

# Rambler's

Fall

COTTER SCHOOLS

2014



*Leaving a Legacy...*

Retiring Faculty Celebrate 260 Years of Teaching





A message from the

# PRESIDENT

## Dear Cotter Community,

The 103rd year of Cotter history began in great style as we welcomed a number of new faculty and students. Our enrollment is at a five-year high with 365 students in grades 7-12, 88 of them boarding students filling the residence hall. Cotter Pride continues to grow!

In this issue of Ramblin's, we are highlighting some of the teachers who have built this

strong tradition over the past 30+ years. This fall, Cotter's doors opened without 10 familiar faces. These ten beloved faculty members chose to retire this year after 260 years of combined service to Catholic education in Winona. What a legacy they leave!

For those who had one of these teachers, read on and enjoy the stories and photos. Consider taking a moment to write a thank you note to one of them or simply wish them well. They would love to hear how you are doing. YOU are their pride and joy! You might also consider giving a tribute gift to the "Cotter Legacy Scholarship" established in their honor. Either notes or gifts can be sent to Cotter Schools and I will make sure that they receive the notes and are notified of the gift.

Cotter Schools continues its proud heritage and looks forward to a bright future. We are working to instill in today's students the same values and beliefs that have

endured for more than a century — respect, integrity, and compassion. Help us keep our Cotter Community vibrant. Come back for Homecoming, give a pledge to the Phon-a-thon, "like" us on Facebook, send news about you and your family to the alumni office, or just pray for today's teachers and students.

We have been blessed. May we reach out in blessing to others.

**GO RAMBLERS!**

*Sister Judith Schaefer, O.P., PhD*

**Sister Judith Schaefer, O.P., PhD  
President, Cotter Schools**

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"We are Cotter!" — See the full formation, page 15

# Cotter — Growing Stronger Than Ever!

## Centennial Campaign

In 2011, Cotter began celebrating its 100th year of providing Catholic education in Winona with many events and celebrations that brought back fond memories and reconnected old friends. One event that began in 2011 and continued until 2013 was the Centennial Campaign. By the end of the Campaign, our benefactors and friends had contributed \$6 million to help Cotter and WACS be even stronger in the next 100 years.

The Centennial Campaign had four initiatives: 1) renovation and upgrading of the Roger Bacon building (currently the junior high and the science labs, and math classrooms), 2) renovation and upgrading of the gym facilities in John Nett, 3) technology upgrades, and 4) enrollment initiatives for both WACS and Cotter. Each of these initiatives was completed with funding left over for ongoing enrollment initiatives and gym upgrades.

On May 16, 2014, all of our Campaign benefactors were invited to a red-carpet event to thank them for their incredible support during this special Campaign. The event was held in the new addition to the John Nett building which includes a new concession stand, first floor restrooms, and Hall of Fame wall. A new donor wall was unveiled and the Gostomski Family Gymnasium



*Mike Rivers '64, with Danny Rivers '11, Jessica Rivers '96, and future Cotter students!*

# Generous Benefactors BLESSINGS



*Centennial Campaign Red Carpet Roll-out*

and the R.J. Rivers Family Wellness Center were named to honor their donors. An elegant and fitting ending to an amazingly successful campaign.

## A Gift To Last A Lifetime!

In July 2014, Cotter received a gift that will keep on giving for years to come! Anonymous benefactors gave Cotter a tuition grant that allowed us to reduce our tuition

by almost 50% for local students. This gift brought great news and direct financial relief to our families. And, the gift will keep on giving for the next six years directly – and for years to come with an endowment after that.

This incredible gift strengthens Cotter's future and eases the financial sacrifices of our families. Cotter, however, continues to need the support of other benefactors and friends to provide ongoing academic programs and activities. Since tuition accounts for less than half the entire cost of educating each student, the generosity of this anonymous gift is a great example to follow.

## Strong Enrollment

Fall 2014 started stronger than ever with



*Mike Gostomski '58 with Sister Judith Schaefer*

increased enrollment at all levels. Despite a decline in overall student population locally, Cotter increased enrollment approximately 8% over last fall! We currently have 365 students in grades 7 through 12. Residential students number 88 from 12 countries, both international and domestic; Junior High students total 86; and High School students complete the total with 193 in grades 9-12. Lots of new Ramblers to keep the legacy going! ■



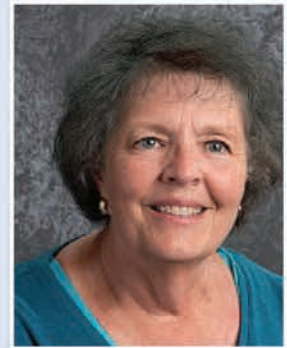
**COTTER  
SCHOOLS**

WHERE STAFFORDSHIRE UNITE and ST. MARY'S

# Leaving a Legacy...

## Catholic education in the United States has a long history of being built on dedication and faithfulness.

Cotter Schools is no exception. This year, in an unprecedented turn, 10 educators retired from Cotter having contributed an extraordinary 260 combined years of service to Winona students at Cotter and WACS. Most of these teachers have spent their entire teaching career at Cotter and WACS, and have worked side by side with each other for many of those years. Such dedication to education, and, in particular, to Catholic education is truly inspiring and noteworthy. Words of thanks seem insufficient as we reflect on just a few of the accomplishments, reflections, and the passion of these extraordinary educators.



**Sandi Blank**

Sandi Blank has been an educator for 35 years, spending all but two of them at Cotter. She has taught earth science, biology and anatomy. She has also served as the Science Department Director, Dean of Girls, Dean of the Math and Science Academy, Assistant Principal, Transition Team member (two times) and Principal. She has especially loved sharing her love of science with her students.

The biggest change during her time at Cotter was the move to the CST campus with the help of the Hiawatha Education Foundation and all of the “gifts” that came with that move, especially the science labs.

In the future, Sandi will travel and spend more time with their grandkids in Omaha.

When asked to share a reflection on her time at Cotter, Sandi states, “Once a Rambler, always a Rambler!”

*Cotter faculty retirees, front row (left to right): Lisa Hull, Sandi Blank, Cindy Scudiero, Linda Gudmastad, Peter Horton. Back row: Dr. Mike Donlin, Sue O'Brien, Frank Smith, Gini Wilzbacher, Mike O'Brien.*





**Dr. Mike Donlin**

Dr. Mike Donlin has worked in education for 41 years; 23 of them at Cotter. In addition to being a social studies teacher, he also served as Cotter's Principal from 1991-1996.

When asked about his greatest accomplishment at Cotter, he simply states, "I am not sure about that. A man dies happy who has helped others, but doesn't know it." He said the biggest change he has seen at Cotter is the incorporation of the math and science academy into the regular curriculum.

In the future Mike would like to continue teaching, this time at a college level, perhaps overseas.

When asked to share a reflection, Mike said, "This is a great school, and will be even better in the future."



**Linda Gudmastad**

Linda Gudmastad has been an educator for 43 years, joining the Catholic schools in Winona in 1988. She has taught English, math, and religion to 7th and 8th grade students. Linda states, "It has been wonderful forming great friendships with my colleagues and with many of the students I have been fortunate enough to teach over the years. It is wonderful to see the successes of students who have gone on to accomplish so much in their lives." She cited the building moves; from St. Stan's to the old Cotter and then on to the St. T's campus as both challenging and exciting.

In the future Linda plans to travel to see children and grandchildren, read the piles of books that are waiting for her, get rid of "one of my two alarm clocks," and discovering and exploring new experiences.



**Peter Horton**

Peter Horton has been an educator for 44 years; 42 of them in Winona Catholic Schools. Prior to that, he taught in Durango, Colorado. Peter is a social studies teacher, primarily at the jr. high level, which he said he still enjoys teaching after 44 years. He was an active school board member and also coached 5/6th grade in baseball. Peter also teaches U.S. History to Cotter's international students. Some of the biggest changes he has witnessed at Cotter are computer technology and the growth of the international program.

In the future Peter looks forward to spending time with his family and grandchildren, and taking small trips close to home. Peter states, "Cotter is a real family. Junior high is a fun age to teach, as long as you remember they are going to act like 12 and 13 year olds."



# Leaving a Legacy...



**Lisa Hull**

Lisa taught in a variety of public schools before coming to Cotter, most recently in Tennessee. Mrs. Hull taught Chemistry and AP Chemistry. She is a knowledgeable teacher who enjoyed challenging her students to be their best. "I've taught at many different schools around the country, but never at a school where you felt like family," said Lisa. She had a Cotter heart through and through and believed our students were the best she had ever had the pleasure to teach. She participated in Cotter events of all kinds often and with a smile on her face.

Lisa and her husband, Doug, have 4 children. Emmett '12 and Nell '14 are Cotter grads. Lisa has a horse and loves to ride. Lisa and Doug have a large sail boat still at Lake Pepin that they enjoyed for many years. The Hulls are now living and working in Kansas near family.



**Sue O'Brien**

Sue O'Brien has worked in Catholic education for 31 years, having various positions, including WACS phys ed teacher and Director of Counseling Services at Cotter. She has also served as advisor to the Target, Bridges, and Canoe and Kayak clubs.

Over the years, Sue has developed an extensive Advanced Placement program at Cotter and has helped hundreds of students get into college. She states, "It is rewarding to see Cotter students graduate and do wonderful things with their abilities."

The biggest change Sue had witnessed at Cotter is how everything is now done on-line. From college applications, ACT registration, to getting students' grades. She saw it progress from carbon copies, to computers, to real-time grades on-line.

Upon her retirement Sue plans to spend lots of time with their children and grandchildren, who happen to live in great vacation areas! She plans to partake in lots of adventures while she is still healthy enough. Sue has always enjoyed engaging people in community building activities such as bonfires, river paddling, Wednesday Wellness, and Christmas caroling.

She commented that she is thankful for all of those who "appealed me" to help keep the Cotter spirit alive.



**Mike O'Brien**

Mike O'Brien has been an educator for 40 years; 35 of them with Catholic schools, teaching English classes from grades 8-12.

He has also served as basketball coach for 38 years, football for 16, and golf for 21. He's had a combined 75 seasons of coaching high school athletes! He also served as senior, junior, and sophomore class advisors, and helped plan class trips and events.

In 1985, his first year as head basketball coach, Cotter placed second in state, the last time the Cotter boys went to the state tournament.

Mike stated, "In 1970 as a senior at Cotter I received the Jim Mohan Sportsmanship Award; I was even more excited when the same award was won by my sons Tim in '95 and Dan in '98."

Mike comments on changes over the years, "There were no phones or computers in the classroom. Handouts were cranked through mimeograph machines; tests were typed on my manual typewriter. In the early eighties, we had vocabulary tests every two weeks, with names of those scoring 90%+ posted on the hallway bulletin board. Prizes were awarded to those who scored the best for the entire year. Students still tell me how much they enjoyed that competition."

Proudly, Mike reflects, "I believe my greatest achievement was being a part of a faculty that produced so many Christian moms and dads over this last third of a century."





**Cindy Scudiero**

Cindy Scudiero has been an educator for 35 years; 20 of them in our Catholic schools in Winona. Cindy has been a reading teacher for most high school grade levels and was instrumental in developing the curriculum and classes for Transitional English. Some of the many changes she has witnessed during her time at Cotter are working with students from all around the world and the growth of technology in our schools.

In the future Cindy plans to read, travel, garden and continue folk dancing.

After reflecting on her years at Cotter, Cindy states, "I have learned so much from all of the students. Every day has been an adventure. Gracias, Danke, Gamsahabnida, XieXie, Arigato, Thank you!"



**Frank Smith**

Frank Smith has been an educator for 30 years; 23 years as a religion teacher at Cotter. He has served as the religion department chair, and faculty advisor to the student council. He especially liked being involved with the student council and their various events such as elections, blood drives, dances, pep fests, etc. He states, "I have been blessed to have the chance to meet and get to know such a wide variety of remarkable international students and developed a rapport with some amazing young people who have managed to keep me thinking young."

The biggest change at Cotter, in Frank's opinion, is the evolution from a traditional Catholic private school to one with a global orientation.

Frank's future plans include pursuing some of the passions he has put on hold while working. They include travel and connecting with old friends and former students, as well as some extended volunteer opportunities.

Frank also shared this reflection; "Cotter (teachers, administrators, students and families) has grown to be a major part of my life and will continue to play that role. I am anxious to see how Cotter will continue to grow and evolve. I just want to thank any student I have taught for how they have added to my life by the enthusiasm and joy they have shared with me. It has been awesome."



**Gini Wilzbacher**

Gini Wilzbacher has been an educator for 32 years. She has taught English and religion to 7th and 8th grade students as well as the 5th grade level for the last 16 years for the Catholic schools in Winona. She is amazed by the number of students she has taught, and always enjoys hearing about them and what they are doing now. The move from 5th grade to the junior high level was a change for her, as well as having worked with several Cotter Presidents, adding the ACE room at the junior high and all of the remodeling that took place at the Roger Bacon building.

In the future, Gini will travel, read, sew, explore, hike, camp, clean closets and drawers, invite other retired friends over for lunch, go on spontaneous adventures, and enjoy family and friends.

Gini also commented, "I have been very fortunate to have worked in such a positive environment and to have worked with many incredible people." ■



# PROFILE



## Damien Fair, Ph.D '94

### What is your current occupation?

I am an Assistant Professor at Oregon Health and Science University. I run my own neuroscience laboratory, which has 16 staff members. My laboratory focuses on mechanisms and principles that underlie the developing brain. We are exploring ways to better characterize individual patients with these psychopathologies to help guide future diagnostic, therapeutic and genetic studies.

### Where did you attend college?

Augustana College, Sioux Falls, SD - B.S.  
Yale University School of Medicine, - MMSc  
Washington University in St. Louis - Ph.D.

### What Awards have you received and of which are you most proud?

I have received several awards over the years related to my education (at right). The Presidential Early-Career Award for Scientists and Engineers that I recently received from President Barack Obama and the White House is particularly exciting (see photo below). While I think that my scientific accomplishments are certainly in the early stages and our outreach work is still growing, it was gratifying to get the award. It represents the culmination of several mentors and institutions, such as Cotter, that have guided my training, a large and talented staff who conduct much of the work, and the families and community partners who feel it important to participate in our research.

### Tell us about your family:

My wife and I met while at school at Yale University in 1999. She is originally from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and came to the U.S. for college and subsequently medical school. My wife works as an Urogynecologist (a surgical subspecialty of OB/Gyn). She started a program in Portland that gathers medical professionals (surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, etc.) and brings them to Ethiopia every year to provide surgeries for women who have pelvic or traumatic birth injuries after prolonged labor.

After finishing our education at Yale, we both went to Washington University where I did my Ph.D. and she completed her residency

program. It was during this time (in 2005) that we had our first child, Ermias (pr. Air-Me-us) Fair. Ermias really enjoys being a big brother to his younger sister who is now two years old. Her name is Abyssinia Fair.

### In which activities did you participate at Cotter?

I was involved in many activities while at Cotter. My primary sport was basketball, which later afforded me a 4-year scholarship in college at Augustana College in Sioux Falls, SD. I also played Tennis, ran cross-country, and played a year of football my freshman year.

I played the saxophone and was in band, marching band, jazz band, and a small group jazz combo. I also played a little my senior year in a jazz group at St. Mary's. I tried to keep up the playing in college and played for two years in a jazz group, but eventually couldn't make it work with my basketball schedule. I was also on the Math team at Cotter and played a couple of small roles in the schools musicals.

### How did Cotter help prepare you for life after high school and for your career?

Cotter really helped build a strong foundation for me on many levels for my life after high school. The training and mentorship I was afforded through sports and my other





extracurricular activities was critical for my transition out of high school. My peers and friendships during this time were equally important in building my character. Some of these bonds remain very tight even today and are still contributing to my professional and personal growth. Academically, I was exposed to several very passionate and dedicated teachers that helped me build confidence in my abilities over the years. This exposure included my experience at the (then) Minnesota Academy of Math and Science, which really sparked my interest in the sciences.

### Who was your favorite Cotter teacher?

This question is probably the most difficult of all! I had several great teachers in many capacities. So, I will narrow it down to two, Mike Costello & Mr. G (Gudmastad).

### Professional Awards and Recognition

- 1998 Heritage Scholarship Award
- 1998 Clara Lea Olson Award
- 2001 Stephanie Erin Anderson Memorial Award
- 2001 Thelma and Harvey Young Scholarship
- 2003 Chancellor's Fellowship
- 2004 UNCF/Merck pre-doctoral science research fellowship
- 2008 Olin Fellowship for Outstanding Biomedical Research
- 2008 UNCF/Merck post-doctoral science research fellowship
- 2009 Ford Foundation post-doctoral diversity fellowship
- 2010 EUNETHYDIS Young Investigator Award
- 2010 Oregon Clinical and Translational Research Institute Young Investigator Award
- 2012 Festival of Lights Investigator Award
- 2013 Alpha Omega Alpha Medical Honor Society
- 2013 Quad-L Early Career Research Award
- 2013 Network Scholar of The MacArthur Foundation Research Network on Law and Neuroscience
- 2013 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers Issued by President Barack Obama and the White House.

Although I never did have Mr. Costello formally as a teacher in a class, as basketball coach he had a very large influence on my growth as an athlete and a person. I spent many hours/years with Mike on the court and in many capacities, as a player and as an assistant. High school (as with College) is a time where there can be lots of distractions and Mike made sure I didn't get too distracted. He has been one of very few teachers/mentors that I've always considered a friend. Someone who could see right through me, made sure I stayed focused, and made sure I reached for high goals.

My appreciation for Mr. G as a teacher and mentor cannot be overstated, but his influence on my personal and professional journey runs quite deep. Because of my close friendship with his son, Chris G (who is now the godfather of my son), I spent many, many days and nights at his home. He and his wife, Mrs. G, were a second set of parents to me. So much so, that my boy calls Mrs. G "Grandma G!" even today. So, not only did I benefit from his lessons on persistence and precision in the music room, I was able to experience their mentorship outside the classroom as well.

### What is your favorite Cotter memory?

I have many great memories from Cotter. Again, I'm struggling to narrow it down to one. I was kind of a slacker in middle school/junior high, so the first time I got straight A's in high school is a solid memory of mine. I also had some great memories with my classmates including our class trip to Florida and our stop in Georgia where I had grits for the first time (terrible). Indeed, food was a source of good memories in other ways as well. In high school, it seems like everyday, I would go to Subway with a couple of classmates, Chris Gudmastad and Monique Kierlin, and either order a cold cut, a pizza sub, or just the bread (for \$1) – I even have a senior picture with a sub(!) that Mr. Meurer used to keep under the glass at his desk.

With regard to extra-curriculars, two memories really stick out. One was our two



wins my Junior year against Elgin Melville. The team was highly ranked in the state and these were their only two losses of the entire year. The first was in the championship of the Christmas Holiday tournament at Winona State. The game was tied in the final seconds and we ran a play, called "blue," to me that we had run the entire game. They jumped the play, I passed the ball off to a senior, John Piscitiello, who nailed a 3-pointer at the buzzer for their first loss of the year. The second game against this team occurred in the regional playoffs where again we won a very close game. The other big memory I had was the jazz band playing with Maynard Ferguson in Cotter's Theater. It was just an amazing experience organized by Mr. G.

### How do you stay connected with your Cotter classmates?

I am still quite close to several of my classmates. Chris Gudmastad and I remain close friends. Although we live on opposite sides of the country we find time to visit each other a couple of times a year. Since we've had children, outside of social media, large and organized meetings have slowed considerably, but I still find time and am close to several friends from high school.

I also keep in touch with classmates here in Portland. Samantha Murry and her husband live here and we are able to get together for dinners, concerts, skiing, etc. Other classmates, e.g., Alyssa Gostomski and her husband have visited us out here in Portland as well. ■

## Biesanz/Cotter Connection — A collaboration of faith, family, and education

Hand in hand with his wife Irene, Bill Biesanz often would challenge his 11 children in a foot race on their short one-block trek home from church each Sunday. The kids always won. “I think he just wanted some quiet time with Mom,” daughter Julie Biesanz Gardner ’81 recalls.

Bill and Irene Biesanz married in 1941, after meeting at a mixer for Saint Mary’s College and Saint Teresa’s College. The family settled into a duplex on 7th street—only one block from Cathedral of the Sacred Heart Church and two blocks from Cathedral and Cotter Schools. Bill and Irene continued to quietly demonstrate their love to each other; Bill would tip his glass toward Irene’s and say “Here’s to you, Irene.” Clink and sip.

The Biesanz’s and their 11 children: Charlie, Anne, Thomas, Teresa, Phil, David, Barb,

Cotter Legacy Continues

# FAMILY

Francis, Don, Bobby and Julie; began a tradition of faith, family and education in this few block radius. Seven of the 11 remained in the Winona area to raise their families. So far, 44 of Bill and Irene’s children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren have attended or are currently attending Cotter/WACS schools. Six of their children have education degrees and two, Teresa and Francis, teach in Catholic Schools.

Even though the Biesanz kids lived just two blocks from school, they were notoriously known for being tardy. One teacher asked one of the kids, “Why do you think you can LEAVE home, when it’s time to be AT school?!”

On one occasion, Father Nelson, then Principal of Cotter, noticed that Biesanz #5, Phil, was not in school after lunch. Father went striding down the street to get to the bottom of it. He was prepared to break the news to Irene, when he peaked in the picture window and there was Phil indeed.

Phil had his younger brother Bobby—born with Cerebral Palsy and never able to attend school—in his arms, waltzing around the living room, both with smiles on their faces.

“How could I possibly tell Mrs. Biesanz what a ‘horrible child’ she had, when I saw all that love in the living room?” Father Nelson recalls. Father returned to school, leaving Phil to dance with Bobby. The Biesanz children honor their brother with the Bobby Biesanz Memorial Scholarship--\$500 toward tuition given each year to a Cotter student.

Trips home for lunch were part of the daily routine. Irene was a great short-order cook and a revolving card game seemed to always take place. With a range of ages and lunch times varying, when one or two kids needed to head back to class, the new arrivals would slide into the vacant seat. And when hotdogs and raw onions were on the menu, Teresa (#4) recalls that students back at school would pass breath mints to the Biesanz kids.

Curiously, the other half of the Biesanz





duplex housed the Walsh family. Keith & Myrtle Walsh had 9 children – also all Cotter students. That 3-story duplex housed 24 people! There was an easy flow of people from one household to the other. Everybody just walked in without knocking. The backyard was more like a playground. The trampoline was perpetually busy. If more than two children were bouncing, Irene would tap on the kitchen window and hold up two fingers. The extra kids would climb down and wait their turn. At dinner time, when the table was full of kids, Bill would be known to say to whoever remained standing up: “these spots are all full, the rest of you go eat dinner at the Walshs.”

Many fond memories were created during their time in Catholic education in Winona—and the connection is still strong. Barb Biesanz Pozanc (#7) recently attended a class reunion. “It didn’t matter that we hadn’t seen each other in a while,” Barb said. “We just caught up so easily.” Barb still meets up monthly with some of her Cotter friends: Joan Hauser Kujak, Barb Beyerstedt Ramer and Patty Sharkey Walters. “Our Cotter bond is strong.”

Catholic education remains important to the Biesanz family. Teresa Biesanz Schumaker (#4) teaches third grade at Saint Stan’s in Winona. Her four children: Oren ’95, Phil ’98, Katy ’01 and Ryan ’04, all attended Cotter.

Teresa went through Cotter with the Baby Boomers. She recalls that there were 160+ students in her graduating class in ’67. At the time, the Franciscan Sisters made up most of the faculty. Latin, home economics, and typing were still taught. Francis (#8) teaches at a Catholic school in Sleepy Eye, MN.

Barb (#7) recalls during her time at Cotter the dances were held at the Catholic Rec Center, as it was known back then. (Cotter recently called it the John Nett Rec Center and now

it’s owned by Winona State University.) The rec center was really the hub of social life for students at Cotter at the time. Real bands played at dances, and weekend and summer activities were held there. Dances were patrolled by Father Nelson who had to frequent the balcony to ensure there was enough Holy Spirit between the kids ‘resting’ up there.

And when tragedy struck the family in 2008 with the unexpected passing of Geoff Gardner ’75, husband of Julie (#11) ’81, Julie recalls that during that time the Cotter family played a huge role in the healing process. “The Cotter family: teachers, students, staff and parents, scooped us up and wrapped us in a big, warm Cotter blanket,” she recalls. “Our kids were in a big safety net at school or whenever they were away from home. It was amazing the love and support we received.” The four Gardner children are Cotter alums or current students: Bailey ’11, Max ’13, Charlie ’15 and Jack ’19.

This Biesanz/Cotter connection that began 74 years ago is still strong. Although the current school location has changed, the legacy of the Bill & Irene Biesanz family — 44 and counting — lives on. So with a tip of our glass, “Here’s to you Bill and Irene.” Clink and sip. ■

### ***Biesanz Family Stats:***

- 44 of Bill and Irene’s children/Grand Children & Great Grandchildren go to Cotter/WACS – 47 if you add in spouses
- Bill & Irene have 55 children/grandchildren & great grandchildren
- 7 of the 11 children stayed in the Winona Area to raise their families
- 3 Biesanz children/grandchildren married a Cotter graduate
- 6 of the 11 have education degrees
- 2 of the 11 teach in Catholic schools
- The remaining Biesanz children, vacation together each year
- The Biesanz children honor their brother Bobby with a Cotter Tuition Scholarship
- Bill & Irene have 16 grandchildren
- Bill & Irene have 18 great grandchildren

# 2013 Cotter Athletic Hall of Fame

Cotter Athletics Award-winners

# UPDATES

- Rev. Donald Lovas '55
- Mary Ellen (Baisley) Sparrow '94
- 2003 Cotter Softball Team

The 10th Annual Cotter Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony was held on September 21, 2013 in the Cotter Gymnasium. Two individuals and one team were honored: Rev. Donald Lovas '55, Mary Ellen (Baisley) Sparrow '94 and the 2003 Softball Team.

■ Father Donald Lovas, a two-sport athlete, was honored as an All-State Football player in his senior year. In addition to his stellar football career, Father Lovas played baseball. A versatile football player, Lovas played mostly offensive guard and line backer. When off the field, Lovas was personable, friendly and mild-mannered. On the field, Lovas was hard-nosed, gritty and tenacious. On defense, he had an innate sense to sniff out the play and then speed to



*Rev. Donald Lovas '55*

make the tackle. He used that speed to tally 75% of the team's tackles in a 13-0 win over a much bigger St. Thomas team.

After graduating from Cotter in 1955, Lovas

attended St. Mary's College in Winona. Father Lovas retired from active ministry in June of 2011 and celebrated the 50th anniversary of his ordination in June of 2013.



*2003 Cotter Softball Team*



*2003 Cotter Softball Team*

■ Mary Ellen “Bingo” (Baisley) Sparrow was a highly decorated, three-sport athlete for Cotter. She played tennis, basketball and softball, and she received the Paul Gardner award as Female Athlete of the Year in 1994. Mary Ellen excelled in each of her sports earning All Conference and State accolades in all three sports.

In Tennis, her only individual sport, Mary Ellen qualified for the State tournament for four of her five years - '89, '90, '92, and '93.

In basketball, “Bingo” Baisley as she was nicknamed, was recognized as one of the Top 94 Players in the State by Full Court Press Magazine. She earned Most Improved

Player – 1992, All WSU Tournament Team player in '93 & '94, and team MVP in 1994. Sparrow went on to play college basketball at St. Thomas University one year, and College of St. Benedict for a year before injuries forced her retirement.

On the softball diamond, Mary Ellen was the team’s lead-off

batter and left fielder. Most impressively, she earned All-State, Second Team honors in 1994 and played with the state’s elite softball athletes in the Minnesota High School All-Star Series in 1994.

■ The 2003 Softball Team, led by strong pitching, stellar defense and clutch hitting, became the first girls team in Cotter history to be crowned state champions. They beat a strong Pipestone team 5-4 to grab the state title. Bethany Wolvington (who finished all 3 games in the circle), Jess Weisbrod and Toni Kujak were all named to the All-Tournament Team. The Rambler team finished the season with a 26-2 record.

**Members of the 2003 State Championship Softball Team:** Michelle Bernadot, Danielle Bowlin, Devin Bowlin, Hannah Callahan, Katie Florin, Kelly Klein, Sarah Kneller, Toni Kujak, Kelly Kukowski, Katie Landowski, Lindsay Maus, Megan McDonald, Katey Shea, Gretchen Strelow, Leah Troke, Jessica Weisbrod, Bethany Wolvington.

Coaches: Pat Bowlin, David Wolvington, Mike Mook, Bridget Wilma Hale; Manager: Heidi Spande. ■



*Mary Ellen (Baisley) Sparrow '94*

*Into the record books,  
again —  
Cotter  
Hall of Fame  
Coach Bowlin  
surpasses  
milestones  
in softball,  
basketball*

Cotter Athletics Recognition

# MILESTONE



### *Congratulations Coach Bowlin!*

Pat Bowlin's name has been in coaching record books and hall of fames across the state for years. In the spring of 2012, he was only the second coach in Minnesota to reach the milestone of 600 career wins for softball—this winter, he surpassed his 500th career win for girls basketball as well.

“The milestone is nice, because it is a chance to reflect on everything that has happened during my years of coaching and life in general,” Bowlin said. “It’s obviously a great accomplishment, but to me it’s always been about the team.”

Bowlin is in his 23rd year of coaching for Cotter of his 30-year coaching career. In softball his overall record is 621-159 with six state championships—two with Cotter in 2003 and 2006; before heading into post-season play for basketball last season, he was at 507-298. Bowlin is a member of four different Hall of Fames, including as a player at St. Paul Harding High School, as a coach at St. Bernard’s High School in the Twin Cities, as a coach at Cotter High School, and as a member of the Minnesota Girls Basketball Hall of Fame.

With his children often paying closer attention to his career wins than he was, they were able to plan their own schedules and help their dad celebrate both milestones. Bowlin has coached each of his children at Cotter—all five of his daughters in basketball and softball; he also coached his son, Patrick, in football. His youngest Gabby is currently

a sophomore and a starter on the volleyball, basketball and softball teams.

“He knows the game inside and out and can take mediocre talent and create a competitive team,” Danielle, his oldest daughter, said. “Although these are important qualities in order to have a winning program the most important quality my dad possesses as a coach is his expectations of his players to be good people.”

With momentous victories along the way, including six state-championships for softball and buzzer-beaters in basketball, for Bowlin, it has been about the process and the relationships along the way that he cherishes the most.

“I really enjoy seeing the players grow, not only as players, but as people,” Bowlin said. “I like seeing the relationships between teammates grow; the relationships that form are really great to see.”

On January 10, 2014, while the team was sealing victory 500 for Coach Bowlin; the evening was extra-special for Bowlin as family, former players and friends filled the John Nett Recreation Center in anticipation.

A signed basketball by the team was presented to Bowlin by his wife, Lori, and five of his six children present—daughter Devin was coaching her own basketball team that night. A tearful speech of appreciation by Bowlin to the whole Cotter community followed.

“Every coach plays to win,” Danielle said. “But what sets my dad apart from other coaches is that he instills the importance of faith and always doing the right thing into his players above all else.” ■



**COTTER**  
ATHLETICS

# UPDATES

## Meet the Activities/ Athletics Director: Travis Whipple

*“Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize.”*

*-- 1 Corinthians 9:24*

Travis Whipple begins his first year with Cotter Schools as the Athletic/Activities Director. Before joining the Cotter family in 2014, he was the Associate Athletic Director at the University of Illinois Springfield where his main focus was developing a sponsorship campaign, sport oversight, growing and organizing the Booster Club, fundraising for the department as well as coordinating the communications and game operations areas. “I am honored and thrilled to serve as your Activities Director,” says Whipple. “My top priority is ensuring that we continue developing passionate champions.”

Whipple spent four years as an Assistant Athletic Director at Winona State University in Minnesota. Under Whipple’s direction, Winona State’s external relations saw a surge of new developments including record totals in all three major revenue generating areas

including fundraising, season ticket sales and corporate sponsorships. In Whipple’s first two years leading the external relations department, corporate sponsorships doubled with a restructured sponsorship sales approach while also growing attendance significantly for many of WSU’s sports. Whipple assisted in expanding the Warriors’ radio, television and internet coverage which featured a weekly radio and television show, which airs online and during contests.

Whipple wrote the award-winning DII Enhancement Grant which was selected by the NCAA to fund a position at Winona State. The Game Environment and Community Relations position created by the grant has helped the entire department. The external relations advancements have also made way for two new state-of-the-art video display boards in McCown Gym.

Whipple also served as Assistant Commissioner for the Lone Star Conference (LSC) for one year. He was responsible for all corporate partnerships, marketing and broadcasting



Travis Whipple

for the LSC. He started the corporate partnership program for the league and 11 member institutions. Whipple developed a marketing campaign that focused on the organizational values of LSC and a tagline entitled “We’re the One.” Whipple also coordinated all marketing, promotions and broadcasting for the Lone Star Football Festival which is held at Cowboys Stadium each year.

Whipple earned both his bachelors in education and masters in sport management from Winona State University. He was a student-athlete on the men’s basketball team during which he participated in three national championship games. Whipple was also a part of a run that led to 57 consecutive wins, two national championships, three NSIC regular season championships, three NSIC conference tournament championships, and three NCAA regional championships.

Whipple says, “As I close out an exciting first summer as Activities Director, I am extremely optimistic about the outlook for Rambler Athletics. I have learned very quickly that there’s tremendous pride that comes with being a Rambler. As demonstrated by our outstanding student-athletes and all of their accomplishments this past year. Finally, I welcome your involvement on this exciting journey as together we continue to develop a model program of excellence that our campus, alumni and community will take pride in!” ■

### GO RAMBLERS!

Cotter launches a new online athletic store!  
[www.sidelinestores.com/schools/minnesota/winona/cotter-high-school](http://www.sidelinestores.com/schools/minnesota/winona/cotter-high-school)



*“We are Cotter!” ‘C’, from the inaugural Rambler Rally, spearheaded by Whipple in August 2014*

Through the years: "We are Cotter"

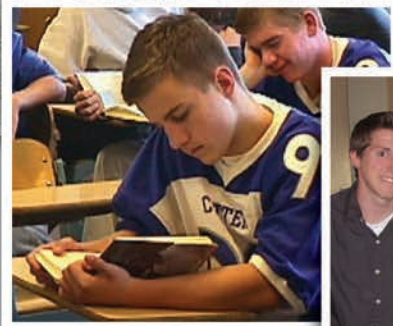
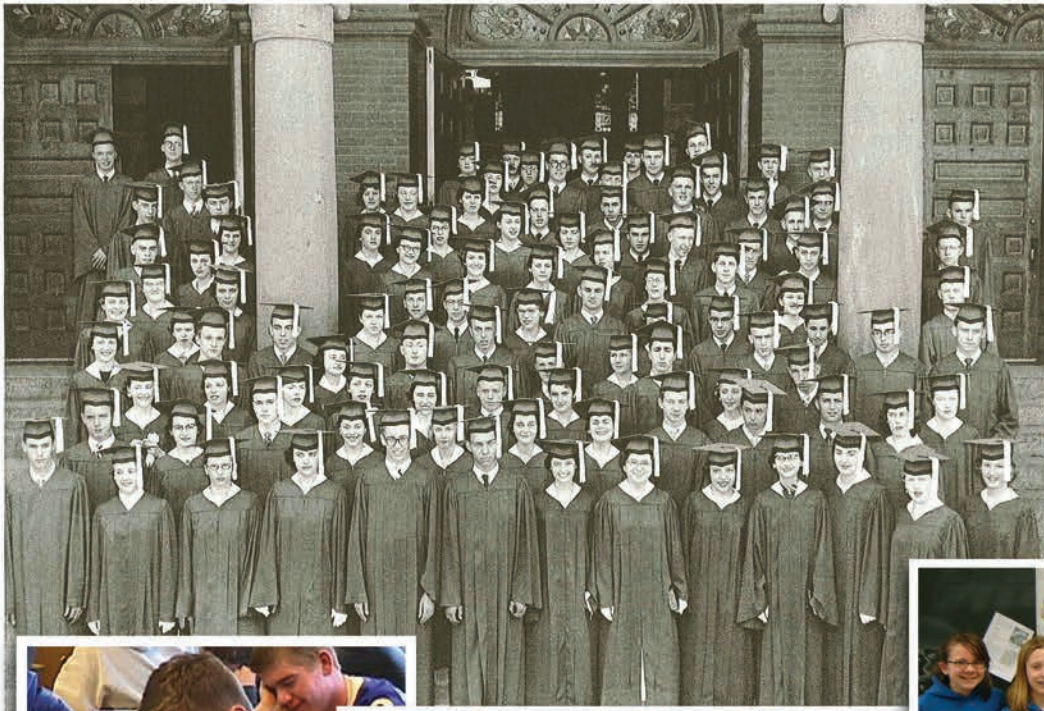
# MEMORIES



COTTER SCHOOLS  
WHERE STANDARDS, VALUES AND CHARACTER MATTER









# PROFILE

## MISSION STATEMENT

Cotter Schools is a private, independent, coeducational school in Winona, Minnesota, guided by Catholic beliefs and values since our founding in 1911. As an international learning community serving grades 7-12, we hold our students to the highest academic standards and challenge each of them to develop their full potential academically, physically, spiritually, and socially. We believe in the intrinsic goodness of all persons, and strive to model the values of faith, service, and community as we encourage and support our students to become more than they can imagine.

Cotter opened its doors on September 5, 1911 and is celebrating its 103<sup>rd</sup> school year. Cotter, named for the diocese's first bishop, Bishop Joseph Cotter. Originally, Cotter was a boys' school directed by the De La Salle Christian Brothers. In 1952, the Brothers turned the operation of the school over to the diocese of Winona, and Cotter became co-educational, combining with Cathedral Girls' High School. Through its many changes in the past 100 years, Cotter has never wavered in its motto, *Veritatem Vereantur* - "Let them Revere the Truth," and to uphold the finest traditions in Catholic education.

## GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

COURSES	CREDITS
English	4.0
Religion	4.0
Social Studies	3.5
Science	3.5
Mathematics	3.0
World Languages	2.0
Visual & Performing Arts	1.0
Physical Ed. or 2 sports	0.5
Health	0.5
Electives	4.0
<b>Total Required Credits</b>	<b>27.0</b>

## GRADING SCALE

LETTER	PERCENTAGE	POINTS
A	100-95%	4.000
A-	94-93%	3.667
B+	92-91%	3.334
B	90-87%	3.000
B-	86-85%	2.667
C+	84-83%	2.334
C	82-79%	2.000
C-	78-77%	1.667
D+	76-75%	1.334
D	74-72%	1.000
D-	71-70%	0.667
F	69-0%	0.000

## ENROLLMENT BY GRADE

Seventh	44
Eighth	42
Ninth	63
Tenth	83
Eleventh	59
Twelfth	74
<b>Total students</b>	<b>365</b>

Cotter maintains an open admission policy for students in the Winona area & is selective for boarding students.

## ACT & SAT SCORES

85% of our 2014 graduates took the ACT, achieving an average composite score of 23.9. This score is in the top 26% nationally.

23% of our 2014 graduates took the SAT, achieved an average composite score of 1720, on the three sub-sections: Critical Reading, Writing & Math. This score is in the top 25% nationally.

## CLASS RANK & GRADING SYSTEM

Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors (H) courses are weighted additional .33 academic points for each full year 1.0 credit course. Academic points are earned on a 4.0 grading scale and are divided by the number of attempted credits. This determines both our cumulative GPA and rank.

## INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

30% of Cotter's students are international students boarded on campus. Students do not take grade level English classes until the completion of Transitional English, earning a score of 80 or higher on an IBT TOEFL, or in-house exam.

## ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Courses available are:

- ESL 1 2 periods daily
- ESL 2 1 periods daily
- ESL 3 1 period daily

## Transitional English

Transitional English is for ELL students at the low advanced English level and meets 1 period daily.

## COURSES WITH SHELTERED INSTRUCTION

- World Civilization - SI
- Early US History- SI
- Introduction to Religion

## 15 ADVANCED PLACEMENT (AP) & HONORS (H) COURSES

Computer Science	CREDITS
H Programming C++	0.5
H Programming Java	0.5
<b>English</b>	
AP Language & Composition	1.0
AP Literature & Composition	1.0
<b>Mathematics</b>	
AP Calculus AB	1.0
AP Calculus BC	1.0
AP Statistics	1.0
H Discrete Math	0.5
H Elementary Linear Algebra	0.5
H Non-Euclidean Geometry	0.5
H Vectors & MV Calculus	0.5
<b>Science</b>	
AP Envir. Science -alt. yrs	1.0
AP Physics: C	1.0
<b>Social Studies</b>	
AP US Government & Politics	0.5
AP US History	1.0

## POST-SECONDARY ENROLLMENT

- 88% four-year colleges/universities
- 9% community/technical colleges
- 1.5% undecided
- 1.5% other

**ACCREDITATION & AFFILIATIONS**

AdvancedEd  
 TABS Member School

MN Independent School Forum  
 NCEA

MCEA  
 SSATB

**FACULTY**

Instructional Staff:	Full-time - 24, part-time - 9	PHD - 1, MA/MS - 20, BA/BS - 12
Counselors:	Part-time - 3	MA - 3
Administration:	Full-time - 2, part-time - 1	MA/MS - 1, PHD - 1

**HEF SCHOLARSHIP:** The Hiawatha Education Foundation offers a renewable four-year scholarship to every graduating senior. It is based on ACT/SAT scores, class rank, and school involvement.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ORGANIZATIONS & ACTIVITIES**

	<b>GIRLS INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS</b>	<b>BOYS INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS</b>
Badminton		
Canoe & Kayak Club		
Chess Club	<b>Fall sports:</b>	<b>Fall sports:</b>
Cotter Residence Council	Cross Country Running	Cross Country Running
Cross Cultural Ministry Program	Soccer	Football
Drama/Musical Productions	Swimming & Diving (Co-op)	Soccer
Intramural sports	Tennis	
Marching Band/Pep Band	Volleyball	<b>Winter sports:</b>
Math Team		Basketball
Music Listening	<b>Winter sports:</b>	Nordic Ski Racing (Co-op)
National Honor Society	Basketball	Hockey (Co-op)
Parmies	Nordic Ski Racing (Co-op)	Swimming & Diving (Co-op)
Peer Helpers	Gymnastics (Co-op)	Wrestling (Co-op)
Photography Club	Hockey (Co-op)	
Speech Team	<b>Spring sports:</b>	<b>Spring sports:</b>
Summer Marching Band	Softball	Baseball
Student Council	Track & Field	Tennis
Students Promoting Awareness		Track & Field
Yearbook		

**Listed below are the institutions that recent Cotter graduates have attended:**

Arizona State University  
 Augsburg College  
 Bentley University  
 Boston College  
 Briar Cliff University  
 Butler University  
 Carroll University  
 College of Saint Benedict  
 College of Saint Scholastica  
 Cornell University  
 DePaul University  
 Drake University  
 Drexel University  
 Emory University  
 Endicott College  
 Fashion Institute of Technology  
 George Washington University  
 Georgia Technology University  
 Gustavus Adolphus College  
 Hamline University  
 Indiana University-Bloomington  
 Iowa State University  
 Kansas State University  
 Korean Adv. Inst. of Science/Tech (KAIST)  
 Loras College  
 Loyola University-Chicago  
 Lublin University  
 Luther College

Marquette University  
 Maryland Institute of Art  
 Miami University of Ohio  
 Michigan State University  
 Milwaukee School of Engineering  
 MN State SE Tech College  
 Minnesota State University-Mankato  
 New York University  
 North Dakota State University  
 Northeastern University  
 Ohio State University  
 Old Dominion University  
 Pennsylvania State University  
 Ripon College  
 Rochester Com/Tech. College  
 Rutgers, State University of New Jersey  
 St. Catherine University  
 St. Cloud State University  
 St. John's Univ.- Collegeville  
 St. Mary's Univ. of Minnesota  
 St. Norbert College  
 St. Olaf College  
 Seton Hall University  
 South Dakota State University  
 Syracuse University  
 Temple University

University of Arkansas  
 University of California-Berkeley  
 University of California-Irvine  
 University of California-Los Angeles  
 University of California-San Diego  
 University of Cincinnati  
 University of Connecticut  
 University of Delaware  
 University of Denver  
 University of Dubuque  
 University of Idaho  
 University of Iowa  
 University of Illinois Urbana/Champaign  
 University of Kansas  
 University of Madrid-Spain  
 University of Massachusetts  
 Univ. of Minnesota-Crookston  
 University of Minnesota-Duluth  
 Univ. of Minnesota-Twin Cities  
 Univ. of Michigan-Ann Arbor  
 University of Missouri-St. Louis  
 University of Nevada-Las Vegas  
 University of New Hampshire  
 University of North Dakota  
 University of Northern Iowa  
 University of Pittsburgh  
 Univ. of Prince Edwards Island  
 University of St. Thomas

Univ. of Simòn Bolivar-Venezuela  
 University of Southern California  
 University of The Pacific  
 University of Washington  
 University of Waterloo- Ontario  
 Univ. of Wisconsin- Eau Claire  
 Univ. of Wisconsin- Green Bay  
 Univ. of Wisconsin- La Crosse  
 University of Wisconsin- Madison  
 Univ. of Wisconsin- Milwaukee  
 University of Wisconsin- Oshkosh  
 Univ. of Wisconsin- Platteville  
 Univ. of Wisconsin-Stevens Point  
 University of Wisconsin- Stout  
 Univ. of Wisconsin-Whitewater  
 University of Tennessee  
 University of Texas- El Paso  
 Vanderbilt University  
 Villanova University  
 Viterbo University  
 Washington & Lee University  
 Washington University- St. Louis  
 West Virginia University  
 Western Wisconsin Tech College  
 Western Michigan University  
 Winona State University

## Learn the latest about your fellow Cotter Alumni!

Visit our website for interactive links to many news stories featured here!  
[www.cotterschools.org/publications](http://www.cotterschools.org/publications)

### The 40's

**Conrad Brown '41** age 90, is one of three surviving members of this class of 26 graduates.

### The 50's

**Mary Edel Beyer '50** was inducted into the Polish Hall of fame in Winona.

**Anne Pellowski '51** an author and philanthropist was featured in a local newspaper article in September. She worked for UNICEF for years. Anne travels the world speaking about reading and donating books to local children.

**Jerry Swanson '53** retired from working for the IRS in 1998 and received the IRS Assistant Commissioner's Award. Jerry and his wife reside in Reno, NV.

**Mary Roemer Lindner '54** lives in Winter Park, FL and says of her time at Cotter, "I am so grateful for the faith foundation that Cotter gave me years ago. It has given me strength and hope throughout the years."

**Judith Koll Healey '57** has published a new biography on Frederick Weyerhaeuser: Frederick Weyerhaeuser and the American West.

**M. Phyllis Cunningham '57** is an active member of the Granny Peace Brigade in NYC. Visit: [www.grannypeacebrigade.org](http://www.grannypeacebrigade.org).

**Bill Langenberg '57 & Mari Lynn Anderson Langenberg '59** are artists residing in Rancho Santa Margarita, CA. See their work on their website: [langenbergfineart.com](http://langenbergfineart.com).

**Alice Schwertel Brengen '58** and husband Don have been married for 53 years. They are a testament to love and faithfulness.

**Dorothy (Wantock) Ruppert '59** has published her second book, *Sixty Days of Grace - God's Sufficiency for the Journey*. Visit: [www.dorothyruppert.com](http://www.dorothyruppert.com).

**Judith Michalski '59** retired from the University of St. Thomas in 2013. She resides in St. Paul, MN.

**Leo '59 & Sharyn '60 (O'Coner) Eischen** celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. They are a testament to love and faithfulness.

# CLASS ACTS

## The 60's

**Shirley Glubka '60** has published her third collection of Poetry: Echoes and Links.

**Bill Kohler '61** & his wife Sarah have toured the world by land doing mission work for the Lord. They have visited 90 countries.

**Mike Morayec '63** has retired from his law



practice and is living with his wife, Suzanne, in St. Simons Island, GA.

**Katherine Krage '64 MSW**, works in La Crosse, WI with the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration at the Franciscan Spirituality Center.

**Robert Allaire '66** and his wife Susan recently celebrated their 43rd wedding anniversary. Congratulations! They live in Modesto, CA.

**Pat Myers '67** was inducted into the Information Systems Security Association Hall of Fame. To read about Pat's accomplishment, [Link to it online!](#)

**Terri McDonald Nye '67** welcomed grandson, Harrison John, in September 2013. Proud parents are Nate & Alisha Nye of Huntsville, TX.

**Margaret Gaustad '68** currently lives in Winona and has retired from 40 years in Nursing in August 2013.

**Frank Nathe '68** has earned a Bachelor of Advertising Specialty Information certification from the Advertising Specialty Institute. Frank is the President of Proforma in the Orlando, FL area.

**Kim Jennison '69** has been an executive chef for 40 years and is currently a teacher at Le Cordon Bleu in Orlando, FL.

## The 70's

**Dan Goltz '70 & Paul Goltz '73**, owners of Goltz Pharmacy in Winona, just celebrated the 125th Anniversary of the pharmacy in 2013.

Hank Maly, father of **Dan Maly '76**, has published a book entitled: *A Blade of Grass, A Journey*

*Transcending Grief and Loss*. The book is the story of a father's journey with his fifteen-year-old son, Daniel, a Cotter student who died of cancer.

**Paul Waldock '76** works as Police Officer in Denver, CO.

**Colleen Joyce Roethke '79** welcomed her first grandchild in April 2014.

**Laura (Goltz) Cole, '79** has recently been very active in ground breaking technology. She has been instrumental in the development of BIBLIOTECH, the world's first all-digital public library in San Antonio Texas, where she lives with her husband and two daughters. She recently returned from the Netherlands where she presented BIBLIOTECH to 120 Dutch library directors. In August, 2014 she will be the keynote speaker at the International Federation of Library Administrators conference in Birmingham, UK. She has also been invited to present in Brazil. Read more about Laura's work.

## The 80's

**Tamayme Dean '80** has worked 30 years as an ED nurse in Georgetown, TX. She and her husband celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary this year. Congratulations!

**Roseanne Heer '81** was married to John Van Heuveln in September of 2013. They live in the Twin Cities area. The new Mrs. Van Heuveln works as a Business Systems Analyst with Ameriprise/Columbia Management Company.

**Megan McCarthy '83** is a Chef at the Edible Garden at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens in Atlanta, GA. She teaches cooking classes at Cooks Warehouse. Chef Megan McCarthy '83 was on CNN's Headline News.

**Donald Doerr '83** is the owner of Southern Minnesota Recycling and lives with his wife Debrah in Preston, MN.

**David Staelgraeve '88** and his wife Ann celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary.

## The 90's

**Chris Hahn '90** worked for the 2002 Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, UT. He now works as a National Sales Manager for Wincraft, Inc. in Winona, MN.

**Padraig O'Brien '93** trains basketball players at Give N Go Hoops in Scottsdale, AZ.

**Dr. Damien Fair '94** was awarded the Presidential Early-Career Scientist Award from President Obama. He is one of 102 Scientists to receive this prestigious award. Congratulations, Damien. To learn more about the Early Career Scientist Award, [Link to it online!](#) (Read more about Dr. Fair on page 8 of this issue.)

**Eryn Redig Potthast '94** works as a Court Advocate for the Rose Brooks Center in Kansas City, MO.

**Justin Barrientos '94** was an announcer for games for the National Christian Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 Men's and Women's Basketball Championships in Winona Lake, Indiana in March. He did play-by-play for the Women's National Championship game (his first National Championship game announced!), and color-commentary for the Men's National Championship game.

**Oren Schumaker '95** and his wife Michelle welcomed son Wyatt Reid on Sept. 5, 2013. Oren works as an Architect in Chicago.

**Michael Arnold '95** is a Certified Financial Planner and is a 2014 Twin Cities Five Star Wealth Manager Winner.

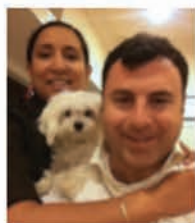
**Tim Beier '95** and wife Erin welcomed son #2, Max, in January 2014. Tim, Erin and the boys live in Winona.

**Julie N. Nagorski '95** has joined Wendland Utz law firm in Rochester, MN as an associate attorney.

**Jeff Blahnik '96** and wife Ruthy welcomed son, Charles Thomas, on March 4, 2013. Big sister Molly is three. Jeff is now the Director of Admissions at the University of Oklahoma. He and his wife Ruthy and their children reside in Norman, OK.

**Matt Olson '96** and his wife Cara welcomed Leo Jacob on February 10, 2014. Welcome little one! Matt and his family live in Savage, MN.

**Will Gibson '96** married Jennifer Powless in Winona - July, 2014. Will works at Cotter Schools as Director of Admissions.



**Anthony Piscitiello '96** and wife Susan recently purchased an apartment and adopted a dog - Abby. Anthony works as Alumni & Community Relations Director at the La Salle Academy in NYC.

**Amanda Hinrichs Killian '97** and husband Steve Killian run a dairy farm near Blair, WI. They have 5 children.

**Andrew DuCett '97** is teaching at the Minneapolis College of Art and Design and just completed an art residency at the Bell Museum at the U of M.

**Jeff Wilzbacher '97** completed a 6 month hike in 2013 on the Continental Divide Trail from Mexico to Canada.

**Jonathon Schneider '97** welcomed Molly Grace in March of 2013. Welcome, little one! Jonathan works as a Buyer for MPE in Winona.

**Katie Bedtke Carroll '97 & Tim Carroll '98** welcomed Henry Michael in July 2013. Henry's siblings are Abby, Ben & Paige. Welcome Henry!

**Sarah Speltz '97** works at Harvard University as a Freshman Advisor and lives in the Boston, MA area.

**Keli Leaf '97** married Darin Redinger in June, 2013 in Chicago. Maeve Jordon joined the family in July 2014.

**Patrick Manrique '97** recently traveled to Soviet Georgia to assist soldiers with treatment from their wounds. To watch Patrick's video, [Link to it online!](#)

**Jack Leaf '98** & his wife Megan Leaf welcome their first child, Madeleine Louise in January 2014. God's blessings to you, little one.

**Kyle Herdina '98** is an Environmental Program Manager for Prairie Island Indian Community and is featured in article here on page 3.

**Angela Broadwater '98** married Steve Norton in St. Paul, MN on September 7, 2013.

**Ben Norton '98** is co-owner of Bixby's Café in Duluth, MN.

**Brian Nelton '98** wife Sarah and big brother Skylar welcomed Quinn Ann in July, 2014.

**Michael Ratajczyk '99** is now a professor at St. Mary's University in Winona teaching in the Business Department.

**Emily Ewing Buxengard '99** and husband Allen welcomed baby Marcus in 2013. Emily and her family, including big sister Celia, live in La Crescent, MN. Emily works at Merchants Bank.

**Sara Norton Gerber '99** and her husband Josh were blessed with the birth of their first child Trig in March 2014. Congratulations!

**Heather Wilma Lande '99** gave birth to twins in February 2014. Welcome to Mallory Ann and Max Ron.



## The 00's

**Sarah Jane Marek's '00**, web series, Off-Awful, was honored at the LA Web Series Festival with two outstanding actor awards. Sarah is

the Executive Producer, Creator and star of the series. The LA Web Series Festival is the largest and oldest web series festival in the country. To learn more about Sarah's work visit her website: <http://offawful.com/>

**Matt '00 & Lindsay Slaggie's** house grew by two feet when Mia Joan came into the world in May.

**Alyssa Butenhoff '00 Anguiano** had her 2nd child in March of 2014. She works as a Bi-lingual Community Partner Home Visitor in St. Charles, MN.

**Sara (Bolstad) Bobrowski '00** was recently blessed with the birth of their third child, Hunter Anders Bobrowski born on January 24. He joins big sister, Audrey (5 yrs) and big brother, Roman (3 yrs). Sara and her family live in Lakeland, MN.

**Dr. Katy Schumaker '01** received her PhD in History from the University of Chicago. She teaches History at the University of Oklahoma.

**Dan Flo '01** and his wife Emily welcomed the birth of Coraline in June 2014. God's blessings to you all.

**Jan Domeyer Lewis '01**, Ryan Lewis and big brother Oliver welcomed little Charlotte to their home in June.

**Michael Strauss '02** married Lisa Roach in California in 2013. Congratulations!

**Christopher Ebert '02** works as a Business Analyst for 3M in St. Paul, MN.

**Steven Cooper '02** and wife April welcomed their daughter Allanna Rose in May. Welcome little one!

**David Sobolewski '02** works at Cotter Schools as Educational Technology Specialist.

**Jennifer Arnold Rutz '03** passed the Minnesota Bar exam. Congratulations Jen! Councilor Rutz, her husband, Joshua & daughter Charlotte live in St. Louis Park, MN.

**Matt Demaris '03** and wife Kelsey welcomed their 3rd son, Aaron Thomas on Feb. 27, 2013.

**Bethany Wolvington Loether '03** lives in Watertown, MN and works as a State Director and Product Provider for Family Heritage.

**Kelly Klein Schneeman '03** lives in St. Paul, MN and works as a photographer at Agape Moments Photography. ([Link to it online!](#))

**Charley Wright '03** and his wife Abby welcomed a son, Emmett Pierce into their family on August 14, 2013.

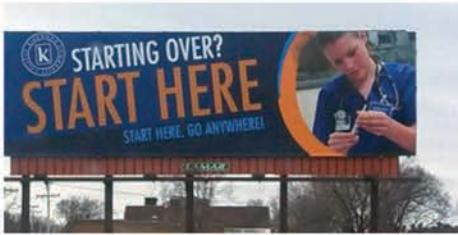
**Danielle Rollman O'Laughlin '03** and husband Corey welcomed new son, William James in April, 2014. Welcome William!

**Pat Leaf '04** married Kristin Hodorowski in July.

**Kyra Shaw '05** married Joshua Schuster in October, 2013. Congratulations Mr. & Mrs. Schuster.

**Erica Grandy Thomsen '05** was featured on a billboard in Cedar Rapids, IA. Erica works as a nurse for St. Luke's Hospital in ICU. The billboard was for Kirkwood College.

**Dr. Amy Sobolewski '05** is engaged to be married to Dan Shay. Amy is a Dentist at Kenosha Community Health Clinic in Wisconsin.



# CLASS ACTS *Continued*

**Michelle Bernadot '05** was married June 14, 2014, to Matt Storlie.

**Ryanna Glentz Jackson '05** lives in St. Paul with husband Noah. Ryanna works as Volunteer Coordinator with Saint Paul Parks & Recreation.

Lindsay and **Dan Trainor IV '05** were married in September in Winona. The happy couple lives in Rochester, MN.

**Alyssa Kukowski Griffiore '06** recently married Brad Griffiore. They live in Maple Grove, MN.

**Jessica Roemer '06** married Peter Schaul in May 2013. The couple resides in Media, PA.

**Joe Kilkus '06** was featured in a Madison, WI running blog for his success in marathon running. Read more about about it: [Link to it online!](#)

**Jessica Larson '06** recently moved to Riverton, MN where she works as a reporter for the Brainerd Dispatch. She married Matthew Perrine in April.

**Alyssa Trainor '07** has opened a new photography studio - ATP Studio in the Eau Claire, WI area. To see Alyssa's work, [Link to it online!](#)

**Kelsey Schauer '07** is a Registered Dietician at Hy-Vee in Albert Lee, MN.

**Shubham Debnath '07** published an article in Frontiers in Neurology. Check it out: <http://journal.frontiersin.org/Journal/10.3389/fneur.2014.00104/abstract>.

**Elizabeth Holubar '07** married Nickolas Landsverk. God's blessings to you as you begin your new life together.

**Jess Hoffert '07** resides in Des Moines, IA and works as a Staff Editor at Midwest Living Magazine.

**Aaron Davis '07** is studying Cognitive & Evolutionary Anthropology at Oxford University in England. He has a degree in Political Science from South Dakota State University.

**Alex Nsengimana '07** returned to his home country of Rwanda to pass out Operation Christmas Child boxes at the orphanage in which he lived.

**David Skeels '08** is teaching 5th grade at Winona Area Catholic Schools.

**Jessica Giers '08** is the Band Director at Totino-Grace School in Fridley, MN.

**Patrick Bowlin '08** is an Assistant Women's Volleyball Coach at UW-Green Bay.

**Jenny Gilbertson '08** is a 3rd grade teacher @Rice Lake Elementary in Maple Grove, MN.

**Beau Brackey '08** is working as a Registered Nurse at Appleton Medical Center in Appleton, WI.

**Tim Olstad '08** was a finalist on the singing competition television show The X Factor. He has sung with the Winona Hims Gospel Choir in Winona, in September. Tim also opened for Ron Pope at First Avenue (of Prince/Purple Rain fame) in Minneapolis October 5, 2014.

**Laura Nicklay '09** works as a 4th grade teacher in Christ the King Catholic school in Detroit, MI.

**Anna Buege '09** and Leif Reichgelt were married in May 2014. They live in Rochester, MN. Anna works in the Rochester schools as an EBT Paraprofessional. Leif also works for Rochester schools.

## The 10's

**Wes Brekke '10** married Emily Malmin in July.

**Emma Deppa '10** is studying at Portland State University to earn her Internationsl Masters Degree.

**Brian Rivers '11** recently served with "Engineers Without Borders" in Ghana, Africa. Brian is an engineering student at UW Platteville. To watch Brian talk about his trip, [Link to it online!](#) ■

## Ramblers Remembered

Evelyn Duff Grover '29  
Mary Jarvis Nichols '47  
Bernell Brill '47  
Patricia McMahon '48  
Doris M. Wineski '49  
Jim Kaehler '50  
Raymond Swanson '51  
Ray Grulkowski '55  
Gerry Sievers '58  
Alivin Mueller '59  
Steve Muras '60  
William Schwertel '61

Bill Knee '63  
Sharon Boland Ziegler '65  
Sandy Wicka Evanson '66  
Jean Adamczyk '66  
Sandy Winestorfer '66  
Becky Peplinski '66  
Michael Kwosek '70  
Daryl Kammerer '71  
Gregory Scott Merchlewitz '75  
Don Biesanz '75  
James Mohan '87  
Jenny Tremain Olson '96

If you know of a Cotter Alum who has passed away recently, please email Alumni Director, Judy Richter at [jrichter@cotterschools.org](mailto:jrichter@cotterschools.org)

### John 14: 1-2, Jesus Comforts His Disciples

*"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; ... I am going there to prepare a place for you."*

# UPDATES

## Working together for the good of the school

The art of running a school takes planning, teamwork, and effective communication. For Cotter Schools, the president and principal work together for the good of the school. Sister Judy Schaefer was hired as president in the spring of 2012, and Dave Forney moved from his position as Dean of Academic Life to the position of principal this past summer.

### Passion for their work

In their respective positions, their passions are put to use daily. Forney loves working with students and families. He feels that his main role is to provide leadership, direction and encouragement to students, families, faculty, and staff, so that students can experience learning at its best. Forney's main priority is the student's experience in the classroom.

Schaefer's main priority as president is to make sure Cotter is functioning well through such things as general maintenance of the school, making sure bills are paid and buildings don't fall down! She also facilitates high levels of positive relationships between many groups of different people. Benefactors, financial groups, faculty, parents and alumni are a few of the groups that need to communicate in order for the school to thrive. The responsibility of making sure they do comes down to Schaefer, and she loves working with people.

### Their path to Cotter

Forney came to Cotter 19 years ago from Worthington, Minnesota where he was a counselor and coach. He began his Cotter career as a counselor and he became the Principal of Cotter Jr. High School in 2003. Forney was in that role until 2013 when he transitioned to the Dean of Academic Life. He has continued to work in counseling in his various roles. In addition to his position; Forney has coached basketball, football, track, and currently coaches cross country.



was progress being made, but a year wasn't enough to get the work done."

Many changes have taken place since then including an expansion to the John Nett Center and a more consistent academic schedule. Under her leadership, the Cotter Spirit is thriving.

"I believe that God brought [my family] here 19 years ago and that He has opened various doors where I should serve at Cotter throughout these years," states Forney.

Schaefer, O.P., Ph.D., had been serving as a Professor, Chair of Theology, and University Dean for University Affairs at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota before she came to Cotter. She has a long history with education through the Sinsinawa Dominican Congregation and has taught at the Diocese of Winona's Institute of Lay Ministry and Deaconate Program, the Diocese of New Ulm's Lay Formation Program, and the Institute of Pastoral Ministries.

"I was excited to come to Cotter because of the great reputation it has," Schaefer said. She has colleagues whose children attended Cotter and she has also completed student-teacher observations for Cotter on behalf of Saint Mary's University. Schaefer was a bit nervous about how different a secondary school would be from a University, but in the administration area "there's not a lot of difference in levels."

Originally Schaefer's role as president was temporary, but the Board of Directors offered her a permanent position after seeing her positive impact on the school. She accepted this position eager to see the work she started take effect. According to Schaefer, "I felt there

### Moving forward

With passion for their work and a desire to see Cotter excel into the next century, Forney and Schaefer are excited to see plans take action and students graduate from Cotter with the skills they need to thrive in today's world.

"I am blessed to be part of the Cotter family," said Forney. "I appreciate the history and the people who built Cotter. I'm thankful for the present and those I am privileged to be a part of this with. I'm hopeful and encouraged about a great future as I talk to younger families." ■



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# AWARD

**COTTER SCHOOLS**

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Winona, MN 55987 USA  
Phone: 507-453-5000  
Web: CotterSchools.org

## Pay it Forward

The 3rd annual Joe Vogel “Pay it Forward” scholarship was awarded during Catholic Schools Week. Joe Vogel, Cotter class of 1996, was a devoted alum and community member. Joe’s family shared that our Cotter community had a positive impact on Joe’s life. Joe passed away in 2010 from colon cancer. In the months before he passed, Joe organized the Team Vogel vs. Cancer benefit. Team Vogel continues to raise money for Winona-area families dealing with cancer and for cancer research. Joe will always be remembered for his smile, sense of humor and his efforts to “Pay it Forward” – or to give back to others.

Created by Joe’s family, friends, and co-workers, the Joe Vogel “Pay it Forward” Scholarship Fund was established. The scholarship is given to a Cotter student who demonstrates the “pay it forward” ideal. The



***Jess Strelow, Kristin Biesanz (classmate of Joe’s, and member of Team Vogel), Alex Strelow, Sue Strelow)***

scholarship was awarded in 2014 to Cotter for leading by good example and honoring student Alex Strelow. Congratulations, Alex, Joe’s memory. ■