

# EVERGLADES



# GRIFFIN

## WELCOME

Welcome to the third edition of the newsletter of the Canisius College Alumni Chapter of Naples. We hope to keep you informed about the latest activities and newsworthy items regarding Canisius alumni.

We welcome your participation in chapter events, as well as, membership on the Alumni Chapter committee.

Tim Blewett, Chapter President.  
([timblewett@gmail.com](mailto:timblewett@gmail.com))

## Naples Chapter Website

To access the website for our Naples chapter go to [www.Canisius.edu/naples-chapter](http://www.Canisius.edu/naples-chapter).

**OR** Go to [www.Canisius.edu](http://www.Canisius.edu). Click "Alumni" in the top yellow area. Then click "How to Get Involved" followed by "Regional Chapters"; click on Naples, FL. Get our latest updates.

## ALUMNI CHAPTER ANNUAL RECEPTION AND DINNER

The annual Canisius Reception and Dinner is being held on Saturday, March 23, 2019 at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club. This is a great opportunity to meet and mingle with other area alumni and friends in a breathtaking setting on Naples Bay. President John Hurley and members of the college staff will make their annual visit here and bring us up to date on news from Canisius. In addition, a Mass is being offered at the NSYC at 4:30 p.m.

If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for this event, a minimum donation of \$250 entitles you to the reception and dinner for two people. This also helps to defray the total cost of the dinner, in addition to providing funding for the scholarship. If you have not received an invitation to be a sponsor please contact Patrick Greenwald at (716)888-8216 or at [Greenwal@Canisius.edu](mailto:Greenwal@Canisius.edu).

The charge for non-sponsors is \$75 although for graduates post 2008 the cost is less. This price includes an open bar, hors d'oeuvres, and

## **FORT MYERS CHAPTER**

We continue to explore the possibility of forming a Fort Myers alumni chapter. As with the Naples chapter, it would serve as a conduit for local Canisius alumni to meet and participate in activities that may further your connection to Alma Mater or provide another way to reconnect with other alumni. If you are interested in participating in this venture please contact Ann Celani at [ficelaec@aol.com](mailto:ficelaec@aol.com).

## **CONDOLENCES TO ANDY HILL**

Our sympathies to Andy Hill '86 on the passing of his father, Robert W. Hill, on January 2nd.

three course dinner. Entree choices include Seared Filet Mignon and Grilled Gulf Shrimp, Seared Gulf Grouper and Grilled Vegetable Lasagna (vegetarian). Invitations will be mailed shortly or you can make your reservation on-line at [www.canisius.edu/alumni](http://www.canisius.edu/alumni) or call the Office of Alumni Engagement at (716)888-2700 or toll-free at (800)201-4952.

The first Naples area high school graduate began her studies at Canisius this past fall semester! Admissions are essential to the future of Canisius and it's wonderful to see developing success in the recruiting efforts here in Southwest Florida.

Please consider making a donation to our scholarship fund that is used to support a Canisius student from Florida. This year's scholarship recipient received over \$4,000 from the Naples Chapter as a result of sponsor contributions.

We look forward to seeing you on March 23rd at 4:30 p.m. at the Naples Sailing and Yacht Club!

## **COLLEGE ALUMNI RECRUITMENT EFFORTS**

Admissions Ambassadors Tim Blewett and Tony Maglione, presented information about Canisius College at the College Day held at St. John Neumann High School in Naples. They met with a number of students who have expressed an interest in our Jesuit Mission, academic excellence and the recent introduction of the College's "Excellence Within Reach" strategy. These recruiting efforts have supplied the Admissions team with names of several Naples students, some of whom have applied to Canisius. They will participate in the Collier Public Schools College Day this fall.

## IN MEMORIUM: CHET PAWENSKA

Chester “Chet” Pawenska was one of the original Canisius alumni to participate in the planning of the annual Naples Reception and Dinner. After many years of service, loyalty and support of Canisius College we are saddened by his passing. May we always remember his friendly, cheerful and easy going manner; we will miss him! Following is the obituary that appeared in the January 10, 2019 edition of the Buffalo News.

Chester “Chet” Pawenska loved people. “He never met a stranger,” said his daughter Karen Rogowski. “He never walked away from meeting somebody without knowing their name and how to spell it, where they came from and where they went to school.”

He actively supported his alma maters, Canisius High School and Canisius College.

But most of all, he cherished his wife, three daughters, 13 grandchildren and

and eight great-grandchildren. “Family was everything to him,” said Rogowski.

Mr. Pawenska, of Amherst, an Allstate Insurance agent for 47 years, died Jan. 8, 2019, in the rehab facility of Brothers of Mercy in Clarence. He was 89.

He was the first child of Polish immigrants John and Caroline (Janusik) Pawenska, and the brother of Stanley. The family lived on Lathrop Street when Mr. Pawenska was a child, then moved into a modest

### CHET PAWENSKA, CLASS OF 1952



Chet Pawenska, Cont.

wood-frame house on Sattler Avenue that had no basement. Mr. Pawenska and his father, who was a bricklayer for a railroad, dug a basement that eventually held a workbench, summer kitchen, washing machine and shelves for home-canned foods, said Karen Rogowski.

Mr. Pawenska graduated from Canisius High School in 1947 and earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry from Canisius College in 1952. When he was a student at Canisius College, he met Helen Barrett, a student nurse in the Sisters Hospital School of Nursing, on a blind date on New Years Eve. One of Mr. Pawenska's friends, who had a date but no car, asked Mr. Pawenska if he could drive both couples if the friend could find him a date. The arrangement worked out and the couple married on April 14, 1952, in St. James Catholic Church.

After graduating from Canisius, Mr. Pawenska worked in quality control at International Milling in Buffalo. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in April of 1953, serving at Lackland Air Force Base in Texas and Keesler Air Force Base in Mississippi and achieving the rank of 2nd lieutenant. He then served in the Air Force Reserves until the early 1960's.

In 1954, he began working for Allstate Insurance at a stand-up sales booth in the Sears Roebuck store at the Thruway Plaza in Cheektowaga. He also made house calls. He later worked in an Allstate office at 3800 Union Road in Cheektowaga, then opened his own office on George Urban Boulevard in Depew. He received the Allstate Honor Ring for high achievement and many other rewards during his career. He retired in 2001.

After retirement, "He lived for his grandchildren," said Rogowski. "Our kids were always involved with sports and activities, and my parents were always there for every event."

Mr. Pawenska was known for being dapper, said his daughter. "He always wore a suit and tie to work, a sport coat to church, and he still had a full head of hair, so he always carried a comb in his pocket.

He was a member of the Alumni board of Directors at Canisius College and past president of its Alumni Association. He was inducted into its DiGamma Honor Society and received the LaSalle Medal, the highest honor bestowed on an alumnus for service to the college. He was member of its Leadership Society, the Rev. James M. Demske '47 SJ Society and the Blue and Gold Athletic Booster Club. He chaired reunions and fundraising campaigns and was a committee member and past chair of the annual Little Three Golf Tournament.

Chet Pawenska, Cont.

In 1999, the Pawenskas began to spend time in Naples, Fla., where Mr. Pawenska joined the planning committee for Canisius events. On their 50th and 60th wedding anniversaries, the Pawenskas renewed their wedding vows. Mrs. Pawenska died on June 9, 2016.

An avid golfer, Mr. Pawenska was an active 40-year member of the Park Country Club of Buffalo and a former member of its Board of Governors. He was also active in the Naples Heritage Golf and Country Club in Florida, and had two holes-in-one over the years, one at each of his clubs.

Since 1966, he was an active parishioner of St. Gregory the Great Church in Amherst and a member of its men's golf league. He belonged to the Knights of Columbus Father Justin Council. He was active in the Buffalo Bills Quarterback Club and Bills Backers Club of Naples and a member of the Polish Arts Club of Buffalo.

Mr. Pawenska is survived by his daughters Maureen Gallagher, Karen Rogowski and Laurie Bowman, 13 grandchildren, 8 great-grandchildren, his brother, Stanley Pawenska, and several nieces and nephews. A Mass of Christian Burial [was offered] at 10:30 a.m. Saturday [Jan. 12th] in St. Gregory the Great Catholic Church, Amherst. Memorials may be made to Canisius High School or the Pawenska Family Scholarship Fund at Canisius College.

THE OFFICERS OF THE CANISIUS ALUMNI  
CHAPTER FOR 2018-2020 ARE:

TIM BLEWETT - PRESIDENT AND  
CHAIRMAN OF THE NAPLES RECEPTION

PAT CONNELLY - SECRETARY

CHRISTINE LOJACANO MARELLO AND ANN  
CELANI - COMMUNICATIONS.

PLEASE CONTACT TIM IF YOU ARE INTERESTED  
IN ORGANIZING OR PARTICIPATING IN CANISIUS  
GAME WATCHES OR SOCIALS.

