

HOMECOMING 2021 September 17-18

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MAJOR RESTORATION FOR BASILICA

PROJECTS INCLUDE PAINTING, NEW FLOORING, PEW
REFURBISHING, STAINED-GLASS WINDOW REPAIR,
AND MUCH MORE

The Basilica of St. Fidelis is undergoing its first major restoration in 25 years. The first part of this process is to paint the interior from floor to ceiling. Those of you who were in the Basilica during the restoration saw the scaffolding, which filled the interior from the floor to the ceiling. The scaffolding greatly increased the safety for the paint crew, as well as allowing them to work more efficiently. However, after the scaffolding went up, new problems were discovered with the century old building.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

John Schulte '96 – President
Bernie Schulte '88 – Vice-President
Rick Rajewski '69 – Secretary
LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80 – Treasurer
Pat Sander Legleiter '65
Patty Dreiling Dreiling '66
Joyce Berens Newell '67
Rich Billinger '68
Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76
Diana Braun Schmidtberger '78
Jane Baier Schumacher '79
Nolan Schmeidler '03
Matt Sander '03

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE:

John Schulte '96
Tami Braun Haberkorn '90
Det Roth Younger '58
Marge Rome '58
LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80
Verda Goetz Werner '55
Connie Windholz '74
Rhoda Windholz Urban '76

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

Marge Rome '58
John Schulte '96
Det Roth Younger '58
Sandy Dreiling Goetz '82

SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE:

Loren VonLintel '90
Kathy Schulte Dreiling-Amrein '76
Gerard Wellbrock '86
Peggy VonFeldt Klaus '89
Meagan Schmidtberger Wellbrock '02
Kori Braun – Advisor



Above is a view of the scaffolding from behind the marble altar of the Basilica of St. Fidelis. Tim Linenberger Painting Company finished their painting portion of the restoration project on March 8, except for removal of the scaffolding. That was kept in place so the windows could be reinstalled once they were repaired.

John Braun Proudly Serves as 2020 Homecoming Parade Grand Marshal

Class of 1949 graduate **John Braun** served as Grand Marshal for the 2020 Homecoming Parade. It was a hot and windy day on September 25, 2020, and the parade entries were fewer than usual due to the COVID Pandemic. None-the-less, John was proud to lead the parade down the streets of Victoria returning to Victoria High School for a pep rally that led the Knights football team on to victory that evening against the Sylvan-Lucas Mustangs.

John was born August 1, 1930, and raised on the family farm west of Victoria. He recalls how he had to repeat the first grade because he only spoke German before attending school. However, the real reason is that he was so cute and likable that his teacher wanted him for another year.

John graduated high school in 1949, which was the last class to graduate from the old red school building prior to the opening of the current high school building. His graduating class included 23 boys and 13 girls. At the age of 90, John is one of 10 surviving members of the class of 1949.

When asked, John said his favorite thing about attending school in Victoria was getting out of doing farm work at home.

After graduation, John served in the Army from 1951 to 1953 and fought in the Korean War. After his discharge from the Army as a Corporal, John came back to Victoria where he met and married

the love of his life, Josephine Riedel. He was working at Victoria Lumber Company when Josie came in selling chances for the Walker Picnic. The ticket he bought that day won him a lifetime of love and happiness.

Braun Shivers '10 and **Amanda Braun Disberger '12**, and 9 great-grandchildren with another on the way.

Over the years, John has been very active in the local church and



Grand Marshal, **John Braun '49**, waves to the crowd during the 2020 Homecoming Parade. In the car with John are his wife, **Josie Riedel Braun**, and daughter, **Judy Braun Brummer '89**.

John and Josie still live on the farm, two miles west of church, where they have lived for the last 65 years raising cattle, grain, and seven children, all of them alumni of Victoria High School: **James '75**, **Janet Braun Giersch '77**, **Joseph '79**, **Joan Braun Rourke '82**, **John '84**, **Judy Braun Brummer '89**, and **Jerry '91**. They have 12 grandchildren, including **Cara**

community. He served on the USD 432 school board from 1976 to 1980. He is a past Grand Knight and Faithful Navigator of the Knights of Columbus and past Commander of the Victoria VFW Post 1751. John is still quite active in both organizations and the St. Fidelis parish.

Board of Directors News

Beginning with this edition of the newsletter, **Rhoda Windholz Urban '76** joined the newsletter committee and started writing "Class Notes." Please remember to send in your updates to info@victoriaalumni.com and Rhoda will get your information entered for the next newsletter. Rhoda's children are **Tammy Wittman '94**, **Heather Wittman Arasmith '96**, and **James Wittman '98**. Rhoda is married to **Jerry Urban '71**, and they have ten grandchildren. **Det Roth Younger '58** was the previous author of "Class Notes" and will remain on the newsletter committee to write "In Loving Memory."

On the scholarship committee, **DeAnn Leiker Meyers '84** decided that last year was her final on the committee. DeAnn had served on the scholarship committee from 2018 until 2020. **Meagan Schmidtberger Wellbrock '02** will be taking DeAnn's place. Meagan is married to **Scott Wellbrock '99**.

When the alumni board of directors gathered for the post-homecoming meeting, it was known that at least one board vacancy needed to be filled. **Sandy Dreiling Goetz '82** and her husband **Jeff '79** were moving to Missouri, and Sandy would be resigning from the board. Sandy was one of the original members of the Alumni Board, and she served as treasurer for the first three years of the association. After taking a few years off, Sandy returned to the board in 2006 and has been an integral part of the association ever since.

In what can only be described as major surprises were the resignations of two more board members. **Marge Rome '58** and **Deb Leiker Dreiling '79** both decided that they needed to focus on other priorities.

Deb began serving on the scholarship committee from 1998 through 2001, and again from 2011 until this past year, acting as chair for the committee during her second tenure. Once she began her term on the alumni board in the fall of 2017, Deb found a niche in reviewing and revising the alumni by-laws.

Deb volunteered to take the secretary office for the past year.

Marge, like Sandy, was also an original member of the alumni board. Marge was the first secretary from 1993 until 1995. Then she spent a year as vice-president, and served as president from 1997 until 2018. She then returned to the vice-president role for her final two years on the board. To state it simply, the Alumni Association wouldn't be the fine organization it is without Marge's influence. She dedicated countless hours arranging anything and everything alumni connected.

A huge thank you goes out to these wonderful ladies for all the time they dedicated to the Alumni Association. Your absences have already been noticed by the board, as the monumental assignment of re-distributing your tasks to other board members has only just begun.

Joining the alumni board are **Patty Dreiling Dreiling '66**, **Joyce Berens Newell '67**, and **Matt Sander '03**. Patty is married to **Ken Dreiling '65** and lives on the farm south of Victoria. They have three children: **Shane '90**, **Jill Dreiling Windholz '92**, and **Brett '98** and seven grandchildren. Joyce's husband is Stan Newell and they have four children, 18 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Matt's wife is Erika and they have two daughters: Adalynn, age 5, and Harper, age 3.

With the departure of last year's vice-president and secretary, the Alumni Board needed to elect new officers. **John Schulte '96** was retained as President, as was Treasurer **LeeAnn Braun Schmidtberger '80**. **Bernie Schulte '88** is the new Vice-President and newly retired **Rick Rajewski '69** agreed to take over as Secretary. The new alumni officers along with the new board and committee members will do their best to fill the void left by all of last year's departures.

RESTORATION ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



This is a view of the main altar of the Basilica of St. Fidelis from the second level of scaffolding. Plastic sheeting was placed to help protect objects below; however, plenty of dirt and dust escaped and found its place on the pews.

The stained glass windows at the very top of the church were in worse shape than previously believed. All three rose windows had to be removed and sent for repair in Hutchinson. After the damage to the rose windows was discovered, a closer look was given to the 18 other windows near the peak of the interior. Ten of those windows also were in desperate need of care, and the decision was made to remove all 18 windows and have the same company in Hutchinson restore all of the upper windows.

In early March, the painting had progressed to a point where the Stations of the Cross could be re-installed. Upon closer inspection, problems were found with the Stations. They weren't in terrible condition, but they had not been cleaned in many years, possibly since 1996. A large group of volunteers were quickly summoned to the Basilica to give the

Stations a thorough cleaning. After they were cleaned, the Stations were put back on the walls, where they should remain for many years.

After the painting and window repairs are completed, the next step is to refurbish the pews. The seating for over 800 people will be removed in small sections. Once a section is removed, the floor under that set of pews will be replaced. The final phase of the restoration process will be to replace the carpeting in the aisles.

As you can imagine, this immense task of restoring the Basilica took months to plan. Many parishioners gave up their evenings and weekends to try to coordinate all that needed to be done. Thank you to all who have helped in any way.

All of these projects occurring in a short amount of time have put a financial strain on the parish. Any donation that you can make would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be sent to The Basilica of St. Fidelis, 601 10th Street, Victoria KS 67671. Please consider contributing to this restoration project, so future generations can continue to enjoy the wonderful Basilica of St. Fidelis.

**That I may gaze on the loveliness of the
Lord and contemplate His Temple.**

Psalm 27:4



James Coordinates Tourney

With Help from His "Little Brother" and Others

by James Brungardt '05

My Fellow Alumni,

Thank you to every golfer and volunteer who participated in the 2020 VHS Alumni Golf Tournament. We had nineteen teams which is more than we could have hoped for given the challenges of 2020. It just goes to show you that even during a global pandemic the good people from Victoria come through when you need them.

I'd also like to thank everyone who helped me on the day of the tournament, especially **Sandy Dreiling Goetz '82** and **Jared Pfeifer '07** who were there the whole day. I couldn't have done it without Sandy and all of her help. She and her husband **Jeff '79** even cooked lunch for all of the participants. Jared and I really got to know each other due to all the time we spent planning the tournament; I now think of him as the little brother I'm glad I never had.

This year's winners were a



GOLF TOURNAMENT WINNERS (l. to r.):

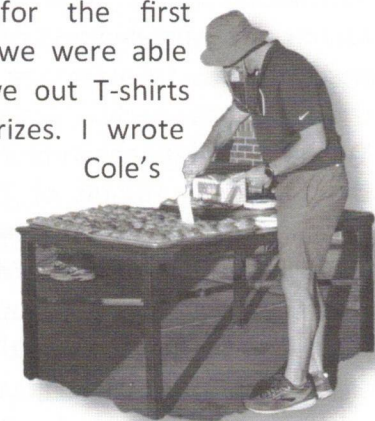
Kevin Klein, Darian Dinkel, Matt Berens, and Darrell Dortland.

team from the class of **1989: Darian Dinkel, Darrell Dortland, Matt Berens, and Kevin Klein.** I'm pretty sure Darian has been on the winning team each year I've played in this tournament. His team will go into the 2021 tournament as the favorite, just like Nancy Kerrigan going into the 1992 Winter Olympics. If the rest of us want to have any chance at winning this thing, we are going to have to start thinking like Tonya Harding.

For those of you who signed up for the Scott Dreiling Golf Instructional School, you need to hurry up and get your money back because **Scott '93** led his team to a last place finish. Though they may not have played their best golf on that day, Scott, along with his classmates **John Windholz, Jason Wellbrock, and Jeff Courtney** appeared to have more fun than anyone else on the course. Whether they are taking first or last place, the class of 1993 shows up every year with the most golfers and the most post-

round stories and for that I am truly thankful. I encourage each of you to get your classmates together for next year.

Thanks to a kind donation from my good friend **Cole Dreiling '08**, for the first time we were able to give out T-shirts for prizes. I wrote down Cole's credit card



Tournament participants got to enjoy fresh baked cinnamon rolls provided by Jeanette Wagner Pfannenstiel '70.

information so we will be able to do the same thing in 2021. We are also looking for four additional sponsors for next year's hole prizes, so please let the Alumni Association know if you would like to donate.

Whether you have never played golf or you're a seasoned pro, get a group together and come on out for this year's tournament. It's a great way to raise money for a great cause while having a wonderful time with new and old friends. It was awesome seeing so many golfers both young and old this year. Hopefully, we can continue to have wonderful turnouts. I have Jared working on booking Garth Brooks for the post-round entertainment next year.

Look for all the details for the 2021 tournament in this fall's newsletter.



CLASS NOTES



1950's **Sister Janis Wagner, CSJ '57** will celebrate 60 years as a Sister of St. Joseph on June 6, 2021, at the Mother House in Concordia, Kansas. She worked in parish ministries and as a music teacher. Congratulations, Sister Janis, on this wonderful milestone!

Two nice sentiments from alums were sent regarding the fall 2020 edition of The Next Page. **Rosaline Sander Nash '58** said she enjoyed the "We're Naming Names" trivia section. "It was fun to read and had some surprises too. Keep up the good work with The Next Page!" We also heard from **Bernadette Dinkel Gottschalk '59**: "We enjoyed the newsletter. Good job!!" Thank you ladies for the enthusiastic feedback.

1960's **Patricia ("Patty"/"Pat") Sander Legleiter '65** and her husband, Harry, celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on September 27, 2020. Blessed to this union are six daughters and fourteen grandchildren. Pat says, "The big family is supportive, caring, and full of fun. They keep us young at heart!"

Brenda Schmidtberger Yoder '67 shared that her husband, Rocky Yoder retired in November. Rocky and Brenda, we hope you enjoy retirement.

1970's **Jerry '72 and Rhoda Windholz Urban '76** will celebrate 20 years of marriage on April 21. They are enjoying retirement together — Jerry from Murfin Oil Company after 19 years and Rhoda after teaching 25 years in Kansas with all but the first year here in Victoria.

Jorge Trevino '75 and his wife, Laura, happily announced the birth of their first grandson. Daniel Mikola Trevino was born on April 2, 2020.

Karl Berens '76 retired on March 27, 2020, from the Cancer Treatment Center of America after 30 years of

service. Karl and his wife, Pattie, will be enjoying the years ahead. Congratulations, Karl!

Paula Brungardt Zwenger '78 and her husband, Patrick, retired to the family farm and returned to their Kansas roots in June of 2019. They celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on August 30, 2020. Together they are enjoying exploring new opportunities.

1990's **Tracy Patterson Reed '91** is now running The Library Grill and Bar full time with her mom, Ilona Patterson. Alumni have enjoyed good food and beverages at their establishment for many years. Gathering there is a hometown tradition that is still enjoyed by many locals and visitors.

Heather Wittman Arasmith '96 was awarded licensure as a Kansas Certified Residential Appraiser in October of 2020. She is in her fifth year with the Wilson Company in Manhattan, Kansas.

Travis Hammerschmidt '98 and Alisha Dinges were married on August 22, 2020, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria. Travis is the son of **Allen '68** and **Karen Sander Hammerschmidt '70**.

2000's **Jordan Robben '09** and his wife, Kaylee, announce the birth of a son, Barrett Lee, born January 24, 2021, at Hays Medical Center. He was welcomed home by his sister Sophie, 3 years old. His grandparents are **Rick '76** and **Marla Brungardt Robben '78**.

Ashley Tholen Wellbrock '09 and her husband, Andy, announce the birth of their daughter, Ava Jane Wellbrock, born on August 24, 2020. Ava has an older brother Talen, 3 years old. Ashley is the daughter of **Tom '74** and **Janice Schmidtberger Tholen '77**.



CLASS NOTES



2010's Zach VonLintel '12 married Sarah Kuhn '13 on August 29, 2020, at the Basilica of St. Fidelis in Victoria, Kansas. Sarah is the daughter of Joe '73 and Diane Sanders Kuhn '83. Zach is the son of Daren VonLintel '86 and Stacy Dinges.

Stephanie Hoffman '11 married Ian Edwards on October 24, 2020, at Holy Cross in Pfeifer, Kansas.

Colten '13 and Audra Nowak Leiker '14 announce the birth of their son, Weston James Leiker, on February 3, 2021. Colten's parents are Keith '84 and Karen Leiker and his grandmother is Sheila Roth Leiker-Page '60.

Lucas Taylor '18 married Hanna VonLintel '17 on September 19, 2020. The couple have made their new home in Colby, Kansas, where Lucas is a police officer. He started to attend the Police Academy in February. Hanna is a Colby first grade teacher, and, in a unique coincidence, is teaching in the very classroom and grade her mother-in-law, Kim Taylor (currently Victoria Elementary 1st grade teacher), once taught.

2020's Logan Unrein '20 has begun a full time career working for Jay Dinkel '95 of Jay Dinkel Construction. Logan has worked for Jay throughout high school. He is the son of Diane Kuhn Unrein '83 and her husband, Curtis.

Editors Note: Please help your newsletter committee. If you wish to see your family information—a death, birth, marriage, anniversary, or other news—appear in the newsletter, please submit it to VHS Alumni Association, PO Box 382, Victoria, Kansas 67671 or email to info@victoriaalumni.com

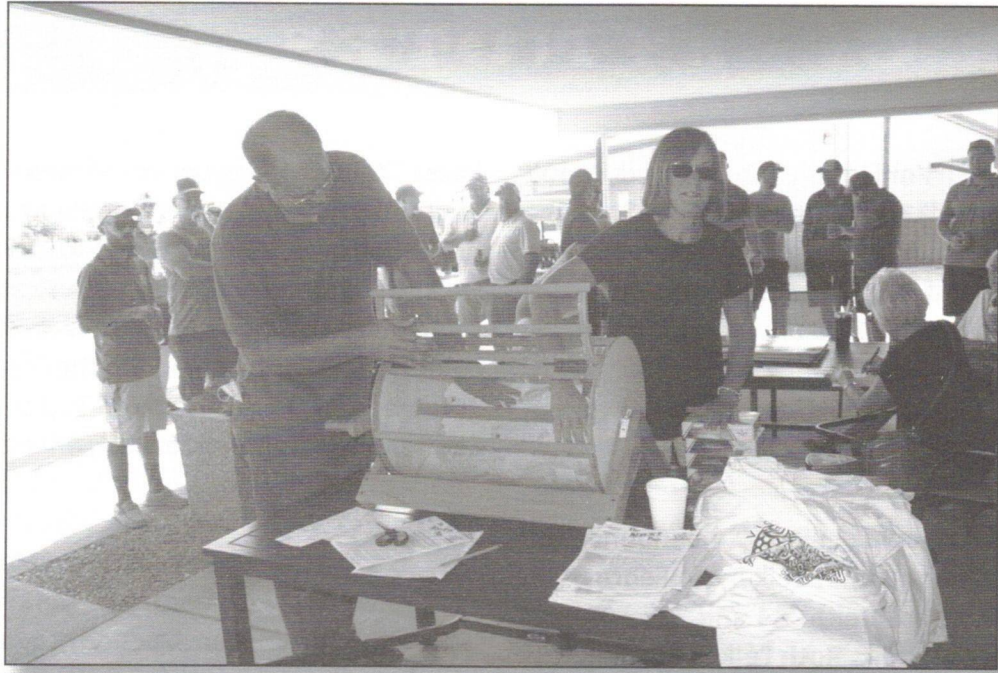
Knights Football/Volleyball Teams Perform Well

The Knights football team entered the 2020 post season at 9-0, having outscored their opponents by an average of 50 to 13. Their first opponent was Norwich, and the Knights claimed victory over the Eagles 54 to 6. Next up was a rematch with Sylvan-Grove, whom the Knights defeated in the homecoming game 52 to 22. The second contest also went to the Knights, this time 50 to 0.

Grainfield/Grinnell/Wheatland was the Sectional opponent for Victoria. Entering the final quarter, Victoria led 30 to 20, and the Knights would add 14 more in the fourth while allowing only six from their opponents to take the victory 44 to 26. The football team advanced to Sub-State at a perfect 11-0. St. Francis was also undefeated, and a game worthy of the championship round was held in the semi-finals. Halftime saw the Knights in unfamiliar territory as they trailed 22 to 14. A tough second half didn't improve things, as St. Francis pulled away for the victory 44 to 22. The football team concluded their season 11-1.

The 2020 volleyball team also had success, in both the regular season and the playoffs. The Lady Knights entered the post-season with a record of 23 wins and 5 losses and were the top seed in their sub-state. In their sub-state opener, the Lady Knights defeated Oberlin-Decatur Community 25-15 and 25-13. They next took on Kensington-Thunder Ridge in the championship match. The Lady Knights swept them as well, 25-19 and 26-24 and were off to State.

The format for State volleyball was modified due to Covid-19. The four opening round matches were held at local schools, and Victoria traveled to Claflin to take on Central Plains. The State matches were expanded to best of five sets, and Central Plains took the first two sets 25-23 and 25-17. The Lady Knights forced a fourth set by winning the third 25-23, but Central Plains claimed victory in the fourth 25-10. The Lady Knights ended their season 25-6.



John Schulte (left), Alumni Board president, and Sandy Goetz, Alumni Board member, drew the winning entries in the 2020 Alumni Scholarship Raffle during the annual golf tournament. The drawing needed to find a new “home” since the annual alumni banquet was unable to be held due to the coronavirus pandemic that interrupted so many events in 2020.

Raffle Drawing Finds New “Home” & Success During the Dreaded COVID Year

The annual alumni raffle was one of the few functions able to be held in 2020, albeit with a major change of when and where the drawing was held. The raffle is one of the main sources of funding for the scholarships awarded every spring. Without the raffle, the quantity and amount of the scholarships would have to be decreased, so the Alumni Board made it a priority to keep the raffle possible during last year.

The main hurdle with the raffle was finding a place to hold the drawing. The winners are usually drawn during the homecoming banquet, but with the cancellation of the alumni banquet, the raffle drawing was suddenly without a home. Several ideas of where to have the drawing were made, including doing it via internet live-stream, but the best option was to hold it at the conclusion of the golf tournament.

As the golfers came back from their rounds, the raffle hopper was brought front and center. After a few last minute tickets were purchased, the drawing was made by **Sandy Dreiling Goetz '82**.

The winners were.

\$100	Cora Braun Schulte '55
\$200	James Rohleder '81
\$300	Jane Baier Schumacher '79
\$400	Mary Ellen Dreiling Williamson '57
\$500	Clair Schulte '66

James donated his winnings back to the Alumni Association, and Cora gave back half of her prize. Thank you to both of them for their generosity and to everyone who participated in the 2020 raffle.

Due to the continued success of the raffle, the Alumni Board will be able to offer four \$1,250 scholarships to the 2021 graduates. The winners of the scholarships will be announced in the fall newsletter. The raffle will be held again this fall, with the drawing hopefully back to its regular home at the alumni banquet.

Alumni Donate Towards System to Broadcast Junior / Senior High Ball Games Over Internet

In the fall newsletter, high school principal Dylan Dronberger asked for financial assistance for a new technology system which became necessary due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The system was being implemented for broadcasting Junior and Senior High ball games over the internet so patrons could enjoy the competitions from their own homes. A total of \$960 was collected from the alums and was passed on to the school for this new service.

Mr. Dronberger asked that the donations be tabulated by class, and so it was. Any class that sent in \$100 or more would be recognized during a break during the broadcasts. Donations for the broadcasting fund came from the Class of 1954 up to the 2005 class. Only three classes met the \$100

threshold Mr. Dronberger set. The classes of 1958, 1996, and 2003 should be commended for their efforts in assisting the school district.

The total money collected has been broken down into a competition by decade. If your decade fell short this time around, keep that in mind by donating more the next time the district makes a request for your assistance.

1950s:	\$230	1980s:	\$65
1960s:	\$100	1990s:	\$130
1970s:	\$250	2000s:	\$185

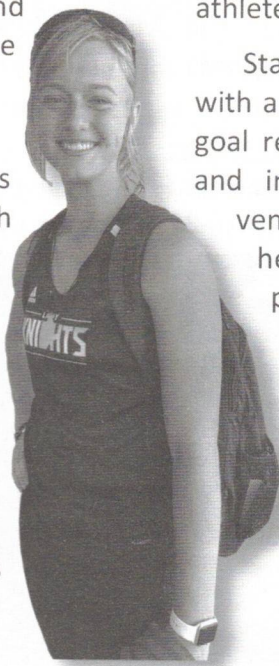
A link to the broadcasting site can be found on the alumni website, www.victoriaalumni.com. After creating an account, you can view previous broadcasts as well as any upcoming events.

Brooklynn Kuhn Accomplishes Tennis Goals Takes 3rd in State Representing Lady Knights Tennis

by Coach Kaylene Jacobs Gabel '95

Capping off her stellar high school tennis career, Brooklynn Kuhn, daughter of **Curt '94** and Rochelle **Kuhn**, finished with a third place finish at State in October.

Brooklynn first stepped into her high school tennis career just four short years ago. She began as a doubles player with **Megan Karst '18** and through that experience learned about competition, confidence, court presence, and the game itself. She finished 11th at State and, having gotten a taste of that level of play, she made a goal for herself to return there each year and perform with a higher placing each year. For those that don't understand, in girls tennis 3-2-1A is combined, so this was a lofty goal.



Her sophomore year, she made the switch to singles and found a whole new perspective of the game of tennis. She grew so much as a person, athlete, and student of the game.

State was great, and she finished as a sophomore with a 10th place finish. Junior year was next, and the goal remained. After a non-stop summer of training and improving her game, she came out with a vengeance and sheer determination. Those around her could sense big things were in store. A 6th place State finish proved that right.

She has represented Victoria Lady Knights Tennis very well these past four years at the state level.

Congratulations to Brooklynn and best wishes in all of her future endeavors, on and off the court.

25-Year Reunion Classes '95 and '96 Will Share Honor This Year Years Ago They Shared a Classroom as 5th and 6th Graders

The classes of 1995 and 1996 will be honored as co-25-year reunions this fall. Some members from these classes are already accustomed to sharing with the other, as these two classes were placed in an experimental split-classroom for the 1988-1989 school year. The problem was that both classes were a little too big to teach as a single class, but neither was large enough to justify splitting into two rooms. The fifth grade ('96 class) had approximately 30 students and the sixth grade ('95 class) had around 25.

Nine volunteers from the sixth grade and nine from the fifth were placed in the same room for the school year. **Bill Kuhn '61**, a 2015 Alumni Hall of Fame inductee, was their homeroom teacher, and he was given the tough task of preparing two lesson plans for each subject for every day. While Mr. Kuhn was teaching the

6th grade, the 5th graders were to study quietly at their desks, and then the opposite would occur.

Mr. Kuhn had help from other teachers during the day. David Ottley, who was inducted into the Alumni Hall of Fame in 2009, taught the "regular" class of 5th grade, and came to the split-class to teach English. Patrick Scott taught the larger 6th grade homeroom and covered Math. While Mr. Ottley or Mr. Scott was in the split-classroom, Mr. Kuhn was in one of their classrooms teaching Social Studies to the fifth or sixth graders. This was the rotation that occurred every day as the three men worked together to get the students educated.

The split-class experiment was deemed a success, but has not been attempted since. Mr. Kuhn, Mr. Ottley, and Mr. Scott were grateful for that.

For the 1989-1990 year, the class of '95 moved on to the Junior High, and the class of '96 was combined into one room. Mr. Scott was given the unenviable job of teaching the entire class. To assist him, the district hired an assistant teacher, which is known today as a para-professional. Mr. Kuhn and Mr. Ottley taught the normal sized 5th grades that year, and the three colleagues again rotated between the rooms.

In the fall of 1990, the Junior High was expanded to become the Middle School and the 6th, 7th, and 8th grades were all held in the former seminary. The Middle School remained open until the spring of 2010, when the new addition to the High School was finished, and the 7th and 8th grades were transferred to the new building, and the 6th grade was moved back to the grade school.

BELOW: The Classes of 1995 (left) and 1996 enjoyed their 20-year reunion during the alumni banquet and the Homecoming parade. This year they will be honored as co-25-year classes during Homecoming celebrations.



Hall of Fame Inductees Are a Diverse Array

After taking a forced absence in 2020, the Alumni Hall of Fame hopes to be back for Homecoming 2021. The Hall of Fame was established in 2002 as a way to honor school personnel for their service and dedication to the Victoria school system. In 2010, the Hall of Fame started to include VHS graduates who have made a significant contribution of their time and talent to their fellow man.

There are 56 members who have been inducted into the alumni Hall of Fame. There are cooks, custodians, bus drivers, athletic directors, secretaries, principals, superintendents, musicians, a school board member, and, of course, teachers who have been inducted.

The teachers in the hall come from every subject: Math, Physics,

Science, English, Music, Shop, Driver's Education, Speech, Typing, Business, Accounting, Physical Education, Home Economics, Art, Computers, History, Civics, Government, Foreign Languages, Geography, Industrial Arts, and Economics. The teachers in the hall also come from kindergarten all the way up to the high school.

The holy order also has a few members in the Alumni Hall of Fame. The Sisters of St. Agnes are represented by Sr. Annabel Dreiling, as are the Capuchins with Fr. Mike Scully, who taught Math at the High School from 2007 to 2011.

Coaches are in the hall as well. There are coaches from football, basketball, baseball, tennis, track, cross country, volleyball, and cheering. Along the same line of coaches are play-directors and sponsors from every imaginable

club from NHS, FHA and FCCLA, V-Club, SADD, Forensics, Student Council, Pep Club, Skills USA, and many other clubs that have disbanded.

The Alum-at-Large inductees cover a diverse array of backgrounds. Included are business owners, politicians, accountants, teachers from Victoria as well as other districts, authors, civil servants, and carpenters.

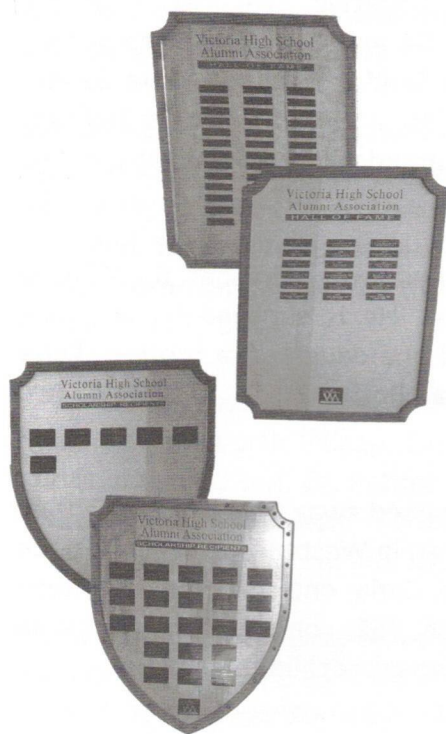
As you can see, the Alumni Hall of Fame inductees cover a wide spectrum of livelihoods. Please take the time to consider making a nomination to the 2021 Alumni Hall of Fame. Nominations are due by June 1. You can find a form on the alumni website www.victoriaalumni.com to assist you in making your nomination.

Relocated due to overcrowding and alums' poor vision: Scholarship and Hall of Fame Plaques

The four plaques that hold the names of the honored Alumni Hall of Fame Inductees as well the alumni scholarship winners have changed location. The plaques used to hang high on the wall in the hallway outside the gym. The plaques were hard to read due to their height and the light reflecting oddly off each plaque.

Late last summer, the hallway outside the gymnasium was in need of a new coat of paint. The alumni plaques were only supposed to be taken down temporarily for painting, but the school's custodial staff came up with a better home for the alumni display. With the Alumni Board's blessing, the plaques were moved straight to the north and into the hallway of the new addition. They are now located just to the north of the entrance to the shop.

The plaques now hang closer to eye level and are much easier to read. Thought was also given to the not-so-distant future when more plaques will be required to list the Alumni Association's honorees. Enough room was left to accommodate another set of plaques, once that need arrives.





In Loving Memory



Gloria Weigel Withers '52 passed away May 20, 2018, in Denver. Survivors include one son; two daughters; a brother, **Danny Weigel '56**; two sisters; and nine grandchildren.

Rosemarie Quint Magness '41 passed away on October 12, 2020. She is survived by her four children and their spouses.

Jerome Leiker '62 passed away July 27, 2020, at his home. He is survived by two brothers, **Dennis '58** and **Wil '64**; and a sister, **Nancy Leiker '60**.

Officer Mitchell "Mitch" Berens '87 passed away August 28, 2020, at Hays Medical Center.

He is survived by his wife, Tisha; one son; one daughter; his mother, **Norma Jean Kuhn Berens '54**; two brothers, **Mike '82** and **Matt '89**; one sister, **Michelle Berens Tuma '81**; one step-son; and one step-daughter.

Paulette Dreiling Sander '54 passed away August 29, 2020, at Hays Medical Center. She is survived by her husband, Norman Sr.; one son, **Norman Jr. '75**; one daughter, **Debbie Sander Leickteig '76**; two sisters, **Luella Dreiling Bowman '49** and **Cathy Dreiling Roth '70**; four brothers, **Lloyd '51**, **Dan '64**, **Roy '62**, and **Frank '80**; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Clarence "Bud" Jacobs passed away September 7, 2020, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, **Dorothy Dinkel Jacobs '62**; one son; two daughters; one brother; and seven grandchildren.

Jim Dinkel '66 passed away September 13, 2020, at Hays Medical Center. Survivors include his wife, Peggy; one son; three daughters; three brothers, **Melvin '60**, **Delmar '63**, and **Kenny '64**; three sisters, **Dorothy Dinkel Jacobs '62**, **Lucy Dinkel Brown '65**, and **Donna**

Dinkel Deckman '77; 11 grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Barbara VonFeldt Kisner '63 passed away September 21, 2020, at Good Samaritan Society, Hays. She is survived by her husband, Jon; one son; two daughters; and three grandchildren.

Jacy Braun '16 passed away October 2, 2020, at Wesley Medical Center, Wichita. He is survived by his parents, **Terry '86** and **Krista Braun**; a brother, **Walker '19**; his fiancée; and his grandparents.

Lucille Kuhn passed away October 4, 2020, at Hays Medical Center. She is survived by two sons, **Leon '74** and **Norbert '78**; two daughters, **Donna Kuhn '78** and **Diane Kuhn Unrein '83**; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Norman Sander Sr. passed away October 6, 2020, at Brookdale Assisted Living, in Hays. He is survived by a son, **Norman Jr. '75**; a daughter, **Debbie Sander Leickteig '76**; two brothers, **Vernon '54** and **Bob '59**; three sisters, **Charlene Sander Rohr '51**, **Jane Sander Legleiter '58**, and **Carrie Sander Billinger '65**; three grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Harold Roth '67 passed away October 6, 2020, in Overland Park, Kansas. He is survived by his wife, Beverly, one son; and one daughter; a brother, **Terry '76**; a sister, **Donna Roth Gartin '71**; and two grandsons.

Francis Younger '59 passed away October 24, 2020, at Clear Creek Care Center, in Westminster, Colorado. He is survived by his wife, Carla; one son; two daughters; one brother, **Nathan '52**; one sister, Geraldine Younger Ruder; and two grandchildren.





In Loving Memory continued



Darlene Karlin Ernst '59 passed away at Wilson Care Center, Wilson, Kansas, on November 1, 2020. She is survived by three sons; five brothers, **Darrell, Francis '64, Larry '67, Tony '74, and Tom '83**; two sisters, **Carol Karlin '62** and **Marilyn Karlin Wagner '71**; four grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Norma Jean Riedel Bollig '48 passed away November 3, 2020, at Presbyterian Nursing Home of Clay Center. Survivors include two sons; one daughter; a sister, **Judith Riedel Andrews '56**; ten grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Jeremy Seib passed away November 14, 2020, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by his parents, Don and **Janice Stramel Seib '73**; two sisters; and his grandparents.

John Burton '76 passed away November 17, 2020. He is survived by his aunt, Margaret Brungardt; many cousins; and the **Class of 1976**.

Lydia Leiker Kuhn Wallace '48 passed away November 25, 2020, at Via Christi St. Francis Hospital/Harry Hynes Memorial Hospice, Wichita. She is survived by one son; one daughter; two brothers, **Verlin '52** and **Joe '54**; and six grandchildren.

Joe Brungardt '82 passed away November 29, 2020, at his home in Victoria. He is survived by his mother, Margaret; three brothers, **Charles '84, Dan '88, and Al '92**; and three sisters, **Julia Brungardt Weber '79, Laurie Brungardt Fajardo '81, and Sister Mary Elizabeth C.P. '86**.

Anita Stang passed away November 30, 2020, at Good Samaritan Ellsworth Village, Ellsworth, Kansas. She is survived by one son, Dr. Patrick Stang; two daughters, **Marilyn Stang Pflughoft '70** and **Ruth Stang Brunts '72**; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.

Florin Dome passed away November 30, 2020, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by five sons, **Florian '73, Darrell '77, Marion '80, Stuart '82, and Stan '82**; three

grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

George Dinkel passed away December 3, 2020, at his country home, Victoria. He is survived by his wife, Mary Ann; one son, Mark; one daughter, **Cheryl Dinkel Downes '86**; a brother, Fr. Harvey Dinkel OFM Cap.; two sisters, **Mary Dinkel Younker '48** and **Viola Dinkel Richmeier '51**; six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Robert "Bob" Braun '67 passed away December 9, 2020, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Michelle; one son; one daughter; one brother, **Alfred "Fritz" '56**; three sisters, **Juliana Braun Urban, Tina Braun Geist-Braun '58, and Charlene Braun Unrein '63**; four grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Wyatt Dustin Windholz, infant son of **Garett Windholz '04** and Jennifer Taylor, passed away December 14, 2020, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by his parents; a sister; and his grandparents, **Leland '67** and **Mary Ann Dinkel Windholz '74**.

Dan Billinger '75 passed away December 17, 2020, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by one son; a daughter; long-time partner, Pamela Groff; two brothers, **Bob '67** and **Ken '79**; two sisters, **Kathy Billinger Kuhn '68** and **Jeanne Billinger Riedel '71**; and two grandchildren.

Armella Huser Schmidt '46 passed away December 20, 2020, at her daughter's home in Hays. Survivors include two sons; a daughter; two step-sons; two step-daughters; one brother, **Leon Huser '61**; three sisters, **Stella Huser Braun, Arlene Huser Wittman '64, Henrietta Huser Herl**; eight grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

John Robben '80 passed away December 21, 2020. Survivors include his wife, Karen; two daughters; four brothers, **Michael '74, Jim '77, Dan '78, and Joe '81**; and two sisters, **Marijo Robben Isbell '76** and **Sue Robben Karlin '82**.



In Loving Memory continued



Bill Brungardt '59 passed away December 22, 2020. He is survived by his wife, Marcie; one daughter; two sons; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Steve Schumacher passed away December 25, 2020, at his home. Steve is survived by his wife, **Paula Schippers Schumacher '81**; two sons; his parents, Laverne and **Jane Urban Schumacher '57**; two brothers; one sister; and father-in-law, **Paul Schippers '55**.

Larry Billinger '65 passed away January 14, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Cynthia; four children; a brother, **Gilbert '63**; six grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.

Thomas Dreiling '84 passed away January 28, 2021, at his home in Victoria. He is survived by his son; his parents, **Julius '52** and **Darlene Brungardt Dreiling '57**; two brothers, **Troy '86** and **Terry '87**; three sisters, **Debi Dreiling Cline '81**, **Deanna Dreiling '82**, and **Dori Dreiling Smalley '90**; and two grandchildren.

Julia Brungardt Weber '79 passed away February 1, 2021, at her home. She is survived by her husband, **Mitch '75**; two sons; four daughters; three brothers, **Charles Brungardt '84**, **Dan Brungardt '88**, and **Al Brungardt '92**; two sisters, **Laurie Brungardt Fajardo '81** and **Sister Mary Elizabeth C.P. '86**.

Joseph Haberman passed away February 10, 2021, at Kansas Soldiers Home, Dodge City. He is survived by his wife, Helen; three sons, **Randy '79**, **Brian '82**, and **Doug '83**; a daughter, **Christine Haberman Engle '75**; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Bill Jacobs passed away February 19, 2021, at Hays Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, **JoAnn Hammerschmidt Jacobs '70**; three brothers; and one sister.

Loren Dreiling '70 passed away at his home on February 25, 2021. He is survived by his companion, Cindy Boor; twelve brothers, **Mike '66**, **Roy '66**, **Thomas '69**, **Rodger '71**, **Galen '72**, **Tim '75**, **Duane '76**, **Mark '78**, **Jerry '79**, **David '81**, **Paul '83**, and **Neal '83**; and three sisters, **Elaine Dreiling Clouse '64**, **Mary Dreiling Koehler '73**, and **Norine Dreiling Hamby '88**.

Norma Jean Quint Fellers '52 passed away March 2, 2021, at her home. Her survivors include one son, three daughters, six grandchildren, four step-grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, and three step-great-grandchildren.

Bonita Linenberger Schulte '61 passed away March 8, 2021. She is survived by her husband, **Gary '60**; two sons; one daughter; and eight grandchildren.

Eric Pfeifer '08 passed away on March 5, 2021. He is survived by his parents, **Tom '76** and **Kathy Pfeifer**; one son; three brothers; two sisters; and his grandparents, **Al '50** and **Arlene Wellbrock Pfeifer '50**.

Dorothy Goetz passed away on March 23, 2021, in Hays. She is survived by three sons, **Tom '67**, **Jerry '68**, and **Ron '69**; one brother; one sister; seven grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace.



Dream Big

by Rick Rajewski '69

One of my favorite movies is "Pretty Woman" which begins and ends with a man walking the streets of Beverly Hills chanting "you have to have a dream." Walt Disney is credited with the saying: "If you can dream it, you can do it." I am not sure just when my dream got started or why it developed as it did. I do vividly remember my father intentionally getting me the last appointment of the day when I needed a doctor's appointment during my junior year at VHS. I had talked with him about the possibility of studying medicine and he and mom had no idea what that entailed or how to get started. So, after the business part of the appointment, dad asked if we could talk about becoming a doctor. Dr. Hull spent the next half hour discussing the life of a doctor and the road to a medical degree. I was surprised at his positive attitude both with his life and that he thought I was a good candidate to give it a try.

I had grown up enchanted with the University of Kansas much more for Jayhawk basketball and football than academics. The dream of going there was greatly hindered by the financial constraints of a small family farm livelihood. College was expensive and KU more so than Fort Hays, so I decided to attend Fort Hays to see if I could succeed at the college level. A few days after graduation, I received a letter informing me I had been awarded a scholarship to the state university of my choice

making it feasible to attend KU. But I was scared! I had never been east of Salina before. Fortunately, about the same time, I discovered my first cousin was going to KU and I concluded if Mary Kay can do it, maybe I can also.

I was overwhelmed during my first few semesters at KU. I gave up on medicine since everywhere I went, so many students were "pre-med." Most of them had come from the big high schools in Kansas City and Wichita. They had access to college level courses at their high schools and I felt small and inadequate relative to their experience. I concentrated my efforts on math and chemistry with plans to become a physical chemist.

Early in my sophomore year, my grandfather, for whom I had great admiration suffered a heart attack and died suddenly. My response was anger to the point of dreaming about medicine again. Maybe I could help prevent such disasters. Then came wisdom teeth removal. My dentist sent me to Joe Camarata who was both a dentist and medical doctor. He somehow learned of my interest in medicine. We talked several times, and he became the eagle under whose wings my life changed. He got me involved with other doctors in Hays and gave me encouragement that I could indeed be admitted to and graduate from medical school. He was a smoker and died at age 56 of lung cancer. Another mentor had met premature death.

Meanwhile, I had discovered I

could do as well as all the big city students. Many of them looked to me to be part of their study groups. I ultimately tutored upper class pre-med students who had trouble with the math and physics required for med school admission. I realized an intense appreciation for my high school teachers and coaches who had prepared me far better than a small-town farm kid deserved. January 20 of my senior year I came back to the dorm from class, looked in my mailbox, smiled without opening the mailbox, and went down to lunch. I got one of the "fat" envelopes that we all knew meant you are in!

I must also say heartfelt thanks to my family for their support and encouragement. I know they all had to work harder to get me through. Mom and Dad always provided quiet, humble inspiration. When I was born, my grandfather came to the hospital to visit and commented to my mother I was another soldier for Truman. Mom said no he's not; he is going to be the first doctor in the family. She never told me of her prophecy until the day I graduated from medical school.

My recent retirement has caused me to reminisce about 45 years in medicine and the 10 years before in preparation. I hope my story will encourage especially the younger members of our ranks to never assume your dreams are unattainable. Seek the Lord's inspiration for the passion that warms your heart and then go out and make it happen.

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Doubling the Honor Classes in 2021

The Alumni Board of Directors is hopeful that Homecoming 2021 will return to some sense of normalcy in everyone's lives. However, to get to that goal, one more year of abnormal activities will have to be tolerated.

Lost in all the cancellations of 2020 were the 10-, 25-, and 50-year honor classes that missed out on their turn to brag about themselves at the homecoming banquet. The classes of 2010, 1995, and 1970 had the misfortune of having their special reunion occur the same year as a global pandemic.

In order to allow these "skipped" classes to have their turn in the spotlight, the Alumni Board has decided to double-up on the 10-, 25-, and 50-year reunions in 2021. The

classes of 2010 and 2011 will co-celebrate their 10-year reunions this fall. Same goes for the twin 25-year classes of 1995 and 1996, and the classes of 1970 and 1971 will be the co-50-year honorees.

The 2021 alumni banquet will also have dual grand marshals. **John Braun '49** served to lead the 2020 homecoming parade, short as it may have been, and he will be around this fall to get his moment in the spotlight. The 2021 grand marshal will be announced in the fall newsletter.

Let's hope that things continue to improve, and with a little bit of luck, we can all look forward to celebrating two years-worth of homecomings this fall.

Pictured is the class of 1970 at their 40th class reunion in 2010. They will celebrate their 50th reunion this fall, after a one-year delay.

