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Cover Page: Pius XI Scholastic Art Award Winners Student Artwork 2023

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

As this issue of EXAMEN goes to press, we are joyfully preparing to celebrate the 87th graduating class at Pius XI Catholic High School. From the baccalaureate mass to senior awards to all of the pomp and circumstance of the commencement ceremony, every detail is being laid out to not only honor the four years our Class of 2023 students have spent here at Pius XI, but also properly send them off prepared, full of hope, and focused on the future.

Like our graduation preparations, the stories and updates on these pages are a perfect blend of reflecting on past experiences, contributions, and accomplishments of current students and alumni—including a special donor spotlight article on Tom '62 and Letty Hoye written by guest contributor and award-winning journalist Sarah Hoye '97—as well as a look ahead at what's to come, like the Fr. Carney Memorial Golf Outing benefiting Pius XI Athletics on Monday, July 24 and Popesfest on Saturday, September 30.

The article on page 12 introduces you to a few "Popes You Should Know," while the piece on pages 8-9 pays special tribute to two men—Mr. Ed Drexler '44 and Mr. Terry Mank '68—who were well-known to generations of Popes for the contributions they made to Pius XI.

In late April, we had a wonderful celebration with our Pius XI community at the AMPLIFY XI auction. More than 250 guests joined us to turn things up this year, raising funds to help support scholarships and tuition assistance. You'll find a few event photos on page 5. Be sure to visit our Facebook page to view the entire album. It was a great time and we hope to see you next year!

As we look toward the future, I am reminded of the powerful message God shares through the Prophet Jeremiah, "For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future" (Jeremiah 29:11). I take great comfort in knowing that we can rest in our Lord's promise of hope, the expectation that God will continue to be what He has always been: a consistent loving presence and guide in our lives.

Jack Herbert *President*



LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is with both excitement and sincere gratitude for our students, faculty, coaches and moderators that I write this Spring letter. At a recent student assembly, I thanked our students and faculty for their dedication and recognized the many talents that they each bring to our community on a daily basis which led to so many successes in this school year. I know that I will remember the 2022-2023 school year for being one that has laid success for future generations of Popes. Some of you may remember one of our featured students at last year's auction, Sophia De Moya. This past winter, she became the first female at Pius XI to qualify for the state wrestling tournament. Combined with her athletic success, Sophia also maintains a 4.0 GPA, leads retreats for our student body, and serves as a tutor in our writing center. She shows all of us what it truly means to be Pius XI Pope.

Our student athletes have done amazing things this year and we have had the opportunity to host "recognition marches" down our hallways to celebrate national powerlifting qualifiers, our state qualifying bowling team and let's not forget our Sectional runner up Lady Popes basketball team and Regional champion boys basketball team. The student body came out in droves with tremendous school spirit to support their efforts.

There is much to be excited about and proud of across our campus. Our nationally recognized art program takes a back seat to none. The annual art show was a tremendous success and our senior art portfolio students displayed and sold various pieces of artwork from their extensive Pius XI portfolios. I spoke to several alumni that shared their belief that the quality of this program keeps them coming back each year to support our visual arts department. This year alone our students have earned three of the seven Gold Portfolio Awards for the State. In the Scholastic Art and Writing Awards, our Popes have received 85 awards in all, 18 Gold Keys, 23 Silver Keys and 44 Honorable Mentions. Special congratulations to Elijah Diaz '23 and Charlie Elliott '24 for winning National Silver Medals. More than 100,000 students submitted over 260,000 works of art and writing to the annual competition. Fewer than 2,000 works receive a National Medal, placing these works within the top 1% of all submissions!

One of the accomplishments that our school is most proud of is the implementation of service hours as part of our graduation requirements. Each student will have 4-6 service experiences per year, which will reflect important teachings of the Catholic faith. During the school day, our students have opportunities to go off site with our Campus Minister, Mr. Holschuh, and participate in important service while also building community with their fellow students.

We will soon bid farewell to the class of 2023. This class started at Pius XI, just before the pandemic hit. Their experiences include virtual learning, hybrid classes and, for much of the time, uncertainty. When I think about their accomplishments and consider that our Senior class contributed significantly to those successes, I feel a sense of confidence and assurance that their experience has been rich and rewarding.

Ryan Krienke *Principal*

ANNUAL AUCTION CELEBRATION

Our Annual Auction Event was a great time and grand success. With help from all our generous guests, we turned up the volume at The Gage on April 27th. The room was packed full of passionate Popesupporters—alumni, parents, board members, long-time supporters, and new friends—all who celebrated our talented students and contributed more than **\$154,500** to fund scholarships and tuition assistance. Thank you for **AMPLIFYING** our mission to help each and every student reach their unique and highest potential.

We would like to give a special "thanks" to our Event Chairs Dr. Tim and Mrs. Cindy Morton, Keynote Speaker Keyshawn Carr '16, our sponsors, donors, volunteers, and all who came out to support the students of Pius XI in a big way.











PAYING IT FORWARD

By: Sarah Hoye '97, Guest Contributor



It was a seemingly uneventful Sunday morning for Tom '62 and Letty Hoye. They had just returned home from 8 o'clock mass and were having ham and hard rolls for breakfast alongside their four children, then ages 11 to 3.

As they sat at the kitchen table drenched in sunlight they chatted about the week before the conversation turned to where the kids should go to high school. After a brief debate, and Letty's insistence, it was settled: Pius XI Catholic High School. That decision would chart a course for many years to come.

Tom, an accountant, would spend the rest of the morning hunched over his rolltop desk, pecking away

"My parents, who had hardly anything, sent us to Catholic school," said Letty, a retired clinical laboratory scientist, who is the oldest of seven children. "It was important for us to provide that same opportunity for our kids."

Tom and Letty met nearly 60 years ago at a dance at Mount Mary College where Letty was a student. Tom, then at Marquette University, spotted her from across the dance floor and they have been together ever since. They were married in 1970 shortly after Tom returned from being drafted to the Vietnam War.

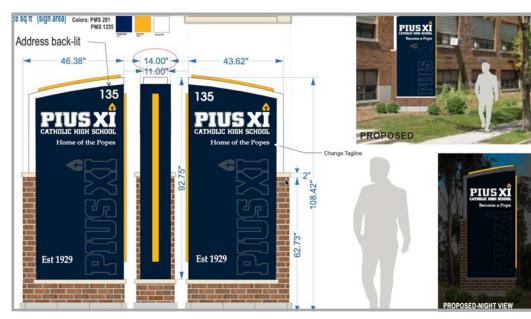
Unable to have biological children, they chose to adopt and are the proud parents of Tim '93, John '94, Sarah '97 and Anne '01. Their oldest son, Tim, was airlifted out of Vietnam during the war and came to the United States through Operation Babylift. Their remaining three Black children were adopted through Catholic Social Services.

"Education is a great equalizer. As parents, you want to give your kids the best education you can afford where kindness

at a calculator working through how they could afford the tuition.

"I didn't think we could do it," Tom recalled, seated once again across from Letty at the breakfast table. "We had to get creative."

To make it happen, they would need to save as much as they could while their kids would have paper routes, summer jobs and participate in the work-study program at the school to help with tuition and books.



The Hoye's worked hard to make the dream of providing a valuesbased Catholic education a reality for their four children.

is a core tenant," Letty said. "We are charged with making sure our kids are good people who contribute to society in a powerful way. As strong Catholics, it was necessary to have an example set at home and school so those values would guide them throughout their entire life."

Tom and Letty remained involved with Pius XI long after their kids graduated, dedicating their time and personal resources. They have contributed to several projects including helping to support the scholarship fund, Fieldhouse, chapel, Performing Arts Center, boiler and, most recently, the Monument and Directional Signage Project.

"We each have a duty to share our talents, our time and if we can, our money," Tom said. "Growing up, we both didn't have a lot, but we had wealth in other ways. Giving back has always been a part of our lives."

Having served on the Pius XI board for 21 years, Tom said he had an insider's look at the changing needs of the



school and the student body. Together, they wanted to help where they could.

"We're only down here for a short time. And one day we will be asked how we spent our time," Tom said. "We have been very blessed over the years and truly believe in the power of prayer and paying it forward."



The Hoye's recent gift will fund a new permanent monument sign in front of the building on 76th Street, as well as provide for directional signage throughout the campus exterior to help guide students, families, and visitors. The project is expected to be complete in late spring 2023.

Ed Prexler '44 MEMORIAM



Pius XI is a close community and unfortunately, we had to say "goodbye" to yet another pillar of the Pius XI Catholic High School family. Former faculty member and Pius XI alumnus, Ed Drexler, peacefully passed away just a few days short of his 97th birthday. Mr. Drexler was a 1944 graduate of Pius XI Catholic High School who was celebrated only a few short years ago on his retirement at the age of 92. Mr. Drexler, was a familiar face around Pius XI starting in 1940, as a student, and only left for a few short years after graduating to become a science teacher in 1950. He served the students, family, and community of Pius XI for nearly 70 years in whatever capacity was needed. He was a longtime faculty member and also served hundreds of students as an advisor, Assistant Principal and Principal. He devoted his time to ensure that students had a joyous and memorable graduation as he led the Graduation Committee for many, many years.

> Ed was a teacher who valued inquiry and investigation ... a leader who influenced the educational structure and culture of the school; and the example of servant leadership. Pius XI is the school it is today because of his influence. - MS.BETTY HUNT

Ed was able to become a part of the Pius XI family because of a scholarship. After graduating, he answered the call to serve our Country in WWII, as an enlisted member of the United States Navy. After returning from his service in the war, Ed returned to attend college in Wisconsin. In the 1980's and 90's Drexler saw the need for a more concentrated educational focus on human genetics. In the 1990's he participated in the development of an innovative one-semester high school genetics course and served as a genetics teacher at Pius XI until his retirement in 2018.



Ed's life and career were of service and dedication to others. He was honored with the Alumni Award in 1983 for excellence as an educator, lecturer, and author in Biological Science, as well as his dedicated service to Pius XI Catholic High School. His reputation as a beloved educator lives on in nearly 70 graduating classes of Pius XI alumni and many current Pius XI staff and faculty count themselves as friends and family.

Ed was married to Shirley Drexler who previously served as Pius XI's secretary and passed away in 2015 and is the father to Laura Drexler, Mary Jo (Drexler) Ehrke '75, Tom Drexler, and the late Dan Drexler '73 and was also a proud grandfather and great-grandfather.

Ed's legacy will live on at Pius XI through the Drexler Endowed Scholarship Fund, which will provide much needed tuition assistance to families who want the same high quality, values-based Catholic education he helped build during his tenure here.

Terry Mank 68 MEMORIAM

The Pius XI family also experienced another great loss with the recent passing of Terry Mank. Terry '68 dedicated his life to others, serving as an English teacher at Pius XI Catholic High School for 45 years and as a Cross Country and Track and Field Coach for over 30 years. Coach Mank will be missed by his Pius XI family and all those whose lives he influenced. Terry was a devoted husband to Virginia '74 and father to Ethan (Anne) Mank '95, Scott Mank '98, Christopher (Lea) Mank '01, and Katie (Matthew) Schroeder '07, and was a proud grandfather of eleven grandchildren.

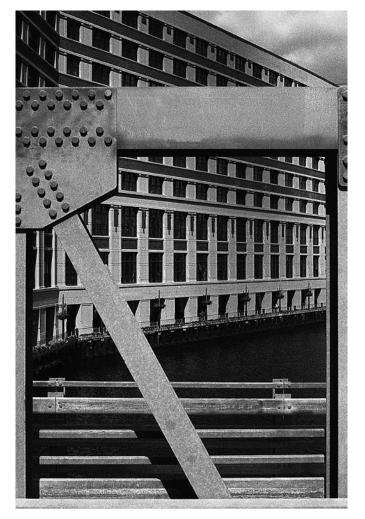
SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

Pius XI is proud to continue in our longstanding history of creative achievement; our visual art students earned more awards statewide than any other school in Wisconsin, earning 85 regional awards in Scholastic Art and Writing competition.

Special congratulations are in order for Elijah Diaz '23 and Charlie Elliott '24, winners of National Silver Medals Awards. Watch for more information on our Scholastic Art Awards winners in an upcoming edition of Examen.



"8pm on Wednesday" -Charlie Elliott '24



"Beloved" - **Elijah Diaz '23**

PROJECT LEAD THE WAY SPOTLIGHT

Since 1929, Pius XI has prided itself on providing innovative and vibrant learning opportunities with a Catholic faith foundation. For the last 94 years, we have aimed to make sure that our students are offered the classes and programs that they need to be successful in whatever life path they choose. One of the many programs that we are proud to offer is a four-year engineering program that provides students with an introduction to this STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) field, as well as gives them the opportunity to follow this intensive program for all four years of their high school education.

For over 15 years, we have partnered with the national program Project Lead the Way (PLTW) to offer students the chance to learn about engineering basics as well as more complex engineering principles. Beginning with the 2006 academic year, Pius XI offered a single course, "Introduction to Engineering" and saw 62 students enrolled. Ever since, the program has continued to develop and expand. Pius XI now offers more than five PLTW courses.

Not only does the program introduce students to the scope, rigor, and discipline of engineering prior to entering college, it also allows many students to earn college credit for each of the courses they pass. However, even if a student is not planning to pursue a four-year college degree, they can benefit greatly from the problem solving, critical and creative thinking, collaboration, communication, and ethical reasoning and mindset they learn in these classes.

A teacher and student favorite— is a class called "Rube Goldberg Machine Design." This class is a guided, independent study where students design an intentionally impractical and complicated machine to complete a simple task. Pius XI students continue to compete each year in state and regional competitions and were the winners of both the 2016 and 2022 Rube Goldberg National Competitions.



PLTW is the leading K-12 applied learning curriculum and training provider with pathways in engineering, biomedical science, and computer science. It provides high-quality activities and projects that allow students to use what they have learned to solve real world problems. Nationally, 92% PLTW students report their course made them more interested in STEM and 70% of students believe that PLTW classes help in other areas they want to study further.

We have seen many positive outcomes of this program, and our PLTW alumni are doing amazing things in the world, whether it be engineering, art, design, or business. We look forward to enhancing this program for all future Popes!

Learn more about the national Project Lead the Way at www.pltw.org



POPES YOU SHOULD KNOW

auton Jackson '18

Meet Payton Jackson, a 2018 Pius XI alum and current engineer at NASA Johnson Space Center (JSC) in Houston, Texas. With a passion for robotics since the age of 10, Payton came to Pius XI because of the reputation of Project Lead the Way (PLTW) and the fact that he could continue playing volleyball—a sport he picked up in elementary school. When asked about some of his favorite classes, Payton freely admits that the PLTW classes were some of his favorites and he made many fond memories tackling projects with his fellow students.

After graduating from Pius XI, he attended the University of Wisconsin – Madison to study mechanical engineering, when he also completed four internships with NASA. His first two internships were at the Goddard Space Flight Center, where he worked on the Roman Space Telescope (RST) mission. His third internship was with the Pathways program at JSC, where he

worked with an International Space Station Flight Operations branch and his fourth internship was with the JSC Materials and Processes branch where he first learned about the lunar rover mission VIPER, the same mission he works on today.

"Pius XI helped solidify my educational and career choices. I knew going into high school that I liked math, science, and engineering. Pius XI provided a good level of depth in those fields that I felt were right for me going into college. For engineering specifically, PLTW classes helped me discover where in engineering I wanted to be."

When he is not working, Payton enjoys snowboarding, table tennis and biking. He also makes it a point to reconnect with Pius XI and its faculty because "...Pius is made up of good people and those people make the environment special."

Samantha Christian 23

"Both art and engineering have instilled in me the ability to think creatively and to build upon the creative ideas of others. These experiences have taught me to value the opinions and ideas of others, something I hope to exercise for the rest of my life."

Samantha, a 2023 graduating senior, has taken advantage of the wide breadth of courses and programs available here at Pius XI. Not only is she a Scholastic Art Award-winning student, she is also a student in our engineering program and competed with the Pius XI Rube Goldberg team in 2022 to take home first place at the national Engineering Machine Design Contest.

This summer she'll be spending time with the friends she's made at Pius XI before heading off to the Milwaukee Institute of Art and Design where she intends to study Industrial Design.

We're excited to see what the future holds for Samantha!

ATHLETIC UPDATES



POMS Pom Pon team coach, *Karyn Schlachter*, received the Coach of the Year award. *Raniyah Edwards '23* was named to the Division 2 All-State Team, 1st Large Varsity Kick, 2nd Large Varsity Open, 1st Varsity Sideline at Badgerette, 3rd in State All-Kick division, and 11th State Poms D4.



BOYS BASKETBALL | *Jaquan Johnson '24* broke his own program single-game scoring record with 49 points in the Regional Final win over Wauwatosa West. He also earned WBCA Division 2 All-State Honors, as well as 1st Team All-Conference.



GIRLS BASKETBALL | *Kailey Wozniak '23* received 1st Team All-Conference, WBCA Division 2 Honorable Mention All-State, and will play the WBCA All-Star game in Summer 2023.

POWERLIFTING | *Drew Peters '23* placed 7th overall in the nation with a total of 530kg/1168.4lbs and also hit new bests in all 3 lifts! *Sam Franke '24* finished 6th in the nation with a total of 272.5kg/600.75lbs! She hit a new personal best in every lift! *Francisco Lopez '23* finished 5th in the nation and set a new personal best in all 3 lifts! *Juan Vega '24* battled for 4th in the nation. He finished with a total of 372.5kg/821.21lbs. *Noella Weger '25* placed 5th with 277.5kg/611.78lbs. *Hannah Peters '25* placed 4th with 295kg/650.36lbs. *Christine Moore '26* placed 2nd with 335kg/738.54lb. *Tyler Peters '26* placed 2nd with 325kg/716.5lbs.



SWIMMING | *Sam Shelton '24* received 1st Team 200 Medley Relay and *Murphy Roszak '24* received 1st Team 200 Medley Relay & 200 IM & 100 Breast.



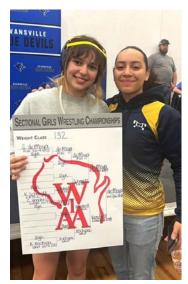
BOWLING | *Christian Petersen '24* bowled a 300 at the HSBC All Star Team Challenge.



WRESTLING Sophia DeMoya '23 won her sectional and was the first female to be a 2x State Qualifier in Wrestling.



Jaquan Johnson '24



Sophia DeMoya '23

PAST & UPCOMING EVENTS

Career Fair:

On February 17, Pius XI hosted our biennial career fair. Students had the opportunity to meet with over 55 professionals from many different industries. Career examples spanned from equine veterinarian to law enforcement officer, to forensic pathologist and architect representatives (most of whom are alumni) highlighted the breadth of future potential for Pius XI Popes!

Thanks to all the area businesses that came out to support our students and showcase the different ways that Pius XI grads can continue moving forward in satisfying and meaningful careers! We'd love to have you at our 2025 Career Fair, you can contact Suzanne Lovinus at slovinus@piusxi.org to learn more.





Popesfest:

Save the Date—September 30, 2023. Live music, good food, games, and, of course, a beer tent! Sponsorships are available and we are always in need of planning committee members and volunteers. Contact Dan Carey dcarey@piusxi.org for more information!

50+ Reunion:

Alumni who graduated prior to 1973 returned home to Pius XI for the annual 50+ Reunion on April 16th. We were honored to welcome back alums from 18



different graduating classes, including two special Popes from the class of '49. If you would like to help plan future reunions, contact Alumni Director Dan Carey at dcarey@piusxi.org.

Upcoming Reunions!

Class of 1968 (55th)	9/10/2023	Golden Mast Inn
Class of 1973 (50th)	9/23/2023	Magoo's On The Mound
Class of 1978 (45th)	9/30/2023	Southshore Yacht Club
Class of 1988 (35th)	9/30/2023	TBD
Class of 1993 (30th)	9/30/2023	Broken Bat Brewing Co
Class of 1998 (25th)	9/23/2023	TBD
Class of 2003 (20th)	9/30/2023	Brewski's
Class of 2018 (5th)	9/30/2023	Brewski's

ALUMNI PROFESSIONAL UPDATES

Mary Varga '73 is a laboratory scientist at the Medical Center of Aurora in Aurora, CO.

James Fenwick '73 | is President of the Hanover Company.





Juleen Zierath '79 | is a professor at the Karolinska Institutet and University of Copenhagen.

AnnMarie Marlier '86 | became the Vice President of Leadership Development for the Business Ethics Alliance in Omaha, NE.

Diane Welhouse '87 | is Owner, Business Consultant and Leadership Coach at Welhouse Consulting, LLC.



Keith Kozerski '90 | is Chief Program Officer at Catholic Charities of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

Rachel Noe '93 | is the Principal of Mother of Good Counsel School in Milwaukee, WI. Jonathan Rupnik '00 | works in Outside Sales for Swagelok Milwaukee.



Eileen Fitzgerald '00 | works for the New York City Department of Education as a district-level administrator.

Dani Wosick Chapman '04 | is a Walgreens Specialty Pharmacy Manager.

Julia Olsen '04 | is a Talent Acquisition Supervisor for Arthur J. Gallagher.



Micah Ogé '08 | is the Global Director of New Product Launch at Johnson Controls.

Layla Freckmann '12 | is a Marketing Consultant for ESPN Milwaukee.



Oscar Sanders '16 | is an IT Help Desk Lead at Milwaukee College Preparatory School.

Daniel Ibric '18 graduated with a BBA in Real Estate and Finance from UW-Madison in 2022 and will be graduating with a master's degree in Real Estate from UW-Madison in May 2023. He currently works at The Neutral Project as a Capital Markets Analyst.

Xavier Lightfoot '18 |

is graduating from Maryland Institute College of Art with a masters degree in teaching.





Arabella Loera '19 | is attending Law School at University of Dayton School of Law.

Allyson Mills '19 | will attend graduate school at UW-Madison to study for a master's degree in Environment and Resources, and currently serves as an education assistant at Wisconsin Sea Grant.

Hope Moses '20 | is completing her senior year at Marquette University as an O'Brien Fellow, was the inaugural Foley Fellow, and is the first woman of color to hold the position of Executive Director of the Marquette Wire.





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Monday, July 24th | Fairways of Woodside

W235 N8518 Clubhouse Circle | Sussex





Registration Open Through July 15!