Whether they are involved with the cast, orchestra, or crew, and whether they have been involved for all four years or are only just beginning their musical journeys, several students throughout various grades share the impact that the annual productions have on their Lourdes Academy high school experience.

Senior cast member Nick Danielson ('18) and senior pit orchestra clarinet player Andrea Beecher ('18) have been involved in musical all four years of high school and explain their favorite musical memories and relationships they have formed throughout the years.

According to Danielson, who played Cornelius Hackl, "Musical throughout my four years has been an extremely rewarding experience. I love performing and am so thankful to be able to do what I love with such great people and mentors. My time in these musicals throughout high school has given me relationships and memories I will carry

Continued on next page.
with me forever.”

Beecher, on the other hand, explained how being involved in the pit orchestra is just as valuable as being involved in the cast onstage. “I like being in the pit because it gives me an opportunity to be very involved in the musical but I don’t have to sing and dance in front of a crowd onstage. I like the behind-the-scenes feel of being in the pit. It’s really rewarding to see the band and choir kids come together to put on the production every year.”

According to junior cast member Max Lippert (‘19), who played Horace Vandergelder, “I have been participating in the musical cast since my freshman year, and I have gotten the meanest character in every musical I have done. Charlie Cowell in The Music Man and Sidney Bernstein in Curtains definitely brought out the mean side of me that I never knew was there, and it was a feeling unlike any other to be able to perform them.”

Junior cast member Gwendolyn Gruber, who played Irene Molloy, explained how she used her talents both behind the scenes and onstage throughout her three years in musical performing and choreographing dances with her mother and choreographer, Michelle Gruber.

“I have been fortunate enough to help choreograph and teach the dance numbers to my classmates which has helped me grow as a dancer and as a person. Musical has kept me determined, involved, driven, and has allowed me to express my love of singing, acting, and dancing, and I will always be grateful for the opportunity to perform on stage.”

Hello, Dolly! takes place in turn-of-the-century New York where a professional matchmaker, Dolly Gallagher Levi, comes out of seclusion after mourning her late husband, Ephraim Levi, and decides she is going to marry miserly half-a-millionaire hay and feed dealer Horace Vandergelder.

Horace and his young niece, Ermengarde, disagree over her choice of suitor in Ambrose Kemper, and he decides to let his matchmaker, Dolly Levi, take Ermengarde to New York to get away from Ambrose. Dolly arranges for Horace to meet widowed milliner Irene Molloy and heiress Ernestina Money in New York, but she knows both matches will not succeed.

Vandergelder’s young store clerks, Cornelius and Barnaby, decide to take a holiday to New York along with Ermengarde, Ambrose, and Dolly, where they spy on Vandergelder and hide in Irene’s hat store. Irene, Dolly, and Irene’s assistant, Minnie Fay, distract Vandergelder until he leaves the hat store to attend the 14th Street Parade and to meet his second heiress.

Dolly declares that Cornelius and Barnaby must take Irene and Minnie to Harmonia Gardens for dinner and teaches them how to dance. Cornelius and Barnaby attempt to save their money and hide from Vandergelder all while attempting to impress their dates.

Dolly makes a grand entrance in the restaurant and dines with Horace, when he discovers that his niece and employees are dancing in the polka competition. The entire party is arrested, and in the courtroom, Horace is declared guilty, and Cornelius declares his love for Irene.

Back in Yonkers, NY, Horace realizes that Dolly is the wonderful woman he wants to be his wife. Dolly convinces Horace to take Cornelius as his business partner and approve of Ermengarde and Ambrose’s wedding as she intended all along.
Alumni Connections

Billy Dettlaff - Writing Golf’s Rich History

By Dylan Driessen, Lourdes Academy Marketing Intern

Billy Dettlaff (’68) knew he wanted to follow in his father’s footsteps at a young age. His father, after serving in the US Army during World War I, returned home to Oshkosh in 1921 and began to pursue a career in golf. He spent 35 years serving the local community at Lakeshore Municipal Golf Course. Dettlaff’s father also spent several years playing in a variety of PGA Tours including the Western Open, 1934 US Open, and the 1934 PGA Championship. It’s safe to say that golf was in the Dettlaff blood.

Dettlaff was born in 1950 and grew up with the game of golf his entire life. He got his start at Lakeshore Clubhouse as well as Oshkosh Country Club. At both of these clubhouses, Dettlaff worked as a caddie and maintenance crew member. He went on to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree majoring in Journalism and minorig in Radio-TV-Film at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh. While attending UW Oshkosh, Dettlaff won a number of national journalism awards. Furthermore, Dettlaff worked for five years in Chicago at the Free Press Newspaper Group.

In 1978 he decided to pursue his dream of being a PGA club professional. Dettlaff gained PGA membership in 1981 by completing the PGA Apprentice Program, then attaining the PGAs highest classification of Master Professional in 1988. Dettlaff was active in the PGA serving on chapter, section, and national levels. He has been recognized with numerous honors and awards and has served PGA Education on the adjunct faculty. He retired from the PGA Tour in 2009 and wrote his first book in 2007 entitled A Storyteller’s Guide—The Players and TPC Sawgrass for the PGA Tour. It was released in 2007 in a limited edition of 1,000 leather bound copies and a slip cased paperback edition of 30,000 copies.

Dettlaff released a book called Doctors of the Game in September 2016. Since the release of the book, it was a finalist in the USGA’s prestigious Herbert Warren Wind Book Award (billydettlaff.com).

Dettlaff is very humbled by his young beginning at Lourdes Academy. When asked about his favorite memories from Lourdes Academy, he stated, “I was at the bottom third of my class, at times didn’t apply myself and one day I spoke with Brother Gabriel.”

After reviewing their records, Gabriel told Dettlaff, “You are much smarter than what your grades are telling me. This IQ should not be reflected in these poor grades. You need to apply yourself.”

“He gave me an inspiration,” Dettlaff said. “I thought I was a goofball and Brother Gabriel’s encouragement changed my life. I am very proud to have graduated from Lourdes Academy. Lourdes Academy gave me the freedom to do things.”

After Dettlaff retired he began to shift his focus to research and publishing. He saw an opportunity to reconnect with his father’s favorite game while educating others on golf’s rich history. Dettlaff has written several books. However, when asked which book was his favorite to write, he replied, Doctors of the Game.

“I got so in depth,” he explained. “I spent nearly seven years researching it. I felt like I knew these people by the time I was done writing it. The internet opened up so many doors for me, but I still continue to purchase books, and the oldest book being from 1875.”

Dettlaff currently resides in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, with his wife Geraldine. He has four children and seven grandchildren. Despite being busy with his current projects and grandchildren, he still finds time to reconnect with old friends from Lourdes Academy. When asked, how he stays connected with Lourdes Academy, Dettlaff replied, “I read the Shield alumni newsletter and enjoy reading about sports and graduating classes. I stay in touch with friends I went to school with.”
Fr. Eric Nielsen’s contribution to the priesthood

By Drew Kennebeck and Miro Hradsky, Knight Writer Student Journalists

1979 Lourdes alumnus Fr. Eric Nielsen says he starts each day by praying the rosary, going to daily mass, and spending 20 minutes in prayer every day.

But, it was his love of nature that ultimately led him to the priesthood. Fr. Nielsen said that he felt a call from God during his experience as a canoe guide in Northern Wisconsin and due to his love for water and the outdoors.

“Eventually I felt God asking me to be a priest; after a year of putting it off, I made the decision.”

Fr. Nielsen felt very prepared for his journey through priesthood due to his Lourdes Catholic education.

“The late ‘70s was not a high point in Catholic education, but there were many good people in my class, and the teachers cared for us. I also learned important English skills and a strong understanding of science.”

At Lourdes, Fr. Nielsen said that one of his teachers, Fr. Bazzi, stood out as a role model to him.

“Fr. Bazzi was a man of deep faith and was very strong. He seemed like a war hero type to me.”

At 28 years old, after Nielsen graduated from UW Madison as an engineer and lived and worked in Washington D.C., San Diego, Alaska, and Germany, he felt like it was “time to settle into something,” so he began his priesthood in Milwaukee.

Fr. Nielsen is currently working on one of his biggest accomplishments in the priesthood. He is finishing work on a $29 million building project and is now working on how to best utilize the space created.

It is clear to say that Fr. Nielsen has no regrets in joining the priesthood.

“Getting up in the morning and knowing that I am perfectly free to do whatever I think God wants me to do is definitely my favorite part about being a priest,” Nielsen said.

Col. Steve Gabavics returned to Lourdes in April to share his military experience with current students.

Col. Gabavics shares his experiences with Lourdes students

By Miroslav Hradsky - Knight Writer Student Journalist

1990 Lourdes alumnus Col. Stephen Gabavics gave a presentation at Lourdes Academy in Dr. Jake Jacobs’ “Scandals and Conspiracies” class on April 20.

Jacobs said that Gabavics had students’ attention, and everyone in the class was impressed. According to Jacobs, the presentation was great because Gabavics told about his service.

Gabavics said that he visited over 60 different countries, and he was stationed in Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan. According to Jacobs, back in the days Gabavics served there, Bosnia and Kosovo were really volatile and dangerous.

Gabavics said he received a Bronze Star medal for his service in Afghanistan. He also served in the military police in Germany.

According to Jacobs, Gabavics was in Germany when 9/11 occurred. Gabavics said that he and his unit were picked up by helicopter from a training ground in south Germany to safeguard the U.S. Embassy in Berlin. Gabavics said that they were afraid of an international attack.

Jacobs also said that Gabavics is currently stationed on the United States base in Cuba, Guantanamo Bay.

Please stay in touch

We love to hear from our alumni! Please update your information so we can keep in contact with you. Stay up to date with Lourdes Academy events and programs by updating your information on the Alumni link at www.Lourdes.today. Be sure to share this link with fellow alumni and add our email address to your address book or safe senders list so our emails get to your inbox.
It’s a Great day to be a Knight!

Congratulations Class of 2018! Graduates will be attending local, regional and national colleges with 10 students going on to Catholic universities. The Class of 2018 earned 303 college credits with 60% completing college courses while in high school.

Knights compete at state

Lourdes Academy sent 20 track athletes (boys and girls) to the WIAA state tournament in La Crosse. Several teams and individuals made it to the podium, including Connor Barfknecht (‘18) who took second in the high jump clearing 6’4” in his first state appearance.

The girls 4x200M team consisting of Joely Hurkman (‘20), Delaney Gresser (‘18), Izzy Kelly (‘19) and Alexis Rolph (‘19) placed third marking the second year in a row this relay team placed in the top three. Alexis Rolph also placed sixth in the 200M.

Lourdes students, led by head coach Tim Moore (‘86-back row far left), traveled to the state track meet in LaCrosse.

The all-senior 4x400M team consisting of Colyar Newton, Marshall Pecore, Jackson Moore and Axel Frank made it to the podium with their sixth place finish.

Strong performances were also given by Raechel Russo (‘20) in the shot put, Jackson Moore (‘18) in the 1600M, and the 4x800M team of Carly Vandenhouten (‘18), Maria Tushar (‘19), Addie Masini (‘20) and Ellen Moore (‘20). Vandenhouten was also named a 2018 WIAA Scholar Athlete, the fourth Lourdes student to receive this honor in the past six years.

In addition to success on the track, Dan Dunn, senior on the Lourdes Academy/Valley Christian golf team, tied for fourth overall in the Division 3 WIAA state golf tournament.

Congratulations to all of our Knights for their performances.

Attorney Schuster named Rising Star

Lourdes Academy alumnus John Schuster (‘97), owner of Caliber Law, S.C., was recently featured in the Wisconsin Law Journal highlighting him as an up and coming business law and real estate attorney.

Attorney Schuster, JD MBA, is a fourth generation Oshkosh resident, who focuses his law practice on business law and real estate in the Fox Valley Area. He is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Madison (MBA), University of Iowa School of Law (law degree) and Boston College (undergraduate degrees).

Schuster is a five-time winner of the SuperLawyers “Rising Star” recognition in the area of Business Law, which recognizes the top 2.5% of attorneys in Wisconsin annually.
The class of 1967 held their 50th reunion on October 14, 2017 in the Bill Behring Commons. The evening began with a tour of the school. Music, food and reminiscing were shared by the 120 classmates and spouses in attendance who traveled from 10 states, including California, Indiana, Michigan, Florida, Colorado, Illinois, Minnesota, Kentucky, Texas and Arizona. A highlight of the evening included memory boards and an honoring the veterans that served our country. The classmates were joined by former teachers Dennis Dewing, Ralph Nielsen, the Reverend Thomas Mayefske and Judy Jacobson.