

# CONNECTIONS

## Pius XI High School Needs Your Votes to Win \$500,000

We are only a few days away from another academic year. The start of the school year is exciting and filled with new goals, one of which is an all-community effort to earn award-winning ranking in a Kohl's Cares® \$10 Million Facebook Contest. Some of you may have heard about this effort in recent e-mail communications; we are mobilizing an all-community response to the challenge and need your help!

### Possibilities

It may interest you to know that one of our students registered Pius XI before we received the application papers! Typical of our incredible students and staff, parents and alums, we are united in a mission to achieve one of the highest ranks. Any school that ranks in the top 20 will be awarded \$500,000. This award would not only help complete the Father Robert V. Carney Performing Arts Center, but also support programs that directly benefit students – from academics to co-curriculars to tuition assistance.

We are only a few weeks away from the finish line: September 3, 2010. We have consistently been in the top 30, but need our entire community to reach the top 20! We are “pegged” to do very well based on our strong alum base, families, and community relationships. This project is most worthy and our response needs to be unified, resolved, and focused in the next few weeks.

### Preparation

We have developed a strong communications plan to keep this effort top of mind, but all the preparation depends on our community's commitment. Please consider this an open invitation to help. Vote for Pius XI High School **FIVE** times using the enclosed instruction card. *Then start telling all of your friends, family, co-workers, neighbors, etc. why they, too, should vote for Pius XI.*



### Purpose

**This goal is something greater than ourselves.** What we do together in the next few weeks will shape our future. Please accept my thanks for every effort to strengthen our Pius XI High School. Our community makes us proud to be Pius XI High School.

### We need you!

Melinda Skrade, Ph.D.  
Principal and President

## 2010 Reunions: SAVE THE DATES

**Saturday, October 23**

**Classes of '05, '00, '95, '90, '85, '80, '75, '70, '65**

**Sunday, October 24**

**Class of 1959 and earlier**

All above reunions will take place at Pius XI. Watch for your invitation in the mail in early September.

For more information or questions, contact the Alumni Office at 414-290-8130 or e-mail [alumni@piusxi.org](mailto:alumni@piusxi.org).

The following are additional class reunions that will be taking place this year.

The **Class of 1950** is celebrating their 60-Year Reunion with a gathering on Sunday, Sept. 26 at the Silver Spring Country Club. For questions, contact Dave Kuemmel at 262-796-4355 or [kuemmeld@sbcglobal.net](mailto:kuemmeld@sbcglobal.net).

The **Class of 1959** will be holding a reunion gathering on Friday, August 20 in the Pius XI Field House Lobby. For questions, contact Tom Varebrook at 262-909-8502 or [tvarebrook@yahoo.com](mailto:tvarebrook@yahoo.com).

The **Class of 1960** will be hosting their 50th reunion on Friday, Sept. 24 and Saturday, Sept. 25. The Saturday event will be a dinner held at Westmoor Country Club. For questions, contact Carlene (Breitbach) Heidemann at [carlene@wi.rr.com](mailto:carlene@wi.rr.com).

## Lady Popes are State Champs!

In March the Lady Popes defeated DePere to win the WIAA Division I State Championship! While we have been champs in the past, this is the first WIAA Championship for Pius XI High School.



## Travel to Gettysburg

Mr. McCauley and Mr. Yaeger will be offering an adult trip to Gettysburg, PA open to alumni and parents of Pius XI High School students. The educational experience will consist of two classroom lessons and a four-day pilgrimage to the Gettysburg Battlefield.

The classroom portion will meet on Sept. 30th and Oct. 6th. The trip is scheduled to **leave on Fri., Oct. 8th and return on Tues., Oct. 12th** and the cost will be between \$500 - \$800 depending on participation. The price includes bus transportation, excellent dual occupancy hotel, breakfast, deluxe sightseeing bus and all admissions. You will receive a valuable educational experience at a price you would not be able to duplicate on your own.

If you are interested in this exciting opportunity send a \$100 deposit, checks payable to Pius XI with your name, phone number and email address to reserve your spot. This trip is first-come, first-served. We can take up to 40 people. The deadline to respond is **Wed., Sept. 1st**.

If you have any questions about the tour contact Al McCauley at 414-290-7411 ext. 600, email [amccauley@piusxi.org](mailto:amccauley@piusxi.org) or Pete Yaeger at 414-290-0213, email [pyaeger@piusxi.org](mailto:pyaeger@piusxi.org).

## Welcome to our Newest Alumni: The Class of 2010!



Maureen Riegert, Patrick Kessenich and Nicole Wood

On Saturday, May 29 Pius XI High School graduated its 74th Senior class. In a moving ceremony at the U.S. Cellular Arena, 270 students received their diplomas. Our graduates earned \$12.9 million in merit-based college scholarships - more than any class in Pius XI history! We publicly acknowledged and applauded these exemplary efforts and achievements due to

loving parents, extraordinary teachers and use of God-given gifts.

Nicole Wood, salutatorian, gave the Invocation and Maureen Riegert, valedictorian, welcomed the graduates and the audience of more than 3,000 family members and friends. Ana Solano gave a clever tribute to TAC teachers and the Senior Gift, a donation to the Ed Drexler Scholarship Fund, was presented by Samantha Zager, president of Student Forum. In the Graduates' Farewell, Patrick Kessenich aptly reflected: "My experiences here at Pius XI have taught me one great lesson that is more important than all the rest . . . to learn from my mistakes, to better myself every day, to be who I am, to learn, love, and live life in every opportunity."

As the Class of 2010 looks to their future, they have already demonstrated they have a strong commitment to their alma mater. In an unprecedented demonstration of Pius XI student philanthropy, 53 of our seniors graduated as donors to the Pius XI Annual Fund. Each of them pledged \$100 over four years to the annual fund. In order to make it affordable for the students to

meet their commitment, payments are scheduled \$10 in the first year, \$20 in the second year, \$30 in the third year and \$40 in the fourth year.

Pete Yaeger, Social Sciences teacher and member of the

Institutional Advancement team who solicited the gifts at a senior assembly in early May, was very pleased with the response. For years, Yaeger has been fostering a culture of giving back among our students. "If we remind them of how much Pius XI has meant to them, and help them to understand their Pius XI experience is only made possible through the investment of donors, they are more likely to become donors themselves," he says.



Pius XI High School Class of 2010



Maria Linn receives her diploma from Dr. Skrade

Congratulations to the class of 2010. We are proud of all of your accomplishments and especially of your generosity in support of Pius XI High School.

# Pius XI Honors Meinerz Family with Distinguished Alumni Recognition

At the end of each school year, as part of our annual graduation celebration, Pius XI High School recognizes alumni for their exemplary commitment and generosity to Pius XI High School and the community. This year Pius XI honored the eight children of Viola and Archie Meinerz: Lynn Meinerz Thornhill '61, Leigh Meinerz Peterson '64, Sandra Meinerz Townsend '66, Tim Meinerz '67, Greg Meinerz '68, Scott Meinerz '72, Nancy Meinerz '75, Luann Meinerz Namowicz '76. The family was honored as the last member of the second generation of Meinerz alumni, Kelsey Meinerz (daughter of Scott Meinerz) graduated. Other second-generation Meinerz alumni include Kelsey's sisters Caroline '08 and Meghan '03; Ariel Namowicz '08 (daughter of Luann) and Daniel Liebly '03 (son of Nancy).

In accepting the recognition on behalf of all his siblings, Scott Meinerz spoke of how important it was to his mother that her children receive a Catholic education. Catholic education was so important to his parents that, beginning in 1993, they started a scholarship fund. After their deaths, the scholarship was continued by the Archie and Viola Meinerz Family Foundation. This exceptional investment has been transformative. It has made it possible for dozens of worthy students to receive a Pius XI education who may otherwise not have been able to attend.



Nancy Meinerz, Scott Meinerz, Sandy Meinerz Townsend, Luann Meinerz Namowicz, Greg Meinerz, Leigh Meinerz Peterson pose for a photo before the graduation ceremony begins. Not pictured Lynn Meinerz Thornhill, Tim Meinerz.

In addition to their incredible generosity to the scholarship fund, Archie and Viola Meinerz and all of their children were major donors to the Pius XI capital campaign. The Pius XI High School is truly blessed by the Meinerz family's legacy of leadership.

## Pius XI Welcomes School Chaplain Fr. Peter Berger

In May, Milwaukee Archbishop Jerome Listdecki appointed Fr. Peter Berger to serve as part-time chaplain and faculty member at Pius XI High School. In his role as chaplain, Fr. Berger will serve as a prayer leader and spiritual resource for the Pius XI community, including students, staff, parents and alumni. He will also work closely with Michael Coffey, Director of Faith Formation, to lead Pius XI community members towards centering their lives around the Gospel.



"I am truly excited to have the opportunity to be a part of the community at Pius XI High School," Fr. Berger said when asked about his recent appointment. "I think it's tough being a teenager in any era, but I think it's especially true in our own day and age. It's an age when kids are asking the deepest questions of life and trying to figure out who they are and who they are called to be. The beautiful thing about a Catholic high school is that those questions and that direction can be discussed and considered in light of our Catholic faith, which has wrestled with these questions for two thousand years and has found the answers in Christ. I look forward to being able to help the students to grow in their faith, to draw closer to Christ and also to learn from them and hopefully, together, to draw closer to the One who has come to set us free."

Fr. Berger will also be a part-time Associate Director in the Office of Vocations for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee. He comes to Pius XI after serving Lumen Christi Parish in Mequon.

## 2010 Fall Fundraiser *How You Can Help!*

The time has arrived for our annual fall fundraising campaign – our biggest all-school fundraising effort of the year! During the 2010-2011 school year we are focusing on magazine subscriptions, Entertainment Books, Pius XI raffle calendars, Smart Car raffle tickets, and cash donations. The fundraiser will kick off on September 8, 2010 and culminates with an all-school awards assembly on November 11. Each year, the fall fundraiser is a way for our TAC rooms to engage in friendly competition while advancing the school.

As usual, each Pius XI family is asked to participate in the sales effort, and we are including great performance incentives for involvement. This year's fundraising items include:

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|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Magazine Drive:</b>           | New subscriptions and renewals.   |
| <b>Entertainment Books:</b>      | \$35 each - Local and out-of-state options available.   |
| <b>Pius XI Raffle Calendars:</b> | \$25 each - \$300 cash prize drawn each week! Names are returned to the drawing so each entry has the chance to win each month. |
| <b>Smart Car Raffle Tickets:</b> | One lucky winner will win a 2010 Smart Car! Tickets are \$5 each, six for \$25 and 25 for \$100.                                |
| <b>Direct Donations:</b>         | Tax-deductible contributions result in 100-percent profit to Pius XI and direct donations are doubled.                          |

If you are interested in helping Pius XI reach its 2010 fall fundraiser goals by purchasing an item listed above or donating to a specific TAC's sales quota, please contact Beth Krey '01 in Institutional Advancement at (414) 290-0216 or [bkrey@piusxi.org](mailto:bkrey@piusxi.org).



**PIUS XI HIGH SCHOOL**  
135 N. 76<sup>th</sup> Street  
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Important News Enclosed!

Go Green! E-mail us at [alumni@piusxi.org](mailto:alumni@piusxi.org) and receive future issues of this newsletter in your e-mail box!

## Class Notes

**Jerome Neuner '63** was featured in the *New York Times* for his work as director of the Museum of Modern Art's department of exhibition design.

**Crystal Jane Gerard '84** was featured as a Milwaukeean who has made it in NYC in a March issue of *Milwaukee Magazine's* online publication. Gerard works as a hairdresser and an educator for Bumble and Bumble salons and has worked many New York Fashion Week seasons.

**Evelyn Lauer '94**, English teacher at Niles West High School in Skokie, IL, was named advisor of the school's newspaper *West Word*. Lauer will transform the publication into an online-only publication.

**Annie Glieber '97** was named head coach of the women's volleyball team for Macalester College in St. Paul, MN. Previously Glieber served five years as head coach for Carroll University in Waukesha, WI.

**Julia Black '03** returned to Milwaukee to perform in the Skylight Opera Theater's production of *RENT*.

**Lindsay Mikolajczyk '03** is currently enrolled in the Exotic Animal Training and Management Program at America's Teaching Zoo at Moorpark College in CA. Mikolajczyk completed a degree in Biology from UW-Eau Claire and spent two years working for AmeriCorps prior to attending Moorpark College.

**Jean Baumgardner '05** was recently featured in the *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* for helping to start a dining room for children in Talanga, Honduras while volunteering with Passionist Volunteers International.

**Jeanna Salzer '06 and Grace Weber '06** recently performed at Milwaukee's Turner Hall Ballroom. Grace Weber Band was promoting their latest EP *Sparrows*. Salzer, voted Milwaukee's best Acoustic Performer and Female Vocalist in 2009, opened the evening's performances.

**Claire Blake '09** pitched a no-hitter for the Edgewood College softball team in their 3-0 victory over Milwaukee School of Engineering in April.

If you'd like to submit your news send an e-mail to: [alumni@piusxi.org](mailto:alumni@piusxi.org).

## Want more Alumni News? Help Pius XI Go GREEN!

Would you like regular monthly updates on Pius XI High School and your fellow alumni? Then give us your e-mail address and help us **Go GREEN**. During the 2010-11 school year, those who register to receive our electronic communications will now receive a monthly Pius XI Alumni Connections e-Newsletter. This regular communication will have up-to-date information on alumni gatherings, reunions, class notes and Pius XI community happenings. By helping Pius XI **Go GREEN**, you not only receive **more** news and contribute to a better environment, but also help Pius XI financially. The money that is saved on printing costs could be used for scholarships, classroom materials and other necessities.

To enroll in our electronic communications, simply e-mail [alumni@piusxi.org](mailto:alumni@piusxi.org) with your name, graduation year and the e-mail address to which you want news delivered.

If you currently receive electronic communications, thank you! If you prefer to receive your communications by mail, we will continue to publish three Alumni Connections each year.

For questions, please contact Pat Kowalski in our Alumni Office at 414-290-8130.