

Winter 2003

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Faithful leaders

Priests have inspired and guided students and parishioners through the years

Together, we can accomplish anything

When the editors of this newsletter asked me to write something about the priests of the parish and schools, I was at a loss of where to begin. So I decided that I would give you a bit of my own experience at Our Lady of Lourdes and St. Mary's-Colgan schools.

Pastor



Fr. Stroot

I came to our parish in June of 1977 and served as associate pastor until June 1981. It was my second assignment, having served my first seven years at the Cathedral in Wichita. Honestly,

I thought coming to Pittsburg was the end of the world.

I grew up in Sedgwick County just west of Wichita and didn't know anything about Pittsburg. I served under Fr. Edward Steinberger who was pastor from 1970-1981. It was quite a change and adjustment: new people, new city, different customs, nationalities, and traditions. But it was good for me even though I didn't know it at the time.

In the beginning I heard some of the parish and school history as names of priests, sisters, teachers, coaches, etc., were mentioned. I didn't realize it at the time, but I was becoming part of the history of the parish and schools and was a part of reinforcing and passing on the **faith, tradition, and unity** that are such blessings to our community.

What I remember most was the first high



Our Lady of Lourdes celebrated its 100th anniversary with a High Mass at Lincoln Park in October 1981. The Mass was co-celebrated by Bishop Maloney, left, and Fr. Steinberger.

school teacher in-service that I attended in the fall of 1977. Fr. Steinberger spoke to the teachers and staff and had tears in his eyes as he spoke of the high school. I will never forget thinking to myself: "This guy really loves the kids and the school."

Even though Fr. Steinberger was not always involved directly in the students' activities and academics, I believe he would have given his life so that the school would continue. I'm not sure how many people really knew and appreciated the intensity of his dedication and his love for the parish and schools. He felt as if it were his responsibility to keep the schools afloat, especially financially. Fr. Steinberger's words and heartfelt emotion at that in-service meeting in August 1977 definitely had a lasting impression on me.

See Fr. Tom, page 7 ➔

Ski trips were about more than learning a sport

Those of us who are lifetime members of Our Lady of Lourdes remember many of the wonderful priests who have graced our lives and had a great impact on our parish.

I remember many, especially Fr. Pat Malone who guided our class through making our first Holy Communion; Father Ken Melaragno, just *one* of our relentless track coaches; and Fr. Edward Steinberger, a true example of a dedicated priest. But of all the priests who have come and gone (or come and stayed as in Fr. Tom's case), there are two in particular who have left me with treasured memories.

I'll always remember the
See Trips, page 7 ➔

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Priests share fond memories of SMC

Fr. Steinberger: Thank you for your love and devotion to this parish



Fr. Steinberger

I wish to say I truly enjoyed my years at Our Lady of Lourdes – 11-1/2 years. Everybody was just grand and so kind and helpful to me. And one point remains deeply imprinted in my mind – the parishioners had a tremendous love and devotion to their parish – and especially to St. Mary's Grade School and Colgan High School.

It was a terrific spirit of appreciation and dedication to Catholic education. I frequently have mentioned to peoples, and to my later parishes, how great the graduates have been in success and what a great fulfillment they were in manifesting and proving their faith as

Closing the school was not an option
Editor's note: Following his recent retirement, Fr. Steinberger was featured in an article in the Catholic Advance. Here's an excerpt from the article.

One of the highlights of Father's service was his 11 years as pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes in Pittsburgh. It was a difficult era for Catholic schools and Colgan High School was in danger of closing.

The intent of the school was to serve the district – but the idea wasn't working, he said. "So I met with Bishop Maloney and asked him, 'Bishop, I would like to have this school for our own parish.' He asked me one question. 'Do you think you can handle it?'"

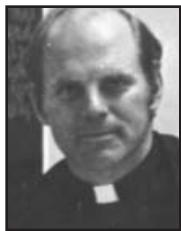
He could and he did. "The first thing that I did was visualize myself going over to the school doors with a key and having to lock them," he said with tears welling in his eyes. "I would not have that. It was all the providence of God, though. It really wasn't anything that would go to my credit."

Catholics and at "making a difference" in their community and wherever they went to carry on the ideals and the spirit of St. Mary's-Colgan. God bless you all

and keep up the "Great Work" of stewardship.

In Christ, Fr. Steinberger

Fr. Malone: The 'Mystic East' a good training ground for young priests



Fr. Malone

I served as associate pastor at Our Lady of Lourdes from July 1970 through August 1978. I remember my time in Pittsburgh with much fondness. It was a great parish in which to serve my early

years as a priest.

Teaching high school religion was not my favorite activity, but I learned a lot. Hopefully, my students learned a little bit, too.

One of my best memories is the wonderful parish spirit that supported

not only the athletic programs, but the other activities as well. Football games, basketball games, and baseball games were always well attended. Adult education, work days, and other parish activities had excellent participation. I especially remember our celebration of "A special day for special people" when we honored senior citizens.

Being there for eight years, I served with many priests. Fr. Steinberger was pastor. As different as the two of us were, we managed to work together pretty well and actually grew rather fond of each other.

Fr. Steinberger, Fr. Grabner, and I

came to the parish in July 1970. It was a clean sweep of previous priests, so we had to find our own way. The next year Fr. Dennis Huse came to the parish. Fr. Ken Melaragno came the next year and later was followed by Fr. Stroot, your present pastor. Our Lady of Lourdes has always been blessed with good priests.

I have many happy memories of my years in Pittsburgh. Your warmth and hospitality, your kindness and caring, your faith and action are sources of strength and encouragement for every priest who comes to the "Mystic East." May God continue to bless you.

Fr. Pat Malone

Fr. Grabner: Memories from my short stint remain as vivid as ever



Fr. Grabner

I was at Our Lady of Lourdes parish for a little more than one year: the school year of 1970-71. There was a complete change in the priests: Fr. Steinberger, pastor; Fr. Patrick Malone, assis-

tant; and myself as weekend help and administrator/chaplin to Colgan High School. Sr. Mary Patrick, C.S.J., was the

principal; I had to pay the bills.

The time began with several meetings to reestablish the sporting activities between Colgan and Frontenac. Frank Crespino and Pat Forbes were the coaches, laying the foundations for what you have today.

As usual, there was the pregame Mass, and needless to say, I don't think the students ever prayed as hard as at this Mass. Colgan beat Frontenac and then went on to take second in the state.

Sr. Mary Patrick and Sr. Linda directed "Finian's Rainbow" as the all-school musical. Jeff Wilbert and gang went out and cut down a tree that was needed on stage for Theresa Masasi to climb in the opening scene. The drafting class built risers in the auditorium for the crowds – luckily they didn't collapse and no one got hurt.

The baseball team took first in state, and so all-in-all, it was a good year for

See Fr. Grabner, page 6 ➔

'Bless me Father . . .'

Bless me father for I have sinned." These words spoken in a confessional may be the most profound words of communication between God and man. And yet there is an intermediary to keep the conversation aloft: a Catholic priest.

At Our Lady of Lourdes we have been blessed with the finest priests the Diocese of Wichita and the country have had to offer. These priests have had an enormous impact on our parish, schools, and souls: some by leadership, others by faith, all by example, all in their place and time.

During my years as a student and parishioner at OLOL there have been many who have had an impact on us. The first to mind is Fr. Steinberger, whom I believe to be the most pious man I have ever known. His work, love, and dedication to these schools were never ending. I

believe that he led us through some very difficult and changing times. As an altar boy during his mission here, I would observe him at least three times a day praying the rosary in the Sacristy. If we needed to find him, that was the first place we looked.

And then there was Fr. Eck whom everyone loved. He spoke softly and was confident of himself. There are many more that come to mind: Fathers Ken Melaragno, Joe Gile, Pat York, Sam Pinkerton, and Jarrod Lies, all fun to be around and exuberant of life. Fr. Joe Donahue told stories of playing professional hockey before the seminary.

We can never forget Fr. Bob McElwee with painted face, wearing a do-rag and collar, running up and down the sidelines at football games (what a card).

And what about Fr. Colgan, our high

school's namesake whom I never knew personally? I feel I do know him through his ever-present spirit as I have seen it work many times. It may be the strongest link to all that happens at SMC.

Last but not least is Fr. Tom Stroot. For the past 15 years he has led us to places we never dreamed of going just a few short years ago. We have seen growth here not experienced in many years.

When I speak of growth, I include parish families, real estate, scholastics, athletics, and every aspect of Catholic life. I know it has been hard on him. His hair has grayed but his smile perseveres. I thank him and all who have contributed to this continuing effort.

I have left out many who have helped us on our way to where we are now. God bless all of you.

Jim Van Becelaere, '77

Most great events of life involve priests

The priests at Our Lady of Lourdes have made the most lasting impressions upon me of anyone during my school career. It is not so much who they were as individuals as whom they made present that earns them a special place in my heart.

I remember participating in the Stations of the Cross, watching the priest walk down the aisle while the hardships of Jesus' life became real. There were Masses, reconciliation services, and then there was the day in May that I crowned the statue of Mary with love burning inside for our Mother.

As I look back on the great events of my life, a priest was there for so many of them. It was a priest who baptized me, gave me God's forgiveness, and gave me first Holy Communion. A priest witnessed my marriage and brought my precious baby Anna into God's family.

It was priests I had known in my youth that guided my family and me at my

father's death. Fr. Tom Stroot celebrated the last Mass my father ever attended in my childhood home, and Fr. Mac stood beside us as we watched him move from this world to the next.

I now teach at a small Catholic school where I met Fr. Cunningham, a retired priest who celebrated Mass, taught RCIA, and referred to the Holy Spirit as the "Holy Nagger" encouraging us to do what was right. When Fr. Cunningham died, the church was packed with parishioners mourning his passing.

At Father's request, the last song of that funeral Mass was "When the Saints Go Marching In." The sadness that filled the room changed into a joyful triumphant song of praise. Perhaps that is what is so incredible about priests, for it is through their ordinary hands and words that God gives us his saving grace and allows us to see the glory present in the cross.

Mary (Hilt) Jones, '87

SMC Alumni Newsletter

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Friendship endures, deepens through the years

I have been asked to write about Fr. Joe Gile and how he has influenced my life. I have known him for more than 14 years as a teacher, as a coach, and as a spiritual advisor. In each of those roles he has aided and contributed in a very positive way to my development as an adult Catholic.

The experience I am most grateful for and that has had the most profound influence on me is his role as a friend. We have shared times of sorrow and times of joy; we have prayed together, worked together, and played together.

The strength of his faith and commitment to the Church are always present and obvious, but at the same time, because of our friendship he has humanized the priesthood and the Catholic Church. In doing so, he has simplified and enriched my faith. While any priest could have taught me about religion, only Fr. Joe could have deepened my faith.

Mike Fleming, '93



History of Priests at Our Lady of Lourdes



PASTORS

Paul Mary Ponziglione	1855
Eugenio Bononcini	1881-1890
Robert Loehrer	1884-1885
Sigismund Wozing	1885
Eugenior Bononcini	1886
Francis J. Zvocek	1886
Joseph Gaydousek	1890
Eugenio Bononcini	1890
E.M. Coolen	1890
N. Neusius	1890
F.S. Hawelka	1891-1893
J.A. Pompeney	1893-1897
E.M. Coolen	1897-1903
James Donohue	1903-1905
George R. Reinschmidt	1905-1912
J.A. Pompeney	1912-1928
P.J. McCullough	1928-1947
Neil N. Divers	1948-1949
Alex G. Stremel	1949-1963
Charles A. Smith	1963-1967
Frank J. Baumstark	1967-1970
Edward Steinberger	1970-1981
Ivan Eck	1981-1987
William M. Carr	1987-1989
Thomas J. Stroot	1989—

YEAR

ASSISTANTS

Leo A. Debes	1927-1928
Alex G. Stremel	1928-1929
George Smith	1929
Joseph Oenbrink	1929
P.H. Rogers	1929-1931
Matt Brady	1931-1932
Philip White	1932-1937
Alex J. Bellezza	1937
Anthony B. Dziemian	1937-1940
Joseph J. Reikas	1940-1942
Herbert N. Hertel	1942-1944
R.T. Dennis	1944-1946
Clifford A. Landis	1946-1947
Neil N. Divers	1947-1949
Edward York	1948-1950
Patrick A. Hughes	1949-1951
Robert F. Pepe	1950-1953
Marino Caldarelli	1950-1951
Joseph G. Bartos	1951-1954
Joseph Abraham	1951-1952
M.R. Blackledge	1953-1955

YEAR

ASSISTANTS

J.T. Nolan	1953-1954
C.H. Steimel	1954-1958
R.F. Kocour	1954-1958
A.J. Stremel	1956
George L. Long	1956-1957
Daniel B. Mulvihill	1957-1960
Francis E. Nugent	1957-1958
Anthony Prichard	1958-1961
James Quinn	1960-1961
James O'Shea	1960-1964
James Hoagland	1961-1964
Joseph Slomski	1961-1962
Alonzo Smithhisler	1963-1970
Robert Schleiter	1964-1965
Thomas Colgan	1964-1966
Thomas Reilly	1965
Dennis Ryan	1965-1967
Paul Alderman	1965-1968
Leo Kerschen	1968-1969
James Donohue	1968-1970
H.P. Malone	1970-1978

YEAR

ASSISTANTS

Eugene Grabner	1970-1971
D.P. Huse	1971-1972
K.J. Melaragno	1972-1977
Thomas J. Stroot	1977-1981
Gene Komer	1978-1980
K.J. Melaragno	1980-1985
Steven Scheier	1981-1982
Philip Bradley	1982-1986
John Miller	1986-1987
Stephen Gronert	1986-1988
Joseph Gile	1988-1993
Andrew Seiler	1988-1990
Larry Parker	1990-1991
Pat York	1992-1995
Robert McElwee	1994-1998
Samuel J. Pinkerton	1995-1998
David J. Lies	1998-2000
Jeff Fasching	2000-2001
Eric Weldon	2000-2001
Jarrod Lies	2001—

YEAR

Eugene Grabner	1970-1971
D.P. Huse	1971-1972
K.J. Melaragno	1972-1977
Thomas J. Stroot	1977-1981
Gene Komer	1978-1980
K.J. Melaragno	1980-1985
Steven Scheier	1981-1982
Philip Bradley	1982-1986
John Miller	1986-1987
Stephen Gronert	1986-1988
Joseph Gile	1988-1993
Andrew Seiler	1988-1990
Larry Parker	1990-1991
Pat York	1992-1995
Robert McElwee	1994-1998
Samuel J. Pinkerton	1995-1998
David J. Lies	1998-2000
Jeff Fasching	2000-2001
Eric Weldon	2000-2001
Jarrod Lies	2001—

The glory days of fishing with the Fathers

My memories of the assistant priests who have tread the halls of St. Mary's-Colgan remind me of the song "Glory Days." We were all much younger then and perfecting our various crafts with an exploratory attitude.

Father Jim O'Shea was the "Andretti" of the early 1960s as he guided, drove, and steered, a somewhat antique school bus from distant athletic fields to equally distant gymnasiums. Those were our independent days when we took games wherever we could find them. They were also the days when it was a rare team that didn't get to push the bus to get it started, or off to the side of the road when it died. Father O'Shea and Frank Crespino were on a first-name basis with most of the law enforcement officers this side of Wichita.

Fathers Pat Malone, Joe Gorentz, Leo Kerschen, and Leroy Linnebur were in the same league as Roland Martin or Harold Ensley. That is they all owned fishing poles. Father Malone and I wandered over to the St. Paul Refuge to slay crappie one October afternoon.

After launching the boat it seemed the water was relatively shallow, but we cast our minnows and waited, waited, and summarily waited for a nibble, strike, run,

High School

or whatever a crappie did in the course of having dinner. Our "wait" lasted about two hours without the loss of a single minnow other than those who succumbed to drowning. We later discovered we had been in a field they flooded to accommodate waterfowl.

Fishing with Fathers Gorentz, Linnebur, and Kerschen, we attacked a pit near Arma and had accumulated a fine stringer of crappie. Late in the afternoon, Frank started to add to the stringer but discovered it was gone. He blamed me, I blamed Fr. Gorentz, and being the noble fellow he was, he accepted responsibility.

Frank and I had the heart-wrenching experience of saying goodbye to Father Joe at St. Francis in Wichita a few days before he died. Even in his painful and debilitated condition, he spoke of the joyous times he had at St. Mary's-Colgan.

I believe the real reason Fathers Linnebur and Kerschen went fishing was to enjoy the foods we consumed while waiting to catch whatever negligently wandered onto our hooks. Father Eugene Grabner became a regular "scout" for

Frank and went whenever he could go to scout opposing teams. From Wetmore to Hope, Kansas, Father traveled to lend his support to our program.

Fr. Stroot as a rookie priest (when his hair was black and he wore a 32-inch belt) was no rookie as a third baseman for the Knights of Columbus team. He was a standout and always performed well against the thousands of his relatives who played for opposing teams at the K of C State in Hutchinson.

Fr. Ken Melaragno was an invaluable asset to the theater department as he was a vital liaison for Bob Tindel and a supporter of fine arts. He was the first and only priest I ever saw in a tux. His only failing was he thought Victor Hugo was a coach. Fr. Joe Gile really believes he is ready to coach at Notre Dame since he has visited with Chuck so much and once saw a picture of the grotto at Notre Dame.

From O'Shea to Fr. Jarrod Lies, we have been blessed with the religious spirit, laughter, and friendships of this talented, knowledgeable, caring group of future pastors who gave and got so much at Our Lady of Lourdes and SMC.

Pat Forbes, Principal

Dedicated pastors make the difference

Junior High School

parish the most complete of any I have ever experienced. Parents and families continue to support through good times and bad.

The dedication of all involved, whether their passion is school, church, or community, is astonishing. And I feel that this dedication is an extension of the pastor. The responsibilities that he has are numerous, yet he always seems to be right there no matter what the situation. Fr. Stroot, thanks for all your wisdom and support.

Wayne Cichon, Principal

Grade School

Tell Father
"thanks"
for all he
does for us

The most powerful person in the world is a Catholic Priest. Who else can turn bread and water/wine into the real Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist? Do I need to say more?

Take time out and tell "Father" thanks for all he does for us. Invite him out for a visit, a meal, or trip sometime. The priests are always there to help, even to the last dying breath of ours to the Requiem Mass for our eternal soul.

Francis Smith, Principal

Grabner

(Continued from page 2)

sports. As for myself, I had never ridden a school bus until I started traveling with the teams. I must admit that this year proved to me I was no classroom teacher as I tried to get an ulcer and ended up having an EKG.

In a way, the things that helped me keep my sanity was the "scouting" trip that Frank, Pat,

Fr. Joe Gorentz, and I would take to far away places. Also, knowing that I would be going into Wichita to take over the diocesan youth program helped me through classroom lesson plans, tests, and grading. The faculty and students were great, but teaching, as such, was not my cup of tea.

Fr. Grabner

Class of '52 reunion

The St. Mary's High School class of 1952 held its 50-year reunion the weekend of June 21, 2002. Class members toured the current school, reviewed pictures and clippings from 50 years ago, and enjoyed a bus tour of the area.

Class members and guests attending included: Bob Brown; Jim Buche and wife Carolyn; Ted Condos and wife Nadine; Beverly Corrington Eppler and husband Charles; Jim Dunlap and wife Barbara; Marie Eichhorn Brinkman; Rosemary Grant Martin and husband Dick; Bob Havens and wife Margaret; Jim Jones; Mary Jones Boswell and husband Ray; John Kazmierski and wife Patty; Gesena Korphage Galetti and husband Walt; Mike Lyons and wife Doris; Leo Peak and wife Billie; Jim Russian and wife Johnna; Mary Stahl Olson and husband Merlin; and Jim Yoakum and wife Nolene.



Three titles in a row!

Panther football team among best ever

The SMC Panthers won their third straight Class 2-1A state championship with a 29-8 victory over the Claflin Wildcats in Hays last November.

Colgan is one of only four schools in state history to have three consecutive undefeated seasons, and the Panthers' 40 consecutive victories rank as the fourth-longest win streak in state history since the playoffs began in 1969.

Trips

(Continued from page 1)

day trips to the lake initiated by Father Ivan Eck and Father Tom Stroot during my high school and early college years.

They would hook up Father Eck's boat, round up 10 or 12 willing teenagers, and we'd set out for a day at the lake where they would teach us to water ski, and "show off" their own skill at the sport.

They taught us how to hang on tight to the rope while the boat gradually pulled us out of the water. They would remind us to let the boat guide us and not try and get too far to the outside boundaries where we might lose control; and when our turn was over, we were to allow ourselves to slowly sink back into the water until the boat came to a complete stop or we'd wipe out.

Often we'd forget, however, and find ourselves head over skis and stranded in the middle of the lake. We always knew they'd come back for us, though. Most importantly, they would never let us give up. We were always made to try again and do better the next time. Our total trust had to be in the driver of that boat, but what fun!

Little did we know then that these two priests were teaching us more than just water skiing. They left us with lessons to last a lifetime.

We learned that life is a lot like the undulating waters. We have to

hold on tight and stay focused or we might wipe out. We also learned that with a little determination and courage, there is always the opportunity to get back up and try again. Most especially, however, we learned that faith means putting your trust in something greater than yourself. I doubt that either priest knew the impact they made in our lives with those Saturday outings.

They didn't stop at the water skiing adventures, either. I remember a trip to the Colorado Rockies. I became pretty good friends with the baby slopes that week. Let's just say I got very good at getting back up on my skis. But Father Eck and Father Tom were die-hards.

We skied from sun up to sun down, beginning every morning with Mass in the condo and ending each evening with a home-cooked meal and a game of cards. What a difference someone can make in a young person's life just by taking the time to have fun and turn ordinary adventures into indelible lessons of faith.

I know not every priest can spend that kind of time with the youth of their parish, especially in this day and age when priests are scarce and the duties are doubled or tripled. The small, daily influences are equally valuable. I am grateful that my children are now the recipients of such faithful leadership.

Audrey (Van Becaere) Dickey, '82

Fr. Tom

(Continued from page 1)

When I was asked by Bishop Gerber to come to Pittsburg as pastor in February of 1989 it was the last thing on my mind and to be honest I wasn't ready to leave St. James in Augusta. I remember being greeted by many that I knew from previous years and they would say: "Father, it is good to have you back." And I would say: "It's good to be back," even though I said it with a little bit of reluctance.

I remember one person adding another comment when he said, "Father, you have some big problems to take care of with the schools and all" (he was speaking of the finances). I remember not even thinking as I responded saying: "No, I don't

have problems, we have some problems that we have to deal with."

The Holy Spirit was guiding me as I gave that response. It wasn't and isn't my problem because it is and will continue to be **our** problem or better phrased – **challenge**. Surely it was an inspiration because we – the priests, sisters, staff, parents, parishioners, and students – have addressed the challenges and will continue to address them.

Not one priest, principal, or one or two families can make it happen. We are not only surviving but progressing because all of us – **we** – have accepted the challenge placed before us to provide a quality Catholic education for our

young people.

And that challenge was accepted and met down through the ages by many priests, sisters, teachers, and parishioners. We have been blessed and will continue to be blessed if we provide Catholic education and formation for all children no matter what the means of their parents.

I want to express a special thanks to many of you alumni who have supported our schools in the past. We are grateful. We pray that the Lord will bless you and your loved ones. We trust that our parish and schools under the patronage of our Blessed Mother will continue to serve the many families of our community. Mary, Queen of Peace, intercede for us.

Alumni Newsletter
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Musical a big hit

SMC students (above) entertained standing-room-only crowds in early December with several masterful performances of the musical "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" in the beautifully remodeled high school auditorium. SMC theater is alive and well!

Why SMC?

The focus of our next issue will be "Why SMC?" Why did your family choose a Catholic education at SMC, and why are you doing the same for your children (either at SMC or elsewhere)? Send your recollections and stories to Chris Flood (ctflood@ckt.net, 620-369-8909, or 6664 NE Liberty Rd., Weir, KS 66781). General alumni news items are also welcome.

Class Notes

Gorman deployed to Afghanistan

Jason Gorman ('87) was activated with his National Guard unit on August 15, 2002. He trained at Ft. Carson, Colo., and was deployed to Afghanistan on September 16, 2002. He is a member of Support Company, 5th Battalion, 19th Special Forces Group. This is his 17th year in the Guard.

* * *

Wachter appointed district judge

A.J. Wachter ('61) was recently appointed a judge of the 11th Judicial District Court, Division 1, Crawford County, Kansas. A graduate of Pittsburg State University and Washburn Law School, A.J. worked for Wilbert, Lassman, Toburen, and Wachter, which merged into Wilbert and Towner, P.A. A.J.'s wife is Susan (Witt, '63) and his sons are Pat and Shawn ('86) and Brian ('94).

* * *

Fleming holds district judgeship

Bob Fleming ('60), another former member of the law firm Wilbert and Towner, P.A., was appointed in 1996 to

serve as a judge of the 11th Judicial District Court, Division 3, Labette County, Kansas. A graduate of Pittsburg State University and Washburn Law School, Bob's wife is Peggy, who teaches sixth grade at St. Mary's. His children include Kyle ('91), Mike ('93), Joe ('97), and Maggie ('96).

* * *

Westhoff honored at PSU

Michael Westhoff ('84) was honored as a Pittsburg State University Outstanding Alumnus during the PSU Homecoming festivities in 2002. Michael is a zone manager for General Motors and is responsible for sales, service, marketing, and parts for GM dealers in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, and Virginia.

His team annually sells more than \$750 million in new vehicles and \$30 million in parts to GM dealers. He has been active in his church and does volunteer work with developmentally disabled adults. He lives in Hurricane, West Virginia.

* * *

Class of '93 plans reunion

The class of 1993 has begun planning its 10-year reunion. If you have any suggestions or would like more information, e-mail John Curran at johnc@lpa.state.ks.us.