

WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI EMISSARY

The Official Publication of the West Catholic Alumni Association

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WEST CATHOLIC ALUMNI ASSN.
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Our Mission Statement...

Our mission is to preserve the spirit and traditions of West Catholic High School by instilling fellowship among the faculty, friends, former students and graduates of West Catholic High School and to provide support to West Catholic High School and its students.

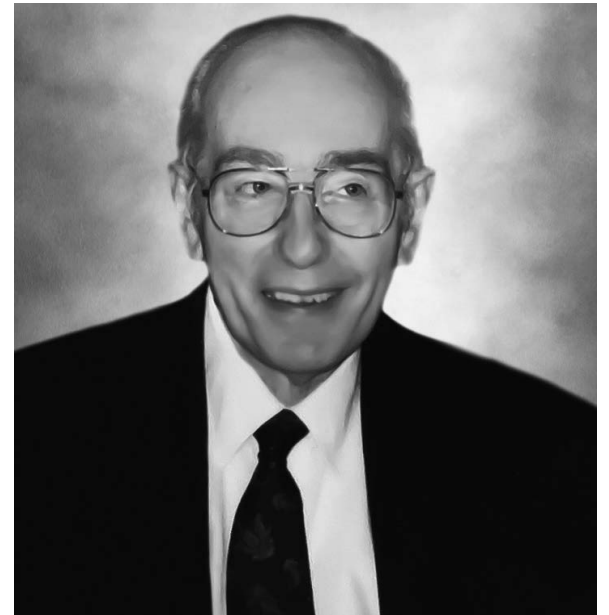
"West Catholic High School" is intended to be defined broadly to include the current West Catholic Preparatory High School as well as its predecessors.

The mission statement is read at every meeting of the Board of Governors and is intended to remind the members of the Board and the Association that all actions, plans and programs should be consistent with the purposes set forth in the mission statement.

Thank You Phil!

Philippe A. "Phil" Girard, of Newtown Square, PA, passed away at the age of 91 on January 21, 2019. Phil was born in Darby, PA and was the only child of Thomas L. and Marie A. Girard (nee Degagne).

Philippe was a graduate of our beloved West Catholic High School for Boys in Philadelphia, PA class of 1946 and Villanova University. He served in the United States Navy during the World War II era. Phil was the owner of Press Publishing Company, which publishes four local news papers and continues to publish our Emissary to this day. Phil was a truly dedicated Burr and served on the West Catholic Alumni Association for many years and has contributed to the legacy of the Burrs. His daughter Andrea continues to run Press Publishing and continues on the legacy of her father working with the Alumni Association on many projects.



R.I.P. Phil, Thank you for your years of dedication and service!

JULY 12, 2019 WEST CATHOLIC NIGHT AT THE PHILLIES

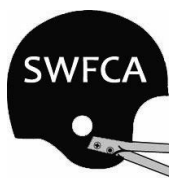


Friday, July 12 at 6:05 pm. Join West Catholic alumni, family, friends, students and staff for a fun filled West Catholic night!

For the second straight season we are having a West Catholic night at Citizens Bank Park. This years event is even more special than having our West Catholic night, in addition there will be fireworks after the game and plenty of fireworks

during as the Phillies will be facing Bryce Harper's old team, the Washington Nationals. Please visit www.westcatholicalumni.org and click on the Phillies logo to purchase your tickets for this event. The game will take place

SUMMER IS COMING ... **JUNE 23 2019 Burrs at the Beach**
The Inlet on Olde, North Wildwood, NJ



Southwest Football Coaches Association Honors West Grads in North Wildwood

This June 22nd, yes the night before Burrs at the Beach, SWFCA Clinic party will be held at Kennan's in North Wildwood, NJ. They will be presenting 'Spirit of Southwest Philly' awards to **Frankie Rodia** and **RJ Perry** of Haggerty's Café and Grill, **Billy McDevitt** of B&E Sportswear and an individual salute to **Rob 'Cos' Costello**. The awards will be

presented around 6:00pm. In addition both **Fran Dunphy** and **Phil Martelli** have graciously accepted the invitation to attend the SWFCA Clinic party. These two 'Children of SW Philly' who went on to be tremendously successful careers in college basketball, never forgot where they came from. They never forgot the positive impact participating in CYO sports had on their

careers. SWFCA and all in attendance can finally formally say 'Thank You' to them for all they have done for us.

We hope all friends of SWFCA can join us at Keenan's the evening of June 22, 2019 to help us honor and thank all these great 'Children of SW Philly'.

Make it a Burrs Weekend in Wildwood!

CLASSMATES & FRIENDS SHOWED STRONG SUPPORT ONCE AGAIN AT THE 98TH ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST

The Alumni Association held its 98th Annual Communion Breakfast on April 28, 2019. The Mass began at 9 am and was immediately followed by the Communion Breakfast and Annual Awards Ceremony.

Over 200 guests attended this years event honoring West Catholic Alum for their accomplishments and community involvement.

The Annual Communion Breakfast is the longest standing West Catholic tradition! It is a chance to demonstrate the Association's and the School's guiding commitment to our Catholic heritage and to Catholic Education! The Communion Breakfast embodies the West Catholic Spirit and each year gives you the chance to join your friends and classmates at the Breakfast to share camaraderie and golden memories!

Each Year the Awards Ceremony, honors Alums and Friends of West Catholic that have demonstrated their commitment to the West

Catholic family and exemplify the famous West Catholic Spirit! Information concerning this year's outstanding awardee can be found on our website.

Each year, all funds received in the Offertory Collection are used to provide scholarships to Catholic students at West Catholic. As always our attendees were able to give generously to the offertory collection and a tally will be published on the alumni associations website, www.westcatholicalumni.com, as soon as it is available.

If you were unable to attend the Breakfast, but would still like to support this effort, please send a donation to the Alumni Association, with the notation that it is for the Communion Breakfast Scholarship Fund!

For more information, on next years Communion Breakfast please visit the alumni website and fill out the keep in touch form or simply email us at westcatholicalumni@gmail.com

2019 Communion Breakfast Honorees!

THE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION'S 98TH ANNUAL COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Each year, at the Communion Breakfast Awards Breakfast, the Alumni Association honors alums and friends of West Catholic who exemplify the West Catholic Spirit by their actions, the criteria for each award require that the recipient be a person that exemplifies Catholic values and beliefs and has contributed significantly of their time, talent and treasure to West Catholic Family and their communities in general. Nominations are received from all facets of the West Catholic Family – the Alumni and Alumnae Associations, individual alums, and the School's administration. The number of nominations far exceed the number of awards that can be chosen. In addition to the individual awards, the Alumni Association honors members of the 25 and 50 year classes who deserve recognition in their own right and who exemplify the achievements and spirit of their classes as a whole.

The honorees for the 2019 Communion Breakfast Awards include the individuals listed below.

Brother Edwin Anselm Award



Sister Cora Marie Billing '56

Sister Cora has devoted her life to the service of others and, in particular, tirelessly advocating for racial equality and social justice.

Sister has broken down many barriers and has fought prejudice and intolerance in many arenas. Sister Cora was included in Ebony Magazine's "Black Women Firsts" series, received the Mayor Rendell Recognition Award in Philadelphia in 1998, and holds honorary degrees from Gwynedd Mercy University and St. Joseph's University. In recognition of her efforts to combat prejudice and to promote racial equality and social justice, Sister has received numerous awards from many, many entities, and Sister has served in leadership roles in a vast number of organizations.

Margaret Porter '40 Blue & Gold Award:



Pat McLaughlin '61

Pat is not only a proud graduate of West Girls, but she also remains a very active member and support of the West Catholic community at large. Pat has been a dedicated member of

the Alumnae Association. She currently is serving her second term as President of the Alumnae Association. In that role, she represents the Alumnae on the West Catholic Prep Board of Directors. Pat also is the Website manager for the Alumnae website as well as Editor of the Harvester, the Alumnae Association's newspaper. A nominee must (a) a person who exemplifies Catholic values and beliefs; (b) be an alumna of West Girls, West Catholic or West Catholic Prep; (c) exemplify the West Catholic Tradition, (d) have achieved success in her chosen field, and (e) have contributed significantly of her time and talents to the West Catholic Community.

50th Anniversary Golden Burr Award: Jim Reilly '69



Jim enjoyed his years at West Boys, where his best friends were "too many to name." Jim

remembers Brother Emmet, the baseball team's moderator, as his favorite teacher, and Social Studies and Religion as his favorite classes – but does not have good memories of German class! Upon entering West, he could not wait for spring to come so that he could play baseball – which he did for all 4 years! In addition to his own many great memories as a student (including the first time he saw "Butt Alley"), one of Jim's most favorite West Catholic memories was watching his son, Jimmy, "shoot the lights out at Carroll in a battle for first place in the Southern Division in basketball."

Jim has been dedicated to youth sports. He coached CYO sports for many years and has been an active member of Southwest Coaches Association, including serving as the Association's Chaplain.

Charlie Donnelly '69



Charlie Donnelly exemplifies the qualities of a loyal Burr. He has devoted much of his time to keeping his fellow alumni active and connected. Charlie is a hard-working member of the Burrs at the Beach Committee. He can be found at the planning meetings, greeting guests at the front desk, or hawking

tickets in the months leading up to the event. Charlie's commitment to the Class of 1969 has brought this group together. His tireless efforts have kept him in touch with the majority of its members. Charlie is currently one of the persons spearheading the 50th reunion. He has been described as "the glue that keeps the Class together!"

Hanna Dougherty Campbell '69



Hanna has many personal accomplishments & contributions make her a perfect

representative of the great Class of 1969! She has always kept her classmates informed of special happenings at West Catholic, such as Alumnae basketball games and other social events. The Alumnae Association's Communion Breakfasts and Luncheons always have Hannah there as an active volunteer. Hannah serves on many of the Alumnae Association's committees and currently is working on the Class' 50th Reunion!

Bishop John McCort Award:



Peggy Panichelli '65

Peggy has many fond memories of her days at West Catholic Girls, especially memories of performing with the Glee Club! Her favorite class was English, and her favorite teacher was Sister Saint Gertrude. Peggy's best friends at West included Carol Paslay, Carol Hines and Donna Feher.

Peggy was nominated for the Bishop McCort Award by alums in recognition of her service to the West Catholic family and to the community at large. Peggy continually finds time to volunteer for many activities. She has been very active in helping organize the Class of 1965 reunions. Peggy also is a long-time member of Burrs at the Beach Committee and currently is a Co-Chair of the Committee. Peggy also has been very active in helping at the Alumni Association's recent Communion Breakfasts.

Peggy also is very involved in raising money for cancer research through dance-a-thons.

To her Classmates, Peggy says "Be proud of your education at West Catholic. We are very fortunate. It's never too late to accomplish a dream!"

25th Anniversary Silver Burr Award:



Jim Reilly '94

A nominee must (a) be a person who exemplifies Catholic values and beliefs; (b) be a member of the 25 year anniversary class of West Catholic (the Class of 1994); (c) be a proven "loyal son" of West Catholic; (d) have achieved outstanding success in a chosen field of endeavor; and (e) have contributed significantly to West Catholic in any form.

Brother Martin Strickroth Award:



Joseph Deitzman '71

Joe's dedication to the youth of Southwest Philly is something that not many can match. He was dedicated to the youth of Saint Barnabas and to the CYO program. He was involved with the STB CYO from 1984-1998. He served as the Athletic Director from 1989-1993 and coached the football team from 1985-1994.

As one of the founding member of the Southwest Coaches Football Association, Joe and the other members helped hundreds of youth stay involved in sports. His dedication evolved and worked to ensure that others were paying it forward through their work.

Golden Burr Award Eric Rutherford '81



Eric is being recognized both on and off the field impact he has had as well

as the many contributions he has made and continues to make to the children of West Philadelphia. For over the last 20 years, Eric has devoted his time and talent to serving the

children of West Philadelphia, as Physical Education Teacher and coach at St. Francis De Sales School. He recently was honored by the De Sales School community with the "Pride of De Sales Excellence in Teaching Award" and also received the Dare to Dream Award at the most recent St. Kevin's Annual Basketball Tournament, in recognition of his unceasing devotion to provide students with the opportunities to experience the sports and sportsmanship.

William H. McGarvey Award: John Dukes '73



Born and raised in Southwest Philly, John graduated from West Boys in 1973. Shortly after graduation, John started his life-long commitment of service to others. He is a very active member of the Board of Governors of the West Catholic Alumni Association. John serves on the Veterans, Communion Breakfast and the Scholarship Committees, and played a key role in the reconstruction of the Grotto at the current West Catholic.

John is the author of the book, Dadders, Can I Pet the Whales? Published in 2016, the book is about John's son that had Autism and passed away in 2016 and addresses having a child with Autism and the loss of a child. All proceeds from the book go to charity.

Congratulations to all of our award recipients!

Class Reunion & Luncheons

Your Alumni Association can provide your Reunion Committee with a current listing of your classmates. Any Class planning a reunion or that would like to plan one, please call the Alumni Office at 215-387-8560

If you are having a gathering of any kind let us know about it. We can post it online at www.WestCatholicAlumni.org as well as put it in print for your right here in the Emissary. Just send an email to westcatholicalumni@gmail.com or call the alumni office at 215-387-8560

www.WestCatholicAlumni.org

SPORTS HALL OF FAME A HUGE SUCCESS, PLAN TO BE THERE IN 2019



The West Catholic Sports Hall of Fame returned this year under the supervision of the Alumni Association and did so in grand fashion. This year the event took place in conjunction with West Catholic's Homecoming football game held on Friday evening October 5 at Widener Stadium where West defeated McDevitt 41-0. During halftime



several of the Hall of Fame inductees were announced during halftime of the lopsided contest. The official Hall of Fame induction ceremony took place the following evening, October 6, 2018 at the Clarion Hotel in Essington PA with a crowd of nearly 250 guests who were treated to a night full of honoring some of the best athletes in Burrs history. This years class, all detailed on

the following pages, included Doctors, Teachers, Professional Sports Broadcasters, an NFL running back, future Hall of Famers, many other West Catholic legends and most importantly the friends and family of this years inductees.

Since the event has been on a three year hiatus, the Hall of Fame committee made sure that this event was refreshed and something that all who attended would remember and make sure to spread the good news of the event is back and better than ever.

The Committee choose to redesign the awards and also wanted to honor all members, newly inducted and those who have been inducted in the past, with a one of kind West Catholic Sports Hall of Fame Member pin. The event included dinner and a wonderful presentation to each award recipient.

With the sales of advertising,



tickets the Alumni Association turned a profit on the event and will be purchasing several branded Pop up tents to be used by the teams at their events. items specifically for the athletic department at West.

The planning for the 2019 Sports Hall of Fame Dinner is beginning. Although an exact date has not been set, an Alumni Weekend is being planned for October 2019. The Weekend will include a Friday night football game with the Inductees being introduced at halftime, followed by the Sports Hall of Fame Banquet on Saturday night. Who is going to be inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame? We do not know that either, however, we are asking you, the Alumni of West Catholic to nominate deserving individuals or teams. The criteria for induction into the Sports Hall of Fame is quite simple: All athletes, coaches, and moderators who have distinguished themselves in

their specific sport(s) during their years at West Catholic are eligible to be a candidate for the Sports Hall of Fame. To be considered for the Sports Hall of Fame, all candidates must be formally nominated by completing the nomination form posted on the alumins website or by sending a letter to the Alumni Association explaining why you believe your nominee is deserving of being inducted into the Sports Hall of Fame.

All nominees will be considered by the Sports Hall of Fame Committee who will make the final decision on those inducted.

Special Thanks to our Sports Hall of Fame Committee for their coordination of such a successful event.

Sports Hall Of Famee Committee: Brian Fluck, Jack Hee, David Joslin Jr., Ed Kerr Kyle Schaeffer, Aaron Spence Liana Taylor, Maureen Buckley Ward & Mike Ward

Thank you to all who sponsored and attended the event, see you in October!



West Catholic Prep Students Elevate Their Art To Public Platform Through Partnership With The Philadelphia Art Museum's "Art Futures" program

West Catholic Prep was one of 11 area schools recently chosen to partner with The Philadelphia Art Museum through the "Art Futures" grant. "Art Futures" is an artist-in-residence program that pairs professional artists with art students and teachers at a school.

seeks passionate art teachers, school administrations with interest and availability to host a resident artist, and a group of young student artists who are ready and willing to experiment and to learn and emulate the techniques of practicing artists.

Here's the way it works. Over the course of the multi-week program, the artist spends 30 hours with students and art teachers. The artist collaborates with the teachers to create a curriculum that builds upon the current classroom learning and exposes students to new ideas and techniques. The goal is to broaden students' understanding of artmaking and art. They explore techniques and create their own personal works of art or work together towards a collaborative community art project. At the end of the program in April, there is an awards ceremony, an exhibit and both the students and their teacher receive one-year memberships to the Art Museum.

Morgan felt that West Catholic Prep was a perfect fit for the program because of the dedication and drive of her students. "Applying for the grant is rewarding for the West Catholic Prep art program and our students. It motivates us to do more and provides students and myself with an opportunity to learn and grow from the experience."

West Catholic Prep's artist-in-residence is Kimberly Hall, a multi-disciplinary artist with experience in a number of art-making techniques. She teaches fine arts and design classes at the graduate school level at The Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore and runs her own commercial illustration business. Kimberly works closely with Patricia Morgan on specific projects, hosting tours of the Philadelphia Museum, teaching students about career

This exciting partnership began when Patricia Morgan, West Catholic Prep Fine Arts Department Chair, was accepted into the program in December of 2018. The "Art Futures" program



opportunities in the arts, and assisting students in exhibiting their work publicly.

For Kimberly, a standout feature of the program is the opportunity to take students to the art museum, thereby helping them to better connect with their own work. "The art museum visits allow the students to see how other artists approach their work and use materials and symbols in their work to explore their identities and feeling and share those things with an audience."

Joseph Iacona, former "Art

Futures" artist and Delphia Program Coordinator for the Philadelphia Art Museum, explains the value of the program. "There are many skills in artmaking and values that contemporary artists use in their practice. These include collaboration, willingness to experiment and push boundaries, and critical looking and thinking to name a few. These are all qualities that easily translate into other subject matters and, in fact, you will find are qualities that the greatest minds, in all disciplines, embody."

Kaori Saunders, a West Catholic Prep junior, had never visited the art museum before "Art Futures" and felt that working with Kimberly Hall helped her to better understand artists' work and to express herself through similar mediums. "I've learned to be detailed in my artwork," she said. "Ms. Kim really takes her time, critiques our work, and gives us advice. She helps us to transform our work into something bigger than it was."

WEST CATHOLIC 2018 SPORTS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES



FRANCIS X. KANE Class of 1953 Football & Track



Fran Kane attended West Catholic from 1949-1953. Fran played Varsity

football for three years. He started on 1951 City Championship team, was a Co-Captain on the 1952 team and was selected first team All Catholic at tackle. Fran also was part of the Track team and he specialized in the shotput. Scholastically, Fran was named an outstanding senior for service to West Catholic during his four years. He was one of twelve students to receive this honor out of a class of 600.

MICHAEL FLAHERTY Class of 1984 Baseball / Football



Michael has been selected for his excellence in Baseball and Football during his time as a Burr.

Mike attended St. Irenaeus/Raphael School (SIRS), West Catholic and Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA

During his time at West, Mike was a 3-year starter in football, and was 1st team all-catholic, 1st team All-City, and a team captain in his senior year.

SCOTT THOMPSON Class of 1987 Baseball & Football



Scott has been selected for his excellence in Baseball and Football during his time as a Burr.

Scott attended West Catholic High School from 1983 to 1987 where he played both baseball and football. In baseball as a centerfielder, in his sophomore year, Scott was named 2nd team All-Catholic and All-City. In both his Junior & Senior year he was selected as 1st team All Catholic. In football as a wide receiver, Scott was named 1st team All-Catholic and 1st team All-

City as a Junior and 1st team All-Catholic, All-City and All-State as a Senior and was selected as an alternate for the Big 33 football Classic. He was also named City Athlete of the Year by the Phila., Daily News in 1987. He was also chosen for the Daily News All-Decade team for the years spanning from 1980-1990. After leaving West in 1987, Scott received an athletic scholarship to attend Villanova University where he was a four year starter on the football team.

BOB MERENDA Class of 1958 Football & Track



He was a graduate of West Catholic High School where he was chosen All-Catholic League

halfback in 1960. He then attended college at Villanova where he was a star football player in both the Liberty Bowl and Sun Bowl. Prior to joining the New Jersey State Police, he played professional football with the Philadelphia Bulldogs, Newark Bears and also briefly with the Denver Broncos.

BRIAN "BA" ADAIR Class of 1989 Baseball & Football



Brian was Captain of both the Baseball and Footballs teams. Brian

was a 2-year starter for both the football and baseball teams at West Catholic. He was 1st team all-catholic and 2nd team all-city as a senior in football. BA also had the honor of being a member of the Rowan football team that played in the 1993 National Championship Game. Brian has spent the past 22 years coaching. Brian has coached football at Bok Tech with fellow Hall of Famer Tom DeFelice, St. John Neumann, at West Catholic with Dan Harrell, Williamson College of the Trades, LaSalle University, Rowan University, University of Pennsylvania Sprint Football and Wildwood High where he is in his 7th year coaching as well as his 9th year teaching special education.

ROB WHARTON Class of 1991 Basketball



Rob quickly found his place at West as captain of both the freshmen football team (quarterback)

and the basketball team. Rob was a three-year starter, two-time captain and two-time first team All Catholic during his career. During his junior year, he led the team in assists and steals, and finished second in scoring. During his senior year, he led the team in scoring and assists and was runner-up to the Southern Division MVP. Rob was also the recipient of the Markward Award and was named to the Daily News All-City team. While basketball was his passion, he also managed to rank in the top percentile of his class academically.

Rob attended the University of Rochester and advanced to the NCAA Division 3 Final Four before losing the championship to Calvin College.

He coached at West Catholic for 7 years as an assistant under Bill Ludlow and Jazz Williams. He is still quite active in the West community and is can often be seen at a West basketball or football game.

BILL SCHOENING Class of 1977 Baseball / Sports Broadcaster



Bill earned team MVP honors following his senior season. He was the

starting first baseman during his junior and senior seasons. While at West Catholic, Schoening also served as Sports Editor of the Blue and White yearbook and the West Catholic News.

Bill Schoening is now in his 18th season as the radio play by play voice of the five-time NBA Champion San Antonio Spurs. A 39 year radio veteran, the native of Philadelphia was also the football, basketball and baseball voice of the Texas Longhorns for 12 seasons. In his career, Schoening has called games at Yankee Stadium, Lambeau Field, Madison Square

Garden, and the Palestra.

SHEENA HOWARD Class of 2001 Basketball, Soccer & Track

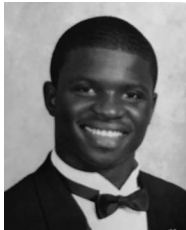


Sheena played basketball, soccer and was a track runner at West Catholic. She was a 3-sport all-catholic in basketball, soccer and track. After West Catholic, she went on to be a 3-year starter in basketball for Iona College.

Sheena became the first Black woman to win an Eisner Award, considered the 'Oscars of Comics' for her first book, Black Comics: Politics of Race and Representation. Sheena is also the author of several critically acclaimed books and comics books.

Sheena is full-time professor at Rider University in the Department of Communication & Journalism.

CURTIS BRINKLEY Class of 2004 Football



Curtis recorded 7,429 rushing yards and 85 touchdowns in his career, the most in

Philadelphia high school history, breaking previous record set by Kevin Jones (Detroit Lions). Curtis also set Philadelphia records with 2,813 yards in his senior season, 399 yards in single game and 216 average yards per game in 2003. He achieved Philadelphia career records with 1,007 carries and five 300-yard rushing games.

Curtis was a 3-time year All Catholic and a 2-time All State player. He was named the 2003 Pennsylvania Class AA Offensive Player of the Year and ranked the 12th-best running back in the nation by Rivals.com. Curtis played in the 2004 Philadelphia City

All Star Game and was named the MVP of the 2004 Big 33 game. At Hargrave Military Academy he was Rated No. 20 prep school prospect for 2005 by Rivals.com and named a 2003 PrepStar All-American. In 2005, Curtis attended Syracuse University. As a senior, Brinkley ran for 1,165 rushing yards and scored 14 touchdowns with 237 carries. In 2009, Curtis signed an NFL contract with the San Diego Chargers and then later in 2013, signed with the Chicago Bears.

BRIAN FLUCK Class of 1988 Football / Coach



Brian was named a PCL 1st Team All-Catholic lineman in 1987. A two-time state

coach of the year, six-time Philadelphia Catholic League Coach of the Year, Brian has tallied a 171-80 record at West. Under Fluck's 20 years of leadership, the Burrs are a three time 2A state semi finalist, a state runner up in 2008 and won the PIAA 2A state title in 2010. The Burrs won nine Philadelphia Catholic League championships and six District 12 2A crowns under Fluck. He has been named by the Philadelphia Eagles as Coach of the Week five times.

Over the past 20 years, he has coached 42 Division 1 or 1AA Players and 4 NFL players. He is ranked 6th of the City's All Time leading coaches in total wins.

In 2017, Brian received the John A. Gillen Memorial League Award from Roman Catholic High School Sports Hall of Fame Committee. This award is in recognition of "... documented excellence as a coach in competition with Roman teams..." He also was inducted into the Philadelphia City All Star Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame in 2017.



West Catholic Merchandise

SHOP ONLINE NOW!

Alumni Merchandise items provide the opportunity to spread West Catholic Spirit & Pride while supporting your Alumni Association. You can see all of the merchandise and place your order at

www.WestCatholicAlumni.org

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* Tee Shirts * Golf Shirts * Burrland Shirts * Sweat Pants

* Hooded Sweatshirts * West Catholic Print 49th St. * Flags * Banners * Pennants *

NEW WC ITEMS COMING SOON!

Times have changed, but dedication to West Catholic girls' basketball unites players of all ages

by Molly Shelly, Updated: February 21, 2019



The girls' basketball team at West Catholic Preparatory High School, as it's called now, held its annual alumni night on Jan. 27, and Lee showed up for the second year in a row to meet the new players and recall her playing days. About 40 female graduates were honored at that game, a handful of whom played for the team when they were students. The Burrs beat Central Bucks West that night, 63-58.

Yes, the ball was round, and the goal back then was to shoot it through the hoop. But, according to Mary Croydon Lee, playing girls' basketball at West Philadelphia Catholic Girls' High School during the 1960s was much different than today.

Lee, who graduated in 1968, played hoops when there were six girls on a team -- three forwards on offense and three guards on defense -- and only the forwards were permitted to shoot the ball.

"You could dribble three times. Then you had to pass it," Lee, 68, of Glenolden, said recently. "Oh, the game moves so much faster nowadays."

"In my day, the basketball uniforms were basically like jumpers," said Lee, who went on to coach grade-school basketball players and work for the federal government in South Philadelphia. "It was like a little dress, and you wore bloomers underneath it. My class at West Catholic was the first to get uniforms that weren't plain. We played in plaid jumpers."

Mary Croydon Lee is shown second from left in the first row of this photo of the West

Catholic girls' basketball team.

West Catholic alumni are active at the school, and some graduates, such as Lee, return each year for a gathering away from the school. Lee said about 90 former students, men and women, attended this year's reunion. The school formally honors graduates who are celebrating their 50th anniversaries each year, and the girls' basketball team acknowledges its former players and other graduates at a home game each season.

The Burrs ended their season with a loss in the Catholic League playoff quarterfinals.

"We want to show today's students that older people, the graduates, still care about West Catholic," said Hannah Campbell, 68, of Havertown, a 1969 graduate. "The West Catholic years were the best

of my life. I sold tickets to the games. I went to the games after school. Sports is part of the connection we all had with the school."

As for more differences between today's players and those from Lee's era, she said it was hard for her generation to juggle more than one after-school activity.

"Back then, you could only do one thing," Lee said. "We were there from 3 to 5 p.m. practicing after school, and then I'd take a bus, a trolley, and walk home. Today, kids can do various things. They can squeeze it in. We couldn't do that. We had to be totally committed to one thing."

Another difference is the school's size. There were about 3,000 students in the all-girls' school in 1968. Today's West Catholic is co-ed, and there are about 400 students, according to Campbell.

At last month's basketball reunion, Lee reminisced about the impact her coach, Dolores Purcell, had on her.

Only the forwards were allowed to shoot when Mary Croydon Lee played girls' basketball at West Catholic.

"She was the best ever," Lee said. "She taught more than just basketball. She taught you responsibility. She taught you to be fair. She taught you to be honest. She was incredible."

However, Lee recalled, her first encounters with Purcell were rocky. The coach cut Lee from the team during her sophomore year.

"I came home, and I was so upset. So my father suggested that I go back and talk to her," Lee said. "I went to her and explained why I thought she didn't give me a fair shot. So I tried out again, and I made the team."

It was this brush with rejection, Lee said, that showed her the qualities that Purcell espoused as a coach.

"I think this is really important," Lee said. "If you want to do something, you really have to try and stick it out."



GET INVOLVED - MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You need not be a board member to participate in any of our committee's. If you see a committee that you wish to join please contact us via email at westcatholicalumni@gmail.com or submit your request through our website www.westcatholicalumni.org

COMMITTEE'S

- Young Alumni	- Scholarship	- Spiritual Affairs
- By-Laws	- Veterans Committee	- Financial Review
- Communion Breakfast	- Burrs at the Beach	- Membership
- Fundraising	- Communications	

COMING SOON

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Send us an email westcatholicalumni@gmail.com




Did you know...THE GROTTO is Back at West Catholic & you can buy a commemorative Brick?

The Veterans Committee of the West Catholic Alumni Association has rebuilt the Grotto that was located at the Boys school and brought the it back to West Catholic Property where it belongs, but we still have work to do. Now with your help and the help of our Brick Campaign we hope to raise enough money place a Commemorative Plaque, Lighting and provide long term Maintenance for the Grotto. "PRO DEO ET PATRIA".



The Grotto was presented by the West Catholic Mothers Club in memory of the West Catholic students who lost their life in service to their country. When the Boys school was torn down the grotto was salvaged with the hopes of one day being able to relocate it on the Combined School grounds. You can also purchase a Replica keepsake 4" x 4" marble tile that will have the same text as your brick for \$25.00 additional.

For questions, please contact Johnnie Walker at fstsgtwalker@comcast.net

<p>4 x 8 Up To 3 lines of Text \$100.00</p>	 In Honor of John Smith USMC 1968
<p>8 x 8 Up To 6 Lines of Text \$150.00</p>	In Memory of Jack Hudginson 2/8/1923 - 8/5/2010
<p>12 x 12 Up To 8 Lines of Text \$200.00</p>	The Connor Family Bill & Maryann Cindy, Katherine & Joshua 2016
	 God Bless America; Land of the Free & Home of the Brave
	 In Honor of Justin Reutelshofer West Catholic Class of 1998



32TH ANNUAL BURRS AT THE BEACH ALL CLASS REUNION SUNDAY JUNE 23, 2019!

Tom Dorrian '61

For the 32st consecutive year the West Catholic Alumni Association, through the Burrs at the Beach Committee, will hold its annual all class reunion at the South Jersey shore. On Sunday June 23, 2019 our event will be held at the "Inlet on the Olde" (formally Westy's Irish Pub) Because of our very successful event last year we are looking forward seeing more of our grads and friends of West Catholic at this years event.

Just as a reminder the B@B Committee decided last year to make two major changes that will remain in effect this year. The first change was not to have live music during the event. DJ Jerry Smith will once again provide your music and dancing entertainment. Second, due to financial difficulties we will no longer provide bus transportation to North Wildwood from Tip O'Learys.

We also noted in last years Emissary , over the years, our attendance has noticeably declined. This is something that we must attempt to reverse or future Burrs at the Beach reunions are in jeopardy. In the past the classes of the 40s and 50s were the true backbone of our success. They were and still are the most loyal Burr attendees at our affair. Unfortunately, God has called many of members of the 40s back to The Heavenly West Catholic. I bring this up because as much as the 50s

classes continue to show their loyalty to West Catholic they too are declining in numbers. I know there are other reasons contributing to our losses including illnesses and aging, in addition many alumni have moved to warmer climates, but we must find a way to get the classes of the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s that are still in our area to show their loyalty to West Catholic. Remember, we graduates of West Catholic are from numerous parishes and neighborhoods that made growing up in West and Southwest Philly and yes Delaware County filled with awesome memories. Well our affairs are as much about our old neighborhoods as they are of West Catholic. We are asking for all who attended (even one year) or lived in the old West Catholic neighborhoods to make every effort to attend our great reunion and meet and reminisce about our youth and the friendship we had "back in the day". This will also be an opportunity for the newer grads to show the old head whom is more loyal. We need to get back to the days when B@B had thousand(s) attend to make us the greatest All Class Reunion of all. We mentioned in our last article, since the inception of B@B we have raised over \$800,000.00, including the \$13,500.00 we raised from our 2017 Reunion.

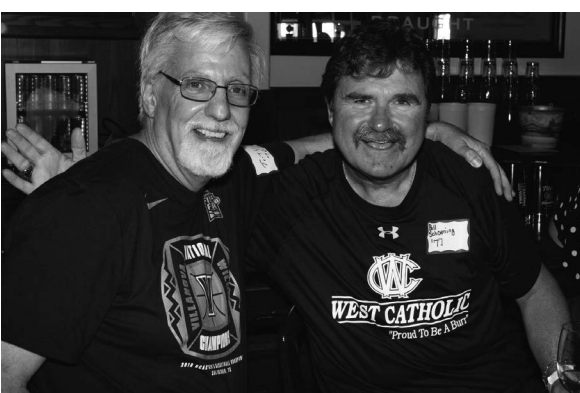
Our goal this year is to raise \$25,000.00, but we can only attain that with your

participation. To reach our goal we need in excess one thousand alumni, alumna and friends of West Catholic. I know that displaying our West Catholic loyalty we can readily reach our goal.

The price of a ticket remains the same, \$20.00 in advance and \$25.00 at the door. Our new host want to show their appreciation that we are continuing to use their venue for our affair. They will provide easily accessible food courts, inside and out, for their usual culinary delights. There will be many bars strategically placed around their venue providing your favorite beverage. The new owners will continue to charge discounted prices on most drinks.

Many bars will be in air-conditioned areas and of course the open air 2nd floor deck overlooking a beautiful view Moore's Inlet. DJ. Jerry Smith will once again spin records that cover the 40s to the present to satisfy all musical tastes. We will also continue our popular 50/50 drawings that usually include 3 big winners of different sums. To make sure that everyone has a chance to win one of these prizes we will have many committee members filtering throughout all areas for easy access to buy tickets. Please make every effort to make Burrs at the Beach the biggest all class reunion again!

**SEE YOU ALL ON SUNDAY
June 23, 2019 AT THE INLET
ON OLDE!!!**



IN MEMORIAM

May They Rest In Peace

Name	Grad Year	Thomas J. Simpson	1947	Francis B. Brzoska*	1952	John J. Driscoll	1956	Robert Feldbaum*	1965
Cyril E. Daly *	1934	Robert Williams	1947	Robert I Dimond	1952	Francis S. Barrett *	1956	James J. Keating	1965
Andrew R. Magazzu*	1938	Michael J Buchanan	1948	Robert E. Hudome*	1952	David N. Brennan	1956	Edward E.M. Wright	1965
John O. Burghart*	1938	William Carey*	1948	Amato A. Juliano	1952	Edward M. Burns	1956	Robert J. Dougherty *	1966
Charles W. Tuppery	1938	Albert F. Chelius	1948	Raymond W. Maimone	1952	Edward J. Dugan Jr.	1956	John J. Kuzmick	1966
(Br. Gedeon Luke)		John G. Colgan*	1948	Ronald E. Mahoney	1952	John F. Healy*	1956	James J. Whelan	1966
Arthur J. Petrella	1939	James J. Ferry *	1948	John J McLaughlin Sr.	1952	Robert J Holt Sr	1956	Stanley Hamilton	1967
Arthur J. Petrella *	1939	James D. Kelly *	1948	Peter J. Meehan	1952	James A. Bendel	1957	Dr Alfred R. Zikowitz	1967
George J. Taraborelli	1939	Thomas A. Lloyd	1948	Paul D. Paffett *	1952	John J. Dougherty Sr.	1957	James P. Kady	1968
John A. Hoffman *	1939	Joseph J. McBryan Jr*	1948	Joseph R Patterson	1952	David H. Ferris	1957	Jon R. Polito	1968
John A. O'Donnell*	1939	William J. Cloran*	1948	Thomas R Stanton	1952	Bernard P. Hasson	1957	Timothy J. Sheehan	1968
Eugene L. Daly	1940	Gerald J. McDonough	1948	Joseph Taulane *	1952	Thomas J. Lego	1957	John J Wolf	1968
Charles Petron *	1940	Edward H. McDonald	1948	Charles B. Vicker*	1952	William "Bill" Mahoney	1957	Anthony J. Adair (Odie)	1969
Edward J. Mulligan *	1940	Charles H. McGettigan	1948	Joseph P. Burke *	1953	William C McCullough	1957	John A. Long	1969
Rev. John A. Cannon	1940	Robert J. Nunan *	1948	Robert L. Bersheim *	1953	John James Mullen	1957	Thomas W. Toland Sr.	1970
Edward J. Casey	1941	Charles F Bloemker*	1949	Bernard L. Carr*	1953	Joseph L. Scully	1957	Joseph F Dietzman	1971
John D. Pierce	1941	Mark Concannon	1949	John P Corr*	1953	Bernard J. Webb	1957	Joseph J. Egan	1971
William F. Strain*	1941	Francis J. Conroy Sr.	1949	Gerald A. Dougherty	1953	Phillip H. Carson	1958	William M. Karpovich	1971
Andrew J Gormley *	1942	Andrew J DiNardo	1949	John P. Gibbons	1953	Bro. Kenneth E. Cooke, FSC	1958	Joseph A Courtney	1972
John J. Healy*	1942	Carmen A. Dippolito*	1949	William P. Horan	1953	Charles R. Driscoll	1958	Paul R. Maugeri	1972
John Francis Reardon	1942	John J. Gallagher	1949	Thomas F. Keane Jr.	1953	Charles T. Martini	1958	Lawrence E. Cassidy	1973
James J. Rowland	1942	John P. Hafferty*	1949	William H. Kelly *	1953	Thomas C. McClain	1958	Jeffrey W. Kline	1973
John J. Shea	1942	Morris Lasorda *	1949	John M. Lacey Jr*	1953	George A. Gans *	1959	Gregory J. Gibson	1973
Joseph E. VanKirk Sr.*	1942	William J. Liney	1949	Thomas F. Mayo	1953	Jospeh J. Kady*	1959	Frederick M. Cerceo	1974
Joseph McDermott	1942	Francis L. Mahoney *	1949	Victor J. Seichepine *	1953	Richard Kropinski*	1959	Charles E. Rupp Jr.	1974
Jospeh F. Denver*	1943	Frank C. McLaughlin Jr.*	1949	Arnold W. Parnell	1953	Thomas J. Williams *	1959	David Battagliese	1974
Edward J. O'Halloran	1943	Donald J. Shavney *	1949	James J. Costigan *	1954	George C. Beck	1960	Michael J Nolan	1974
John C. Conway	1943	James T. Smith *	1949	Donald J. Dougherty Sr.*	1954	Gerald B. Cooney*	1960	Thomas M. Felder	1974
John P. Gillane *	1943	George L. Taylor	1949	Joseph W Farrow	1954	Joseph G. Kennedy	1960	Andrew J. D'Alonzo	1975
Robert J. White	1943	Alfred R. Zencak *	1950	Joseph J. Iandolo	1954	Thomas J. Kersey	1960	Mario C. Ragone Jr.	1975
Francis I. Corey*	1944	Arthur A. Cassidy	1950	Albert M. Juliano	1954	Joseph P. Donato	1960	Walter King	1975
Rev. John J McVeigh*	1944	William L. Carney *	1950	John J. Kelly, Sr.	1954	Nicholas F. Gerace *	1960	John Kenny	1976
Charles A. Pastore*	1944	Frank Culbertson*	1950	Neil F. McAllister, Ph.D	1954	Patrick J. Cawley Jr.*	1960	William Perry	1976
Joseph V. Topper	1944	John W Garrity *	1950	Thomas A. McDevitt *	1954	Robert F. McCann	1960	John J. Kenny	1977
James J Waters	1944	Geffrey B. Kelly	1950	Joseph F. Mullin *	1954	Francis J. Culkun *	1961	John J. Kenny	1977
John F. Dunn	1945	James J. Larkins*	1950	Joseph W, Nagle *	1954	William A Feeley	1961	William R. Bowes	1978
Bernard J. Ferry *	1945	John J Jones*	1950	James F. O'Brien	1954	John H. McKay *	1961	William J. Johnston	1978
John B. Ivers*	1945	David J. McCluskey*	1950	Francis E. O'Neil*	1954	Mario C. Romano	1961	Bernard F. Malseed Jr.	1978
Joseph M. Korkus *	1945	Joseph E. McMenamin	1950	Robert J. O'Donnell *	1954	William J. Shaw *	1961	Michael Molineux*	1978
Robert F McGinley*	1945	Joseph R. O'Toole *	1950	Paul J. Scott	1954	Arthur R. Summers	1961	Robert W. Perkins*	1978
Rev. Msgr. Richard J. Skelly	1945	Joseph Prince	1950	John W. Vencius	1954	Michael E. Sullivan	1961	Joseph R. Matteo	1979
Phillipe "Phil" Girard	1946	Patrick J. Quinn	1950	Mario A D'Alonzo Jr. *	1955	Michael J. Burke	1962	Robert B Tierney	1979
John F. Logue*	1946	Thomas Spreman *	1950	Joseph B. Dougherty	1955	Carl A. Williams *	1962	Thomas E. Mapp Jr.	1979
Thomas J. Mercadante *	1946	Rev. Edwin V. Schwartz	1950	Leroy J. Downs	1955	Thomas J McCullough	1962	Philip J, Davis	1981
Francis A Nealon*	1946	Ralph D. Sinnott	1950	Bernard J Edmondson*	1955	Brian D. McCann Sr.	1962	Perry W. Haney	1982
Edward J. Chupein *	1947	James T. Tobin*	1950	John P. Gallagher*	1955	Robert De Joseph*	1963	James A. Gibson	1984
Vincent P Davis	1947	Dr. Joseph A Walsh Jr.	1950	Vincent A. Geraci	1955	Hugh Donovan	1963	Donnell Wallace	1989
Thomas M Duffy*	1947	Joseph L Castagna*	1951	Edward C. Harkin Esq.*	1955	James E. Dooley	1963	Jason J. Schatzman	1991
Francis M. McCaughey *	1947	Raymond A. Custon, Jr.	1951	James S. Kirwin*	1955	Lawrence G. Kennedy*	1963	Nelson Davis	1987
Francis P. Martin	1947	John A. Duffy, Jr. *	1951	Patrick A. Lavelle*	1955	James A. Donahue, Jr.	1963	Ian C. Prescott	2006
George F. Brady	1947	Thomas F. Hegarty *	1951	Edward D. Layden *	1955	David M. McCormick	1963		
Hugh E Curran	1947	Charles M. Matsinger	1951	George W Nelson Jr.	1955	Charles W Zwaan*	1963		
John D McGrory	1947	Hugh Mensack *	1951	John M. O'Connor*	1955	Thomas A. Connell Jr.	1964		
Edwin Mensack	1947	Gerald J. McManus	1951	Edward M. Parker	1955	John P. Keenan Jr.	1964		
John J. Moscony	1947	John A. Mellon	1951	James T. Rae*	1955	Michael P. Murphy	1964		
Robert J. Gregore*	1947	Leonard J. Sessa*	1951	Edward J .Tallant III *	1955	Edward Joseph Williames	1964		
Thomas J. Fitzpatrick Jr.*	1947	Francis W. Zelenkowski *	1951	Francis D. Truax	1955	Robert A. Bianelli	1965		

* Indicates a Veteran Please keep the families of our deceased in your prayers



NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING AND ALUMNI ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS

Pursuant to Article 3, Section C, of the Bylaws of the West Catholic Alumni Association, the annual general meeting of the Association will be held on Wednesday June, 12, 2019 beginning at 6:45 PM at the Clarion Hotel 76 Industrial Highway, Essington, PA 19029. Pursuant to Article 4, Section B, of the Bylaws of the West Catholic Alumni Association, the purpose of the general meeting will be to elect members of the Board of Governors of the Alumni Association for the term September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2021. All Members of the Association are eligible to vote in the Alumni Association election and to be elected to the Board of Governors. The Bylaws define "Members" of the Association as: (a) graduates of West Catholic High School for Boys; (b) Graduates of West Catholic High School; (c) former male or female students of West Catholic High School who have completed at least one year at West Catholic High School, and whose original class has graduated.

All members interested in being elected to the Board of Governors must notify the President, Aaron Spence by e-mail (westcatholicalumni@gmail.com) or phone (215-387-8560) no later than June 6, 2019 so that your name may be placed on the ballot. Pursuant to Article 4, Section K, of the Bylaws of the Alumni Association, an organizational Board Meeting shall be held in June, 2019 at which the newly elected Board shall elect the President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Finance and the Recording Secretary for the term of September 1, 2019 through August 31, 2021. No person shall be elected President, Executive Vice President, Vice President for Finance or Recording Secretary unless that person shall have served as a Member of the Board for at least one year. At that same organizational Board Meeting, the newly elected President shall appoint, with the approval of the Board, the Vice President for Communication and the Executive Secretary. If you would like any further information concerning the general meeting or the election, please contact Aaron Spence. at westcatholicalumni@gmail.com or 215-387-8560.