

SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

www.scotuscc.org 2013-14 Columbus, NE 68601

Message from the President

“Excellence” and “Naming of a Horse” Define a Great Year



Friends of Scotus,

Let me offer how “excellence” and the naming of a pony helped to define what Scotus was all about during the 2013-14 school year. This year’s Gala theme appropriately focused on the word “excellence” and in my Gala message I shared that excellence is not a place or school or goal or destination. It’s more about effort—about striving to grow, develop, improve and understand. It’s about being a part of something extraordinary, about doing things well, working hard, focusing on unusual quality and standards of performance and it’s about attitude, integrity and tradition. I believe that Scotus is all about these things!

This school year, our students, faculty, staff and supporters all wore excellence on their sleeves. Our students and faculty accomplished great work in the classroom, on the stage and in athletic competition. No, every test could not be aced and victory wasn’t always ours—but the supreme effort and the composure I witnessed from both victories and defeats was something that frequently made me feel very proud. Great job Shamrock students and faculty mentors!

We dreamt big this year with our fundraising goals and just as our boards suggested, with great dreams come opportunities for great achievements. I thank our supporters for helping us reach the SEF 14 campaign pledge goal of \$1.3 million dollars and now we already enjoy the benefits of new bleachers in the Dowd Activity Center, a parking lot for students under construction and parent tuition rates held below 37% of the cost to educate our students. Nice work Shamrock Nation!

In April, one of our alumni provided a simple but poignant reminder of how the work we do in our Catholic schools is impactful. Giving distinguished visitors a horse is a Mongolian tradition. So when U.S. Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel ’64 traveled to Mongolia and visited with the Mongolian Defense Minister, he was presented with a 9-year-old gelding from a special honor guard element of the Mongolian cavalry. After being invited to name the horse, Mr. Hagel chose his high school mascot and named the horse, “Shamrock.” Commenting on why he chose the name of his school mascot, Mr. Hagel said that the name should be significant to the recipient of the gift and his high school days were one of the most important times of his life. Later in August, Secretary Hagel returned to Columbus to celebrate with his classmates their 50-year reunion. What a wonderful example of how excellence often springs from tradition, and how being a part of something extraordinary can shape our lives. Thank you Secretary Hagel!

Still, as a Catholic school, we also recognize that the true measure of excellence is all about how faithfully we offer up all of our individual faith journeys, all effort, all ACT scores, scholarships, wins and losses, all positive attitude and celebrated tradition, all prayer and praise to give glory to God. Scotus Central Catholic is here to remind us of this important Gospel message and that is why I am so happy to be a part of this school and what it stands for in our world.

Wayne Morfeld, President

Corporate Board

Archbishop George Joseph Lucas
Archbishop Emeritus Elden Francis Curtiss
Fr. Lydell Lape, St. Anthony
Fr. Tom Weisbecker, St. Bonaventure
Fr. Joe Miksch, St. Isidore
Patrick Slattery, Archdiocesan Superintendent
Mr. Wayne Morfeld, Scotus CCHS President

Administrators

Wayne Morfeld, President
Gary Puetz, Activity Director
Jeff Ohnoutka, Jr. High Dean
John Schueth, Development Director

DEDICATED LEADERSHIP 2013 - 2014

Board of Education

St Anthony
Todd Duren
Tim Harrington
Mike Novicki
Fr. Lydell Lape

St. Bonaventure
Dr. Kim Allen, President
Joe Chohon
Jason Mielak
Fr. Tim Forgét

St. Isidore
Sue Donoghue
Dr. Rex Kumpf
Donna Starzec
Fr. Joe Miksch

Scotus Mothers

Theresa Hiner, President
Kris Andresen, Vice-President
Michelle Rinkol, Secretary
Danielle Frewing, Treasurer

Student Council

Shelby Beller, President
Mikayla Gasper, Vice-President
Carly Cremers, Secretary
Jared Donoghue, Treasurer

Endowment Board

Fr. Joe Miksch
Tom Kratochvil
Bob Niedbalski
Larry O’Neill
Jack Pekny
Dr. Jim Pillen, President

Shamrock Club

Scott Spenceri, President
Ron Starzec, Vice-President
Don Mroczek, 2nd Vice-President
Marc Wolfe, Secretary
Gary Puetz, Treasurer
250 Club, Jim Bulkley

2013-14 FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund

The fiscal year budget concluded with a \$15,965 balance after transfers.

Budgeted Revenue

Tuition	\$ 941,621
Parish Tuition Assistance	\$ 787,700
Endowment/ACNM Scholarship	\$ 252,419
Transfer from SEF	\$ 285,000
Fundraising/Other	\$ 224,000
Total	\$2,490,740

Budgeted Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$2,137,227
Contracted Services	\$ 170,000
Materials & Supplies	\$ 163,590
Transfer: Computer/Bldg	\$ 19,923
Total	\$2,490,740

Actual Revenue

Tuition	\$ 926,660
Parish Tuition Assistance	\$ 787,700
Endowment/ ACNM Scholarship	\$ 256,107
Transfer from SEF	\$ 285,000
Fundraising/Other	\$ 235,161
Total	\$2,490,628

Actual Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$2,103,821
Contracted Services	\$ 171,713
Materials & Supplies	\$ 179,206
Transfer: Computer/Bldg	\$ 19,923
Total	\$2,474,663

NOTE:

Scotus owns two homes and one lot directly north of the school. For fiscal 2013-14 total property expenses were: \$5,079.51 including \$2,640.00 for loan payments, \$2,413.40 for property taxes and \$26.11 for utilities. The debt on the homes was paid off and rental income from the two homes totaled \$8,000.00 before they were vacated on June 1 in advance of their planned demolition for a new parking area. Net income from the properties in the fiscal year was \$2,920.49. Insurance costs are incorporated in the school's general policy. The school's empty lot is currently used for bus parking.

ENROLLMENT & TUITION ASSISTANCE -

In the fall of 2013, enrollment declined by 1 student from the previous year to 396. Tuition for the 2013-14 school year increased \$75 per student or an average of 3%. Tuition rates by grade level were: \$2,475 (Grades 7- 8), \$2,525 (Grades 9-10) and \$2,575 (Grades 11-12). During the 2013-14 school year, \$106,956 was distributed in tuition assistance benefiting 120 students at Scotus (up from last year's \$99,629 for 114 students.) The sources of tuition assistance were: Scotus \$56,506, Children's Scholarship Fund \$12,000, the Archdiocese of Omaha \$28,474 and local scholarships \$9,976. Also in 2013-14, 91 Scotus students from 51 families participated in the federal free and reduced lunch program. (Note: enrollment for the fall of 2014 was 364 students.)

A look at the last ten years of enrollment history:

2004-05	367	2010-11	382
2005-06	352	2011-12	401
2006-07	339	2012-13	397
2007-08	346	2013-14	396
2008-09	360	2014-15	364
2009-10	368		

STANDARDIZED TESTING -

95% of the Scotus Class of 2014 (58 of 61) took the ACT test and the Class of 2014 composite score average was 23.9 compared with the 2014 Nebraska state average of 21.7 and the 2014 national average of 21.0. The Scotus composite score was down slightly from last year's (Class of 2013) mark of 24.3.

	Scotus	State	Nation
English	23.4	21.3	20.3
Mathematics	25.2	21.1	20.9
Reading	23.0	22.0	21.3
Science	23.8	21.7	20.8
Composite	23.9	21.7	21.0



Kathy Kruse steps to the podium to accept the Outstanding Service Award from school president, Wayne Morfeld. (Journalism Dept. photo)



Years of Service photo. Recognized for their years of service anniversaries at the spring Achievement Program were, l-r: Marge Zegar (10 years), Carmen Johnson (25 years), Annette Hash (30 years), Pam Weir (15 years), Shelly Adams (5 years), Cathy Hoops (40 years), Lauri Diamond (10 years) and Wade Coulter (5 years.) Not shown: Kristen Cox (20 years) and Larry Pallas (10 years.)

WELCOME, CLASS OF 2014!

Joining the ranks of Scotus alumni and alumnae this spring were 61 graduates plus four international exchange students who participated in the commencement and received a certificate of attendance. Trey Wortman, senior class president, provided the senior welcome at commencement and campus minister Fr. Andrew Roza provided a greeting and homily. Recognized as the 2014 Spirit of Scotus Award winner was Phillip Levos '14, son of Milan and Linda (Schrad '75) Levos.

POST-SECONDARY PLANS OF 2014 GRADUATES

61 Graduating Students in the Class of 2014
4 Exchange Students participated in the graduation ceremony, earning Certificates of Attendance. Each will return to their home country and enter higher education.

Enrolling in a 4-year college – 41
Enrolling in a 2-year college – 18
Enrolling in a Cosmetology school - 2

Graduates planning to pursue a Bachelor's Degree – 67%
Graduates planning to pursue an Associate's Degree – 30%
(9 students plan to pursue 4 years thereafter)

Seniors Amy Price and Michael Kurtenbach, were selected for the Omaha World Herald West Central All Academic 2nd Team. Additionally, the class of 2014 had over 10% of the class receive Regent Scholarships, having scored higher than 32 on the ACT Composite.

POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS SCOTUS GRADUATES PLANNED TO ATTEND

IN-STATE INSTITUTIONS

Central Community College – 14
Hastings College – 1
Iowa State – 1
Nebraska Wesleyan – 2
Northeast Community College – 2
Southeast Community College – 2
University of Nebraska Kearney - 6
University of Nebraska Lincoln – 18
University of Nebraska Omaha – 8
Wayne State College – 3
Xenon – 2

OUT-OF-STATE INSTITUTIONS

Angelo State University, Texas – 1
Rockhurst University, Missouri - 1



CHILDREN'S SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Participation in the Children's Scholarship Fund program continued this year with a fundraising goal of \$23,000 – and the three Columbus parishes raised \$23,999.97 during the 2013-14 school year. The money was sent in to Omaha and in return the Columbus Catholic schools received back a total of \$61,900 in scholarships benefiting 82 students for the 2014-15 school year. For each dollar raised and sent to Omaha, Columbus was guaranteed to receive back \$1.50. Columbus actually received \$2.58 for each dollar raised – a very good return! A summary of the scholarships follows:

2014-15 CSF Scholarships

School	Student #	Award Total
Scotus Central Catholic	20	\$14,400
St. Anthony	30	\$26,300
St. Bonaventure	23	\$14,400
St. Isidore	9	\$ 5,800
Total	82	\$60,900

(\$23,999.97 raised locally)

OUR OLDEST ALUMNA SUPPORTER

One of our most loyal annual gift supporters happens to also be a graduate from the Class of 1927, Rose Valasek Randolph. With her gift, Rose shared that she enjoys receiving the Shamrock Alumni News and we are honored by Rose's example of Shamrock philanthropy!



2014 Gala Committee: front row, l-r, Sheri Wieser, Dona Kudron, Cheryl Zoucha, Kristin Alt. Second row, l-r, Kelli Thomazin, Donna Starzec, Dr. Kim Allen; back row, l-r, Joe Wieser, John Thomazin, Ryan Kudron, Ron Starzec, Mike Allen, Rick Zoucha and Tom Alt.

Mission Statement

Scotus Central Catholic High School assures all students the opportunity to receive a faith-based Catholic education through academic excellence and diverse extracurricular activities.

MAJOR FACILITY IMPROVEMENTS 2013-14 FISCAL YEAR

Project

Funded By

Replaced bleachers in the Dowd Center.....	SEF 14
New lab tops in the biology lab.....	Shamrock Lottery 2013
10 Nexus tablets for students to borrow in the classroom	Lottery/donations
Replace 3rd floor half lockers with full lockers	Gala 2014
Replaced Dowd Center interior doors	Gala 2014
12 new folding tables for Gala silent auction.....	Donation
Remodeled 2nd and 1st floor boys restrooms	Bid a Bag
Replaced classroom door locks for enhanced security.....	Scotus Mothers
Funded new record boards for sports.....	Alumni Golf 2014
Began work on a new parking lot to the north of school.....	SEF 14
New 22” monitors for one of the computer labs	Donation
New dual monitors in the technology lab	Feik Endowed Fund
New doors on south cafeteria exit/entrance.....	Donation/Insurance
Pledged \$900,000 for tuition assistance for 2013-2016	SEF 14
Pledged \$200,000 for HVAC loan payments for 2013-2016.....	SEF 14



New bleachers were installed in the Dowd Activity Center funded by a lead gift in the SEF 14 fund drive. The old bleachers were dismantled and recycled by nearly 100 volunteers and Scotus received \$2,816.10 for recycling the original bleacher metal.



The half-size hall lockers for the junior high students were replaced in the summer of 2014 with new full-size lockers thanks to the generosity of Gala donors.



Scotus Mathematics teacher Julie Blaser was chosen as the Archdiocese of Omaha's Rural Catholic Educator of the Year.



Fr. Roza. (Journalism Dept. photo)

Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel sent this framed photo to the Scotus school president, Wayne Morfeld and shared in a personal note, "Dear Wayne and all Fellow Shamrocks, Enclosed is a photo of my Mongolian horse presented by the Minister of Defense of Mongolia. What else could I name this noble, handsome, smart and modest beast...but Shamrock! All Shamrocks everywhere now have a horse in Mongolia."



2013-14 FUNDRAISING / DONATION INCOME

SEF 13 FINAL REPORT

At the end of 2013 the third and final pledge payment year for the thirteenth edition of the Scotus Education Fund drive was completed. Pledges for the campaign totaled \$1,158,906 and pledge payments totaled \$1,113,802 or 96.1% of the original pledge total. \$800,000 of the money raised in the campaign was earmarked as tuition assistance for the school's general operating fund during the 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 fiscal years. The remaining pledge dollars, minus cancellations, were earmarked to service the school's HVAC debt for the same 2010-2013 fiscal years.

SEF 14 UPDATE

This three-year campaign, launched in the fall of 2013 received pledges totaling \$1,330,921 to be paid over calendar years 2014-2016 and to sponsor the following goals: 1) \$900,000 over three years to keep tuition costs affordable for school families, 2) \$200,000 to make loan payments over 3 years for the heating and air conditioning system installed six years ago, 3) \$100,000 to replace the Dowd Activity Center bleachers (a safety issue), and 4) \$100,000 to complete the purchase of two homes to the north of the school, move the homes and provide off-street parking for students (a safety issue.) At the conclusion of August 2014, the SEF 14 campaign had finished 8 of the 36 pledge payment months and pledge receipts totaled \$634,712.88. Because of a substantial lead gift to the campaign the school was able to install new Dowd Center bleachers in the spring and work is currently underway for the new parking lot. The school is making its loan payments and each month SEF 14 is providing a distribution of \$25,000 to support tuition assistance and balance the budget. Thank you so much for your generosity—keep up the great work because you really are accomplishing so much at SCC!

ANNUAL GIFTS

Because of the SEF 14 drive, an **annual appeal** was not conducted in 2013. \$28,027 in annual gifts were received this year and all but \$875 were restricted. The **Scotus Mothers** provided sponsorships for faculty wish list items totaling \$1,990 and the booster club also donated \$8,000 to support the installation of new classroom door locks that allow teachers to lock the door from inside the room during lockdown situations. The 2014 **Bid A Bag** fundraiser raised \$6,700 for facility improvements. The 2013 annual **Shamrock Lottery** netted \$6,427 which was used to fund the purchase of new lab tops for the biology lab and new technology devices for students to borrow. The **Gala dinner/auction** held on April 5th netted \$204,711 including \$23,013 donated that night for the purchase

of new junior high hall lockers on the 3rd floor and to replace the Dowd Center hallway doors. The Gala's **Chuck Sand Memorial Grain Train** provided \$8,930 in grain donations. The winner of the Gala **car/cash raffle** was Kathy (Dohmen '60) Eller of Shelby NE and she opted to take the \$14,000 cash prize. The 7th annual **Shamrock Open** was held in Omaha on June 7, 2014 and raised \$5,851 directed to purchase new athletic record boards for display in the Dowd Center hallway. **Memorial Income** received from September 1, 2013 through August 31, 2014 totaled \$16,575. Through its membership in the Columbus Philanthropy Council, Scotus participated in the first annual **Columbus Big Give** on May 18-19 and the school received \$6,725 in donations that were directed to the parking lot project.

<u>2013-14 Activity</u>	<u>Net Raised</u>
Columbus Big Give	\$ 6,725
Annual Fund Donations	\$ 28,027
Children's Scholarship Fund (For all 4 Catholic Schools)	\$ 24,000
Gala 2014 & Locker Donations	\$ 204,711
SEF 13 Campaign	\$ 46,077
SEF 14 Campaign	\$ 408,752
Memorials Received	\$ 16,575
Shamrock Lottery	\$ 6,427
Shamrock Open	\$ 5,851
Gifts/Bequests to Endowment	\$ 14,865

Capital Improvement Debt

The school originally borrowed \$1.1 million dollars at an interest rate of 5.5% to assist with the capital improvement expenses of the HVAC installation and locker room renovation funded in part by the Legacy Campaign. This debt was refinanced in the spring of 2012 at an interest rate of 3.75% and at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year the remaining HVAC debt was \$636,629. Loan payments on the debt are funded by SEF support.

ENDOWMENT - Market Values 8/31/14 and Distributions Fiscal 2013-14

Combined endowment fund market values at the conclusion of the fiscal year (August 31, 2014) was \$8,645,975 including \$6,059,142 (locally managed funds) and \$2,586,833 (funds managed through the Archdiocese.) During the fiscal year a total of

\$14,865 was added to the endowment. Of this amount, \$13,300 was restricted for scholarship support and \$1,565 was added to the general endowment fund. Fiscal year distributions received by the school totaled \$ 288,429.31.

Locally Managed Funds

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
Fund #1 (Original Fund)	\$ 1,647,131	\$ 54,616.00
Fund #2 (Rambour Parish Investment Relief)	\$ 3,688,276	\$ 118,838.00
Fund #3 (W. Gerhold Teacher of the Year Fund)	\$ 307,142	\$ 10,025.00
Fund #4 (Feik Technology Fund)	\$ 404,016	\$ 22,195.69
Fund #5 (Dorie Schrad Music Scholarship)	\$ 9,999	\$ 408.37
Fund #6 (Fr. Price B Scholarship)	\$ 2,578	\$ 160.80

Omaha Managed Funds

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
Land Contract/Trust	\$ 19,256	\$ 4,385.76
Anonymous Fund	\$ 1,285,277	\$ 55,697.24
Fr. Price Scholarship	\$ 11,446	\$ 497.12
W. Gerhold Family Fund	\$ 498,163	\$ 21,605.33
ACNM	\$ 772,691	\$.00
Total All Funds	\$8,645,975	\$ 288,429.31

When endowment distributions are factored in to the overall annual budget, they account for slightly more than 10% of budgeted income. While this may seem to be a modest figure, when endowment support is viewed on an historical level, the impact of the endowment is much easier to appreciate. In the last ten years, some of which were impacted by the Great Recession, endowment distributions to the Scotus general fund totaled nearly \$3 million dollars!

2013-14 SCHOOL YEAR NOTABLES

- Laura Miksch won her third straight 50 free style gold medal with a CHS school record and personal best time of 23.28 seconds at the Nebraska State Swim Meet. She also won the gold in the 100-yard freestyle with a time of 52.36 for her fifth career gold medal. And Laura was named by the coaches as the “female athlete of the meet.” Laura later signed with Division I Iowa State University for swimming.
- Senior Jake Nienaber (Tenor I) and sophomores, Brady Przyminus (Bass II) and Adam Smith (Tenor II) were selected to participate in the Nebraska All State Choir and junior Elizabeth Preister was selected to participate in the Nebraska All-State Orchestra as a member of the cello section.
- Scotus received two NSAA US Cellular Cups--one for combined girls and boys activities and one for girls activities. These awards recognize achievement in all NSAA sponsored activities including athletics and the performing arts. The girls have won the award in all six years of the recognition’s existence.
- The Shamrock boys’ basketball team captured the C1-3 district title and for the first time in 18 years participated in the state tourney. The team finished in 3rd place at State finishing with a 23-5 season record and with a school record for the most wins in a season. The Rocks’ were recognized as the 2nd place Class C-1 team in the final Omaha World Herald ratings.
- The girls’ basketball team were district runners-up and finished the season at 12-10.
- The Scotus speech team finished fourth at the District meet and seven Shamrocks qualified for the State competition.
- Scotus’ senior mock trial team finished in 8th place at the state competition.
- Senior Dan Strecker received best actor honors at the conference one-act competition. Receiving honorable mention acting recognition were seniors Carly Burkhardt, Jacob Nienaber and Conner Moran.
- The Scotus volleyball team advanced to the state tournament for the 24th time in the last 25 years and finished in 4th place at the state tourney with a 26-5 record.
- The football team was ranked as high as #8 in the top ten poll but lost in the first round of play-off action finishing the season at 4-5.
- In January, 40 students along with ten adults attended the National March for Life in Washington DC.
- New inductees to the Shamrock Athletic Hall of Fame announced at the Athletic Banquet were: Don & Karen Mroczek (boosters), Meghan (Pile) Campbell ’02 (athlete) and John Petersen (coach.)
- Shamrock head boys’ soccer coach, Jon Brezenski was named the Nebraska Coaches Association Hudl Coach of the Year in Soccer at the July 20th NCA awards banquet in Lincoln.
- The Shamrock girls golf team finished in a three-way tie for 1st place at the state golf tourney with Minden HS and Grand Island Central Catholic HS. After a playoff, the Scotus team finished with the 2nd place state trophy. Amy Price led the Shamrocks with a 3rd place individual medal.
- The boys’ golf team had a competitive year but did not send a player to the state competition.
- Extensive remodeling of the south entrance of Scotus’ Chapel of the Immaculate Conception was completed. The remodel included an expansion of the priest’s dressing and storage area, new flooring, a new exterior door and steps under the stoop and interior and exterior lighting.
- Scotus hosted its first home varsity wrestling competition in

school history on January 23rd. The duo with High Plains High School was witnessed by a packed crowd of Shamrock faithful in the school’s second season of varsity wrestling. In a single exhibition junior varsity match, freshman Will Sonderman pinned his opponent in one minute, six seconds to be the first Shamrock wrestler to win at home. Scotus won the varsity competition with a score of 65-6.

- Normally Scotus Central Catholic has 1-3 international exchange students; but this year 12 students from other countries were counted in the student body. They included: Alice Boyv (Belgium), Amandine Ripet (Belgium), Maria de Lima (Brazil), Begona Torrejon Urrutia (Chile), Sam Sou (China), Chris Beon (South Korea), Flavia Del Vecchio (Spain), Manuel Ruiz-Castro Cano (Spain), Anny Worayosgovit (Thailand), Sandy Chi (Taiwan), Khang Nguyen (Vietnam) and Anh Ta (Vietnam).
- The Scotus girls cross country team won their second consecutive Class C State Championship over runner-up Norfolk Catholic 45-60, led by Jessica Schaecher’s fifth place finish.
- A cast of 93 students or approximately one-fourth of the student body participated in the theatre and music departments’ very successful musical production of the Wizard of Oz.



- The Scotus cross country boys had a successful season with a fifth place finish as a team at state and only three points from finishing in third place.
- Scotus freshman Matthew Hoenk and juniors Keaton Swanson and Adam Starzec competed at the Class A State Bowling Tournament in Lincoln on the Columbus High School varsity team. The team finished 3rd overall in Class A.
- Scotus wrestlers who qualified for the state meet were: freshman Tyler Brandenburg (106), freshman Layton Mullinix (113), sophomore Mason Brandenburg (120), sophomore Gage Speicher (126), sophomore Alec Foltz (132), sophomore Marcus Dodson (152), freshman Wyatt Gutzmer (220), and senior Conner Lusche (285). At state, 152-pounder Marcus Dodson finished in second place and 120-pounder Mason Brandenburg finished in fifth place, giving the Shamrocks their first two state medals in the second year of the wrestling program’s existence.
- The following journalism students placed in the Class C State Journalism Contest and several qualified for the All-Class Com-

first two state medals in the second year of the wrestling program's existence.

- The following journalism students placed in the Class C State Journalism Contest and several qualified for the All-Class Competition in May: Jack Hoppe – Class C Editorial Cartooning Champion and All-State Competition Qualifier, Carly Burkhardt – Class C Entertainment Writing Champion and All-State Competition Qualifier, Val Borer – Class C News Writing Champion and All-State Competition Qualifier, Michael Kurtenbach – Class C Sports News Writing Champion and All-State Competition Qualifier, Carly Burkhardt – Class C Third Place Sports Feature Writing and Shelby Beller – Class C Third Place Yearbook Feature Writing.

- At the All-Class State Journalism Contest three Shamrock seniors brought home medals: Jack Hoppe placed 5th in Editorial Cartooning, Carly Burkhardt placed 3rd in Entertainment Writing and Michael Kurtenbach won the Sports News Writing competition.

- In varsity co-op athletics with Columbus High School, Scotus had 7 students on the boys tennis team (Noah Schacher won in the first round at state), 9 on the girl's tennis team, 5 on the softball squad and five on the swimming & diving team.

- Scotus senior Abby Allen, was elected governor at the 2014 Cornhusker Girls State held in June. Abby was inaugurated in the Nebraska State Capitol building.

- Scotus announced that 37-year veteran head coach John Petersen and assistant coach Janet Tooley (23 years) were retiring from volleyball coaching duties. John's career record at Scotus was 863-136 including 15 state championships and 7 runners-up finishes.

- Joe Held '04 was announced as the new head volleyball coach beginning in 2014. Joe had been a volunteer assistant coach for five years under coaches Petersen and Tooley and prior to that experience he worked several years with the Nebraska Wesleyan University volleyball team.

- The late Jeanne Kopetzky DeRuyscher '71 was named the 15th annual Alumnus & Alumna of the Year Award winner. The Scotus Alumni Board established this award to recognize distinguished graduates of the school who are strong supporters of Catholic Education, have excelled in their vocation and are involved in their parish and community.

- The boys' soccer team captured the Class B state championship by defeating Gretna HS in overtime. This is the Shamrock's 4th state title for the 5th smallest school in the state that offers a soccer team.

- The girls' soccer team was defeated in the quarterfinals of the state competition and finished the year at 9-6.

- Laura Miksh and Ivan Chilapa ended their Scotus track careers with medals at the state track meet. Laura placed fourth in the 400 meter dash in 58.94 and 7th in the 200 meter dash in 26.31. Ivan completed the 1600 meter run in 4:37.52 for 5th place. Also earning state medals were Ryan Ruskamp, who pole vaulted 13' to tie for 7th and Grant Lahm, who triple jumped 32'9" for 5th place.

- At the District Music Contest, the Scotus Band received a Superior, 1+ (which is a superior rating from all 3 judges); Clarinet Trio – Excellent; Trombone Quartet – Superior; Mixed Instrument Quartet – Excellent; Trumpet Ensemble – Excellent; Ashlea Rinkol – Flute – Superior; Phil Levos – Trumpet – Excellent; Lucas Cox – Trombone – Superior; Carly Cremers – Trumpet – Superior; Melissa Thalken – Tenor Saxophone – Superior; Saxophone Duet – Melissa Thalken & Nieve Johnson – Superior and Piano Solo – Elizabeth Preister – Superior.

- Chosen as the sixteenth annual William and Barbara Gerhold Family Teacher of the Year was St. Bonaventure School Kindergarten teacher, Lynnette Mielak.

2014 ENDOWED AND ANNUALLY FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Named as recipients of endowed scholarships were:

George & Jeanette Maguire Memorial Scholarship (Mario Gutierrez)

Eldora Schrad Music Recognition Awards (Abby Allen, Carly Cremers, Lucas Cox)

Sheridan Gladfelter Memorial Scholarship (Isaac Aguilera)

Eleanor M Loshbaugh Memorial Scholarship (Kelsey Kessler)

Gene G Witt Memorial Scholarships (Brooke Olmer, Kristen Ohnoutka, Trey Wortman)

Louis & Elaine Buggi Memorial Scholarships (Austin O'Kane, Emmitt Broberg, Ava Newman, Katherine Smith)

Fr. Price Memorial Scholarships (Brock Clarke, Kaitlyn Lovell, Aaron Peterson, Lizzie Hoppe, Tyler Miksch, Tate VunCannon)

Duane Swoboda Memorial Scholarship (Carley Foltz)

Lee & Shirley Hroza Family Scholarships (Laura Miksch, Cody Zimmerman)

Kathryn Kuta Sweenie Humanitarian Award (Layton Mullinix)

Mannie and Millie Cimpl Family Scholarship (Nieve Johnson)

In addition to the endowed scholarships other endowed funds provide annual restricted support: the **William L. and Edna Boettcher Family Fund** (annual income is divided equally between the media center, instrumental and vocal departments); the **Ben and Virginia Nosal Fund**, and the **Jeanne Kopetzky DeRuyscher Fund** (both provide annual income supporting the schools' general scholarship fund.)

Named as recipients of annually funded scholarships were:

Leonard & Cec Feehan Family Scholarship (Brandon Huyhn)

Lynette Topinka Goins Memorial Scholarships (Amy Heusinkvelt, Adam Smith)

Shamrock Club Scholarships (Carley Foltz, Derek Kaslon)

Student Council Scholarships (Justina Wemhoff, Carly Burkhardt)

Scotus Teachers Organization Scholarship (Callie Sokol)

Curt Tenopir Memorial Scholarship (Evee Birkel)

Helen Shadle Scholarship (Brooke Olmer)

Dean Soulliere Family Scholarship (Abbie Alt, Trevor Placzek)

Nebraska Centennial Conference Scholarship (Carly Burkhardt)

Jeff Podraza Memorial Scholarship (Grant Lahm)

Pyramid of Success Scholarship (Daniel Tworek, Bryce VunCannon)

Leadership Award from Class of 1962 (Amberly Parker)

Other local scholarships and recipients:

Cornerstone Bank Scholarship (Phil Levos)

Central Community College Scholarships (Payton Chohon, Jacob Nienaber, Jackson Prokupek, Katie Reisdorff, Jenny Ryan, Blake Schroeder, Callie Sokol, Zachary Spencer, Daniel Strecker, Melissa Thalken, Bre Walker)

Duncan VFW (Carley Foltz)

Eastern Star (Jacob Nienaber)

Elk's Most Valuable Student (Jacob Nienaber)

Erna Badstieber (Jenny Ryan)

Loup Public Power Scholarship (Katie Reisdorff)

Columbus Optimist Club Scholarship (Phil Levos)

Noon Lions Club Scholarship (Alycia Alt)

Columbus Sertoma Club Scholarship (Shelby Beller)

Columbus Home Builders Scholarship (Jacob Nienaber, Nate Ebner)

Crime Stoppers Scholarship (Carly Burkhardt)

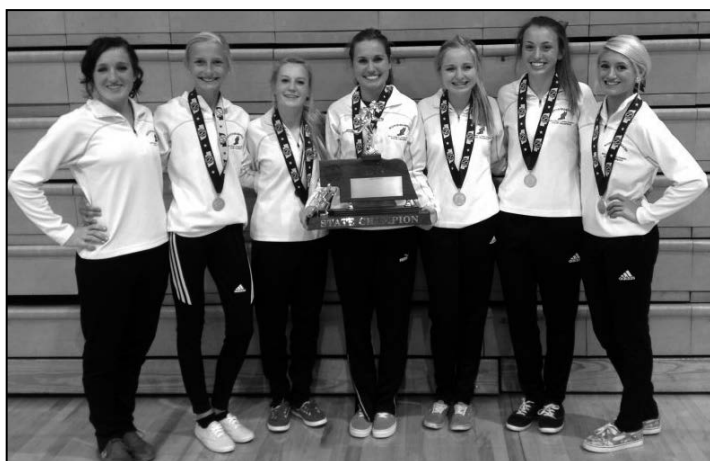
Platte County Ag Society Scholarship (Callie Sokol)

TeamMates Scholarship (Walter Cordova, Samantha Patocka-Brewster)

Columbus Women's Club (Alycia Alt)



The 2014 Shamrock boys State champion soccer team. (Journalism Dept. photo)



The 2013 Shamrock girls State champion cross-country team. (Journalism Dept. photo)



Laura Miksch & Cody Zimmerman, this year's Female Athlete of the Year and Male Athlete of the Year.

CONGRATULATIONS

Spirit of Scotus award winner Phillip Levos is congratulated by Scotus board of education president, Dr. Kim Allen. (Journalism Dept. photo)

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

The backbone of school improvement at Scotus Central Catholic will always be centered on academics. For this reason, maintaining and improving instruction, improving academic effort and the academic performance of the school's students are priorities of the school improvement efforts. The continued expansion of the use of technology as a learning tool was a focal point during the school year. BYOD (bring your own device) was implemented as a cost effective way to allow all students literally instant access to the Internet and to technology-based learning activities. A plan was put in place to allow students who did not own an internet accessible device to have access to such a device in the classroom whenever it was needed.

This past year the school was required to react with a plan for addressing a challenge that AdvancEd and the North Central Accrediting Agency provided the school: to develop a written action plan for professional staff development that is tied to student achievement. With the Steering Committee for school improvement taking the lead, an initial draft of this plan was written and will be implemented during the 2014-15 school year. This



plan will be revised during the first half of the 2014-15 school year and the final product will be submitted to AdvancEd early in 2015 for approval.