter-in-place order began, he has generously hosted Facebook Live concert events, raising over \$10,000 for local charities and businesses.

A few weeks later, Friar Nation tuned in to support the Fenwick Fathers' Club (FFC) and enjoy an interactive, live solo acoustic show, which raised some \$7,000 for the FFC's Tuition Continuation Fund! Also, through April 30, Matt donated the sales of his latest record "All That I've Left" (available on iTunes, Amazon, Pandora, Spotify, etc). Mr. Sharpf is a vice president at the Eurex Exchange's Chicago office.

Matt will be hosting a Friar Rock Concert on Thursday, June 4, at 7 p.m. and will be joined on stage by several Fenwick students. You can catch this concert live on Fenwick's Facebook page as well as [here](#).

Fenwick Business Directory

Fenwick is supporting Friar-owned and operated businesses with a new **Business Directory** available online. If you would like your business added, please send the name of the business, phone number and website to Alumni Relations Director Peter Durkin '03 at pdurkin@fenwickfriars.com.

FENWICK PUZZLES, WORD SEARCH AND MORE!

Looking for some new activities to engage your children during these unusual times? We have created a great activity section for the young Friars in your family. You can also release some stress with our yoga videos lead by Rizelle Capito. [Check them out here!](#)

Please Patronize Our Sponsors

Every year, Fenwick asks local businesses to sponsor our events in order to raise funds for tuition assistance for deserving students. Time and again, they have supported us and our students, helping to ensure our children receive an excellent education. As our community faces a difficult road ahead, it's our turn to lend a hand and help them weather this storm.

This is the list of the businesses who have served as recent sponsors of the Blackfriars Gala, the Friar Classic Golf Outing, the Pass the Torch Golf Outing and Fenwick Athletics. In the upcoming weeks and months, while being respectful of local government orders to maintain social distancing, we strongly encourage you to give your business to the sponsors listed below. Together we'll get through this, and we'll be a stronger community because we lifted each other up!

[Click here to see a list of our sponsors.](#)

Basketball Wrap Up



Girls Basketball

The young Friars started the season 15-0, fought through injuries and finished 27-9. They were the number one seed in the state sectional and won the Sectional Final but lost in the Supersectional. Two sophomores were recognized by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association (IBCA) for their stellar play: Audrey Hinrichs (6'1", far right) was named 3rd Team All-State and Elise Heneghan (6'0", right) received All-State Special Mention.

Read more about the season [here](#).

Class of 2020 members (near right) celebrated on Senior Night.





Boys Basketball

Head Varsity Coach Staunton Peck (crouching) was named IBCA Coach of the Year (Class 3A) while junior Bryce Hopkins (6'7", next page) was named 1st Team All-State. Sophomore Trey Pettigrew (6'2", right) was an IBCA All-State Special Mention. The team ended the season 27-7 (12-3 in CCL) and were seeded first in the state sectional before the playoffs were abruptly cut short in March due to the coronavirus. The team had five CCL award winners including Bryce Hopkins (Lawless POY), Trey Pettigrew (2nd team all league), David Gieser, Max Reese and Gabe Madej (honorable mentions).



Seniors and their parents enjoyed Senior Night (left); super soph Pettigrew taking it to the hole (above).

ATHLETE SPOTLIGHT



**KATIE
DRUMM**

Senior

Girls' Swimming

- ISDA All-State
- Finished 4th in State in the 50 Free with a personal best time of 23.30
- Finished first in all four of her events at Sectionals (50 Free, 100 Fly, 200 Free Relay and 400 FRR)
- MAC Senior Swimmer of the Year
- Headed to Boston College



**CONNOR
MCCARTHY**

Junior

Boys' Swimming

- Team Captain
- Sectionals**
- 2nd in 100 Medley Relay, 2nd in 200 Individual Medley, 1st in 100 Fly, 1st in 400 Free Relay
- State: 12th in 100 Medley Relay, 7th in 400 Free Relay



**MATT
ZUBER**

Senior

Wrestling

- Team Captain
- 11-3 Record
- 2nd at CCL Tournament (160 pounds)
- 7th at the Dvorak Tournament
- Undefeated in dual meets
- Headed to Northern Illinois University



**ELLIE
KAISER**

Senior

Girls' Hockey

- 2020 Blackhawk Alumni High School All-Star Team
- 2019 State Final MVP
- Fenwick Three-Time Leading Scorer
- Illinois All-State Team (2018-20)
- Two AAA National Titles
- Two Invites: USA National Development Camp
- Headed to Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY)



**BRYCE
HOPKINS**

Junior

Boys' Basketball

- 24.1 ppg, 10 rpg, 3 apg, 1 blk, 56% FG, 66% 2 pt FG
- Chicago Catholic League Lawless Player of the Year
- AP 3A First Team All State
- Chicago Sun Times All Area Team
- Proviso West Holiday Tournament All-Tournament First Team
- Fenwick single season scoring record (795 points)

SENIOR SIGNINGS

Emmett Bonaccorsi

Football

DePauw University



Bryce Legan

Football

University of St. Thomas



Sean Carpenter

Football

Valparaiso University



Alyssa Sayatovic

Water Polo, Swimming

Carthage College



Bryan Dowd

Soccer, Football

Notre Dame



Marc Thomas

Football

St. Norbert College



Tommy Dvorak

Football

University of St. Thomas



Mike Williams

Basketball

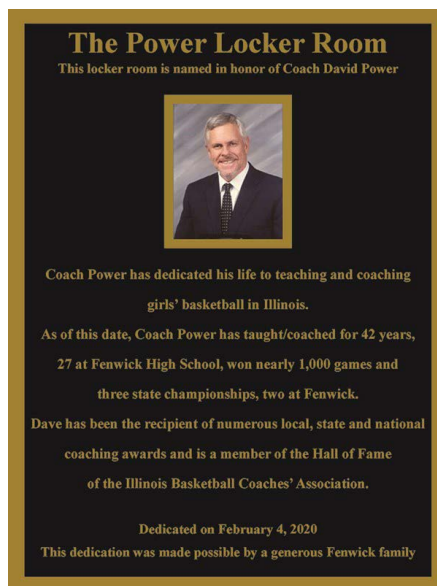
Adrian College



BASKETBALL LOCKER ROOM NAMED FOR HEAD COACH DAVE POWER

On February 4, Fenwick High School dedicated The Power Locker Room, newly named for Dave Power, now in his 27th year at the helm of Friars' girls basketball. Power is Fenwick's first and only girls' basketball coach. He began leading Fenwick's young women on the hardwood during the 1992-93 season, when the previously all-boys school went co-ed.

Power was named IBCA 3A Coach of the Year for 2019-2020. [Read more about the dedication here.](#)



Fenwick's New Football Coach

Fenwick High School has hired Matt Battaglia as its next varsity head football coach — the 16th football



Battaglia

coach in the Catholic school's storied, 90-year history. Mr. Battaglia, a graduate of Marist High School in Chicago (Class of 2009), also serves as an assistant athletic director.

While at Marist, Battaglia played for his mentor and a highly successful coach in Pat Dunne. After Marist, he continued his playing career at Northern Illinois University. (His college teammate was Mt. Carmel Head Coach Jordan Lynch.) Battaglia's coaching career began at St. Francis High School, Wheaton, IL, as an assistant under Mike Fitzgerald. He then returned to his alma mater (Marist), where he spent three seasons as an offensive assistant. Battaglia then was brought to Kent State University under Sean Lewis.

FENWICK ALUM NAMED COACH OF BOYS HOCKEY CLUB

Fenwick alumnus Nick Chiappetta '10, a six-year veteran of the Friars' hockey coaching staff, is the new head coach for Fenwick Boys Hockey.

Upon graduating from Boston College in 2014, Chiappetta reunited with Fenwick as an assistant coach of the Boys' JV2 team in the 2014-15 season, elevating to JV1 assistant from 2015-18, and ultimately served as the Head Coach of JV1 for the 2018-19 season. He most recently served as the assistant coach of the boys' varsity team. Nick brings with him over 300 games coached at the high-school level, some of which highlighted with Kennedy Cup Finals appearances and a State Runner-Up finish at the JV level his second season coaching with the program.



Chiappetta

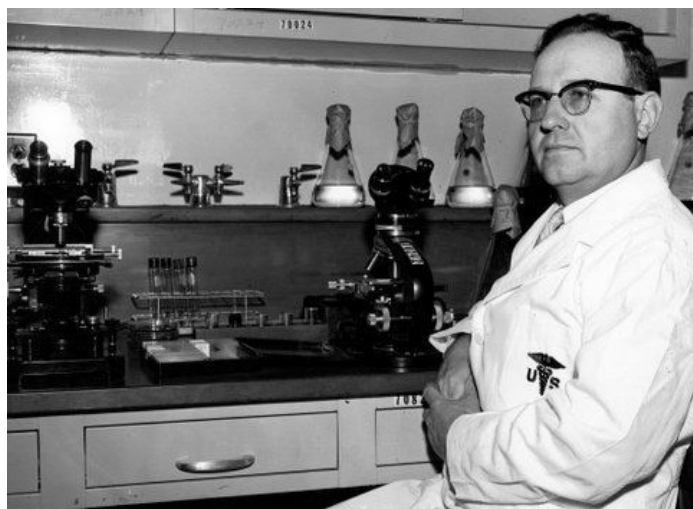
Nick was a four-year goaltender during his years at Fenwick, the last three of which were on varsity. Having made numerous Kennedy Cup Finals appearances and top 10 finishes in state himself, he knows what it takes, from both sides of the bench, to win at the high school level.

40 Years for Coach Hogan

Even though the Friars' baseball season was canceled, 2020 marks the 40th year on the Fenwick diamond for Head Varsity Coach Dave Hogan. Congratulations, skipper!

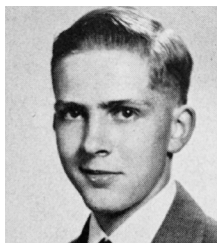


CLASS NOTES



HENRY EIGELSBACH, M.D. '37 passed away last December at age 100 (see “In Memoriam” on page 37). The world-renowned immunologist credited Fenwick with his interest in science — and had asked that the school be the beneficiary of memorial gifts made in his honor.

DONALD FEIRTAG '50 mailed a generous check (adjusted for inflation!) to classmate/*President Emeritus* **Fr. RICHARD LAPATA, O.P. '50** last Christmas. For the financial aid his family received. “The [enclosed] is my calculation of what I owe,” he wrote. Feirtag could not attend Fenwick with his friends as a freshman and sophomore due to family financial constraints. In 1946, the minimum wage was 40 cents per hour and annual tuition was \$150. “In the summer of ‘48, I got a job and saved ...,” reports the proud alumnus, “... but I never got a bill. Much later, I was told that the Archdiocese of Chicago paid [the] \$300”



Feirtag

WALTER BERNARD REDMOND '51 has been named Doctor Honoris Causa in Puebla, Mexico, by the UPAEP (Universidad Popuar del Estado de Puebla) for his contributions to the study of the philosophy in the colonial period of Latin America.

Retired veterinarian **GERRY PETKUS '56** has worked for more than 40 years to bolster Northern California’s bald eagle population. In 1977, he co-founded the nonprofit Ventana Wildlife Society in Big Sur. The one-time Friar swimmer now resides in Surprise, AZ.



TOM COLLINS '61 and his wife, Roxanne, are proud owners of a timber horse named Andi’amu, who was the 2019 National Steeplechase Association Champion. Mr. Collins is executive chairman and founder of Collins Engineers, Inc. in Chicago.

RICK ANDERSCHAT '59 recalls a serious outbreak of flu in the Chicago area during the fall of 1958: “We were encouraged to stay home if we were sick ... [but] there were no make-up classes” back then.



Anderschat

Minneapolis author **MARK SCANNELL '60** has written *RESILIENCE: The Ability to Rebound from Adversity* (Gasscann 2019). In 2015 he published *THE GRATITUDE ELEMENT: A New Look at the Serenity Prayer*.

DAN DINELLO '64 has authored *Children of Men*, based on Alfonso Cuarón Orozco’s 2006 dystopian, science-fiction film. Dinello is a professor emeritus at Columbia College Chicago, where he taught for 33 years.



Dinello

JAMES LOVERDE '64 reflects on his second year as a Fenwick Friar: A yearbook headline for the 1961-62 school year read, “Secluded Sophs Dwell in Newest Section.” “I had forgotten that we ‘wise fools’ had our own part of the building,” Loverde writes.



Some members of the Class of '68 rang in 2020 with a lunch in January. From left: **DAN HENNEBRY**, **JOE SHAKER**, **KEVIN BRENNAN**, **MICHAEL ROSANOVA**, **MIKE BIGANE**, **DOMINIC MANCINI**, **PAUL McCAFFRAY** and **EDWARD ROG**.

DAN JACOBY '65 published his first full-length book of poetry, *Blue Jeaned Buddhists* (Duck Lake Books), last fall. "As I look back at my time at Fenwick, I have come to realize the effect my Dominican education has had on my career and my writing," writes the poet. "It's nice to see that Fenwick is doing so much for young people and is continuing to look to the future."

Hon. JOSEPH CASCIATO '67 is the 2020 recipient of the Accipiter Award from the Fenwick Bar Association. "Whether as a practicing lawyer, judge, mediator or professor, the judge is highly respected ... for not only his professionalism and expertise but also for his empathy," says FBA President **MIKE HAYES, JR. '89**. The annual FBA luncheon has been moved to the fall.



Casciato

PATRICK ANDERSON, M.D. '69 is Medical Director of Reid Health's PACE (Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) project in Richmond, IN, east of Indianapolis. Dr. Anderson is a past recipient of the Humanity in Medicine Award.



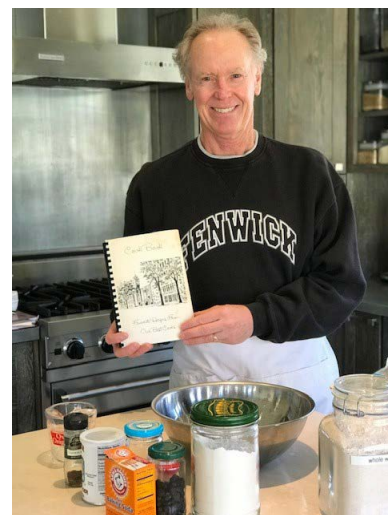
Anderson



JIM DAN, M.D. '70 (left) hosted a Fenwick alumni gathering in Naples, FL, this past winter. Fellow Friars **JACK FLYNN '51** (center) and **BILL KRUG '72** were among the attendees in early February.

JEFF NORRIS '72 was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame as a player. Jeff's brother, Tom, also is a 2020 inductee (representing OPRF). Their dad is the late ED NORRIS '35.

TOM TODD '76 dusted off old books while working at home during the quarantine: "I made Irish soda bread using a recipe from the *1973 Mothers' Club Cookbook*. It was contributed by Fr. Fogarty, who taught junior/senior English in the '60s and '70s and was hockey club moderator."



BRIAN HANLEY '78 is back on the radio airwaves in Chicago. The long-time Score (WSCR-AM 670) host launched a Saturday morning hockey show on rival ESPN 1000 with NBC Sports Chicago's Pat Boyle.

JAMES W. BURKE '83, of Western Springs, is a financial advisor for Edward Jones in Darien, IL.

WILLIE BROWN '85 is a Regional Business Director at biopharmaceutical manufacturer Taiho Oncology, following a 12-year stint with Eli Lilly and Co. Now based in Indianapolis, he played basketball at Loras College (Dubuque, IA), where he earned a B.A. in marketing.



Brown

Dr. ED WARD '85, a Rush University Medical Center emergency-medicine physician in Chicago, is one of our alumni doctors on the front lines of the COVID-19 crisis.



Ward

HOWARD HOBSON '86 is the CEO and founder of Rattle Radio/Media. Rattle's 44 stations provide music, podcasts, news, culture and video from a black digital-media perspective. Hobson resides in the Los Angeles area.

ANGRES THORPE '86 is now an assistant men's basketball coach at the State University of New York at Buffalo.



Thorpe

PRESTON JONES, JR. '87 is a Circuit Court Judge in Chicago. Prior to taking the bench, his honor was an Assistant Public Defender: Cook County Homicide Task Force (2004-17) and Felony Trial Division (1998-04) as well as Juvenile Justice/Child Protection.

KENDALL GRIFFIN '90 took over as Athletic Director at Saint Ignatius College Prep in Chicago, following administrative stints at Argo, Glenbard East, Niles West and Schaumburg high schools. He has a B.A. in psychology from Loras College (IA) and master's Ed. degrees from Aurora (IL) and Concordia (River Forest) universities.



MARK CHRISTOPHER ANDRES '93, Army ROTC University of Pennsylvania '97, was promoted to the rank of Colonel in 2019. Col. Andres (right) is pictured with U.S. Vice President Mike Pence and his wife, Karen, serving a turkey dinner to troops in Iraq this past Thanksgiving. Andres is presently assigned to the 3rd Security Force Assistance Brigade.

QUENTIN KRUEL '94 is a director at Landmark Partners (Boston), responsible for underwriting real-estate investments. He earned an MBA from Yale, MCRP from Georgia Tech and civil engineering B.S. degree from WashU. Kruel is a trustee of Thacher Montessori in Milton, MA.



Kruel

EDWARD POINDEXTER '94 is a Digital Design Engineer at defense contractor Northrop Grumman Corp. He received a master's degree in electrical and electronics engineering from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University in Tallahassee.



Poindexter

CRISTAL WALKER COFFEE '96 is a Senior Enterprise Account Executive at software firm Signal Labs in San Francisco. After Fenwick, she attended Pepperdine University in Malibu, CA.



Walker Coffee

Following a financial services career, **ZITA SMITH-STEPHENS '96** is in her sixth year of running Zita Cooks Catering, which provides deliciousness for schools, events, offices and private parties. Zita also is a Spanish teacher!

Fr. FRAN BITTERMAN '97 serves as Pastor of St. Josaphat Parish on N. Southport in Chicago.



Fr. Bitterman

CLAIRE (FOLEY) HANSEN '97 is Director of Children's Faith Formation at St. Joseph Parish in Seattle.

Attorney **MYLYNDA MOORE '98** is the program manager for plan ethics and compliance at Blue Cross Blue Shield Association, Chicago. Ms. Moore earned her J.D. from UW-Madison and dual B.S. degrees: math (Spellman College) and industrial engineering (Georgia Tech).

CIERRA McDONALD '99 ranks third on Black Entertainment Television's 2020 list of trailblazing black women. "After ... being surrounded by a STEM family," she went on to study at the University of Illinois. Today, the Seattle resident is an Xbox superstar at Microsoft.

ALEXANDER KROL '00 is a Certified Financial Advisor and Portfolio Manager at investment-management firm Blackrock. The former Math Team captain and valedictorian graduated *magna cum laude* from Cornell University (Ithaca, NY) with a B.S. degree in electrical and computer engineering and a Master's in financial engineering.



LARRY CONNOR '00 is a rapper-turned-filmmaker who started Integrity Vision Media in Ohio. “L-Boogie” earned a communications B.A. from Minot State (ND), a pastoral studies certification from Valor Christian College and played on Fenwick’s 1998 boys’ basketball team!



CHRIS PRZEKOTA '00 (swimming/water polo) is a police officer in Wilmette, IL. He’s also co-founder of custom swimsuit firm Tread 365, which donated hundreds of reusable face masks to fellow first responders in his department during the COVID-19 pandemic this spring.

LAUREN MASSARELLA '01 and her sister, Michelle, run the Sister Project site on Instagram (@thesisterproj), which has nearly 5,000 followers.

SHAFONDRA MATTHEWS '01

presides over her own firm, Shafondra Matthews Inc. (Aurora, IL), which provides online marketing education for women entrepreneurs. Ms. Matthews has a B.A. in management/administration from Bradley University and attended DeVry’s Keller Graduate School of Management.



Matthews

VIVEK PATEL, M.D. '01 is a Diagnostic Radiology Specialist in Orlando. The Class of 2001 Fenwick valedictorian attended Creighton University (Omaha, NE) and is an honors graduate of the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. Dr. Patel affiliates with several AdventHealth hospitals throughout Florida.



ELLIOT BENITEZ '03 is president of Nuni Toaster, the world’s first tortilla toaster. His Nuni Toaster videos have gone viral, reaching 28 million views from taco lovers. Elliot has made guest appearances on Innovation Nation, Univision, and has written op-eds for *Crain’s Chicago Business*. Last October, Elliot was awarded a utility patent by the USPTO for his tortilla toaster invention.

CONOR FRAILEY '02 is an Ecosystem Data Scientist at Facebook, Inc. in Menlo Park, CA. The high-school valedictorian graduated in three years from University of Chicago with a 3.9 GPA and dual bachelor degrees (in physics and mathematics). Later, he earned a philosophy PhD. from Yale.

The Ori family celebrated little Joe’s second birthday. **JENNIFER MORRIS ORI '06** and **JOE ORI '03** welcomed their second child, Gemma, last fall. “Don’t worry Friars, Freshman English Teacher Jennifer already has little Joe working on a Grammar book!” they write. Joe, Fenwick Admission Director, jokes that his son’s first word was “preposition.”

CHRIS HARVALIS '04, a sixth-grade math/science teacher at Hauser Junior High in Riverside, IL, becomes the new assistant principal this coming school year.



Harvalis

MOIRA VAHEY '04 (DePauw) is Communications Director at the non-profit Student Borrower Protection Center, Washington, D.C. She has served at the White House, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau and Pentagon.

WALLACE PENDLETON III '05 is Transcontinental Operations Manager at the Bensenville, IL location of logistics firm Expeditors. A former defensive lineman for the Akron Zips, Wally served as Fenwick's Assistant Dean of Students and a varsity assistant football coach under his mentor, the late Mr. Don Heldmann.



Pendleton



BRIAN MOORE '08 is marketing VP of event-management firm Turnkey DOT, specializing in mobile tours and experiential marketing. The company partnered with the CDC & Outdoor Advertising Assn. to wrap a truck and "mobile billboard" promoting social distancing in Chicago during the early phases of the Coronavirus pandemic.

MORGAN PRICE '08 is a Human Factors Design Engineer at Apple, Inc. After studying diligently at Fenwick (and playing basketball), she went on to the University of Iowa for a B.S. degree in biomedical engineering and a M.S. in epidemiology. Dr. Price then earned a PhD. and MS in Industrial & Systems Engineering from the University of Wisconsin - Madison.

GARRY MITCHELL '09 has an African/African American Studies B.A. from Stanford University (CA) and a teaching M.A. from the Relay Graduate School of Education. Previously a fifth-grade English/history teacher at Uncommon Schools in New York City, he married Fenwick classmate **ALICE OWOLABI '09** and now is a Harvard PhD. Ed. candidate.



ELEANOR (COMISKEY) CAIN '06 married Matt Cain on October 5, 2019, at Kimpton Hotel Allegro in Chicago. Fenwick alumni attendees spanned 1966-2010, including the bride's father, **MICHAEL COMISKEY '66**, sisters **JULIANNE (COMISKEY) HEINIMANN '01** and **BRIDGET COMISKEY '03**, and brother **MICHAEL COMISKEY '10**.



KEVIN MATUSZEWSKI '10 married Allison Cox on November 2 in Portsmouth, NH, with a full force of Friars in the wedding parties. Among the groomsmen were **KENNETH MATUSZEWSKI '09**, **RYAN BINDON '06**, **PATRICK BINDON '09**, **ROBERT CARROLL '10** and **WILLIAM CHRONISTER '10**. Further, **CARLY MATUSZEWSKI '15** and **JASMINE MATUSZEWSKI '17** were bridesmaids.



JENNIFER DAN '08 got married last November. Graduation years for Friars in attendance ranged from 1967 to 2013! Originally from Wheaton, Jen is a nurse in the Cardiac Catheterization Lab at Northwestern Memorial Hospital in downtown Chicago.

JOE MUSSO '09 is on the air: Catch the former Friar and Illinois Wesleyan student-athlete (wide receiver/football) on the CBS Digital Sports Desk.



Musso

JACK BRENNAN '10 is a Vice President at industrial real-estate firm NAI Hiffman, assisting private and institutional tenants and owners in Chicago's western suburbs. His new boss is **DENNY HIFFMAN '60**.

Blackfriars Guild (BFG) alumnus **MAX CERVANTES '11** can be seen on and around Chicago-area stages acting and directing.



Cervantes

RACHEL LOMBARD '13 is the 2020 recipient of UIC Medical Student Council's Tom C. Reeves Memorial Award. The annual award recognizes a 3rd-year med school student who exhibits outstanding leadership, volunteerism and character.

MATT FARMER '13 is training with the USA Men's National Team for the 2021 Olympics in Tokyo. The UCLA alumnus and two-time Illinois Water Polo Player of the Year also is playing professionally in Spain.



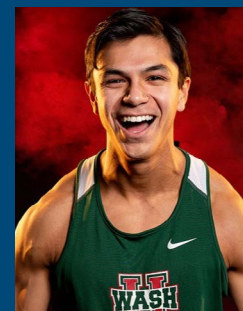
Farmer

Former Friar swimmer **ERIN SCUDDER '17** (U.S. Naval Academy '20) has been assigned to Marine Ground!

GREIG DIMAILIG '16

of La Grange, IL, broke WashU's school record for the 400-meter dash! The senior ran 48.46 seconds at the University Athletic Association Indoor Championships in New York City in early March.

Read more about Greig being named a Div. III All-American!



Dimailig

MIKE SMITH '16 finished a stellar basketball career at Columbia University, New York. With one year of NCAA eligibility remaining (due to injury), the 5'10" guard is transferring to the University of Michigan as a graduate student-athlete because Ivy League rules prohibit grad students from playing inter-collegiate sports.



SCOTTIE LINDSEY '14 is playing in the NBA G League for the Erie (PA) BayHawks, an affiliate of the New Orleans Pelicans. The 6'5" guard is a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston.



Lindsey



EVA BRUNDAGE '13, a former runner and basketball player for the Friars, is a semi-pro kick boxer. She graduated from Cal Poly (BE computer science) and is working at consulting firm Relentless Management in San Luis Obispo, CA, for her day job.

IN MEMORIAM

From October 4, 2019, through April 30, 2020

ALUMNI

Class of 1937

Dr. Henry Eigelsbach

Class of 1941

Frank Brogan
George Cormack

Class of 1944

John Ayres
James Lawley

Class of 1948

Frank O'Malley

Class of 1949

Rev. Ernest Bartell, C.S.C.
John Impens
Richard Schutter

Class of 1950

Edward Cyrier

Class of 1952

James Barron
John McGovern
Paul Putrim

Class of 1953

Francis Butler
Charles Sexton
John Wandrey

Class of 1954

Dr. Richard Filippi
James Tomazin

Class of 1956

William Keenan, Jr.

Class of 1958

Dr. Robert Miley

Class of 1959

John Lorr
Denis Moran
Thomas O'Keefe
George Weidenfeller

Class of 1960

Col. Thomas Conrad
Mark Gallivan
Donald Lorr
Gerald Wilson

Class of 1962

Joseph Chiodo
Dr. Michael Hearne
Robert Martin
James Paradiso

Class of 1965

John McCarthy
Robert McMahon

Class of 1969

Thomas Cremons

Class of 1970

Joseph Higgins
Dr. John Jubala

Class of 1972

Joseph Bidwill

Class of 1973

John Nemz

Class of 1974

Robert Moran, Jr.

Class of 1976

Robert Creighton
John Suess

Class of 1977

David Wielgus
Hon. Michael Wolfe

Class of 1995

Mark Cecola

Class of 2003

Brian Gill

Class of 2004

Charles Schauer

Class of 2018

Bryan Miller

NON-ALUMNI MEMBERS OF THE FENWICK FAMILY

Jane Daley Clark

Past Parent

Patrick Collins

Past Parent

Peggy Cullen

Past Parent

Bruce Fields

Past Parent

Rose Garipo

Past Parent, Grandparent

Sheila Gibbs

Past Parent

Dr. Michael Hickey

Past Parent

Matthew Johnson

Current Parent

Martin Joyce

Past Parent

Barbara Lordan

Spouse of Past Faculty, Gerald Lordan

Joan M. Lyons

Past Parent, Grandparent

Nora Meewes

Past Parent

John O'Leary

Past Parent, Grandparent

Mary Duggan Philbin

Past Parent, Grandparent, Mother in Law of Faculty, Marcus McKinley

Lawrence Poleski

Past Parent

John Ryan

Past Parent

Madeline Urgo

Past Parent

Mark Walsh

Past Parent

To notify Fenwick of members of the Fenwick community who have passed away, please contact Kristyn Rein, Development Associate, at krein@fenwickfriars.com or 708-948-0306.

