

Fall/Winter 2018

# GAELE NEWSLETTER

*President's Message*



President-Christopher Cosentino  
Principal-Bridget Bartholomew  
Director of Institutional Advancement-  
Jennifer Carbaugh-Class of 1993  
Director of Admissions-Holly Katrina  
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[www.goretti.org](http://www.goretti.org)



They say time flies when you're having fun so that must explain how we are already preparing for 2019! It has been just a wonderful experience for me as I am already halfway through my second year here at Goretti. It truly has been a blessing to be part of such a wonderful community. Goretti has so much to offer our students and their families and I am honored to share that story with the greater community.

We are working very hard to continue the success of our school by building strong relationships with parents, students and community partners. We will focus on education initiatives, the use of data to drive instruction, to provide consistent implementation of the curriculum in a rigorous manner so that we can continue to increase all of the students' achievement and to add additional college partnerships to make college more affordable for our families. I am especially excited we now have dual enrollment agreements with Mount St. Mary's University, Wilson College and most recently Shepherd University. These three schools allow our students who come from three states the opportunity to earn college credit allowing for significant savings in their future educational plans.

All of us at St. Maria Goretti High School are eager and excited to begin what promises to be the best year ever. This year is going to be amazing as we continue to provide academic experiences for our students that are rigorous, relevant, and help them build relationships while making real-world connections. It is important to me that everyone who steps through our doors-teachers, students and parents-are excited to be here! This attitude enables us to meet the challenges of academic excellence in a positive, fun, and nurturing environment. My door is always open and I welcome your input.

St. Maria Goretti, Pray for us.

Christopher Cosentino  
President



# Principal's Corner

The Fall semester has flown by in a flash here at Goretti, and it is hard to believe that December already has arrived! We've been enjoying many of our annual Goretti traditions in recent weeks: the induction of 14 new members into the National Honor Society, the fall drama production (this year's Shakespeare Festival), our Thanksgiving Luncheon, the MAIT (with a tournament win for the Gaels!), and even a special visit from St. Nicholas on his December 6 feast day. After a hiatus of several years, the Gael Beat student newspaper has returned in a digital format, thanks to the journalistic efforts of a group of enthusiastic seniors. The Class of 2019 as a whole has been immersed in the college application process, with many seniors awaiting word on their Early Action applications.

This fall we've also had our largest group of students to date taking dual enrollment classes at Hagerstown Community College, Blue Ridge Technical College, and Mount St. Mary's University. We have been thrilled to partner with Shepherd University in a new dual enrollment agreement and are about to announce guaranteed admissions partnerships with two more universities in addition to our existing partnerships with: Mount St. Mary's University, Wilson College, Shepherd University, Randolph College, St. Bonaventure University, the University of Dayton, Hood College, Marymount University, Alderson Broaddus University, Neumann University, and St. Vincent College.

We wish all of our students great success on their upcoming midterm exams, and we wish all of the Goretti Family a peaceful, blessed, and joyous Christmas.

**Mrs. Bridget Bartholomew**



**ANNUAL FUND**

If you would like to help us reach our goal by making a contribution, please mail to 1535 Oak Hill Avenue, Hagerstown, MD 21742 or online donation to <http://goretti.org/giving/make-a-gift-today>

Attention ~ Jennifer Carbaugh  
Class of 1993  
Director of  
Institutional Advancement



# ALUMNI

In the  
Spotlight



David Karn, Goretta Class of 93' and Mount Class of 97', an accounting lecturer in the Richard J. Bolte School of Business, will have an extra special teaching assistant when he comes to campus to teach his classes on November 13. Karn, who has lupus, will be accompanied by his assistance dog Duchess.

Karn spent the past two weeks at the Northeast Training Center of Canine Companions for Independence® in New York learning about how to effectively handle an assistance dog. Several days ago he was matched with Duchess, a two-year-old mixed Labrador and golden retriever, who has been in training for her entire life to learn 40 commands to assist Karn with daily tasks to increase his independence and reduce his reliance on other people. When the two graduated from the program on November 9, along with 12 other graduation teams, Karn gave the graduation address.

"It's up to us to go out and have our dogs do the job they love of helping us to live life more independently. Let's live life unleashed!" exclaimed Karn in a speech in which he recounted his five-year journey of misdiagnosis that ended with an answer and a decision to live the "best life" he can.

"I can't wait to take Duchess to work with me when I teach class at Mount St. Mary's University in Emmitsburg, Maryland," Karn said. "She's going to make a great teacher's assistant."

As Karn and Duchess walk across campus, they are likely to attract attention. Please remember that Duchess is a working dog, and there are rules around interaction with her. Here are tips to follow when you encounter Duchess or another assistance dog:

\*Don't touch an assistance dog without asking permission first. Petting Duchess is a distraction and may prevent her from tending to her human partner.

\*Be sensitive to the fact that the dog is working and may be in the middle of a command or direction from its human partner. Most dogs need to be told to be released from work mode to interact with someone.

\*Don't feed the dog. Food is the ultimate distraction to the working dog.

\*Speak to the human partner, not the assistance dog. Most human partners enjoy talking about their assistance dog if they have the time.

\*Always approach an assistance dog calmly and speak to their human partner before touching or addressing the dog.

# Instant Replay

David Blenckstone



The winter season got off to a rousing start as the boys' basketball team won its third consecutive Mid-Atlantic Invitational Tournament, defeating nationally ranked Westtown (PA) 71-61 in the championship game.

The Gael Center was packed with Goretta students, alumni and fans for each night of the MAIT, as a packed house saw Goretta beat Virginia Academy 68-47 in the opening round.

A complete team effort, Goretta players grabbed numerous tourney awards. R.J. Blakeney '19 was named Harriet and Paul Muldowney 'Most Valuable Player' and also was the high scorer for the tournament. Teammates Rahsaan Edwards '19 and Briggs McClain '20 were also named to the all-tournament team, while Abdou Tsimbilia '19 was honored as the Hunter and Nolan Robison 'Best Defensive Player' and James Searcy '19 won the John H. Munday 'Hustle Award'. Goretta Head Coach Sidney McCray, in his first year guiding the Gaels, won the Coaches Award.

Several Goretta students have committed recently to play a sport in college. Senior Abdou Tsimbilia has committed to play basketball at Penn State University, while classmates Emily Abe will play lacrosse at Hood College and Caroline Mullineaux will play lacrosse at Seton Hill University. Congratulations to all!



## MAIT 2018



### COLLEGE PARTNERSHIPS WITH GORETTI:



\*colleges with Dual Enrollment with Goretta