

# SCOTUS CENTRAL CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT

www.scotuscc.org 2014-15 Columbus, NE 68601

## Message from the President



Friends of Scotus,

At the beginning of the 2014-15 school year, I extolled the accomplishments of the 2014 graduating class. They had 6 class members named to the OWH Academic all-state, the 8th highest ACT composite in school history, and they contributed to Scotus receiving 2 NSAA U.S. Cellular Cups—one for combined girls and boys activity achievements and one for girls activity achievements. Certainly they were a class of achievers! At the conclusion of that school year we completed the first of three years in the successful SEF 14 campaign, and thanks to our wonderful supporters we installed new bleachers in the Dowd Center, replaced the junior high hall lockers and lowered our HVAC debt to \$636,629.

Team Scotus produced another brilliant year in 2014-15 and here are just a few of the highlights. The 2015 graduating class set a new school record for the ACT composite score (25.9), had 7 class members named to the OWH Academic all-state team including one senior who was selected first team All-West-Central Team. The class of 2015 also helped Scotus receive 2 NSAA U.S. Cellular Cups—one for combined girls and boys activity achievements and one for boys activity achievements. In addition, 27 Scotus students (including 12 seniors) were elected to NSAA academic all-state—with 8 of those students named in two activities and one who was named in 3 activities. And the newspaper and yearbook staffs both earned a Cornhusker Award at the Nebraska High School Press Association Convention. Scotus was the only school all classes to receive a Cornhusker Award in both newspaper and yearbook! At the end of the fiscal year we had new tables in the cafeteria, new hall lockers for the senior high students, work was well underway for a new student parking lot and beefed up wireless computer network and the HVAC debt was lowered to \$454,591. What a year!

It can be easy to look at test scores, the number of awards received, and the amount of support garnered for capital improvements and say it was a great year. All of that is worthless if we were not successful in helping our students grow in their faith, hold them accountable while helping them make right choices, nurture their courage and ability to achieve as both individuals and as members of a team, and to develop into productive young adults with the academic, social and personal tools to be successful. The challenge is how do you measure that?

There is no numeric data to measure the growth of faith and maturity, but I did see in the eyes of our graduates at commencement that they were ready to move forward to a new chapter in their lives. Throughout the year I saw students grow and mature and took great pride in their many accomplishments—in how they performed in the classroom, how they competed in activities and how they treated each other as Shamrocks. I witnessed strong expressions of faith, civic responsibility and character from the students more and more as the year progressed. On graduation day, a senior stopped into my office to say thank you for not giving up on them, to say thanks for pushing them, holding them accountable and at the same time supporting and loving them for six years. It made my day, my year and confirmed for me why Scotus has and will always play a strong role as a ministry of our Church and as a place where great futures begin!

Wayne Morfeld, President

### Corporate Board

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

### Student Council

Carly Cremers, President  
Brady Przymus, Vice-President  
Amy Heusinkvelt, Secretary  
Jared Donoghue, Treasurer  
Jared Duren, Treasurer

## DEDICATED LEADERSHIP 2014 - 2015

### Board of Education

#### St. Anthony

Todd Duren  
Tim Harrington  
Mike Novicki  
Fr. Lydell Lape

#### St. Bonaventure

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

#### St. Isidore

Sue Donoghue  
Dr. Dale Zaruba  
Donna Starzec  
Fr. Joe Miksch

### Endowment Board

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

### Shamrock Club

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

### Scotus Mothers

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

### Administrators

Wayne Morfeld, President  
Gary Puetz, Activity Director  
Jeff Ohnoutka, Asst. Principal  
John Schueth, Development Director

# 2014-15 FINANCIAL REPORT

## General Fund

The fiscal year budget concluded with a \$6,626.29 balance after transfers.

### Budgeted Revenue

Parent Tuition	\$ 865,952
Parish Tuition Assistance	\$ 811,300
Endowment/Scholarships	\$ 366,036
Transfer from SEF	\$ 300,000
Fundraising/Other	\$ 341,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,684,288</b>

### Budgeted Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$2,183,952
Transfer: Computer/Bldg	\$ 19,080
Contracted Services	\$ 175,000
Materials & Supplies	\$ 245,575
Gala	\$ 60,681
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,684,288</b>

### Actual Revenue

Parent Tuition	\$ 871,053
Parish Tuition Assistance	\$ 811,331
Endowment/Scholarships	\$ 365,295
Transfer from SEF	\$ 300,000
Fundraising/Other	\$ 432,499
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,780,178</b>

### Actual Expenditures

Salaries & Benefits	\$2,230,922
Transfer: Computer/Bldg*	\$ 99,080
Contracted Services	\$ 170,679
Materials & Supplies	\$ 234,762
Gala	\$ 38,108
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,773,551</b>

## NOTE:

The final real estate taxes on the two homes demolished for the north parking lot were paid this year and totaled \$2,416.10.

## PARISH TUITION ASSISTANCE

The three Columbus parishes support the annual Scotus budget with parish tuition assistance—effectively providing a scholarship to each Scotus student that was valued at \$2,235 in the 2014-15 school year. St. Anthony parish provided \$170,376; St. Bonaventure provided \$353,740 and St. Isidore provided \$287,211—with the support levels based upon the number of students enrolled at Scotus. In addition, parish tuition assistance is supplemented with the annual income distribution received from the Walter & Josephine Rambour endowed fund (\$125,704 in 2014-15.) This endowed fund has a corpus value of \$3,128,337 and was established to support the parishes by assisting with their annual tuition assistance commitment to Scotus Central Catholic.

## ENROLLMENT & TUITION ASSISTANCE

In the fall of 2014, enrollment declined by 32 students from the previous year to 363. The drop in numbers was largely attributed to the unusually small size of the 7th grade class (47) and senior class (49.) Tuition for the 2014-15 school year increased \$75 per student or an average of 3%. Tuition rates by grade level were: \$2,550 (Grades 7- 8), \$2,600 (Grades 9-10) and \$2,650 (Grades 11-12).

During the 2014-15 school year, \$99,626 was distributed in tuition assistance benefiting 105 students at Scotus. The sources of tuition assistance were: Scotus \$54,534, Children's Scholarship Fund \$14,400, the Archdiocese of Omaha \$20,000 and local scholarships \$10,692. Also in 2014-15, 12 students from 10 families participated in the federal free lunch program, and 32 students from 24 families participated in the federal reduced lunch program.

### A look at the last ten years of enrollment history:

2006-07	339	2011-12	401
2007-08	346	2012-13	397
2008-09	360	2013-14	396
2009-10	368	2014-15	363
2010-11	382	2015-16	371

## STANDARDIZED TESTING

96% of the Scotus Class of 2015 (45 of 47) took the ACT test and the Class of 2015 composite score average was 25.9 -- compared with the 2015 Nebraska state average of 21.5 and the 2015 national average of 21.0. **The Scotus 2015 composite score**

**was the highest achieved in the school's history** (previous highs were 24.6 for both the 2009 and 2006 graduating classes.) 2015 sub scores compared with the Nebraska (state) and national averages were:

	Scotus	State	Nation
English	25.9	21.1	20.4
Mathematics	26.6	21.0	20.8
Reading	24.8	21.9	21.4
Science	25.8	21.6	20.9
Composite	25.9	21.5	21.0

According to the American College Testing Program, a student's potential success in college can be predicted by their ACT scores; and ACT has established a college readiness benchmark ACT score for College English Composition (18 on the ACT English Test), College Algebra (22 on the ACT Math Test), College So-

cial Science (22 on the ACT Reading Test) and College Biology (23 on the ACT Science Test.) Attaining a benchmark ACT score will predict that a student will have a 50% chance of receiving a B or higher or a 75% chance of receiving a C or higher in the corresponding college courses.

	% of Scotus Students with ACT Benchmark Score or Higher	% of Nebraska Students with ACT Benchmark Score or Higher	% Nationally of Students with ACT Benchmark Score or Higher
English Composition	96%	69%	64%
Algebra	91%	44%	42%
Social Science	60%	49%	46%
Biology	73%	42%	38%

56% of Scotus students met all four benchmark scores compared to 29% in the state and 28% nationally.

## POST-SECONDARY PLANS OF 2015 GRADUATES

47 Graduating Students in the Class of 2015  
 2 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 – 75%  
 Enrolling in a 2-year college – 25%

Graduates planning to pursue a Bachelor's Degree – 93%  
 Graduates planning to pursue an Associate's Degree – 7%  
 (9 students plan to pursue 4-year degree thereafter)

The 2015 graduating class had 7 class members named to the OWH Academic all-state team including Jared Duren who was selected to the first team All West-Central Academic Team.

## POST-SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS SCOTUS GRADUATES PLANNED TO ATTEND

### IN-STATE INSTITUTIONS

Central Community College – 7  
 Creighton University - 2  
 Hastings College – 1  
 Midland University – 1  
 Nebraska Wesleyan – 2  
 Northeast Community College – 1  
 Southeast Community College – 2  
 Union College – 1  
 University of Nebraska Kearney - 3  
 University of Nebraska Lincoln – 12  
 University of Nebraska Omaha – 7

### OUT-OF-STATE INSTITUTIONS

Benedictine College – 1  
 California State U., Long Beach – 1  
 Gonzaga University – 1  
 Hillsdale College – 1  
 Morningside College – 1  
 Iowa Western Community College – 1  
 Seattle University – 1  
 St. Mary's College, Notre Dame – 1

### EXCHANGE STUDENTS RETURNING SCHOOLS/COUNTRIES

Institut des Hautes Etudes des Communications Sociales,  
 Brussels, Belgium – 1  
 Staatliches Bildungszentrum, Weimar, Germany – 1



## COMMENCEMENT 2015

Joining the ranks of Scotus alumni and alumnae this spring were 47 graduates plus two international students who participated in the commencement and received certificates of attendance. Jared Duren, senior class president, provided the senior welcome at commencement and campus minister Fr. Matthew Capadano provided a greeting and homily. Recognized as the 2015 Spirit of Scotus Award winner was Carly Cremers, daughter of Jim and Marlene (Bonk '81) Cremers.



2015 Scotus Athletes of the year, Kelsey Kessler and Grant Lahm.

## 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 \$23,475 during the 2014-15 school year. The money was sent in to Omaha and in return the Columbus Catholic schools received back a total of \$66,700 in scholarships benefiting 70 students for the 2015-16 school year. For each dollar raised and sent to Omaha, Columbus was guaranteed to receive back \$1.50. Columbus actually received back \$2.84 for each dollar raised—a very good return! A summary of the scholarships follows:

### 2015-16 CSF Scholarships

<u>School</u>	<u>Student #</u>	<u>Award Total</u>
Scotus Central Catholic	13	\$ 8,200
St. Anthony	26	\$26,700
St. Bonaventure	22	\$15,800
St. Isidore	9	\$16,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>\$66,700</b>

(\$23,475 raised locally)

### 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 2014-15 FISCAL YEAR

<i>Project</i>	<i>Funded By</i>
Replaced 212 senior high hall lockers .....	Annual Appeal 2014-15
Replaced school's entrance/camera security system.....	Annual Appeal 2014-15
Replaced Dowd Center downspouts, door security latches .....	Annual Appeal 2014-15
New activity record boards (9) for Dowd Center & part of the wrestling clock.....	Shamrock Open 2014
Wrestling clock.....	Private Donation
New padded scorer's table for Dowd Center, Cross C. timer & training room treatment tables, heating units.....	Shamrock Open 2015/Memorials
New restroom doors and sinks.....	Bid A Bag 2014
Replaced Memorial Hall gym windows.....	Shamrock Lottery 2014
New lighting and drop ceiling in Mr. Salyard's classroom .....	Scotus Mothers
Replaced 52-year-old cafeteria tables.....	Gala 2015
New Dowd Center Scoreboards/move old boards to Memorial Hall.....	Alvina Schumacher Memorials
New parking lot expenses .....	Big Give 14
Remodel athletic training room, new ice machine.....	Big Give 15/LaVerne Torczon Memorials
Continued work on north parking lot .....	SEF 14
New landscaping for chapel entrance.....	SEF 14
New landscaping for school's north side.....	NE Arboretum Grant
Installed new computer network in the school (\$154,000).....	Ignite the Faith Grant

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROCESS

At the end of the 2014-15 school year a plan for focused staff development was submitted to the school accrediting agency, AdvancEd. This plan had two primary components, focused group/staff development, and individual or small group staff development. The plan will allow Scotus Central Catholic High School to not just provide professional development as a hoop to jump through, but to actually insure the staff development plan will promote individual, group and entire faculty growth.

During the 14-15 school year Scotus Central Catholic High School applied for and received a grant from the Ignite the Faith grant program in the amount of approximately \$154,000. The grant was used to enhance the school's wireless access system. In the past the demands on the wireless system were greater than the systems capability causing issues with "logging" onto technology and being "dropped" when using wireless technology.

The upgrade included enhanced wiring, equipment, etc. and enabled the school to go from one gig of bandwidth to a flexible 10 gigs of bandwidth. Additionally there is a full gigabit of wireless service. The system is termed "flexible" because the main/core system is modular and additional pieces can be added as bandwidth needs increase.

The goal of school improvement remains centered on improving academic performance and opportunities. Both the staff development plan and the technology upgrade have the potential to positively impact the education of Scotus Central Catholic High School students.



*The new north parking lot is now being used by Scotus students. 35 parking stalls are available—helping to keep the same number of cars safely parked off of the streets.*



*Many new security cameras were added to both the interior and exterior of the school as part of the new security enhancements made this year.*

## 2014-15 FUNDRAISING / DONATION INCOME

### 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 2015, the SEF 14 campaign had finished 20 of the 36 pledge payment months and pledge receipts totaled \$895,539.21. Through SEF 14, the school is making its HVAC loan payments and distributed \$25,000 monthly to support tuition assistance and balance the budget. The campaign also provided for the purchase of new bleachers in the Dowd Center and construction of the new north parking lot.

### ANNUAL GIFTS

The fall 2014 **annual appeal** received 583 donations totaling \$71,806.75 and exceeded the \$60,000 goal to support the replacement of the entrance security system and senior high hall lockers. The **Shamrock Lottery** had a net of \$6,581 and those proceeds supported the replacement of windows in the Memorial Hall gym. The **Gala dinner/auction** had net proceeds of \$204,535 which was used to balance the school's annual budget. And during the Gala an additional \$20,250 was raised to purchase new dining tables for the cafeteria. The **Gala's Chuck Sand Memorial Grain Train** provided grain donations totaling \$6,957.08. Receipts from the 2nd annual **Columbus Big Give** were \$4,297.65 supporting renovations in the athletic training room. The 8th annual **Shamrock Open** raised \$7,382 also directed to facility improvements. **Memorial income** totaled \$31,540 and included several large donations funding the purchase of new scoreboards for the Dowd Center (in honor of Alvina Schumacher) and equipment for the training room (in honor of LaVerne Torczon.)

\$89,889.33 in **annual gifts** were received through 6/3/15 with the largest being \$53,825 and restricted to provide Christmas bonuses to all Scotus faculty plus covering the school's FICA responsibility for those bonuses. Only two unrestricted gifts were receipted (\$500, \$5,000) and they were applied to the building fund. Also submitted were: \$4,500 to establish the Dave & Norma Duren family scholarship, \$3,600 in special memorial donations to purchase new scoreboards for the Dowd Center, \$2,000 to help purchase a wrestling mat, \$6,019.91 raised

through the Scotus Mothers Bid a Bag fundraiser and directed to facility improvements, \$4,000 to the endowment supporting the John & Rose Buggi scholarship, \$3,000 from the Freda Batty Distinguished Educator Award given in honor of Jane Dusel-Misfeldt for classroom improvements, \$500 to fund the new Class of 1986 Scholarship and the remaining donations were to support various already established annually funded scholarships. The Scotus Mothers provided sponsorships for faculty wish list items totaling \$1,000. The Scotus Mothers also donated \$6,000 in 2015 to install new lighting and a ceiling in the physics classroom.

<b>2014-15 Activity</b>	<b>Net Raised</b>
Columbus Big Give	\$ 4,298
Annual Fund Donations	\$ 89,889
Annual Appeal Donations	\$ 71,807
Children's Scholarship Fund (For all 4 Catholic Schools)	\$ 23,475
Gala 2015 & Cafeteria Tables	\$ 225,085
SEF 14 Campaign	\$ 260,826
Memorials Received	\$ 31,540
Shamrock Lottery	\$ 6,581
Shamrock Open	\$ 7,382
Gifts directed to Endowment	\$ 7,642

### 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%. Through the Archdiocesan Ignite the Faith campaign proceeds returned to the local parishes, Scotus received \$33,234.56 to help retire the HVAC debt; and at the conclusion of the 2014-15 fiscal year the remaining HVAC debt was \$454,591 (down from \$636,629 at the conclusion of the 2013-14 fiscal year.) Regular loan payments on the debt are funded by SEF campaign support.

## ENDOWMENT - Market Values 8/31/15 and Distributions Fiscal 2014-15

Combined endowment fund market values at the conclusion of the fiscal year (August 31, 2015) was \$8,343,408 including \$5,788,232 (locally managed funds) and \$2,555,176 (funds managed through the Archdiocese.) During the fiscal year a total of

\$7,641 was added to the endowment. Of this amount, \$7,500 was restricted for endowed scholarship support and \$141 was added to the general endowment fund. Fiscal year distributions received by the school totaled \$361,177.39.

#### Locally Managed Funds

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
Fund #1 (Original Fund)	\$ 1,579,758	\$ 55,586.00
Fund #2 (Rambour Parish Investment Relief)	\$ 3,519,416	\$ 125,704.00
Fund #3 (W. Gerhold Teacher of the Year Fund)	\$ 293,085	\$ 10,463.00
Fund #4 (Feik Technology Fund)	\$ 383,932	\$ 15,555.74
Fund #5 (Dorie Schrad Music Scholarship)	\$ 9,577	\$ 409.82
Fund #6 (Fr. Price B Scholarship)	\$ 2,464	\$ 89.05

#### Omaha Managed Funds

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Market Value</u>	<u>Distribution</u>
Land Contract/Trust	\$ 122,707	\$ 4,451.47
Anonymous Fund	\$1,206,513	\$ 60,088.79
Fr. Price Scholarship	\$ 10,791	\$ 535.44
W. Gerhold Family Fund	\$ 467,629	\$ 23,294.08
ACNM	\$ 747,536	\$ 20,000.00
<b>Total All Funds</b>	<b>\$8,343,408</b>	<b>\$ 316,177.39</b>

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!

## 2014-15 HIGHLIGHTS

**Awards in Sports.** 2014-15 was a great year for sports at Scotus. Of the 13 combined girls and boys sports offered, there were 8 district championships. The girls finished in the top 10 state rankings in 4 of 6 sports: golf (2nd), volleyball (3rd), cross country (4th), soccer (7th). Every boys team finished in the top 10 state rankings: cross country (2nd), football (5th), basketball (2nd), wrestling (6th), golf (7th), track (5th), and soccer (1st).

**Golf.** The girls' varsity golf team finished in 2nd place at the state Class C golf tourney. Emerson Belitz finished in 11th place individually. The boys' golf team won their district and finished in 7th place at the state tourney.



*State golf runners-up.*

**Cross Country.** The Scotus boys' cross-country team finished at state as the Class C-1 State Runners-up. Nathan Ostdiek finished 4th individually at state. The girls' team finished in 4th place at state.

**Volleyball.** The volleyball team finished in 3rd place at the state volleyball tourney under first-year head coach Joe Held '04. The Shamrocks finished the season with a record of 22-9. Junior Maeghan Pieper was named to the All-State class C-1 first team and receiving honorable mention were juniors Courtney Labenz, Kim Stutzman and Morgan Thorson.

**Football.** The Shamrock football team's season ended unexpectedly in a state quarterfinal matchup with Kearney Catholic HS with a 22-21 score. The Rocks finished with a 9-2 season record and ended with a fifth place final state ranking among Class C-1 teams. The last time Scotus had a nine win season was in 1999. Junior Jake Bos was named to the All-State Class C-1 first team defensive squad and receiving honorable mention recognition were seniors Grant Lahm and Garrit Shanle, and juniors Marcus Dodson, Cole Harrington and Baeley Pelster.

**Basketball.** The Scotus boys' basketball team advanced to the state Class C-1 tourney finals for the first time in school history but lost to Winnebago HS. The team finished in 2nd place in the final state rankings with a season record of 22-6. Senior Grant Lahm was named to the All-Nebraska second team and all-state Class C-1 first team. Receiving honorable mention were junior Miles Putnam and sophomores Dalton Taylor, Cody Mroczek, and Nathan Ostdiek. The girls' basketball team finished with a season record of 9-13. Receiving honorable mention all-state recognition were senior Kelsey Kessler and junior Allie Johnson.

**Wrestling.** In its third year as a varsity sport, Scotus had 8 state qualifiers. Junior Alec Foltz became the first SCC wrestler to capture a state title. Alec defeated his opponent 3-1 in the Class B 145 pound championship match--leading Scotus to a 6th place team finish. Other Shamrock medalists were juniors Mason Brandenburg (3rd in 126 lb.), Marcus Dodson (4th in 160 lb.) and senior Riley Gilson (4th in 170 lb.). Also scoring was sophomore Layton Mullinix (132 lb.) Senior Riley Gilson was selected to wrestle in the state East/West duals in June.

**Track & Field.** The boys' team won every regular season meet, the district meet and placed 5th at state with 8 boys qualifying for state. The girls had 10 qualifying for state and the team finished in 36th place. State Class B medalists were: Marika Spencer (6th shot), Garrit Shanle (5th shot put, 8th discus), Cody Mroczek (3rd 200 m, 1st 400 m) and a school record was set in the 1600 m relay to a 2nd place finish with Cody Mroczek, Brady Przymus, Matt Strecker, and Grant Lahm. The previous school record was in 1981.

**Soccer.** The boys soccer team won the state Class B championship and finished ranked #1 All-Class and #1 Class B in the state ending with a 19-3 record. Alec Foltz was named first team All-Nebraska and Jake Bos was named to the second team All-Nebraska. Named to the Class B first team all-state were: Alec Foltz, Jake Bos, Jackson Kumpf and Evan Chohon. Named to the all-state second team were Caleb Ostdiek and Baeley Pelster and receiving honorable mention were: Noah Schacher, Nathan Ostdiek, Cole Harrington and Marcus Dodson. The girls' soccer team ended their season at 13-5 losing in the first round at state. The team finished 7th in the final state ranking and named to the girls all-state honorable mention team were: Jessica Schaecher, Morgan Thorson, Bailey Honold, Emma Strecker and Abbie Alt.

**Co-op Sports.** Senior Noah Schacher, junior Dana Hoppe and sophomore Matt Hoenk all competed on the Columbus High School boys' tennis team at the state tourney and state qualifiers for the CHS girls' tennis team were Elizabeth Preister, Emma Zeller and Hannah Thomazin. Four Scotus students competed on the CHS swimming and diving team, nine girls played on the CHS softball team. On the CHS baseball team, eight Shamrocks contributed to a 16-9 season with Tyler Morton and Miles Putnam named to the all-state honorable mention team.

**Powerlifting.** Scotus junior, Savannah Robertson was the state Class C champion in the 148 pound weight class at the Powerlifting Championships.

**Cheerleading.** Competing at a three-day National Cheer Association camp at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the Scotus cheer squad earned the spirit stick all three days, won the camp spirit award and won the varsity division game time cheer trophy. Ten of the sixteen Shamrock cheerleaders received All-American nominations and senior Megan Meyer won the Individual Camp Leadership award.

**Journalism.** Scotus sent ten students to the State Class B Journalism Contest and of the thirteen events they competed in, they medaled in ten including junior Hannah Thomazin who was the state champion in newswriting. State results included: Garrit Shanle, 6th place Feature Photography; Morgan Thorson, 5th place Feature Photography; Gabby Middendorf, 5th place Newswriting; Hannah Thomazin, 5th place Newspaper Layout; Kelly Kamrath, 4th place Editorial Cartooning; Jaime Gasper, 3rd place Entertainment Writing; Justin Zoucha, 3rd place Editorial Writing; Cole Harrington, 3rd place Yearbook Sports Feature Writing; Jessica Schaecher, 2nd place Sports/Action Photography; and Hannah Thomazin 1st in Newswriting.

**Journalism.** The Scotus Central Catholic 2014-2015 newspaper and yearbook staffs both earned a Cornhusker Award at the Nebraska High School Press Association Convention. Scotus was the only school all classes to receive a Cornhusker Award in both newspaper and yearbook! A Cornhusker Award signifies the highest distinction of journalistic excellence as judged by experts across the country who judge each publication in all areas of coverage, writing, editing, design, and photography.

**Speech.** At District speech, Olivia Rath placed 5th in serious prose, Amy Heusinkvelt placed 2nd in serious prose, and Abby Allen placed 6th in extemporaneous speaking and 1st in entertainment speaking. Abby Allen and Amy Heusinkvelt both qualified for the state speech meet where Abby finished in 4th place and Amy had a 15th place finish.

**One-Acts.** The Scotus one-act cast and crew received a superior rating at the District competition and placed third by points. Carly Cremers, Adam Smith, Jared Hanson, Abby Allen, and Amy Heusinkvelt all received acting honors.

**FBLA.** FBLA members achieved the following accomplishments at the FBLA State Leadership Conference: sophomore Nathan Hiemer and junior Bailey Braun received Honorable Mention in Management Information Systems; Bailey Braun--Honorable Mention in Insurance and Risk Management; and sophomore Nikki Hiner--5th place in Proofreading and 2nd place in Keyboarding Knowledge.

**Music.** Students participating in the District Music achieved the following Superior and Excellent ratings in April. Superior Rating: Piano players Gabrielle Middendorf and Elizabeth Preister, chorus, chamber mass ensemble, flute/clarinet/horn ensemble, voice boys septet, voice girls septet, voice mixed trio, saxophone ensemble, percussion duet/snare, voice girls duet, voice mixed duet, voice soloists Brady Przymus, Anthony Sprunk and Shannon Spulak, tuba soloist Adam Smith, trumpet soloist Carly Cremers and trombone soloist Justin Brockhaus. Excellent Rating: Trumpet quartet, band, percussion ensemble/drumline, trombone quartet, trumpet/baritone ensemble, saxophone duet, voice soloists Abby Allen and Carly Cremers, trumpet soloist Teddy Paprocki, clarinet soloist Jennifer Belsan and trombone soloists Darin Rinkol and Lucas Cox.

**Music.** Senior Elizabeth Preister was one of 130 selected to the 2014 All-State Orchestra, and junior Brady Przymus was selected among 440 students to the 2014 All-State Chorus. Elizabeth was selected to play cello, and Brady was selected to sing bass II.

**Music/Theater.** Ninety-one Scotus students, representing a quarter of the entire school body, presented the spring musical, Disney's High School Musical in February. The senior high band consisted of 53 students and they presented the 20th annual band/dinner concert in February. The 60-strong marching band received a superior rating and the drum major award in the Melody Round-Up Parade in Hastings. The Shamrock Singers consisted of 27 students.

**Student Honors.** 68 Scotus students were members of the National Honor Society. Jared Donoghue, a senior at Scotus was named a Commended Student in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. Senior Jared Duren was selected to the Omaha World Herald's first team 2015 All West-Central Academic Team.

*2014 NSAA fall academic all-state selections were:* boys' cross country – Justin Brockhaus, Nathan Ostdiek; girls' cross country – Jaimee Beauvais, Kaylee Tonniges; football – Jared Duren, Garrit Shanle; Girls' golf – Abby Allen, Nieve Johnson; play production – Carly Cremers, Amy Heusinkvelt; volleyball – Courtney Brockhaus, Sarah Schumacher.

*2015 NSAA winter academic all-state selections were:* boys' basketball - Grant Lahm, Garrit Shanle; girls' basketball - Kelsey Kessler, Sarah Schumacher; speech - Abby Allen, Amy Heusinkvelt; wrestling - Marcus Dodson and Will Sonderman.

*The 2015 NSAA spring academic all-state award winners were:* Music - Carly Cremers, Elizabeth Preister; Journalism - Kelsey Kessler, Jessica Schaecher; Track - Kelsey Kessler, Cody Mroczek, Brady Przymus, Sarah Schumacher; Golf - Brandon Johnston, Darin Rinkol; Soccer - Jaimee Beauvais, Jackson Kumpf, Joe Sonderman, Morgan Thorson; Tennis - Elizabeth Preister; Baseball - Tyler Morton.

**Other Honors.** Coach John Petersen and Coach Kristie Brezenski '98 were inducted into the Nebraska High School Sports Hall of Fame on October 5th in Lincoln at the Lied Center. Inducted into the Shamrock Athletic Hall of Fame were athletes Laura Dolezal '04 and Heidi Sobota Field '05 and booster, Annette Hash. Named as the 16th annual Alumnus/na of the year were Gerry and Kathy (Kurtenbach '58) Engelbert. The award recognizes distinguished graduates of our school who are strong supporters of Catholic Education, have excelled in their vocation and are involved in their parish and community. Mr. Gary Puetz was announced as this year's Outstanding Service Award winner. Gary continues to serve Scotus with particular loyalty and distinction, completing his 40th year with the Shamrocks. The William and Barbara Gerhold Family Teacher of the Year was Juli Spencer of St. Isidore School.

**Years of Service.** Recognized for their years of service were: Andy Bier-

man (5 years); Peg Morfeld (5 years); Jeff Ohnoutka (10 years); Millie Rief (10 years); Angie Rusher (10 years); Betty Kampovitz (15 years); Wayne Morfeld (15 years); Joan Lahm (20 years); Patti Salyard (20 years); Cathy Podliska (25 years); and Gray Puetz (40 years.)



*Activities director, Gary Puetz, received the school's Outstanding Service Award at commencement.*

**Man of the Shroud.** Scotus co-hosted a week-long exhibit with the three local Knights of Columbus Councils and Spirit Catholic Radio entitled, "The Man of the Shroud." Nearly 1,000 guests visited the exhibit which featured an extensive display of information panels and a life-size 14-by-3 feet photographic transparency replicating the holy Shroud of Turin.

**Classroom Security.** Forty classroom and office door locks were replaced at Scotus thanks to the generosity of the Scotus Mothers booster club. The new locks provide a major security enhancement since they can be locked from inside the classroom or office during a lock-down emergency. (Previous door locks had to be locked from the hallway side of the door.) The new door knobs also feature handles--making them much easier to use. The Scotus Mothers' main fundraising activities

include the Christmas Boutique, Shoporama and sales of Shamrock spirit apparel.

**Craft Boutique.** The Scotus Mothers Craft Boutique held on December 7th attracted 1,531 shoppers along with many more adult and student volunteers who worked at the event. The fundraiser is always held on the first Sunday of December with proceeds supporting the Scotus annual budget. This year's co-chairs were Elaine Zoucha, Sandy (Schaefer '81) Swope and Danielle Frewing.

**National March for Life.** 28 Scotus students along with several sponsors attended the National March for Life in Washington DC.

**Hoops for Heart.** 107 Shamrock Jr. High Physical Education students raised a total of \$2,261.55 for the American Heart Association through its Hoops for Heart program. Students secured donations and the event included a variety of fun athletic activities and contests.

**Blood Drive.** At the Red Cross blood drive hosted by Scotus, donors exceeded the goal of 114 productive units. We had 110 whole blood units and 8 double red donor units for a total of 118 productive units.

**Living the Faith.** Scotus students contributed more than 7,000 hours of service to school, community and church in the last year.

**Technology.** The Archdiocesan Ignite the Faith campaign exceeded its \$40 million dollar goal and attained gifts and pledges of \$53 million dollars. One component of the campaign was to provide a \$7.5 million dollar Catholic School Excellence Fund from which schools could apply for needs-based grants. Scotus submitted a \$154,000 grant proposal for an upgrade to its wireless technology infrastructure and \$154,000 was approved in the spring of 2015. As a result, Scotus improved its wireless access service from 250 Mbps through 15 access points and a backbone of 1 Gbps to a new level of 1 Gbps through 66 access points and a backbone of 10 Gbps.

**Youth Rally.** On June 27-28 Scotus hosted the Believe Eucharistic Youth Rally organized by the Mary Help of Christians Crusade and directed by the Leaven of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (LIHM) Sisters. The conference brought more than 250 high school youth and 150 adult chaperones from across the country to SCC.

Guests attended Mass, confession, adoration and several witness presentations during the event which also included live music and an invitation to guests to spend the night in the school. Meals were prepared



*Scotus chemistry teacher, Jane Dusel-Misfeldt, was chosen as the 2015 Freda Battey Distinguished Educator Award recipient by the College of Education and Human Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.*

## 2015 ENDOWED AND ANNUALLY FUNDED SCHOLARSHIPS

Named as recipients of endowed scholarships were:

- Louis & Elaine Buggi Memorial Scholarship** (Elissa Aguilera, Ben Merrill, Simon Pichler, Alex Novicki)
- Manny and Millie Cimpl Family Scholarship** (Gabrielle Middendorf)
- Sheridan Gladfelter Memorial Scholarship** (Bryce VunCannon)
- Lee & Shirley Hroza Family Scholarship** (Elizabeth Preister, Grant Lahm)
- Eleanor M Loshbaugh Memorial Scholarship** (Justin Brockhaus)
- George & Jeanette Maguire Memorial Scholarship** (Nathan Tworek)
- Fr. Price Memorial Scholarship** (Brock Clarke, Kaitlyn Lovell, Aaron Peterson, Lizzie Hoppe, Tyler Miksch, Noah Korth and Shelby Bridger)
- Eldora Schrad Music Recognition Award** (Justin Brockhaus, Megan Meyer, Adam Smith)
- Kathryn Kuta Sweenie Humanitarian Award** (Natalie Chappell)
- Duane Swoboda Memorial Scholarship** (Shannon Spulak)
- Gene G Witt Memorial Scholarship** (Carly Fehringer, Eduardo Lopez, Toby Tooley)

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); and 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:

- Student Council Scholarship** (Ryan Mustard, Kelsey Wiehn)
- David and Norma Duren Scholarship** (Caleb Kosch)
- Leonard & Cec Feehan Family Scholarship** (Brandon Huyhn)
- Lynette Topinka Goins Memorial Scholarship** (Amy Heusinkvelt, Adam Smith)
- Leadership Award from Class of 1962** (Jared Hanson)
- Nebraska Centennial Conference Scholarship** (Carly Cremers)
- Jeff Podraza Memorial Scholarship** (Tate VunCannon)
- Pyramid of Success Scholarship** (Mario Gutierrez, Rachel Lam)
- Shamrock Club Scholarship** (Abby Alt, Joe Sonderman)
- Helen Shadle Scholarship** (Samantha Braun)
- Dean Soulliere Family Scholarship** (Ross Bonk, Savannah Robertson)
- Curt Tenopir Memorial Scholarship** (Courtney Kosch)

Other local scholarships and recipients:

- Becton-Dickinson Scholarship** (Keaton Swanson)
- Central Community College Scholarship** (Hannah Krings, Trevor Pandorf, Theodore Paprocki)
- Columbus Optimist Club Scholarship** (Kelsey Kessler)
- Columbus Sertoma Club Scholarship** (Allison Anderson)
- Columbus United Federal Credit Union Scholarship** (Kelsey Kessler)
- Columbus Women's Club** (Carly Cremers)
- Cornerstone Bank Scholarship** (Kelsey Kessler)
- Elk's Most Valuable Student** (Abigail Allen, Joe Sonderman)
- Fontanelle Hybrids Scholarship** (Jared Donoghue)
- Loup Public Power Scholarship** (Theodore Paprocki)
- Platte County Ag Society Scholarship** (Trevor Pandorf)
- TeamMates Scholarship** (Joslynn Afrank, Allison Anderson, Jordan Engel, Mac Mapes)

*Scotus Central Catholic High School  
admits students of any race, color, and  
national or ethnic origin*



*State champion boys' soccer team.*



*Carly Cremers was the 2015 Spirit of Scotus award winner.*



*Fr. Matthew Capadano completed his first year as the Scotus campus minister.*



*State cross-country runner-up team.*

