

Reminisce  
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Reconnect  
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## Last Chance to Attend All School Reunion

There is still time to gather friends, [register on line](#) and call us to reserve tables to hold your own mini reunion at the All Catholic Elementary School Reunion being held on Friday, September 23rd at the Hearthstone Manor, Depew from 6-9PM.

Former students, faculty, staff, clergy and friends of EVERY Catholic Elementary School in WNY are invited.

For \$20/person or \$35/couple you can enjoy live and DJ music, sumptuous food and a cash bar. Spend the evening reconnecting with friends

reminiscing about the class clown, your first love or your moment of athletic genius.

So, dig out that old plaid jumper, or grab your clip-on tie and call or e-mail [Ginny](#) at 716-847-8375 or [Cyndi](#) at 716-847-8374 to register and reserve a table today!

## Alumni Spotlight—Steven Coffed

Have you ever wondered what it would take to get a full ride to college? I'm talking full scholarship, free room and board and books paid for; oh, and let's include a Masters degree and a PhD.

If you really want to know, you'll have to ask Steven Coffed, a 2007 grad of St. Mary's Elementary School in Lancaster, how he did it. Coffed is currently attending UB on a Presidential Scholarship that includes all of the aforementioned perks.

Steven's favorite memory is of playing the organ for Friday school masses. "My favorite teachers were the

ones who expected us to live the Christian ideals. With these teachers, there was no yelling...simply a disappointment when we fell short in our young Christian lives." said Coffed.

During his tenure at St. Joseph's Collegiate, Coffed was a member of the Jazz Band and won the title of Outstanding Soloist at the Virginia Beach Jazz festival. But music is not Steven's only talent. He was the soccer team captain, winner of the Bredenberg Award for sports leadership, just one of 25 in WNY named

to Business First's Academic Team and the Valedictorian of his class.

Steven now is studying Environmental Engineering and Music Theater at UB. It seems the academic and spiritual foundation laid at St. Mary's Elementary served Steven very well.



Photo by Jim Courtney

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### Special points of interest:

- [Radio interview:](#) Karin Krasevac-Lenz, CAP Director and Amanda Schroeder, OLV class of 2000, discuss the All School Reunion.
- [Register](#) for the All School Reunion.
- Read a message from [Sr. Diane](#) as she retires from St. Bernadette's.
- Read Buffalo.com article [Gathering of the formerly Plaid Grads](#) and view montage of old school photos on YouTube.

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Securing a stronger  
future for the schools that  
helped us realize our own



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ALUMNI PAGE

## Nine Area Schools Welcome Principals

The desks have been cleaned, floor waxed, windows washed and new books delivered in preparation for the 2011-2012 school year. But, that's not all that's new and shiny this year. In nine area schools, new principals will welcome students as they arrive for their first day on Tuesday, September 6th.

At Christ the King School in Snyder, Mr. Samuel Zalacca is the new principal replacing Mrs. Joanne Mikulec. Thomas McGlenn replaces retiring principal Donna Sweet at Southern Tier Catholic School; Mrs. Susan Ferrio takes over for Dennis Welka at St. Andrew's Country Day in Kenmore; while St. Francis of Assisi School in Tonawanda welcomes new principal Colleen Politowski. Sr. Jeanne Eberle, SSJ has retired from St. Mark School in Buffalo and will be replaced by Lydia Brenner. Mr. Scott Kapperman will take over for retiring principal Bonnie Renzi at St. Aloysius in Springville; Mr. Cory Pecorella will step in for principal Sr. Diane Swanson, RSM who retired from St. Bernadette School in Orchard Park in June. Jenny Bainbridge moved from Ss. Peter and Paul in Hamburg to find a new home at St. Christopher's in Tonawanda when Elizabeth (Betty) Philage retired. Patrick Riester will become the new principal at Ss. Peter and Paul in Hamburg.

Best of luck to all new principals, returning faculty, staff and students. We hope you enjoy a successful and fun filled 2011-2012 school year.

## Help Wanted

The WNY Catholic Alumni newsletter is still a fledgling enterprise. With your help, we can grow exponentially. Did you know that there are over 300,000 alumni from Catholic elementary schools across WNY? Many are still in WNY, other have spread across the world. But we believe in the power of numbers and the loyalty felt by our graduates.

The Catholic Alumni Partnership (CAP) is a grant funded, grassroots organization within the Diocese of Buffalo whose mission is to assist Catholic elementary schools reconnect with their alumni by building a comprehensive alumni database.

CAP has spent almost four years working on this enormous endeavor. We have taken the old handwritten "permanent records" from each school, done our best to track alumni through the decades and entered the information into a powerful database for the schools to use.

As one of the first recipients of our newsletter, you have the power to reply and share. Please help us update our alumni contact information by completing [this form](#)

and sharing this newsletter with your siblings, family members and friends. By helping us you will be helping your former school. Thank you.

## Photo of the Month



St. Benedict School, early 60's