

Cotter

# Ramblin's

Spring 2011



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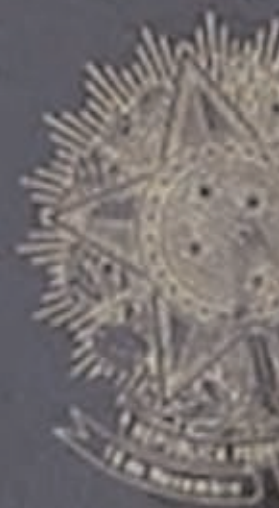


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# Cotter Ramblin's

Cotter *Ramblin's* is a magazine published bi-annually for Alumni & Friends of Cotter Schools. Readers are invited to make content suggestions and submit news to:

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### On the cover:

Cover photo: Construction of the Mike O'Callaghan '46 - Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge (Colorado River Bridge) is now complete! Read more about the life of this Cotter grad on page 17.

# Features



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### World Champion

By Jillian Wunderlich '11

Senior Spencer Sieracki learned the meaning of working hard to accomplish a dream - even if it does mean giving up "junk food"



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### It's all in a name... or is it?

By Mandi Householder

The story of two 1934 graduates who share the same last name as well as the same giving nature.



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### Centennial Preview!

Designed By Alissa Gibson

Look how far we've come, baby! Check out our Centennial Year celebration activities! Mark your calendar today!



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### Building Bridges: The Life's Work Of Mike O'Callaghan '46

By: Meagan Olstad '04

Mike O'Callaghan '46 has left a legacy few others can compare to. Take a glimpse into the life of one amazing Cotter Alum.



## PAGE 23

### Cotter is a Family Thing : 3 Generations at Cotter

By Mandi Householder

For the Malotka family, Cotter is their school of choice. Eugene Malotka '39; Chris Malotka '69; Scott Malotka '10

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## Message from the President - JENNIFER ELFERING


Spring is Here My Dear Friends,

The school days are filled with spirit and the weather is accommodating the energy that abounds on campus. I have continued my journey along this school calendar year experiencing many events and creating memories for the days to come. Recently, I re-lived my junior high school days with a trip to the 74th Annual Minnesota State Science & Engineering Fair. Several of our Junior High School Students represented Cotter Schools. I was able to meet our students and rejoice in their courage to compete at this level. It was my delight to hear of their committed eagerness to continue to engage in this event in their coming high school years. I have wonderful memories of my state science fair experience. I remember how nervous I was in seventh grade and how large the event seemed to me. I began, like our students, locally competing then moving to the regional competition and finally onto to the state finals held in Springfield, Illinois. My science project demonstrated the affects of cryogenics with hymenoptera specimens that produced a hibernating state in these insects. This experience helped to shape my studies and motivate my learning. I believed it also prepared me for the cold temperatures of Winona, Minnesota, and the need for humans to hibernate. I am happy for spring!

Discovery is the essence of learning! Our students at Cotter continue to receive opportunities that embrace discovery as with the State Science & Engineering Fair. Additionally, Cotter students polish their skills and strengthen knowledge competing at events like the Minnesota State High School Mathematics League's annual competition. I was proud to be present in South St. Paul as our Cotter High School Math Team received 1st Place for Tournament Team Competition and 1st Place for Seasonal Team Competition. This was the first time in our years of competing that we received 1st Place simultaneously for both events. This marvelous success alludes to the dedication of Mr. Don Nitti and his team of coaches who meet with students preparing them for the season. It is only appropriate that I also share that Mr. Don Nitti is the award recipient for the National Catholic Education Association's Secondary Education Award. He will be presented this prestigious award on April 26th at the NCEA annual conference. He is one of only six people nationwide to be recognized as an outstanding high school educator. We are so proud of him and honored to have his continued support with our Math Program.

Our upcoming Centennial Celebration has been receiving much attention by many committed volunteers. It is truly an exciting time at Cotter. As I have mentioned before, Cotter's 100th year celebration produced a concerted effort to begin a visioning process under the direction of the Board of Directors. We have been actively meeting over the last several months gathering input and reflecting on Cotter Schools. St. Joseph, our patron and whose feast was celebrated by Cotter in March, has been invoked to intercede for our efforts. Our focus to provide an education steeped in Catholic teaching tradition centers on scholarship, world citizenship and stewardship. Scholarship is learning, the act of acquiring knowledge through study. At Cotter, our students are encouraged to reach the potential that God has intended for them. Teachers at Cotter provide not just expectations but the support to help students realize their academic goals. World citizenship is central to our existence in this new millennium. Cotter has a diverse student population that reflects the world our children will work in and the people they will engage in a global economy. Nurturing the whole person is more than academics at Cotter. Our faculty and staff integrate culture and the dynamics of living in community daily. Stewardship incorporates Cotter's community life and our students' call to serve. Cotter Schools teach students the value of helping others as an expression of faith and good stewardship. It is a great joy to be a part of the formation of young minds leading them to fruitful and confident futures! Until next time, I look forward to celebrating Cotter's Centennial with you.

I remain yours,  
Joyful in the service of Christ,



Jennifer A. Elfering  
President of Cotter Schools  
"Veritatem Vereantur" - Let them Respect the Truth



*"Where revealed truth has given the aim and direction to knowledge, knowledge of all kinds will minister to revealed truth."  
- Cardinal John Henry Newman*

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# Rambler Events Calendar...

Don't miss these fun filled Rambler events...Mark your calendars today!

## May

**29** Baccalaureate Mass & Graduation 2011



## June

**20** 24th Annual Cotter Classic Golf Tournament



## July

**16-30** Cross Cultural Ministry Trips to Chicago, Omaha, West Virginia and New York



## August

**12** All School Reunion/Kick Off Weekend  
**22** First Day of 2011/2012 School Year





## World Champion! Sieracki's skills receive international recognition

by Jillian Wunderlich '11 - adapted from original story published in the Cotter Chronicle

Winning a world championship was worth the sacrifice. Giving up relaxing weekends and the senior class trip are just some things that Spencer Sieracki had to give up in order to achieve his goals. This past October, he checked off his biggest goal by winning the International Jet Sports Boating Association world championship.

At the age of 14, Sieracki first heard about a regional race in La Crosse, Wisc. Attending with his grandmother, Sieracki enjoyed the experience and decided that he wanted more. The next race was in Prairie Du Chien, Wisconsin, and with no racing experience, he took on the challenge. His natural talent seemed evident as he won the first race he competed in.

In his first season, Sieracki won seven of eight races, winning the overall title for every class he entered. Sieracki added, "I didn't expect to do that well in the first year, but I was definitely excited." Although he didn't make it to the world finals, Sieracki still attended. He went to Lake Havasu, Arizona; also known as the jet ski capitol of the world, where the worlds are held each year. During the winter, the eager racer bought a new jet ski. However, Minnesota's harsh weather put Sieracki in a tough spot. Many of his other competitors lived in warmer places like Arizona or California. This forced Sieracki to focus on other training methods. "They get to train all-year round on their ski, and I can only [practice] a couple of months a year, so I can only focus on getting stronger and keeping my body healthy," Sieracki explained.

He started off by working out three to four times a week. Sieracki also changed his diet. He ate healthier and cut out junk food. In 2009, Sieracki raced in all of the Midwest races and in the two national championships. He won all of the Midwest races and placed first in the junior class and second in the adult class during the national championships.

Sieracki's first appearance in the world finals was during his junior year. He finished sixth in the Amateur Light division and ninth in a Novice Stock division. Although it was a disappointment to the young racer, he was still proud of what he had accomplished for his first trip to the worlds.

Before the beginning of his senior year, he had won two national championships in West Virginia. Two weeks later, he raced in Nashville and won two more national championships. Before the approaching 2010 world finals, Sieracki trained by running every day in order to build more muscle and endurance. He worked out almost every day in Cotter's fitness center and stayed away from all fast foods. Sieracki said, "I got made fun of all summer from people because I wouldn't eat junk food."

Before leaving for worlds, Sieracki was confident he would place in the top three. However, after arriving and analyzing the competition, he began to feel nervous. During the regular season, Sieracki didn't see much of the competition that he would race against at worlds. Most of the racers are from foreign countries, which don't compete in the regular season. All of the training had built up for this day; he was ready to go. Stock was Sieracki's first race of the day. With his concentration peaking, he started off the race strongly. He began to strengthen his lead with every buoy taken. Sieracki crossed the finish line dominating the race. The second place racer crossed the finish line approximately 20 seconds after Sieracki.

As he rode up on to the beach, he was greeted with hugs from his mom, dad, and grandparents. All eyes were full with joy and tears after the memorable victory. Sieracki had to wait three hours before his next race. Once again, he was mentally prepared to race. Sieracki pulled off another world title. Two races, two championships. Throughout Sieracki's whole career, his family has been his number one support system. "I wouldn't be where I am without them," Sieracki said.

Sieracki considers himself very lucky to have a family that is so supporting in whatever dreams he hopes to accomplish—each world championship at a time.



## Notable News - PRINCIPAL MESSAGES

KEEP UP WITH COTTER NEWS AT [WWW.COTTERSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.COTTERSCHOOLS.ORG)

"June, July, and August – teachers have it made – they only work 9 months a year!" We've all heard it (and maybe even voiced it) but the truth be told the faculty at Cotter Schools can easily dispel this fallacy by looking at what they are bringing to our school and sharing with our students all year long.

The Cotter faculty ranges in experience from 1 year to 41 years. Our 37 "classroom" teachers can boast a total of 779 years of experience; 583 years of that are in a variety of Catholic school settings from elementary through college and astoundingly 471 years of those are specifically at Cotter.

There are 16 with bachelor degrees; 19 with master/specialist degrees; and 2 with doctorates. Currently there are several people working on advanced degrees either at the master's or the doctoral level.

Many of our teachers are licensed in several disciplines in addition to the content area that they are currently involved in which makes them extremely versatile in how they can best serve the needs of our students. Several have expanded their knowledge base to include special ed, reading, ESL, and AP. Some even serve as adjunct professors for St. Mary's University of MN.

Outside of the school day our faculty members coach football, basketball, softball, track, baseball, volleyball, CC, speech, golf, and math team. They serve as advisors for NHS, Student Council, canoe club, ski/snowboarding club, chess club, yearbook, musicals, prom, senior class trip, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Students Promoting Awareness, Target, Parmies (prayer army), and the list goes on and on. In their churches they are lectors, Eucharistic ministers, RCIA mentors, CCD teachers, choir members, musicians, youth group leaders, parish council members, and trustees. If that's not keeping them busy enough they can be found serving on our Centennial Committee, our Athletic Hall of Fame Committee and assisting with our annual auction and golf tournament.

During the summer and in their "free time" they are involved in sports camps, science camps, math camps, and music camps. You can find them directing and acting in local theater productions, chaperoning mission trips, leading the marching band, and working with Habitat for Humanity. They tutor students, offer music lessons, attend school, work at state parks, and teach yoga or driver's training. And above all else they are still parents, grandparents, spouses, adult children, and siblings.

There is simply no doubt about it - our teachers are well-educated, well-rounded, and intensely involved in their school, their church, and their community. Summers off – they can only wish!

Cotter High School Principal  
Sandi Blank

As I write this article for the Ramblins, I am reminded of how quickly the remainder of the school year will go by. We had our Cotter Jr. High Step Up Day where 6th graders come to experience mini classes in order to get a taste of what school will be like next year. This was a great day. In fact, any time we are able to do an event like this or have a non-Cotter student come and shadow a student for a day, I feel blessed. I like showing off what Cotter Junior High School is about.

Throughout the next few months until the 2011-12 academic year begins in August, I hope to have many new potential Cotter students come to visit and check us out. Cotter is a unique system. Our junior high is the stepping stone to our high school. Our focus is on educating the whole child. This goes beyond academics. We also focus on the spiritual, social, and emotional well being of our students. The partnership between school, students, and parents is a big commitment, but I would want nothing less. The Cotter experience is one that has life long effects. As we work together, this experience is a positive one through hard work on behalf of many people.

As the quickness of the days intensifies over the next few months, my focus and energy is not only on the everyday activities of Cotter, but also on educating those interested in our schools as to who we are and what we stand for. I have found this to be an enjoyable task. Cotter is a great place to learn, grow, and become part of. Many of you have experienced that as a parent, a former student, or in some other form. As you speak of your Cotter experience with others, encourage them to come and check us out. Cotter is an amazing place.

Cotter Junior High School Principal  
Dave Forney



## Notable News - COTTER BRIEFS

KEEP UP WITH COTTER NEWS AT [WWW.COTTERSCHOOLS.ORG](http://WWW.COTTERSCHOOLS.ORG)

### Alumni Career Day

Cotter Alumni Day was held at Cotter High School on Thursday, February 3rd, in conjunction with National Catholic Schools Week.

Returning alumni that addressed Cotter students were Meg (Gernes) Mayer, an Aquatics Programs Lead, and Mark Thein, a Small Business Consultant. Both graduated from the Cotter class of 1985. Also speaking to students was Katy (Wleczorek) Anthony class of 1997. Katy is a Physician assistant. Besides about talking to students about their chosen career paths, and what guided them to that chosen profession, they also spoke about the value of the great education, friendships and experiences they received at Cotter.



### Hot off the "E-press"



The second issue of the inaugural volume of the Cotter Chronicle is now available online at [www.cotterschools.org](http://www.cotterschools.org).

'The Cotter Chronicle' is a student written, designed and published newspaper which is available to anyone. The first and second issues have been a great hit among the Cotter Family and everyone is anxiously awaiting the next issue. Keep your eyes peeled!

### Future Leaders

The Winona Radio-KHME 18th Annual Strive For Leadership Scholarship Program celebrated four sophomores from Cotter High School; Jacob Johnson, Paige Gernes, Joana Beyer, and Joe Koll.

These sophomores were chosen based on their academic excellence, extra curricular participation and leadership in and outside the classroom. They each received a \$250 scholarship towards their pursuit of higher education.

The Strive For Leadership Scholarship Program is made possible by St. Mary's University, Winona National Bank, Borkowski Towing & Salvage, McDonald's and Winona Radio Soft Rock 101.1 FM

### Welcome New & Returning Faculty!

The Cotter Family welcomed Bruce Carpenter as the Media Center Specialist, ITA support and Head Football Coach. Bruce comes to Cotter from Winona State University.



We also welcome back Hollie Duffy to our Social Studies department. Hollie has past experience working with Cotter as an ITA Reading Coach, ESL teacher, and Residence Director.







## Frosty Royalty



During a school pep rally, hosted by the student council, and their advisor, Mr. Frank Smith, on Friday, January 28th, 2011, the court for this year's Winterfest activities was announced. At Cotter, Winterfest typically occurs in conjunction with National Catholic Schools Week. Congratulations to this year's court: Hodd Gorman, Todd Ruben, Bethany Schneider, Hannah Kosel, David Holien, Greg Gernes (King) and Chang Yi Mu (Queen) and Habin Koh.

## Triple Threats



The purpose of the "Triple A" Program is to recognize and honor high school seniors who have excelled in the classroom, on the athletic field, and in the fine arts.

To be eligible for the Academics, Arts, and Athletics Award a student must be a high school senior at the time of nomination. After an initial selection process, nominations are limited to two qualifying students per school: one male and one female. Each nominee must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher at the date of nomination. The nominees must participate in League-sponsored athletics and fine arts activities. The nominees must also comply with the MSHSL's Student Code of Conduct.

This year's nominees chosen to represent Cotter were: Girls: Lauren Bowlin, Emily Skeels, Kelsey Whaley. Boys: Jeff Czaplewski, Alex Lubahn, Eric Mueller. Out of this pool of outstanding nominees, the following boy and girl were selected: Eric Mueller and Kelsey Whaley!

## Team Vogel Continues to Pay it Forward

In honor of the life of Cotter Alum, Joe Vogel '96, Team Vogel, made up of his many family and friends had devoted themselves to continue "paying it forward."

Many wonderful efforts are being planned to raise funds that will be dedicated to supporting cancer research and families dealing with cancer. Upcoming events include:

**Chula Vista Gives Back: June 7th, 2011**

Chula Vista Restaurant located in Winona will donate 10% of all proceeds to the Team Vogel vs. Cancer Fundraiser. Stop in for lunch, dinner or one of the best margaritas in town.

**TEAM VOGEL vs. Cancer  
FUNDRAISER**

**2011 Team Vogel vs. Cancer Fundraiser: June 24-26th**

Planning for the 2011 Event is underway! The dates have been set and this year's event promises to be bigger and better than last year's. Keep checking back as more details get added to the site.

**Strike out Colon Cancer - Loggers Event: July 14th, 2011**

Mark your calendars for a night at the ball field. The LaCrosse Loggers have partnered with Gundersen Lutheran G.I. Dept. to raise awareness for Colon Cancer. More details will follow - but save the date!

Additionally, Joe's Family, Friends, and co-workers created the Joe Vogel "Pay it Forward" Scholarship Fund. The scholarship will be awarded annually to a Cotter Student who upholds and lives the spirit of "Pay it Forward." The award will be applied directly to their Cotter tuition. If you would like to make a gift to the Joe Vogel "Pay it Forward" Scholarship Fund, please send your gifts to: Cotter Schools - Joe Vogel "Pay it Forward" Scholarship Fund, 1115 West Broadway, Winona, MN 55987. You can also make your gift online at [www.cotterschools.org](http://www.cotterschools.org) by clicking on the 'Donations' tab (on the left hand side) and designating your gift to the Joe Vogel "Pay it Forward" Scholarship Fund.

Believe

# Rambler scorecard - ATHLETICS UPDATE

KEEP UP WITH COTTER ATHLETICS AT WWW.COTTERSCHOOLS.ORG

Coming into the winter season, Cotter High School teams and individuals set their goals high, ready to fine tune their skills and talents for the success of their respective team. By the end of the season, many athletes and teams reached above and beyond their expectations. Indoors and out, the athletic department here enjoyed various levels of success sprinkled with a few nail-biting games, a state appearance and most importantly - a strong will to compete.

Despite a rough 5-22 season, there were many positives for the Cotter Boys Basketball program this year. Due to a shortage of senior players, many sophomore players got the chance to step up and gain experience at the varsity level. Juniors Gus Cochran and Bryan Richter led the team in scoring while senior Rob Tofstad chipped in with tough inside play.

The girls basketball team had a fairly successful year led by senior Lauren Bowlin and junior Michaela Trainor. The Ramblers finished the regular season 13-11 and won their first round sectional playoff game eventually losing a close game to longtime rival Caledonia in the second round.

Cotter had 5 athletes compete in co-op boys swimming & diving this year. Freshman Hodd Gorman advanced to section finals in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:11.27. The team went 2-4 at regular season meets.

The boys' varsity co-op hockey team finished the regular season 6-18-1, featuring 6 Cotter players. The Rambler-Winhawk team advanced to the 2nd round of the sectional playoffs before ending their season against perennial powerhouse, Lakeville South.

The girls' varsity co-op hockey team finished 6-12-1 and featured standout Cotter sophomore Shelby Theis.

Winona's co-op girls Nordic Ski team was led by Cotter junior captain, Erin Keane. Keane advanced through sections and went on to compete at the state meet, finishing 32nd overall out of 120 competitors in both ski races.



## BOYS TENNIS

**Season Outlook:** With many of the top players last season graduating all over the conference, the HVL will be up for grabs and the Ramblers should be right in the mix. Coming into his 4th year on the varsity team, junior Grant Gernes will look to lead them.

## BASEBALL

**Season Outlook:** Featuring one of the premier outfields in the conference, the Ramblers, with 3rd year coach Nick Whaley, will look to have a breakthrough season as they have been steadily improving over the last few seasons.

## SOFTBALL

**Season Outlook:** Relying on its upperclassmen and great offensive game, the Ramblers should be as strong as ever and will look to make it back to the state tournament where they missed last year, but they have had much success over the decade. A shortage of infielders may be the only soft spot for the team coming into this season.

## BOYS GOLF

**Season Outlook:** The Ramblers will need to fill three big shoes from last years graduating seniors, but Coach Yusten is optimistic and says he's excited for his players' chances to step up big this season. Sophomore Charlie Kretschmer will look to have a big season and return to the state tournament for the second consecutive year.

## GIRLS GOLF

**Season Outlook:** The Cotter girls' golf team will (also) be looking for new players to step up this season to fill the voids from last years seniors. In her 5th season on the varsity squad, junior Alle Savat will look to lead the team.

## BOYS TRACK AND FIELD

**Season Outlook:** The team should be one of the best in the conference in all events, individual and relays. Seniors Greg Gernes (high jump), Eric Mueller (1600m, 3200m), sophomore Joe Koll (long jump), and freshmen Matt Schrupp (1600m, 3200m) will all look to contend in the section meet to make a trip to state.

## GIRLS TRACK AND FIELD

**Season Outlook:** Though one of the youngest teams in the conference, Cotter should still be very competitive and look to improve on last year. All-Conference a season ago, senior Nikki Beyer should look to be one of the top throwers in the HVL.

*The Rambler Scorecard- winter season athletics re-cap was brought to you by Cotter senior, Brian Rivers. Brian, an avid sports fan, is also a member of the Cotter Chronicle staff (the online student newspaper) and has plans to pursue a degree in Engineering after Cotter.*

*The Rambler Scorecard- spring preview was brought to you by Cotter junior, Derek Borkowski. Derek is an up and coming writer for the Cotter Chronicle staff (the online student newspaper) and will be a graduating member of our Centennial Celebration senior class.*



## Last names are not the only thing Lawrence and Joseph have in common ...

by Mandi Householder

Lawrence and Joseph Janikowski share their last name, a name that is familiar to many of Polish descent – especially in Winona. While sharing a last name is very common, sharing a last name and not being related – especially in Winona – not so common. These unrelated Janikowski's are both Cotter graduates of 1934 and recently made a donation to Cotter one day apart. Two unrelated Janikowski's from the class of 1934, mailing a donation one day apart...coincidence enough that the Alumni office wanted to feature their stories in this edition of the Ramblin's! While both grew up in Winona and attended Cotter School for Boys, life after high school was rather different.

In high school, Lawrence Janikowski was involved in intramural sports and his favorite teacher was Brother Joachin, a shop teacher. Lawrence attended Winona State University and obtained a bachelor's of science degree even though at that time, during the depression, there was no money for college. To make ends meet, Lawrence worked for the Civillan Conservation Corps (CCC) as an office worker for soil conservation. The CCC was a conservation program that emerged during the Great Depression with a purpose to conserve natural resources and salvage young men. The program was introduced in 1933 and disbanded in 1942. The CCC is known as one of America's greatest conservation programs in history. Lawrence attributes his experience at Cotter as the catalyst to his success in college.

Lawrence had five children with his late wife Eleanore: Theresa, John, Mary, Sheila, and Larry. He is a retired Industrial Arts teacher and he taught in Caledonia, Minnesota. He currently resides in Lansing, Michigan.

Joseph Janikoswki participated in basketball and handball while attending Cotter. His favorite teacher was Brother Leo and he served as a class officer. After high school Joseph married Irene and together they had six children who all graduated from Cotter. Roger Janikowski '69, Gary Janikowski '70, Becky (Janikowski) Skorpak '72, Tim Janikowski '75, Julie (Janikowski) Cummings '78, and Jean (Janikowski) Burns '79. Joseph was employed at Behrens Manufacturing as a Press Operator. Joseph and Irene live in Winona.

Both in their nineties, Lawrence and Joseph continue to support Cotter. They represent a strong Cotter tradition of Alumni keeping Cotter viable for current and future generations. They are shining examples of Cotter's large and diverse family. From the class of 1934 to 2011, from slide rules to calculators, our nearly 100 year history has shaped and molded who we are today giving the Cotter family much to be proud of. Thank you Lawrence and Joseph for sharing your stories and your generosity with us!

What's your Cotter story? Submit your answer to [development@cotterschools.org](mailto:development@cotterschools.org).

### What is a slide rule?

Not many people know what a slide rule is anymore. For Lawrence and Joseph, a slide rule was an essential tool for class. According to [dictionary.com](http://dictionary.com), a slide rule is a device for performing mathematical calculations, consisting essentially of a ruler having a sliding piece moving along it, both marked with graduated, usually logarithmic, scales. The slide rule market was virtually nonexistent by the '70's because it was replaced by something a little more recognizable: an electronic calculator.

Sources [www.ccclegacy.org](http://www.ccclegacy.org),

## Students selected for Dorian Choir Festival

Congratulations to Derek Borkowski, Clara Bruner '11, Gabi Fihn '11, Bryan Richter, Emily Skeels '11 and Kelsey Whaley '11 for being selected to participate in this year's Dorian Choir Festival that was held at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa on January 9-10th, 2011. The two day festival is considered the largest mass choir festival of its kind in the country. The students spend two days rehearsing their music with approximately 1400 other high school singers from Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, South Dakota and Illinois. The two day choir festival culminated with the Grand Concert on Monday, January 10th featuring the Dorian Festival Choir, the Luther College Nordic Choir (Luther College top choir), and five selected outstanding soloists.



## Rambler Artist Recognized

Artwork by Kristen Eichenberg, a Junior at Cotter High School, was selected for the 2010-2011 Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition. Kristin's work was chosen from among 1,279 entries from all over the state of Minnesota. Kristin's winning entries include an Honorable Mention in the Fashion Design category and the Silver Key for Painting. The 2010-2011 Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards Exhibition was open to public viewing from January 21, 2011 to February 13, 2011 at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design.



The Minnesota Scholastic Art Awards recognizes Minnesota's most creative teenagers and offers scholarships to graduating high school seniors. The program is open to all Minnesota students in grades 7 through 12. Student entries are typically submitted by their art teachers.

## Joining Vocal Forces

A group of Cotter High School faculty members performed at the Christmas concert in the Chapel of the Angels on Dec 9. The faculty and concert choir sang "Antiphonal Gloria" together, a piece written by Antonio Vivaldi and arranged by Patrick Liebergen. 'Antiphonal' means two choirs in two different locations talking to each other. The concert choir sang from the Chapel sanctuary, while the faculty choir performed from the balcony. Choir director Cathy Snyder said the faculty members were eager to participate, but a couple members needed a little "nudge on the arm". "You could tell they really wanted to do it, but had some reservations," Snyder said. The faculty were quick to learn and the performance was applauded by all. "I think it's awesome that the students and faculty are working together for this performance," Snyder said. The concert choir, show choir and "Divas" and "Timeless" groups performed. WACS' fifth graders, Cade Hanson and Griffin Wallner, were also guest performers. The evening came to a close as the choir surrounded the audience singing "Peace, Peace"—a Cotter choir tradition.



## That is so Jazzy!

The Cotter High School Jazz Bands were among 35 high school jazz ensembles participating in the annual UW-LaCrosse Jazz Festival on January 22. Cotter Jazz I was awarded third-place in the Class B competition. Several members of Cotter Jazz I received Outstanding Performance Awards. Award recipients were Jeff Czuplewski, Ryan Kulas, Tim Hadaway, Andy Hadaway, Jake Klese and Joseph Wu. Cotter Jazz II members receiving Outstanding Performance Awards were Claire Penning, Emmett Hull, Jenny Hadaway and Hodd Gorman.





# Rambler Arts Calendar

Cotter Band at Flag Day Ceremony  
 Lake Park Winona  
 June 14 - 5:15pm



CHS & CJH Marching Bands at Steamboat Days  
 June 19th - 12:30pm



CHS Band Rochester-fest Parade  
 June 24th - 6:30pm



CHS & CJHS Marching Bands at Goodview Days  
 August 21st - 1pm



For a full summer schedule for the Cotter Marching Band visit [cotterschools.org](http://cotterschools.org)

# Mark Your Calendars!

Join us as we celebrate Cotter's Centennial during the 2011-2012 school year. Below is a list of events planned to celebrate this special occasion.

Registration available May 1, 2011  
Visit [cotterschools.org/centennial](http://cotterschools.org/centennial) for more information!

## August 12-13, 2011

### Centennial Kick-Off/

### All School Reunion Weekend

You will be sure to find alumni camaraderie at the All School Reunion! Join fellow alumni, faculty and friends of Cotter and Cathedral for two days of fun activities.

Events in the planning; the unveiling of Cotter's historical displays, Cotter club fair, sneak-peek of Cotter's Band field show followed by a casual dinner on the field, a walk around Lake Park, alumni golf outing, guided tours of Cotter campus, baseball/softball tournaments, picnic lunch, family games, city of Winona tours and mass at the Chapel of St. Mary of the Angels, and a casual alumni, faculty and friends social.

Consider planning a reunion or casual get-together with your class. Saturday evening is open for private events. Eight reunions are already booked for this weekend! Refer to the reunion page on the Centennial webpage for more information on private reunions.

## August 22, 2011

### Back to School Kick-Off

Welcome back students! Cotter is proud to kick-off their 100th school year on August 22, 2011. Look forward to special activities for students, families, and faculty. More information to come!

## October 7-8, 2011

### Homecoming Weekend

Return home and enjoy the festivities of Cotter's Centennial Homecoming!

Events will include: alumni and friends social, 5K run/walk at Lake Park, Cotter Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony, Homecoming parade, Homecoming game: Cotter vs. Lake City at Paul Giel Field, and Mass at the Chapel of Saint Mary of the Angels.

## October 8, 2011

### Hall of Fame

Help us celebrate success in Cotter's athletic history! The 2011 Hall of Fame ceremony will be held on Saturday, October 8, 2011 in conjunction with Cotter's Homecoming.

## November 25, 2011

### Alumni Basketball Tournament

Re-ignite the glory days and show off your basketball skills! Participate in the alumni basketball game by rallying together a couple classmates and mark your calendars for November 25, 2011. Bring your biggest fans along to watch the game.

## Spring 2012

### Cross Country Centennial Events

Cotter may be coming to a town near you to celebrate the Centennial! Look for more information on our final destinations on the Centennial webpage.

We are currently looking for Alumni hosts in these areas:

- Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN
- Chicago, IL
- Florida
- Northern/Southern California

### Hotel Accommodations:

**Holiday Inn Express Suites\*** –  
507-474-1700

**Plaza Hotel & Suites\*** –  
800-465-4329 or 507-453-0303

**Riverport Inn & Suites\*** –  
507-452-0606

**AmericInn** –  
800-634-3444 or 507-457-0249

**Nichols Inn** – 507-452-6066

**Best Western** – 800-528-1234

**Days Inn** –  
800-329-7466 or 507-454-6930

**Quality Inn** – 507-454-4390

*\*Hotels owned by Mike Rivers '64*



Find us on Facebook!





## Calling All Cotter & Cathedral Alums, Faculty, Families, and Friends! We NEED your help to capture the spirit of Cotter's history.

Cotter Schools will celebrate a once-in-a-lifetime milestone...the 100th anniversary of its founding in 1911 during the 2011/2012 school year! To commemorate this special observance, Team History of the Cotter Centennial Committee is putting together a yearbook/scrapbook and a portable multi-media display of various people, places, and events to capture the spirit of Cotter.

To put together a complete rendering of the history of our beloved school, we are asking Cotter faculty, alumni, and friends to provide Team History with:

- Pictures of students, teachers, school events, and Cotter life.
- Cotter or Cathedral publications such as yearbooks, RETTOC's, Rampart's, and Ramblin's. (Please inquire about what our needs are for these items)
- Written anecdotes whether funny or touching about beloved teachers, coaches, or classmates.
- Old newspaper clippings, old uniforms, homecoming buttons, memorabilia from ball games, dances, social events, etc.

- Stories about the importance of Catholic education to families.
- Stories about Cotter veterans who died in war.
- Stories about Cotter grads who have done great things in remarkable ways; and any story that has "stuck with you" about Cotter being a special place to receive an education.

Please direct responses and inquiries to:

- Online form available:  
[www.cotterschools.org/centennial](http://www.cotterschools.org/centennial) – Share Your Cotter Memories
- Email: [centennial@cotterschools.org](mailto:centennial@cotterschools.org)
- Mail: Centennial

Attn: Mandi Householder  
1115 West Broadway Street  
Winona, MN 55987

For people who provide memorabilia, please indicate if you want items returned to you or if you are donating it to the Cotter archives! Thank you in advance for your generosity and input.



# Alumni Connection - NEWS AND EVENTS

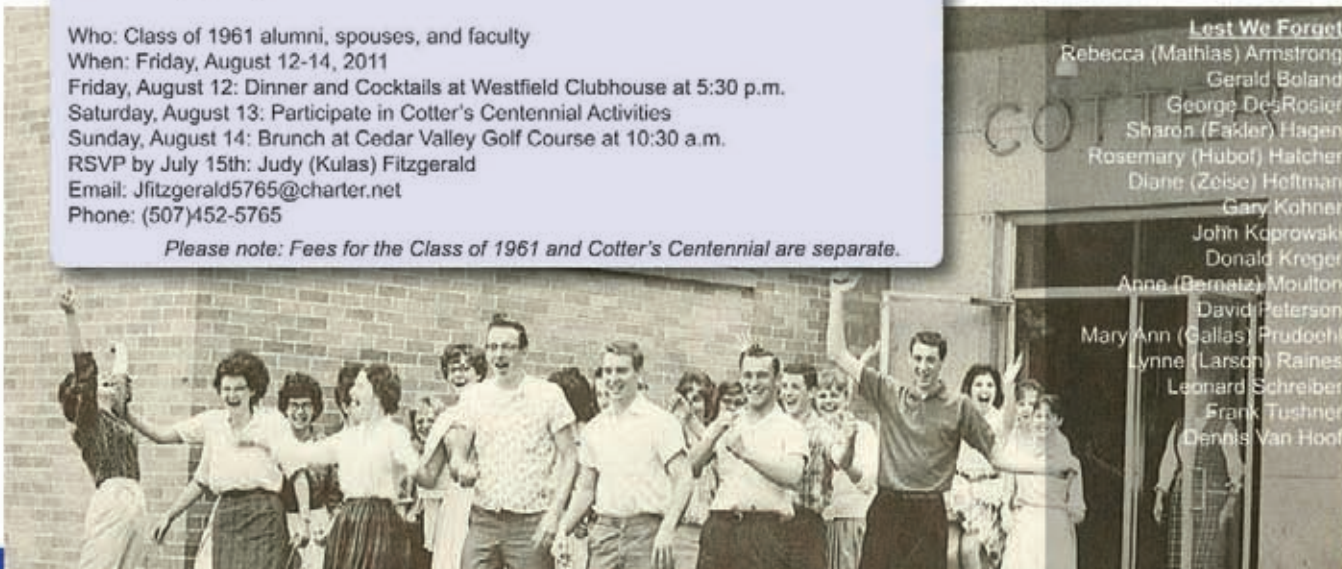
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## Class of 1961 – 50th Reunion News

Come laugh, cry, and reminisce with old friends!

Who: Class of 1961 alumni, spouses, and faculty  
 When: Friday, August 12-14, 2011  
 Friday, August 12: Dinner and Cocktails at Westfield Clubhouse at 5:30 p.m.  
 Saturday, August 13: Participate in Cotter's Centennial Activities  
 Sunday, August 14: Brunch at Cedar Valley Golf Course at 10:30 a.m.  
 RSVP by July 15th: Judy (Kulas) Fitzgerald  
 Email: Jfitzgerald5765@charter.net  
 Phone: (507)452-5765

Please note: Fees for the Class of 1961 and Cotter's Centennial are separate.



### Lest We Forget

Rebecca (Mathias) Armstrong  
 Gerald Boland  
 George DesRosier  
 Sharon (Faker) Hagen  
 Rosemary (Hubof) Hatcher  
 Diane (Zeise) Hoffman  
 Gary Kohner  
 John Kuprowski  
 Donald Kreger  
 Anne (Bernatz) Moulton  
 David Peterson  
 Mary Ann (Gallas) Prudoehl  
 Lynne (Larson) Raines  
 Leonard Schreiber  
 Frank Tushnet  
 Dennis Van Hoof

### Events in 1961

John F. Kennedy is inaugurated as the 35th President of the United States, succeeding Dwight Eisenhower.  
 The Peace Corps was established in March of 1961.  
 Mattel toy company introduced a boyfriend to Barbie: the Ken doll.  
 The first disposable diaper was introduced.

### Local News

Wincraft was established

### Where is the Class of 1961?

#### Arizona

Victress Jenkins  
 Phillip Kaczorowski  
 Frank Ratajczyk  
 Susan (Steffen) Williams

#### Florida

Charles Blesanz  
 Susan (Frie) Black  
 Mary (Cunningham) Courtney  
 Theresa (Wittenberg) Zirkle

#### Iowa

Judith Angst  
 Patrick Farley

#### Illinois

Carolyn (Kryzer) Armstrong  
 Roland Konter  
 Carol (Orzechowski) Lotzer

#### Louisiana

Gene D'Amour  
 Massachusetts  
 Fr. Robert Rivers

#### Maryland

Richard Kukowski  
 George Lanik

#### Maine

Judy (Frie) Long  
 Michigan  
 Joan (Sievers) Tierney

#### Minnesota

William Allaire  
 Diane (Kratch) Arends  
 Janet (Sadowski) Beecher  
 Sherrie (Kreher) Besek  
 Tim Breza

Katherine (Andring) Brom  
 JoAnne (Farley) Butenhoff  
 Donna (Throne) Butenschoen  
 Jean (Moody) Butrimas  
 Rosemary (Langowski) Chafos

JoAnne (Tambornino) Chayer  
 Janet (Sadowski) Beecher  
 Sherrie (Kreher) Besek  
 Tim Breza

Katherine (Andring) Brom  
 JoAnne (Farley) Butenhoff  
 Donna (Throne) Butenschoen

Jean (Moody) Butrimas  
 Rosemary (Langowski) Chafos  
 JoAnne (Tambornino) Chayer

John Cieminski  
 Joseph Cisewski  
 Charles Ciszak  
 Jackie (Cole) Cunnien

Rose (Abts) Currie  
 Jerome Czarnowski  
 Darlene (Besek) Czarnowski  
 David Davison  
 Donald Doerr  
 Frank Drazkowski  
 Martha (Rolbiecki) Drussell

#### Minnesota (cont.)

Joan (Duffy) Erdmann  
 Judy (Kulas) Fitzgerald  
 Patricia (Rowan) Gahrz  
 Susan (Lubinski) Gallas  
 Mary (Redig) Gannon  
 Philip Gamas

Barbara (Troppe) Getty  
 Herb Haack  
 Patricia Hauser  
 Joyce Hennessy  
 SeAnn (Stoltz) Heusinkveld

Joan (O'Connor) Irwin  
 Patricia (Bilder) Jilk  
 Rita (Thilmany) Johnson  
 Carol (Malazewski) Jonsgaard

Walter Kelly  
 Michael Kleinschmidt  
 Mary (Lilla) Kleinschmidt

Diane (Tooske) Kohner  
 Mary (Dorsch) Kosidowski  
 Mary (Keller) Krage  
 Bernard Maas

Ed Malewicki  
 Judie (Wicka) Miller  
 Joseph Morse

Patsy (Altobell) Olsen  
 Susan (Howard) Paige  
 Michael Prondzinski  
 Allen Przybylski  
 Yvonne (Myszka) Ramsden  
 Edith (Malin) Ratajczyk

#### Minnesota (cont.)

Deanna (Slegdt) Ratajczyk  
 William Rose  
 Gary Ruehmann  
 Richard Schleich  
 Ruth Ann (Simon) Schnelder

James Schultz  
 Bill Schwertel  
 Carol (Saika) Semling  
 Ronald Steinbauer  
 Richard Swanson

Frances Thilmany  
 Jerry Van Hoof  
 Peter Walsh  
 Mary (Albracht) Wareham

Katherine (Greden) Weimerskirch  
 Minnesota (cont.)

Christine (Pozanic) Whetstone  
 James Winestofer  
 Francille (DeGroot) Yahnke  
 Michael Yahnke

#### Missouri

Mary (Biesanz) Neubauer

#### North Dakota

Thomas Czaplowski  
 Joseph Weimerskirch

#### Nebraska

Peg (Wera) Gartner

#### New York

M. Louise (Langenberg) Smith

#### Texas

Marjorie (Gallagher) Leveno  
 Dennis Streubar  
 Bonnie (Pahnke) Zysko

#### Virginia

William Kohler  
 Washington  
 Christine Conrad  
 Nancy (Chuchel) Easterberg  
 Patrick Twomey

#### Wisconsin

Ann (Watembach) Bisping  
 Mary Lou (Wendt) Ferkingstad  
 Marjorie (Böhlinger) Hunger  
 Ellie (Delano) Lipske  
 Kay (Kulas) Lubinski  
 Jack Martin  
 Leo Ochrymowycz  
 Fred Schwertel  
 Therese (Kolter) Yakish

#### Lost/Unknown Alumni

Max (Terry) Conrad  
 Jack Florin  
 Andreas Necochea  
 Narda Wall

\*Please contact the Alumni Office with any updates to contact information!



# Cotter 2011 Reunions...

Let's get together!

**1956 - 55th Reunion**  
August 13, 2011  
The Elks  
Contact: Jim Ives



**1961 - 50th Reunion**  
August 13, 2011  
Westfield Golf Course  
Contact: Judy (Kulas) Fitzgerald



**1966 - 45th Reunion**  
July 16, 2011  
St. Mary's University  
Contact: Dave Brom



**1971 - 40th Reunion**  
August 13, 2011  
Jefferson's Pub  
Contact: Dorian Colvin  
Rita Prodzinski

**1976 - 35th Reunion**  
August 13, 2011  
Bub's Lower Level  
Contact: Kevin O'Brien



**1981 - 30th Reunion**  
Looking for Information!



**1986- 25th Reunion**  
August 13, 2011  
Location TBD  
Contact: Katherine Karsina



**1991 - 20th Reunion**  
August 13, 2011  
Riverport Inn  
Contact:  
Erika (Moen)Januschka

**1996 - 15th Reunion**  
August 13, 2011  
Athletic Club  
Contact: Heath Luehmann

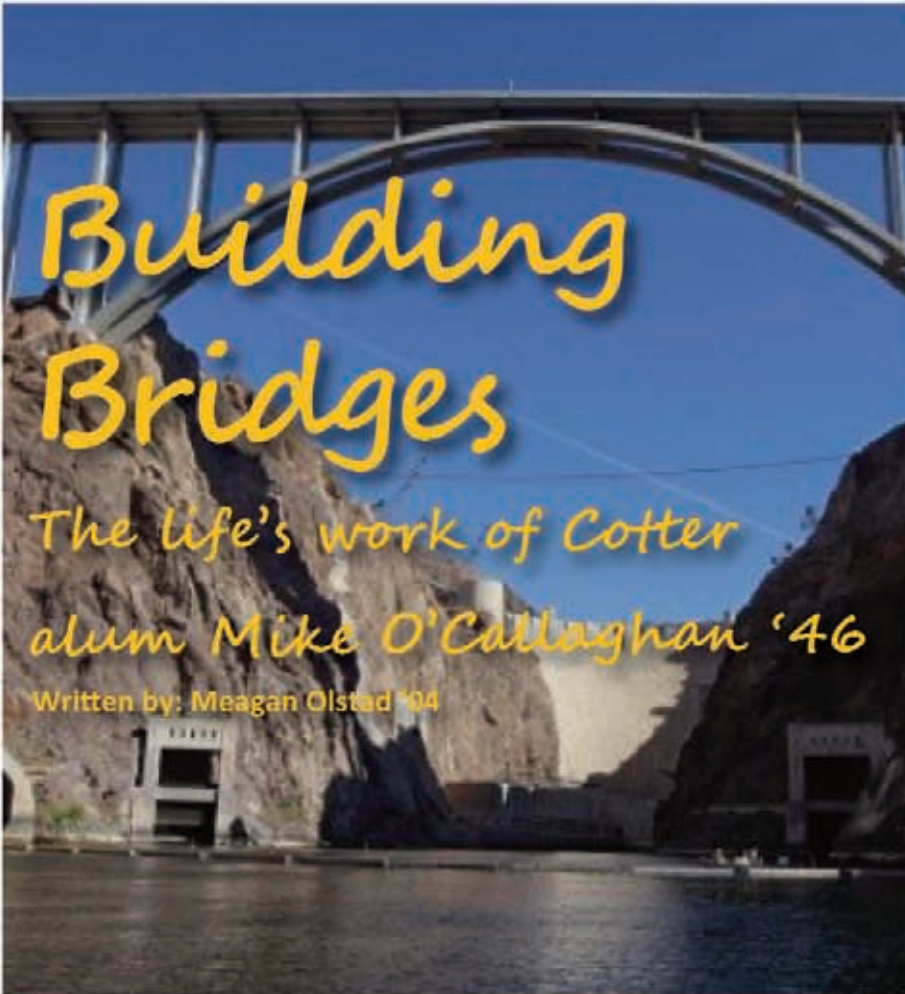


**2001 - 10th Reunion**  
August 13, 2011  
Location TBD  
Contact: Kayla (Luehmann) Marty



Is it your 10th, 20th, or even 50th Cotter class reunion? Contact the Advancement Office to help promote your class reunion! Please contact Mandi Householder at [mhouseholder@cotterschools.org](mailto:mhouseholder@cotterschools.org) with your reunion information for the Cotter website so we can help spread the word. We can also get a class list for a reunion organizer.

Consider participating in the Cotter Events as part of your reunion!  
Cotter Classic Golf Outing is June 20, 2011 at Cedar Valley Golf Course.  
The Centennial All School Reunion is scheduled for August 13, 2011.



Written by: Meagan Olstad '04



*"It's a symbol of coming together-- and that's what he did. It's very appropriate"*

The Mike O'Callaghan-Pat Tillman Memorial Bridge opened on October 16, 2010. The bridge, which serves as a Hoover Dam bypass and provides a crossing of the Colorado River for U.S. Route 93, links the states of Arizona and Nevada. Donal Neil 'Mike' O'Callaghan was once a Cotter High School student and the first recipient of the Cotter Alumni Achievement Award.

O'Callaghan was a former governor of Nevada and is widely considered to be one of the most prominent and beloved figures in Nevada State history. Though he demanded excellence from those with whom he worked, O'Callaghan was said to have been an incredibly kind and compassionate man, devoted to philanthropy.

To those who call him "Dad," he was first and foremost a family man. Members of the O'Callaghan family said the joining of states by the bridge that bears their father's name, represents something much greater. "It's a symbol of coming together-- and that's what he did. It's very appropriate," said O'Callaghan's son Brian (O'Callaghan), a police officer with the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department currently assigned in the Office of Intergovernmental Services as a government liaison lobbying for the Department at the 2011 Nevada Legislature. "We're very proud."

O'Callaghan died on March 5, 2004 while in church. In the eulogy for his father, O'Callaghan's son, Michael (O'Callaghan), a prosecutor with the Clark County District Attorney's Office in Las Vegas, stated, "This is the hardest closing argument that any prosecutor has to make. It is also the easiest because of the very nature of the man."

Though it would be impossible to capture "the very nature of the man" in words, the following is a glimpse into the life of Mike O'Callaghan.

O'Callaghan was born near La Crosse, Wisc. to Neil and Olive O'Callaghan. He attended Cotter High School during World War II and altered his birth certificate in order to join the military before the war ended. He was a member of the Marine Corps assigned to guard prisoners on Guam at the age of 16, and according to son Michael, always made sure the prisoners were treated fairly.

He later joined the U.S. Air Force and was trained as an intelligence officer.

The Korean War broke out, and O'Callaghan transferred to the Army—his third military branch—and eventually became a platoon leader. He won a Bronze Star with a "V" denoting valor and on Feb. 13, 1953, he performed an act earning him a Silver Star and Purple Heart.

According to military documents, "While his company was being subjected to a barrage of heavy artillery from Chinese Communist forces during a night attack, Sgt. O'Callaghan was informed that men on an out-guard post had been cut off by this enemy action. Immediately he voluntarily exposed himself to enemy fire, located the men, and brought them, together with a wounded member, safely back to the trenches."

Shortly after, O'Callaghan took a direct hit on the lower leg from an 82 mm mortar round. He rigged a tourniquet out of a telephone wire, using a bayonet to twist it around his wounded leg. "He crawled back to the command post and, from that position, controlled platoon action for the next three and a half hours, giving orders over the phone. Not until the enemy had withdrawn did he permit himself to be evacuated," according to the documents.

O'Callaghan returned home with six feet of open wounds, a broken back, pelvis, and two broken hips—his leg had to be amputated below the knee.

In 1956 O'Callaghan finished both a bachelor's and master's degree from the University of Idaho, where he met his wife of nearly 50 years, Carolyn (Randall) O'Callaghan—and as Michael pointed out, "you can't talk about Dad without talking about Mom." While serving as governor, O'Callaghan got word that a large group was picketing outside the governor's mansion in protest of his proposed motorcycle helmet law. However, when O'Callaghan returned home, he did not find the picketers outside—he found them inside his kitchen being served hot chocolate and lunch by his wife.

"They came all the way from Las Vegas and it's cold outside," said Carolyn, to which O'Callaghan responded with a wide grin. Carolyn died just five months after her husband.

After graduation from the University of Idaho, O'Callaghan took a teaching job where he became lifelong friends with one of his history students, current U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

In 1963, O'Callaghan was hired to gather departments into what is now the Department of Human Resources. In 1964, O'Callaghan took a job in Washington organ-

izing Job Corps camps across the country, and former President Lyndon Johnson named him the regional director in the Office of Emergency Preparedness, over Nevada, Utah, Arizona, California, and Hawaii. He left the job when Richard Nixon took office, but maintained a lifelong interest in emergency preparedness, backing former President Jimmy Carter's legislation to unify various federal disaster-relief services into the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Carter offered him a chance to head the agency, though he declined.

O'Callaghan became the Democratic governor of Nevada in 1970 and won the election for a second term in 1974 by a 4 to 1 ratio—the largest in Nevada State history. He appointed several women to positions of authority, and by his last year of office in 1978, the percentage of state supervisory and administrative positions held by women had almost doubled.

He also increased the number of minority and disabled State employees and created a government 'responsive to the needs of the people,' creating agencies to assist senior citizens, the poor, the mentally ill, and disadvantaged children, among others. An amputee himself,

O'Callaghan was said to have considered the construction of the Jean Hanna Clark Rehabilitation Center in Las Vegas as one of his greatest accomplishments while in office.

After the end of his second term, O'Callaghan returned to Las Vegas and became the executive editor of the Las Vegas Sun—a position he held until his death. In 1981, he and his wife bought the Henderson Home News and its sister paper, the Boulder City News. O'Callaghan always remained active in State politics, including monitoring elections in Nicaragua and Iraq with Jimmy Carter.

Son Michael said there are thousands of stories to be told of his father, but one story in particular demonstrated his father's devotion to Nevada State workers. In the 1970s, a power plant was being built in Nevada by a company only hiring Arizona workers. As governor, O'Callaghan insisted that at least half of the workers be from Nevada, but the company refused—so, O'Callaghan shut off the Nevada water spigot. The power plant could not operate without water, and the State of Nevada owned the

water from the Colorado River to the power plant. "No Nevadans, no water, no plant, no money," said Michael. The plant was eventually built by both Arizona and Nevada workers, and many Nevadans were saved from unemployment, including the father of one of Michael's friends.

O'Callaghan was often called 'superhuman,' particularly because he awoke in the middle of the night to work—in reality, he was working in the middle of the night because he was in too much pain to sleep. Pieces of grenade were working their way out of O'Callaghan's body until the day he died, and though he lived in constant pain, O'Callaghan did not use pain medication because he refused to have something else control him, Michael said.

Pat Tillman, also memorialized in the bridge, was a football player for Arizona State University and the Arizona Cardinals who famously gave up his NFL career to enlist in the U.S. Army. He was killed in Afghanistan on April 22, 2004—within weeks of O'Callaghan's death.

Michael remembered his father being very struck with Tillman while watching his news story. "My father had doubts about this generation, but believed Tillman proved

*"My father had doubts about this generation, but believed Tillman proved this was a good generation—that the American spirit was still alive."*

this was a good generation and that the American spirit was still alive. When it comes to honoring my father with the naming of the bridge, I could not think of associating my father's name

with anyone better than Pat Tillman."

The O'Callaghans are survived by their five children: Colleen; Theresa (O'Callaghan) Duke, Director of Medical Staff Services at St. Rose Dominican Hospitals in Las Vegas; Tim O'Callaghan, who will be ordained this year as a deacon in the first Deaconate Class for Southern Nevada; and Brian and Michael O'Callaghan (positions listed above). The O'Callaghans also have several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

## Alumni Connection - NEWS AND EVENTS

KEEP CONNECTED AT WWW.COTTERSCHOOLS.ORG

### 1930's

Lawrence Janikowski '34 is a retired Industrial Arts teacher who taught in Caledonia, Minnesota. His late wife, Eleanore, taught Nursing at St. Teresa's college. St. Teresa's college has since closed but the campus is now home to Cotter Schools. Lawrence currently resides in Michigan.

### 1950's

Mary (Roemer) Lindner '54 recently lost her husband, Arthur, in August 2010. Mary is a member of the CRHP Ministry and an active member of the YMCA. Her daughter, Lissa, is married and has two sons, Matt and Steven.

Alice (Schwertel) Brenengen '58 celebrated her 50th wedding anniversary on June 25, 2010 to Donald. Together they have four children, eight grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren!

### 1960's



Michael Schoener '65 recently retired with his wife and is trying to decide where to relocate to spend retirement years; mountains of Northeast Georgia or the Villages in Florida. He and his wife will celebrate 25 years of marriage in January of 2012. Michael had triple bypass surgery in September of 2009.

Norm Semling '65 and his wife, Betsy, are proud grandparents of Sonia (4) and Erik (1). They also enjoy their vacations! In the last year they have vacationed in Japan, Mexico, and Florida. Together they reside in Fountain City, Wisconsin.

Ann (Schneider) Sandstrom '66 retired in May 2010. She enjoys spending time with her grandchildren and Ann welcomed grandchild #6 in June 2010.

Clare E. Schultz '69 currently works at We-No-Nah Canoe in Winona, Minnesota. She has traveled all over the U.S.A. and Canada but her favorite place is Pacific Beach in San

Diego, California. Baseball is a passion of Clare's and she attends many Twins games throughout their season. Clare still loves music from the 60's. She has read many books on the Vietnam War and would love to visit Vietnam someday.

### 1970's

Kay (Streng) Twite '73 celebrated 25 years of teaching Spanish at Catholic Schools in 2010. She also celebrated her 25 year marriage anniversary with her husband, Doug. The couple resides in East Grand Forks, Minnesota.



Ann (Maliszewski) Esson '77 met her long time Polish pen pal in Zawiercie, Poland in October 2010. While in Poland, she also visited the Kashubian area where her ancestors came from.

Kevin '79 and Mariclaire (Smith) '79 Fleming live in Rochester, Minnesota. Kevin is Practice Chair division of Internal Medicine at Mayo Clinic and Mariclaire is a community volunteer. Their three children are graduates of Lourdes High School.

### 1980's



Michael R. Breza '81, CPA, MBT, has joined Olsen-Thielen CPAs as Principal in the Tax Department. Mike has a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting from Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, Winona and received his Master of Business Taxation degree from the Carlson School of Management from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

Steve Tessmann '87 owns three Snap Fitness facilities in the Twin Cities area and is pursuing another business venture. Steve and his wife, Jane, live in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

### 1990's



James '89 and Erika (Moen) '91 Janusehka welcomed James Daniel on June 16, 2010.

Claire (Gibson) Ragen '92 and her husband Bill welcomed their son, Thomas Martin, on March 3, 2011. Claire, Bill, Thomas, and older brother William reside in Chicago, Illinois.

Amanda (Hinrichs) Killian '97 and her husband, Steve, welcomed their fifth child - Jack Ryan on November 12, 2010. He joins his brothers Sam, Bo, and Christian and sister Olivia. This busy family operates a dairy farm in Wisconsin.

Kendra (Kukowski) Granseth '97 and her husband Nick welcomed their second son, Preston Michael, on May 23, 2010. Kendra and her family reside in Winona.

Katie (Bedtke) '97 and Tim '98 Carroll welcomed Paige Cecilia on January 31, 2010. Paige joins older brother, Ben, and older sister, Abby. The Carroll family lives in Otsego, Minnesota.

Sam Mogren '98 and his wife Carla welcomed their daughter, Madelyn, on June 29, 2010. Sam is employed as the General Manager at Gex Pro and he resides in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Amy (Burns) Flug '98 and her husband welcomed their son, Dawson James Flug, on May 13, 2010. Amy, Brian, and Dawson reside in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin.



Kimberly (Cooper) '99 and Mike Holman welcomed their son, Maxwell Michael, on March 3, 2010. The family resides in Sartell, Minnesota.



Maureen Strauss '02 was married on July 25, 2009 to Bradford Lasky. Maureen and her husband currently reside in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.



Zachary Theis '04 is working in off-Broadway with Bizarre Noir Theatre Company. He recently performed at BB King's in New York City (NYC) in the opening ceremony of the 2010 AdVision Awards for Global Advertising Strategies which was broadcast live in Moscow, Russia. Zach wrote the script for a full book musical which was performed by Bizarre Noir in 2010, as well as acting as co-writer for music and lyrics on another of their endeavors. Zach is currently appearing as Nicky in John Van Druten's Bell Book and Candle at The Player's Theatre in NYC. Check website for updates: <http://zacharytheis.webs.com>.

Max Mogren '99 works in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

#### 2000's

Brett Kosidowski '00 is excited to graduate from St. Mary's University this May with a Master's in Education. He is currently teaching special education in Rosemount, Minnesota, and coaching the adapted sport teams for the school district Dakota United Teams.

Ben Mogren '01 attends the Culinary Institute of America in Saint Helena, California. He will complete an internship at the Four Seasons Resort in Jackson Hole, Wyoming in the 2011 winter.

Derek Nelson '01 graduated from the Des Moines University College of Medicine. He will complete his residency at Mayo Clinic in 2011.



Lindsay Maus '04 married Zach Czaplowski on July 10, 2010 at the Chapel of the Angels in Winona, Minnesota. Photography was taken by Colter grad, Tammy (Bronk) Hoeger '98. Tammy owns Capturing Moments Photography in Winona.

Julie Nelson '05 graduated from the University of St. Catherine and is teaching English in Seville, Spain.

Michael A. Brickl '06 was married to Kelsey Robertson on June 19, 2010 in Notre Dame, Indiana.

Emma Napieralski '07 was named to the Dean's List at the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management for the fall 2010 semester. Emma will graduate from the U of M in May of this year.



Sara Strauss '01 and Brian Thomas '01 were married on October 23, 2010 in Winona, Minnesota. The happy couple lives in San Francisco, California.



Kelly (Kukowski) Bartelson '04 & Joe Mauer at Spring Training 2011, Wisconsin.

## Mother-Daughter Alumni Duo Share Academic Milestones



Annika Gundersen '07 and her mother Jean '76 will both walk in Augsburg College commencement ceremonies this May, only days apart.

Annika finished classes in December and holds a bachelor degree in International Relations and Spanish, with a focus on Women's Studies, and a minor in Peace and Global Studies. Jean will graduate with a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

"When I became aware of the new Doctor of Nursing Practice in Advanced Practice Transcultural Community Health Nursing at Augsburg College," said Jean, "I believed it was an opportunity to grow professionally and continue to study and apply the work intended to transform systems and teams promoting health equity and access to care for all persons. There is so much to understand about culture, literacy, and the use of language within the art of care and community engagement. I have had the opportunity of working with indigenous healers and working with a curriculum that recognized diverse

ways of knowing and the significance of healing and care within practice. It has been both a challenging and amazing journey."

Annika said that graduating in solidarity with her mother from Augsburg has been a powerful affirmation of the learning that can be co-facilitated and shared across generations, realities, and academic fields.

"It has been wonderful to realize the great amount that my mom's curriculum resonated with my personal and academic interests," said Annika. "Attending Augsburg at the same time has opened new space for cross-disciplinary dialogues and furthermore, it has expanded the ways my mom and I are able to communicate ideas, theories, and feelings in our relationship."

Annika currently works at Jordan New Life Hub in North Minneapolis, a non-profit organization that works in collaboration with Northern Minneapolis community members to holistically address and transform disparities experienced by the community.

Jean is the Community Engagement Coordinator-Employee and Community Health at Mayo Clinic, working as a liaison between the ECH healthcare teams and the community to assist in the promotion of healthcare access, health, and wellness. She is also the mother of Lucas Hanson '02, this year's Cotter High School 21st Century Dinner speaker.

"It has meant very much to share the work with Anni and Luke," Jean said. "The studies and practice have been so very interrelated. It means so much to be able to share conversations, dialogue about the application of the work, and recognize the gifts of diversity. It has been a gift to watch them follow their destinies and make a difference wherever they go-- they are the loves of my life."

## Alumni Spotlight: David Brom '66

**College Attended/Degree Obtained:** St. Mary's College, BA, 1970 (English & History), University of Minnesota, MA, 1976 (Educational Administration) and U of M – Educational Admin. Licensure 1982

**Family Information:** Married 41 years to my wife Cathy. Children: Suzanne, 38; Patrick, 37; Christopher, 35; Daniel, 33; Erin, 31; Mary, 27

**Where do you currently live?** Brooklyn Park, MN

**What is your current occupation?**

I taught English and history for ten years in the Osseo, MN district. Assistant Principal – Mahtomedi; Principal at Becker, Henry Sibley, Robbinsdale Cooper, Champlin Park; retired in 2005; consulted and substituted at times since then.

**How did Cotter prepare you for this career or life after high school?**

In addition to my parents, Cotter helped develop the moral fiber that shaped my life and work. The teachers were awesome role models, even those who were most strict. They set high standards and expected the best while exhibiting the compassion and understanding necessary to work with those in their volatile teen years. Countless were the times I used my Cotter experiences to guide how I worked with kids in my teaching and administrative years not to mention my own children.

**Activities involved in at Cotter:**

student Council, NHS, baseball, basketball, journalism, class officer, Sodality, and drama.

**Favorite Cotter teacher and why:**

Sister Carlin refused to accept anything other than my best effort and "called me out" when what I produced was less than that.

Father Paul Nelson, like he has with many, served as a role model for what it means to be a good man, a good teacher, and a good principal, and someone I have tried to emulate throughout my professional life.

**What was Cotter like when you were in high school?**

The Class of '66 was like no other. We always won the contests for class fund raisers and, though we had our groups of friends, we seemed to be able to move freely between groups. We consciously worked to invite and include all in our class activities and events. It was Cotter "spirit" at its best during "times that tried men's souls."

**Interesting fact since graduating from Cotter:**

I was once the President of the Becker Chamber of Commerce. I had absolutely no preparation for this and didn't even live in Becker!



# SUPPORTING OUR SCHOOLS

today and tomorrow



*"Catholic Schools have been proven to be of priceless value to generations of children, teaching them to know, love and serve God and preparing them to take their place with responsibility in the community."*  
- Pope John Paul II

## 3RD ANNUAL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS FOUNDATION RECOGNITION DINNER

On May 20, 2011, the Catholic Schools Foundation of Winona, MN recognized the following individuals for their outstanding service to and representation of the Catholic schools in Winona .

### 2011 HONOREES

Sr. Mary Donald Miller - CSF Founders Award

Fr. Robert Rivers '66 - Cotter Alumni Achievement Award

For more information about the Catholic Schools Foundation of Winona, MN contact Megan Sadowski '94 at 507-453-5102, [mesadowski@cotterschools.org](mailto:mesadowski@cotterschools.org) or visit [www.csfwinoona.org](http://www.csfwinoona.org)



Catholic Schools  
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Minnesota, Inc.  
Supporting Cotter Schools &  
Winona Area Catholic Schools

# Cotter is a family thing

three generations at Cotter

By Mandi Householder



For the Malotka family, Cotter was their school of choice. Both Chris '69 and his son Scott '10 describe their Cotter experience as fun and "like a family."

When talking about Cotter, a smile appears on Chris Malotka's '69 face. "I remember being in study hall with my older cousin, Mike Gabrych '66. I thought he and his friends [who were all seniors] were really something at the time."

Even memories of defeat bring back fond feelings. "One of the most memorable moments that happened for me was when we played Cretin at Midway stadium. Little old Cotter came out followed by Cretin players. And [Cretin players] just kept coming out, more and more players. Ultimately, we got hammered. But we did beat Austin Pachielli for homecoming!" Chris said.

Chris followed in his father's footsteps. The late Eugene Malotka is a 1939 graduate of Cotter High School. Chris describes his decision to send his son Scott to Cotter as logical. "My experience was positive. My dad went there, my sister went there. Cotter is what we knew."

Scott '10 was very involved in extra-curricular while attending Cotter. His most memorable experience includes his senior year in baseball, hockey, and his summer marching band experience. He was also in cross country and pep band. When asked what makes Cotter great, Scott answered, "Just the whole individual aspect of how you know everybody and it's just like one big family."

Eugene Malotka '39 married Phyllis in 1943 and together they had two children. Phyllis said Eugene loved his experience at Cotter, a time when it was an all boys' school and Christian Brothers taught classes. After high school Eugene joined the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)\* where he led efforts in Lanesboro to conserve soil. Afterward he decided to join the United States Air

Force which led to a 25 year career. He and his family moved around a lot while he served in the Air Force. His son Christopher was born in California and daughter Judith was born in Idaho! His family settled in Winona after he retired in 1965 and Eugene passed away in 1991.

Chris '69 worked at Winona Printing for thirty years and currently works at Insty Prints of Winona. His lovely wife, Pat, is a St. Teresa's graduate which is now the home of Cotter Campus. Pat had college classes in the same buildings that Scott had high school classes! Pat is an outstanding volunteer who chaired the Cotter Auction in 2010.

Scott '10 attends Saint Mary's University in Winona. He is studying biology and mathematics and aspires to be a college level coach for baseball or hockey. Scott thinks highly of his entire family.

*"Cotter is involvement, leadership, friendship and family."  
- Christopher Malotka '69*

#### Fun Facts about the Malotka Family

- Eugene's brothers Henry and Alvin also attended Cotter.
- Father Nelson was the Principal when Chris '69 attended Cotter. He was also the person his wife and he first talked to about getting married.
- Pat Malotka was the mastermind behind the theme: "Got Auction?" for the 2010 Cotter Auction.
- Chris' sister, Judy, is a 1972 graduate of Cotter.

\*More information about the CCC program can be found in the Janikowski story on page 10.

We want to hear from YOU! How many generations in your family attended or are attending Cotter? Find our poll question at [www.cotterschools.org/alumni](http://www.cotterschools.org/alumni).



# Tell Us Who...



Here is this issue of Ramblin's "Tell Us Who..." contest. If you can identify the three people in this photo from the Rambler archives, your name will be placed in a drawing for a great Cotter prize! We will identify the photo and announce the winner in our next issue of Ramblin's. Good luck! Send your answers to: [development@cotterschools.org](mailto:development@cotterschools.org) or mail to, Ramblin's "Tell Us Who..." Contest, Attn: Alumni Office, 1115 W. Broadway Winona, MN 55987.



## Tell Us Who... Revealed

Congratulations to Valerie Bakke '01 who was the winner of the "Tell Us Who" contest in the last issue of Ramblin's! Thanks to all who participated... keep your entries coming!

Pictured left to right: Seth Kneller & Emily Beyer (class of 2001).

## Direct Connection

Cotter Alumni are movers & shakers all around the globe so Cotter has partnered with Harris Connect to produce an Alumni Today publication in conjunction with our 100 year celebration! This collaboration has been established to be able to update contact information for Alumni all around the world so all can keep up-to-date on news and activities from campus as well as with each other! Harris will also produce a beautiful hard cover publication that will allow Alumni to find their old friends and to use for personal and professional networking.

The easiest and fastest way to track down an old friend is through the Alumni Today publication, as it will include up-to-date contact information. The publication will feature an introduction with full color pictures, prominent Cotter High School personas and a history of the school. The publication will also include a section for photos and memories from your days at Cotter.

Harris Connect is the largest alumni publication company in America and they specialize in alumni publications and the data needs involved with this type of project. Alumni will be contacted - by phone, email and mail - over the next few months to verify and update contact information and career information. We can't wait to hear all about you and all you're doing! Thanks in advance for sharing!

**NOTE: YOUR PRIVACY IS IMPORTANT!** Cotter respects your privacy and treats all information in a secure manner. Rest assured that you decide whether or not your personal information is published when you are contacted by a representative. No information will be published without your consent.

## Crazy 'bout Buttons!

Cotter faculty member, Mike Meurer, is coordinating a project for our 100 year celebration and needs your help. Mike is looking to put together a display of all available Homecoming Buttons throughout Cotter's history. Currently we have all buttons from 1987-present, but are in need of any prior to 1987. If you have a button and would be willing to contribute to this historical collection, please contact Mike at [mmeurer@cotter-schools.org](mailto:mmeurer@cotter-schools.org) or send to:

Cotter Schools  
Alumni Office- Button Project  
1115 West Broadway  
Winona, MN 55987



## Search for Good

What if Cotter earned a donation every time you searched the Internet? Or how about if a percentage of every purchase you made online went to support our cause? Well, now it can!



GoodSearch.com is a Yahoo-powered search engine that donates half its advertising revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. Use it just as you would any search engine, get quality search results from Yahoo, and watch the donations add up!

GoodShop.com is a new online shopping mall which donates up to 30 percent of each purchase to your favorite cause! Hundreds of great stores including Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Macy's and Barnes & Noble have teamed up with GoodShop and every time you place an order, you'll be supporting your favorite cause.

And if you download the GoodSearch - Cotter toolbar, our school will earn money every time you shop and search online - even if you forget to go to GoodShop or GoodSearch first! Add the Cotter toolbar at <http://www.goodsearch.com/toolbar/mode/>

Thanks for searching and shopping for Cotter!

## Thank you Volunteers!

April was Volunteer Appreciation month and we are VERY appreciative of all who give of their time and talent to make Cotter the best it can possibly be! You are AMAZING individuals with EXTRAORDINARY hearts. Thank you for all you do! Cotter's volunteers are simply the best!



# 24th Annual Cotter Classic Golf Tournament

## **24th Annual Cotter Classic Golf Tournament**

**Monday, June 20th, 2011 • Cedar Valley Golf Course**

4-Person Scramble

5:30 p.m. Social on Patio

1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start

6:30 p.m. Dinner by Porkmasters BBQ

Prizes for 1st (Men's, Mixed, and Women's) and overall 10th, 20th, last place & pin events

*Join us at the beautiful Cedar Valley Golf Course  
in Winona, MN on June 20th for fun and fellowship while supporting Cotter's  
outstanding academic, spiritual, and co-curricular activities.*

Dear Friends of Cotter,

Golf season is upon us and your favorite tournament of the year will soon be accepting registration for golfers and sponsors! Please mark your calendar for the **24th Annual Cotter Classic, Monday, June 20<sup>th</sup> at Cedar Valley Golf Course.**

The Cotter Classic is an annual golf outing fundraiser to benefit all aspects of a Cotter education. What makes this golf outing unique? Enjoy a complimentary photo of your team by a professional photographer and beverages are included in your golf fees!

Refreshments and snacks will be provided on the course. The tournament will end with a social hour and dinner, where drawings and prizes will be given, and a delicious Porkmaster's BBQ dinner will be served.

Watch your mailboxes for registration forms to arrive early May. You can also **register online at [cotterschools.org](http://cotterschools.org).**

If you are interested in becoming a tournament sponsor contact 507-453-5113. We look forward to seeing you on **June 20th** for the best golf event of the summer!

*Megan Sadowski*  
Megan Sadowski '94  
Director of Advancement

*Mandi Householder*  
Mandi Householder  
Alumni & Events Coord.



COTTER SCHOOLS  
1115 WEST BROADWAY  
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