

COMMON Thread

WINTER 2018 ISSUE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE XAVIER FOUNDATION



NESPER SIGN



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ALUMNI NEWS & MORE

XAVIER
FOUNDATION
REGIS • LASALLE

JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT!

It is my pleasure this month to introduce you to our new Director of the Xavier Foundation, Mrs. Mary Harken. Mary began her work with the Foundation on September 6. Mary succeeds Jody Pellerin, who left her position to pursue another opportunity.

Mary comes to us from Urbandale, Iowa where she served as Director of Investor Relations for the Urbandale Chamber of Commerce. Mary and her husband Jim have three children, Luke, Michael and Dominick. They are members of St. Matthew's parish.

Mary brings a wealth of experience in marketing and working with community members to achieve common goals. She has brought a great energy to the Foundation and to our Xavier Administrative team! Her first few months have been spent networking and getting to know the amazing Xavier community! She and her family have been getting to many Xavier activities and they are getting a feel for the culture of our school. She hit the ground running, playing significant roles in the Parish Appeal, our Memorial Mass, Dancing with the Saints and our 2018 Alumni Hall of Fame induction. Mary has also been involved in the discussions which led to the decision for Xavier High School to move to a President-Principal model of leadership.

We are blessed to have Mary leading the Xavier Foundation and look forward to her work in supporting Xavier High School!

Sincerely,

TOM KEATING
Principal
Xavier High School



Xavier Foundation Director of Development, Mary Harken, with her husband, Jim, at Dancing with the Saints.

DIRECTOR'S CORNER...

What a wonderful, warm welcome from the Xavier community! Thank you for embracing us, and for affirming that the Catholic mission is alive and thriving here in Eastern Iowa. I've been blown away with the history of collaboration between the parishes, schools and community to ensure that Catholic education is available, attainable, and a priority through Xavier Catholic Schools' initiatives.

As you read this edition of the Common Thread, you'll find yourself connecting the dots to the many moving parts in serving students. There was a flurry of excitement at the close of 2017 as volunteers/parishioners surpassed the Parish Appeal goal and sports teams competed at state championships. Also, there were new tax laws introduced, four alumni inducted into the Hall of Fame, and we celebrated the new year by 1,100 of our closest friends raising the much-needed funds to update 20-year-old band and activity uniforms during the third annual Dancing With the Saints. Moving forward we are launching the Business and Alumni Appeals, while our organizations prepare the way for a new vision and direction for the school through the approval of a President-Principal Model. It's an exciting time at Xavier and we welcome you to join us.

Kindly,

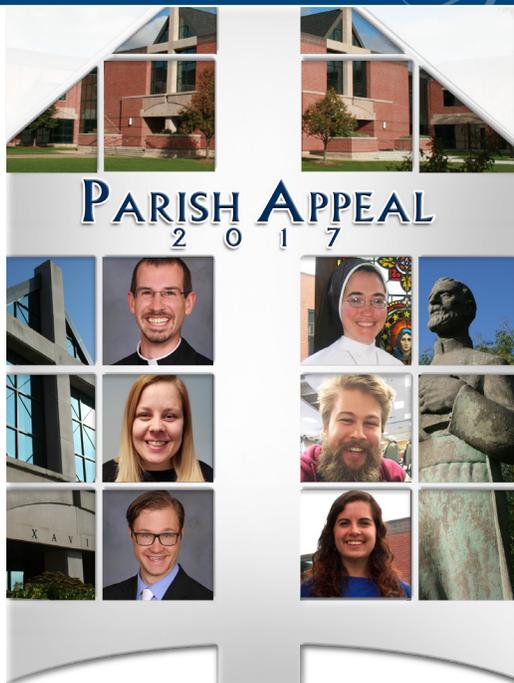
MARY HARKEN
Director of Development
Xavier Foundation

A NEW VISION FORWARD: **PRESIDENT-PRINCIPAL MODEL COMES TO XAVIER**

Beginning with the 2018/19 school year, Xavier High School will go to a President-Principal model of school governance. This model is a form of governance that takes the varied and numerous responsibilities for managing a private, Catholic school such as Xavier and spreads them over two leadership positions. A key outcome of going to this model is that it will allow both Xavier High School and the Xavier Foundation to be under a shared governance structure for the first time.

The President-Principal model is now frequently used in Catholic secondary education. According to research from the National Catholic Education Association, this model is used in 60% to 75% of secondary Catholic high schools in the country. It is also being successfully used by other Catholic high schools in Iowa.

As Xavier celebrates its 20th Anniversary we can look back with pride on the legacy of Regis and LaSalle which provided the framework of support for Xavier's first twenty years. Xavier is now established as a premier high school option in the Cedar Rapids area educating servant leaders of tomorrow in a Christ-centered Catholic tradition. As we embark on our next twenty years, we have several challenges and opportunities on the horizon as we seek to expand our enrollment and diversify our revenue base. The next chapter for Xavier High School will benefit from this new model of leadership.



PARISH APPEAL SURPASSES GOAL!

We are humbled and grateful to announce that together our metro area parishioners made the 2017 Parish Appeal a success. Your generosity is inspiring, and demonstrates that you believe in the school and its mission to develop the total person in a Catholic environment. Thanks to you, we have raised more than \$526,000, exceeding the \$515,000 goal!

We want to recognize our overall leadership team of Ron & Peggy Detweiler (St. Joseph) and Blaine & Marlana Miller (St. Jude) for their dedication and enthusiasm to lead this year's campaign, as well as our pastors, and volunteers from all parishes for giving their time and energy to make the campaign a success. Your gifts make an immediate impact on our students' lives. Thank you for investing in the future leaders of our Church, state and nation!

2018 BUSINESS APPEAL UPDATE

The Xavier Foundation launched the 2018 Business Appeal on February 6, 2018 with an early evening social at St. Patrick's Parish Center. Dave Wright, owner operator of Dave Wright Nissan and Subaru Dealership and Brad Joens, Vice President Commercial Banking, Hills Bank & Trust Co. are serving as campaign chairs of the Appeal.

Wright and his wife Patty are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish and have three children, Tyler (X11), Sydney (X15) and Tanner (X19). Joens and his wife Cara are members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish and have two children Delaney, age 6, St. Pius X Elementary, and Drew, age 1, St. Pius X Early Learning Center.

Also serving in leadership roles for the campaign are team captains: Liz Efting (R86), Ahmann Companies; Tom Ekland (L78), Seltec Sales; Chris Fischer, Holmes Murphy; Kevin Giles, Mathnasium; James Klein (R91), Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust; Ben Long (X02), RSH Legal; Jim McPartland (R75), TrueNorth Companies; Dave Stoltenberg, Cedar Rapids Bank & Trust.

Wright and Joens are leading 60 volunteers with the task to visit with more than 300 local businesses and ask for financial support of Xavier High School. Gifts from these business is important and needed to help make a Xavier education affordable to the Cedar Rapids/Marion metro area families.

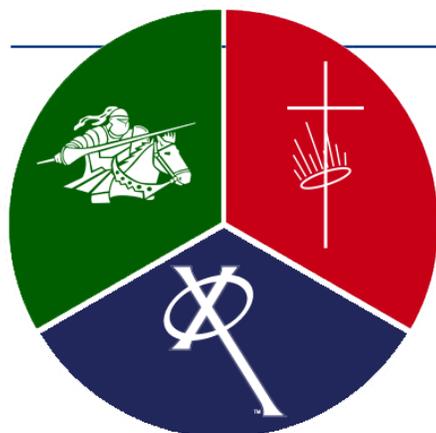
Know a Business That Wants to Get Involved?
Contact Lynn Jump at ljump@xavierfoundation.org or 319-378-4571.



DAVE WRIGHT
Owner, Dave Wright Nissan-Subaru
2018 Business Appeal Chair



BRAD JOENS R96
VP Commercial Banking,
Hills Bank & Trust Co. |
2018 Business Appeal Co-chair



ALUMNI APPEAL BEGINS THIS SPRING!

The Xavier Foundation will launch the 2018 Alumni Appeal this spring. The focus of this year's appeal will center around current and former teachers at LaSalle, Regis and Xavier. Alumni will be asked to submit their own stories about the impact of their favorite teacher(s) during their time in high school. Alumni Association board members will then select a story about a teacher from each of the three schools and designate a \$1,000 honorarium in their name to that teacher's department/academic field. The appeal also seeks financial support, which is critical to addressing the many needs that Xavier has to remain a competitive and viable educational opportunity for future generations. Stay tuned for additional information.

SUPPORTING BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT:

NESPER SIGN & ADVERTISING

Phil & Donna Garland, owners of Nesper Sign Advertising in Cedar Rapids, are longtime supporters of Xavier High School, the Xavier Foundation, and Catholic education.

When asked why Nesper continues its support of Xavier, to the Garlands it's a matter of paying it forward. "Phil and I both attended Catholic high schools and we were both from families of limited means," says Donna Garland. "It's our hope that our support will help families of lesser financial means better afford Catholic education. We try to remember that someone before us did the same." Even though their sons, Tom (X07) and Nick (X10) have graduated, the Garlands believe it is critical to continue giving. "I think it's vital to continue supporting Xavier because it's important that our community has a vibrant and thriving Catholic school system."

One need not look hard to find Nesper's work on display on Xavier's campus. From the school's welcome sign and digital message center on 42nd St. to the Vocations Wall found outside Xavier's campus ministry office, Nesper has provided high-quality solutions for most of Xavier's signage needs over the past 20 years. Garland points to several Xavier projects which are more memorable to her: "Both the electronic message center at the entrance and of course the new Xavier halo cross logo on the north side of the building (installed this past fall) stand out to me," states Garland. "The message center is a great form of communication for not only the students and faculty, but to anyone who drives by. We've wanted to see the neon logo for a number of years. It really is landmark signage for the campus and just sets Xavier apart from the norm." The neon sign was generously donated by the Garland family to Xavier in the fall of 2017.

Founded in 1925, Nesper's work can be seen throughout our larger community and region. The company features a broad portfolio of products/services and customers (including providing signage at more than 400 Hy-Vee locations throughout the Midwest). "Some of my favorite projects to work on locally include the marquee on the Paramount Theatre," says Garland. "We built the original sign and then had the opportunity to build it again after the 2008 flood. We still had some of the hand-drawn layouts from the original marquee. Another project that stands out for us is the gold flame on top of the Veterans Memorial Building on Mays Island."

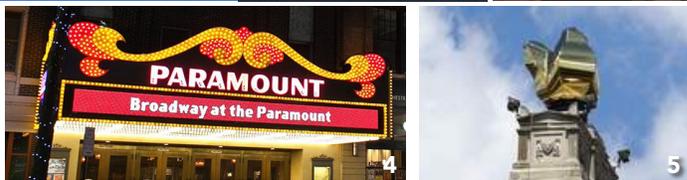
Both of their sons have worked for the company in various roles throughout the years. Nick, who also serves as an assistant coach for the state champion Xavier football team, has worked for the business in a full time capacity since graduating from the University of Iowa. "Nick's team spirit from Xavier translates well in to a family run business," states Donna. "He has been a huge asset to our business by bringing a new outlook on business strategies that we've implemented at Nesper. We certainly enjoy a good amount of time together at work and at home!"

Nesper also has employed other Xavier graduates from time to time. "Any time we have ever had a Xavier grad working for us they have all had the same qualities: respectful, driven and possess a hard work ethic. I suppose the last two come hand in hand, however, all three are qualities that not only lead to success individually, but also for an employer. I'd also like to add that twice our business has been affected by floods and both times Xavier Students have shown up to help out. That is a quality within itself -- to be so driven to help others as well."

Nesper is a *Corridor Business Journal* Best of the Corridor "Hall of Fame" member for their many years of hard work and dedication to customer service.



Learn more about Nesper Sign Advertising at NesperSign.com.



Photos: 1: Nick, Donna and Phil Garland; 2: New neon halo cross signage, installed on the north side of Xavier High School in 2017; 3: Xavier welcome sign and message center installed in 2014; 4: New Paramount Theatre marquee; 5: Gold flame atop the Veterans Memorial Building in Cedar Rapids; 6. Phil Garland sports the "X" alongside wife, Donna, and son, Nick.



DANCING WITH THE SAINTS DAZZLES AGAIN!

On January 20th, Xavier hosted its third annual "Dancing with the Saints" live event at the DoubleTree Hotel & Convention Center in Cedar Rapids. More than 1,100 people attended this sold-out event which pairs ten Xavier community "stars" with ten area dance professionals. Each dancing couple then dances at the live event as the teams compete for the "People's Choice" championship (the team which raises the most amount of money) and the "Judges' Choice" championship (awarded by guest judges to the team with the best performance). This year's event raised nearly \$140,000 to purchase new uniforms for Xavier's activity programs!



Photos: (Top) Dick Breitbach and his dance professional, Tallis Strub perform at Season 3's live event; (lower left) People's Choice champs, Jodi Schimberg & Brody White X10; (lower right) Judges' Choice champs, Joe Kirby & Alisabeth Von Presley. Emiko Coffey X17 photos.

The Season 3's champions were Joe Kirby & Alisabeth Von Presley (Judges' Choice Champions) and Jodi Schimberg & Brody White X10 (Peoples' Choice Champions).

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS

Here is a look at some of the many great moments & events thus far in the 2017-2018 school year.



CHAMPIONS AGAIN!

The Xavier football team won the program's second state championship in November with a 31-13 victory over Pella in the 3A state title game. The Saints finished the season with a perfect 13-0 record.



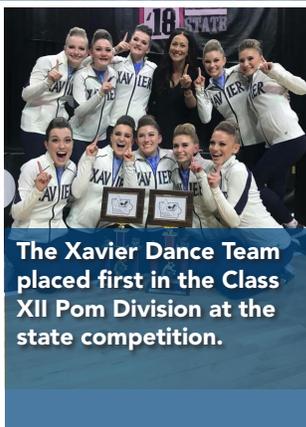
Xavier High School students are joined by middle school students from Regis, LaSalle and St. Joseph's for the annual Catholic Schools Week Mass in January.



Xavier's varsity show choir, Xhilaration, was named "Grand Champions" at Mt. Pleasant's "Music in Motion" and Marion's "Marion Masquerade" competitions.



Xavier's Jazz Band One won the school's first band competition at UNI's Tallcorn Jazz Festival and then won their second at Coe College's Jazz Summit.



The Xavier Dance Team placed first in the Class XII Pom Division at the state competition.



The Xavier robotics team, "Xcentrics," qualified for the state competition.



2018 Alumni Hall of Fame inductees (R-L): Will Martin X07 (Will's father, Dennis, accepted on his behalf), Mike Winker R83, Bailey (Dorrington) Winter X07, and Ed Shea R75 (Posthumously - Ed's brother, Rob, accepted on his behalf).

MARTIN, WINKER, DORRINGTON & SHEA INDUCTED INTO ALUMNI HALL OF FAME

The LaSalle-Regis-Xavier Alumni Association inducted Will Martin X07 (Athlete), Mike Winker R83 (Administrator), Bailey (Dorrington) Winter X07 (Athlete), and Ed Shea R75 (Posthumously - Outstanding Alumnus) into the Alumni Hall of Fame on January 26, 2018.

The inductees and their families and friends were treated to an informal reception hosted by Alumni Association board members. Alumni Association Vice President, Brad Joens R96, and Xavier Foundation Development Director, Mary Harken, gave brief remarks as we welcomed the inductees to the Hall of Fame.



Read full bios of our inductees on XavierFoundation.org.

The Xavier Foundation is pleased to offer the following article provided by long-time supporter and active volunteer Ron Detweiler, CPA and Senior Tax Manager at Honkamp Krueger & Co., P.C., to help our donors better understand the impact of the new Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017 on their charitable giving planning.



Ron Detweiler
CPA, Senior Tax Manager
Honkamp Krueger & Co., P.C.

INDIVIDUAL TAX REFORM UPDATE

On Dec. 22, 2017, President Trump signed into law the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017. This Act represents the first major overhaul of the United States tax system in 30 years. The primary changes are to broaden the individual tax rates and brackets, lower the corporate tax rate to 21 percent, provide a tax deduction for pass-through businesses, and many other far-reaching provisions – most are effective for tax years beginning after Dec. 31, 2017.

FROM AN INDIVIDUAL INCOME TAX PERSPECTIVE, THE ACT:

- reduced tax rates
- changed tax brackets
- substantially increased the standard deduction
- eliminated personal exemptions
- increased the Alternative Minimum Tax (AMT) exemptions and phase-out amounts
- eliminated all of the miscellaneous itemized deductions currently subject to the two percent floor under present law
- suspended the overall limitation on itemized deductions for upper-income taxpayers
- eliminated the deduction for interest on home equity loans
- reduced the amount of allowable mortgage interest on new home acquisition debt and caps state and local tax deductions (including property taxes) to \$10,000
- increased the child tax credit to \$2,000 per qualifying child under age of 17
- added a \$500 nonrefundable credit for other qualifying dependents
- identified that qualified higher education expenses will include tuition paid in connection with elementary or secondary public, private, or religious schools with annual limits of \$10,000 in cash distributions from Coverdell education plans and 529 accounts
- made several changes to charitable contributions

IMPACT ON CHARITABLE GIVING:

For charitable giving, the Act increases the adjusted gross income limitation on cash contributions from 50 to 60 percent for all taxpayers and repeals the deduction for contributions made for university athletic seating rights.

Before tax reform, approximately 30 percent of taxpayers itemized their deductions, but now it is anticipated that as few as 5 percent of taxpayers will do so for federal purposes. There will still be an incentive for most taxpayers to itemize deductions for low tax returns. While not a new concept, the bunching of charitable donations in alternate years may allow taxpayers to continue to receive tax savings from their charitable giving.

STRATEGIES MOVING FORWARD:

Bunching donations in alternate years may help to exceed the new larger standard deduction and gain some advantage from the unique timing or bunching of donations. One other vehicle that may make it easy for taxpayers to bunch their charitable donations is using a donor advised fund (DAF). The donor can claim the charitable tax deduction in the year of funding the DAF but is able to make grant requests to the desired charities over one or more years.

The potential for tax savings can be greater if the taxpayer contributes appreciated long-term capital gain property to the DAF by shifting the appreciated securities and inherent gain to the charitable organization.

Another beneficial provision made permanent with the Protecting Americans from Tax Hikes (PATH) Act of 2015, enables donors over age 70½ to affect a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) allowing for the direct transfer from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to a qualifying charitable organization. The primary benefits of doing a QCD directly from your IRA to a qualifying charitable organization are that the transfer is not counted as taxable income and it does meet your annual Required Minimum Distribution (RMD).

These and many other charitable giving strategies are available such as Charitable Lead Trusts and Charitable Remainder Trusts. Please consult your tax advisor or attorney for legal and tax advice associated with any questions regarding tax reform or your charitable giving strategies.



HONKAMP KRUEGER & CO., P.C.
CPAs & Business Consultants

**For additional questions, contact
Honkamp Krueger at 888-556-0123 or
visit www.honkamp.com.**

ALUMNI NEWS

Duane Schulte (L80), Xavier High School teacher and head football coach, was named the Des Moines Register's 2017 All-Iowa Coach of the Year after leading the Saints to the 2017 Class 3A State Championship with a perfect 13-0 season.

Dick Breitbach Jr. (R83) was selected to the Iowa High School Athletic Association Basketball Hall of Fame. Breitbach was a member of three Regis teams that made the State Tournament and a key point guard on the Royals' 1982 and 1983 State Championship squads.

Jason Rupp (X01) and his wife, Jenny, welcomed their first child, Rosalie Ann, into the world on June 16, 2017.

Matthew (X02) and Maggie (Mills) (X04) Ireland welcomed their son, Frank Mills, into the world on October 14, 2017.

Andrew Arp (X06) and Jessie Glenn were united in marriage on November 18, 2016 in Iowa City, IA.

Reggie Schulte (X13), letterwinning quarterback on the University of Northern Iowa football team, received the top Missouri Valley Football Conference academic award for UNI by earning the President's Council Academic Award in February. The President's Council Academic Excellence Award requires a minimum 3.5 cumulative grade point average (through Fall 2017

semester) and participation in athletics a minimum of two years. Schulte also was the recipient of the UNI Purple Heart Award for contribution to making UNI Football tick with endeavors behind the scenes. He also was a member of three UNI playoff teams in 2014, 2015 and 2017.

Drew Scott (X13), former longsnapper on the Kansas State University football team, was selected to play in January's East-West Shrine Game. Scott also was the recipient of the Jim Kleinau award (given to two players in the program who best represent character, loyalty, hard work, commitment and dedication to the program). He also was a letterwinner, an Academic All-Big 12 selection, and former Big 12 Special Teams Player of the Week.

WANTED: OLD PHOTOS FOR HISTORICAL DISPLAY

Xavier is currently in the process of assembling an interactive historical display featuring photos from its predeceasing high schools (LaSalle, Regis, Immaculate Conception, St. Patrick's - Cedar Rapids, Mount Mercy Academy, St. Wenceslaus, St. Patrick's - Fairfax). If you have photos from/of these schools you are willing to be featured, please contact Nick Ireland at nick.ireland@xaviersaints.org or 319-294-6635 ext. 317.

IN MEMORY OF ALUMNI & FRIENDS

The following is a list of alumni who have gone to their eternal rest. We ask for your continued prayers for them and their families. The Xavier Foundation hosts a "Memorial Mass" every November in remembrance of alumni, former faculty/staff and special friends who have passed away.

1950's

Wesley Vondracek (R59) - January 6, 2018

1960's

Jerry Tauber (R60) - October 21, 2017
 Ronald Leftwich (R63) - December 20, 2017
 David Boland (R64) - October 15, 2017
 Linda (Mantor) Jones (L65) - November 7, 2017
 Patrick Monnahan (L66) - January 16, 2018
 Mary "Chris" (Sedlak) Bolden (R66) - January 11, 2018

1970's

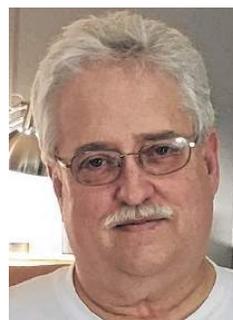
Terrance Edwards (R72) - October 1, 2017
 Kristin Carstensen (R74) - November 25, 2017
 William Hurych (R74) - October 28, 2017
 James Kazimour II (L75) - January 7, 2018
 Christopher Henecke (R77) - January 30, 2018
 Daniel Loutsch (L78) - December 9, 2017

1980's

Jonathan "JY" Young (R80) - January 7, 2018

2000's

Leland Harris (X01) - November 21, 2017



REMEMBERING KEN GIBNEY MAY 27, 1956 - December 8, 2017

Our hearts remain heavy in the Xavier community with the passing of Kenneth Gibney. Ken was a former board president of Xavier High School and dedicated volunteer for the St. Jude Sweet Corn Festival and in the Xavier theatre department. He is survived by his wife, Darlene; children, Kaylee (Bill Monberg) Gibney X09 and Alex X11; parents, Edward & Mary Jane Schulte; sisters, Connie (Alan) Benson, Connie (Brad) Davidson, and Carrie Gibney; sisters-in-law, Marlene (Jerry Gibney) Schneider & Virginia Deterding. Ken is dearly missed by the entire Xavier community and we continue to offer our prayers for his loved ones. Thank you, Ken, for making a difference in our family of faith!



REUNION UPDATES:

- **REGIS '68 | JUNE 8 & 9, 2018**
Contact: Sherry (Fleagle) Decker at sadecker@mchsi.com
- **REGIS '83 | AUG. 11, 2018 | PARLOR CITY, CEDAR RAPIDS**
Contact: Mary Hasley 319-360-5353 (TEXT ONLY)
or Marythasley@gmail.com
- **REGIS '98 | JULY 28, 2018 | PARLOR CITY, CEDAR RAPIDS**
(Mark your calendars!)



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Parents: If this issue of the Common Thread is addressed to your son or daughter who has established a permanent residence, please notify us of that new address.

Mary Harken
Director of Development

Lynn Jump
Annual Fund Director

Nick Ireland
Director of Marketing

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David Schimberg
David Stoltenberg
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Michael Stallman
Gary Streit



THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

In February, we honored three volunteers who have served the Foundation's Business Appeal for 25 consecutive years! THANK YOU to volunteers Dennis Martin R77 (top), Tom Ekland L78 & John Wollner, M.D. (bottom) for your continuing service and for raising a combined total of more than \$2 million over the years through this campaign! These three outstanding ambassadors for Xavier were presented with a plaque and a Xavier hat by annual fund director, Lynn Jump, and XHS principal, Tom Keating.

