

THE IRISH PEN

The official newsletter of William V. Fisher Catholic High School



Godwinks

by Kristin (Conrad '90) Garrabrant

Have you ever found yourself thinking about someone who hasn't crossed your mind in years, and then you run into that person the next day? Some people may call these coincidences, but in my home we call them "Godwinks," a term coined from the book with the same title. Reading this book several years ago sparked conversations with my children about how seemingly random events in our lives can actually be intentional signposts that God

has placed on our path. Several weeks ago, I came up with the idea of creating a commemorative video for Fisher Catholic's 50th Anniversary. But with no experience in video production, I was praying for someone to spearhead this project. Following a Facebook request for alumni updates, I received an update from alumnus, Carl Todhunter, who shared that without his involvement in the Fisher Catholic Broadcasting Network (FCBN), he would never have launched his career as a photojournalist with WBNS-TV. I contacted Carl to inquire if he would be interested in helping with the video and he agreed! Not only will Carl be leading our Digital Communications class in the production of the commemorative video, he offered his assistance with the restoration of our digital media rooms at Fisher Catholic. Godwink.

Thank you, Carl, for carrying on your parents' legacy of deep commitment to Fisher Catholic High School...I have no doubt they are proud of you.

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CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FISHER CATHOLIC!



CAMPAIGN | \$50,000 For 50 Years!

In honor of the opening of Fisher Catholic in November of 1971, Fisher Catholic's Department of Development is launching a "\$50,000 for 50 Years" annual fund campaign! Please help us exceed last year's profit of \$36,000 by donating today from the shamrock link! Thank you for your support and generosity!



A Special Thank you!

A "special thank you" is extended to alumnus, Paul Blanchard, who was able to bring the vision to life for our 50th Anniversary logo featured above! Your attention to detail is like no other!

For those of you who know Paul Blanchard, you may fondly associate him with the endless volunteer hours that he gives to Fisher Catholic's Bid O' Luck fundraiser! Since 2005 he has lead the marketing committee and creates all of our professional BOL logos, posters, web graphics, and other marketing materials!

Paul is a 1984 graduate from Fisher Catholic High School and a 1990 graduate of Columbus College of Art and Design. In 1995 he started his freelance graphic design business, "Dezign Graphix Creative Cafe." He has been a self-employed advertising designer for over 25 years, creating graphic designs for print and the digital world, large scale murals to smaller illustrations for advertising, photographer of retail merchandise for catalogs to action sport photography. Please patronize Paul's business, based in Columbus, Ohio, at <http://www.dg-cc.com/>. ~Kristin

FISHER CATHOLIC ALUMNI | 1984 Graduate

by Carl Todhunter

Greetings, fellow alumni. While this article is a spotlight on my journey, I would be remiss if I did not shine some of that light on a few people that guided me along my path. I am humbled and honored to have been asked to share my with you. My name is Carl Todhunter and on June 3rd, 1984, I officially became an alumnus of Fisher Catholic. Our family was small, consisting of my parents, John and Frieda, (St. Mary High School '44), along with my older brother, John, (Fisher Catholic High School '83). Mom was Catholic but dad was not, but both knew the importance of having a religious education and being involved in their children's lives. Most of my classmates as well as those around my age will remember my parents being very active with school and were fondly referred to simply as "Mr. and Mrs. T."



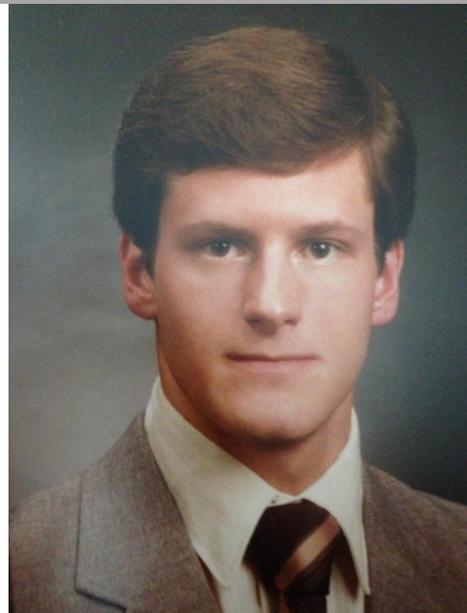
Pictured Left to Right: Carl's Father, John, Carl, and his Mother, Frieda.

I was born in Lancaster and grew up on West Chestnut on the west side of town. My brother and I attended St. Mark Elementary through 5th grade. We would move around that time to North Baker prior to starting at St. Mary for Junior High. During my years at St. Mark, I was very active in cub scouts, basketball, and

Carl



Todhunter



baseball. Around first grade, I would have my first contact with Fisher Catholic, as mom and dad attended a basketball game returning with green berets for us. Dad and mom planted the seed of being involved, as my mom worked in the cafeteria and dad coached the baseball team, as well as helped with cub scouts. My interest in running started here as well, when I would run the over half mile home from school when the weather was nice.

My Catholic education would continue with St. Mary for 6th through 8th grades. Here I would have a seed planted for my future career, as well as a larger involvement with Fisher Catholic. I continued playing baseball and basketball while adding track and football. Track evolved during this time as well when the mile run was added to competition. That became my main event along with the 880 yard run. Anyone that played football may recall the long trek to Cherry St. Park for practice and back. I loved trying to beat the van back to school, which I managed to

do on several occasions.

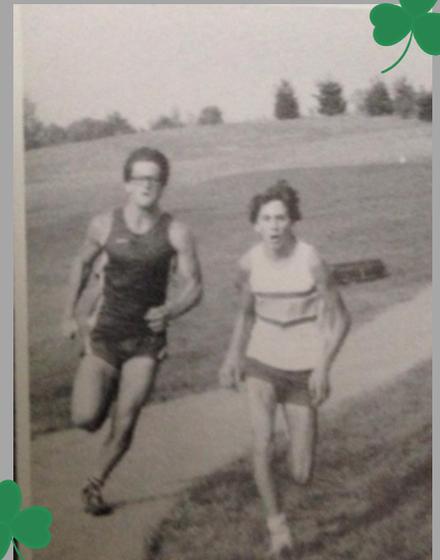
As for that taste of a future career, that came in the form of being asked to read the morning announcements. That led to more morning announcements, exceeding a few school performances and readings during Mass. Vincent would be the name I chose for Confirmation as I affirmed my faith. My parents' continued commitment to our education started with an early involvement and connection to Fisher. Dad would coach the St. Mary baseball team.

In case you haven't noticed, my parents set great examples of staying involved for me to follow in life. As many can attest, they seldom missed any activity in which my brother and I were involved whether home or away. During this time they joined the Fisher Catholic Athletic Board. My dad along with Jess McKee would undertake redoing the baseball field, along with creating a concession stand. I lost track of how many 5 gallon buckets of dirt my brother and I hauled to fill in the field. This all while we were still in junior high. We would also help out with Bingo concessions on their night to work. They continued to set more examples by working the gates and ticket booth at football and basketball games. Mom never missed a game from my 7th grade year until my second semester in college when she suffered a heart attack in January. She would pass away a month and a half later.

My first official contact before officially crossing the threshold of Fisher as a student came in the form of a phone call. Summer break had just started and the phone rang. It was future coaching legend, Mrs. Joanne "Mom" Marcinko. She was calling to say she

knew I was a distance runner and had I ever given any thought to running cross country in high school? Having never heard of it she explained and I was hooked. It was a decision I never regretted while earning Varsity letter for 4 years. This led to lettering four years in track as well. I would also be named team captain my senior year. These were also big transformation years as both sports transitioned from yards to meters. Cross country went from 2.5 miles to 5k (3.1 miles). In track my 880 became 800 meters and the mile run turned into 1600 meter run.

Pictured Right: Carl continued his love of running while attending Fisher Catholic.



One of the things I loved most about Fisher was the abundance of opportunities available to students due to its small size. The class of '84, at the time, was one of the smallest classes in recent years with 55 students. I was fortunate enough to take advantage of some of those opportunities over my four years. Along with track/cross country, I played two years of basketball but realized my talents were suited elsewhere.

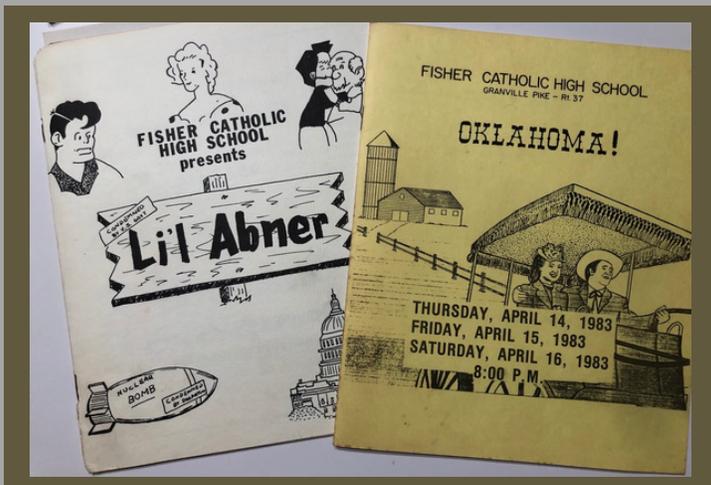
Singing was another passion of mine. Spending 4 years in choir and elected choir president senior year. That made me a member of the

student council as well. My junior year the school decided to undertake a musical production of *Oklahoma!*. This was all headed up by Mr. Lon Cass, Fr. Sam Richey, Sr. Lisa Zuccarelli and Mr. Dennis Binner. Two 1983 alums, Bob Competti and Angie Kilbarger, lead the ensemble. A big production with a small class meant many of us played multiple smaller roles. Have I mentioned how involved my parents were? Well, my dad designed and built the stage on which we performed. Senior year brought the next production, another musical, *Lil' Abner*. This time I had a bigger part playing Dr. Rasmussen T. Finsdale. The ensemble was lead by 1984 alums, Jim Tooill and Cathie Binger.



Pictured Above (First from Right): Carl participated in the All Ohio State Fair Youth Choir.

That sample of my future career happened again my junior and senior years. Another legendary coach was also involved again. Mrs. Elaine McCullough decided to start a radio-tv communication class. This started my second semester junior year. She called on another alum, Doug Roundhouse, to help with the technical aspects, as he was an engineer with WTVN-TV (later WSYX). Enter my father again. He was the custodian at Fisher during that time. He was tasked with converting part of the old typing room into a news set and control room. I would receive a beautiful letter from Mrs. McCullough shortly after my dad passed in 2018 saying what a pleasure it was working with my dad. She was grateful for all the work he had done, even his suggestion of using old egg cartons as sound proofing, which worked great.



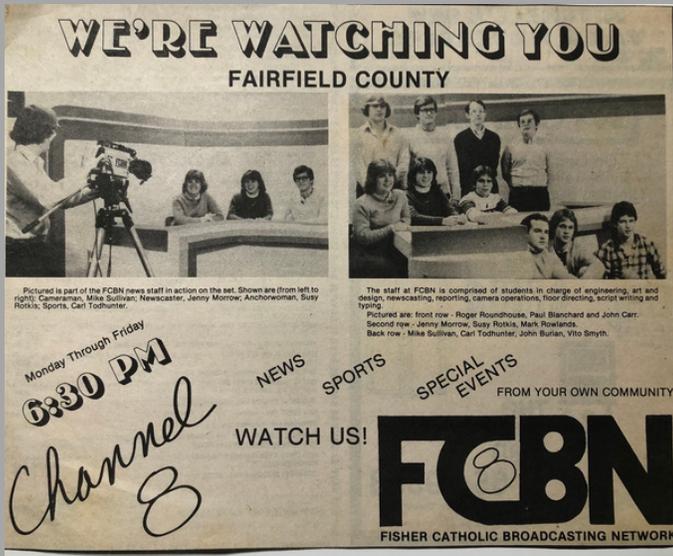
Pictured Above: Fisher Catholic musical programs for *Lil' Abner* and *Oklahoma!* that Carl participated in.

Between junior and senior year I was honored to be chosen to join 314 other voices as part of the All Ohio State Fair Youth Choir.

I stayed active with my home church of St. Mark during that time as well by being involved in the church choir and youth group. As a group we managed to bring back the St. Mark Festival that had been very popular many years prior. This brought back that connection of community, faith and family.

Fisher Catholic Broadcasting Network (FCBN) would hit the airways during Fair Week in 1983 on Cablevision Channel 8. This consisted of taped programs including a Monday through Friday taped newscast. I handled sports reports and reporting. During my

Pictured Below: Newspaper advertisement for the Fisher Catholic Broadcasting Network (FCBN) in 1983.



senior year I would also take a Journalism class with Mr. John Weir. And was honored to receive the International Honorary Award of Quill and Scroll. The class would write articles for the student paper, the *Leprechaun Express*.

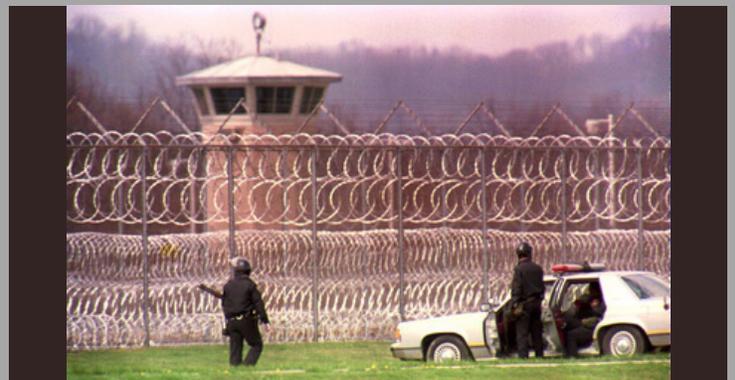
Senior year also includes the task of what to do with my next step in life. And for many that includes deciding on college and a major. My experiences at Fisher made that decision pretty easy, although I still had to decide where to go. It was a three-stage process for me. They had to have the major and ability to be involved right away. Second, they had to spell my name correctly. You would be surprised at the variations I received. And lastly, it could not be addressed "Dear Grad or Student." The last points had to do with the individual family feel I had while attending Fisher.

In March I decided to take a scholarship test at Ashland College and apply as they had a Radio/TV major. The results of the test led to an academic scholarship and finalizing my decision to study Radio/TV Program

Production and Performance. I can remember Freshman year in Introduction to Radio/TV when our instructor said to look around. Only one out of four of you will still be in this major after 4 years. In actuality, there were less still in the field after graduating. Fisher had prepared me well, as we were a tough-minded school and loved being the underdog, as well as dealing with adversity and rising above.

Originally wanting to be a radio personality, I quickly realized after hosting a few shows on WRDL-FM that I didn't quite have the extroverted personality required. I decided to switch to TV production, which led to a professional internship with WCMH-TV in Columbus. I learned quickly to adapt in this business. After college, the person I worked with at WCMH had moved to news at WSYX and asked if I would like to start as a part-time news tape editor. While I had never considered working in news, I accepted and started fall of '88. By 1992 I would advance to becoming a news photojournalist.

After attending Easter Mass in 1993, I would end up covering one of my biggest stories while working at WSYX. My work day would last 36 hours straight as I flew down to Lucasville in our helicopter to cover the riots.



Pictured Above: Carl worked for 36 hours straight to cover the Lucasville riots in 1993.

Seven years had gone by after joining Channel 6 and I decided to move a bit down the road to take a job at 10TV as a news photojournalist. November 20th will mark my 26th year there. I have had the opportunity to cover countless stories and interviews. Bear with me as I share some of the more memorable. For over 25 years I covered high school football. Most of those on Chopper 10. It also includes Fisher's 1998 football state final game. I also covered the news side of Ohio State's following Bowl games: '99 Sugar Bowl loss to FSU, 2002 Fiesta Bowl Championship victory over Miami and their 2010 victory over Oregon in the Rose Bowl.



Pictured Above: Carl working inside the Rose Bowl.

On the entertainment front, I covered multiple CMA's in Nashville where I interviewed Loretta Lynn, Glen Campbell, Shania Twain, Clint Black and many more. They also sent me to LA to cover the ACM awards and was able to interview the late legend, Charley Pride. Garth Brooks was such a great interview as he performed at the old Cooper Stadium.

I can't forget about covering a local person appearing on the Jeopardy Tournament of Champions. Alex Trebek was such a kind and gracious interview.

Pictured Below: The legendary Steve Irwin, interviewed by Carl in Australia in 2000.



My journey would continue in the Land Down Under in 2000. We were sent to do some preview stories prior to the start of Survivor Outback. This would take us to the Australia Zoo where we met with Steve Irwin and he showed us some of the dangerous snakes and spiders contestants may encounter up close and personal. He was a super nice individual who cared so much about animal conservation. I also met his wife, Terri, and Bindi when she was an infant. The big treat was meeting Harriet, the 170 year old tortoise, brought to them by Charles Darwin. As a side note, she died a few months prior to Steve's tragic death.

I did manage to win an Emmy in '98 after doing a story where we tracked down a criminal father in Pennsylvania.

Recently we honored the 20th anniversary of 9/11. Dave Kaylor, 10TV anchor, and I were sent to the Pentagon 20 years ago. To this day I still have the image upon arriving and the sky had just turned dark. The spot lights shown on the building were illuminating the smoke rising from where the plane had struck.

An F5 tornado causing damages around Birmingham, Alabama would have me there to

cover the story in 2010. Winds were so strong that solid brick building with basements weren't even safe.

And I cannot forget to mention the biggest interview for me...he was the epitome of journalism, Mr. Walter Cronkite.

Finally, the pandemic gave me an opportunity to do a two-part story on fellow alum, Jim Competti ('85) and his wife, Mary. They were in the middle of traveling to all 50 states spreading the word on Living Simple. That was cut short due to the shutdown but they were already ahead of the game. The quote I remember most was, "You are given the gift of time! Make the most of it!". And all of those opportunities and experiences would not have been possible without those made available to me while attending Fisher Catholic.



Pictured Above: Carl covers the damage and destruction caused by tornado in Alabama.

Pictured Below (First from Left): Carl with Jack Hanna following a live shoot.



Pictured Below: Carl standing in front of Air Force One, the aircraft that transports our U.S. Presidents.



Pictured Above: Carl continues his news coverage through the worldwide pandemic.



My personal life took shape in 2009 as I met my wife, SallyAnn. We moved to Lewis Center after getting married on 11/11/11 (I was told it was so I wouldn't forget). I would also switch my work shift to 2am til 10am to allow for family time. We added a labradoodle in 2012 that we named Winston Churchill. Did I mention my wife was born in England? Faith and quite a few prayers had us welcoming a son, Graeme, in 2015. Our rainbow child did make us wait the full 40 weeks plus a few days. He has graced us with so much joy and pleasure that it was well worth the wait.

My mom and dad have since passed away, respectively in 1985 and 2018. My brother John was diagnosed with Multiple Myeloma in 2018 about a month before dad passed. This was a result of his service as a Military Police Officer during Desert Shield and Desert Storm and would force him to retire from the Lancaster Police Department after 20 years on the force. He eventually succumbed to the disease after a courageous three-year battle in August of this year.

I believe my family dedicated so much of their lives supporting my brother and me through school, because it was a reflection of the values and beliefs they saw in a Catholic education. What we lacked financially (my brother and I worked during the summers cleaning the halls and classrooms getting them ready for classes to help with tuition), our family believed service and devotion was the best way to show your dedication.

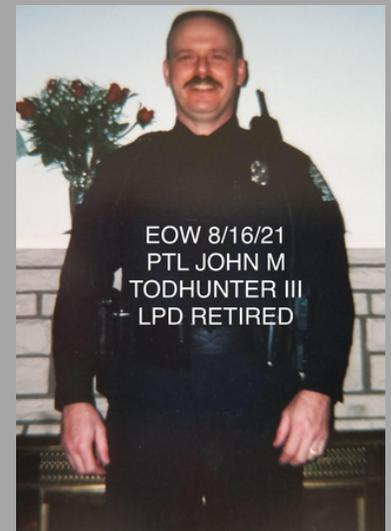
As I wrap up I cannot forget my love of history (I minored in History) can be traced back to two of my former history teachers, Mr. Dave Frasure at St. Mary and Mr. Dennis Binner at Fisher. Without some these above and beyond teachers I encountered along the way, I would not be where I am today. I hope you enjoyed my rather long ride to this point. Remember, some of those small encounters in life may leave a big impact on your life! And THANK YOU to all of those I may not have mentioned by name that were also a part of my travels through life!



Pictured Above (Left to Right): Carl's wife, SallyAnn, Carl's son, Graeme, and Carl. What a lovely family.

Pictured Right: Carl's brother, John ('83), who passed away this past August from a cancer he developed when in the service during Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

May we never take for granted our military heroes who have given their lives so that we may have life.



Rest in peace, John.



Katie



Sells

FISHER CATHOLIC ALUMNI | Sells ('05) Athletic Office Manager & Cheerleading Coach

Katie (Sells) Gillum is a 2005 graduate of Fisher Catholic High School. She was born right here in Lancaster, Ohio. She has one sister who is ten years older than her who also graduated from Fisher Catholic. Her grandmother graduated in the 1940's from St. Mary High School, and her mother in 1969 from Bishop Fenwick High School, one of five children to attend.

She is married to Jack Gillum (Berne Union alumnus), and they have five beautiful children together. As Katie's children became older, it was very important to her that they attend St. Mary and eventually Fisher Catholic, because the faith, academics and atmosphere is like no other. Their oldest daughter, Charli, is now a freshman at Fisher Catholic. Their twins, Layni and Hadli, are in sixth grade, Berkli is in first, and their youngest, Jackson, is in preschool, all at St. Mary. Katie cannot even imagine her

children attending school anywhere else.

Katie worked for ten years as a photographer at a local studio before deciding to stay home with their children. Growing up she always gravitated towards babies and younger kids. She knew being a mother was always going to be her first priority and joy.

In 2013, Erin Hesterman, a classmate of hers, asked Katie to help with the Fisher Catholic Cheerleading Squad. Erin and Katie cheered together in high school, and she was excited to come back to help. This year is her 8th year coaching Cheerleading at Fisher Catholic. It is such a joy for her to coach the girls. There are times that she thinks she has learned more than they have.

In 2019, she and her husband took over the Biddy Athletics Program. Their kids have always been active in sports, and coaching is one of her husband's passions. Being an active alumnus is very important to Katie, and this is where she knew they could help. Their goal is to get the kids active, learning fundamentals and having fun. Many of her fondest memories from St. Mary and Fisher Catholic are from time spent on sports teams with friends.

That takes us to now. Katie is currently working as the Athletic Office Manager for Fisher Catholic. You can guess where Katie's heart is, and she just cannot get away. Fisher Catholic is definitely home, and she hopes to be here for many years to come.

Katie is extremely grateful that her parents made the sacrifices they did to enable her to attend a Catholic school, and she is even more

grateful that her children are able to attend as well. Katie believes that the St. Mary and Fisher Catholic families and community are amazing, and the friendships made will last a lifetime. Fisher Catholic is and always will be near and dear to her heart.



Pictured Left:
Katie with her beautiful family and future alumni, Charli, Layni, Hadli, Berkli, and Jackson!



Pictured Right
(from left to right):
Erin Hesterman,
Senior FC
Cheerleaders, and
Katie Gillum.

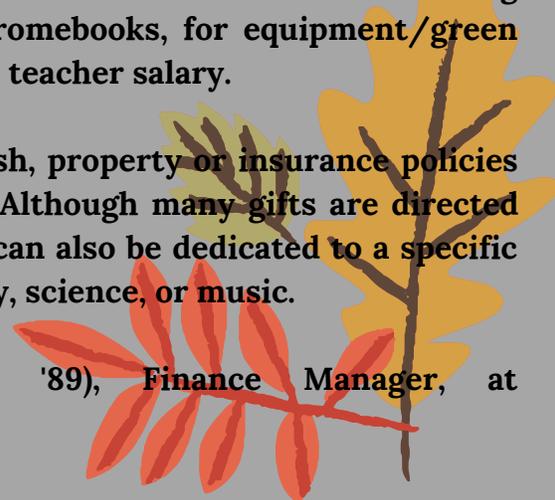
THE FISHER CATHOLIC FOUNDATION... MAKING A DIFFERENCE SINCE 1986!

The William V. Fisher Catholic High School Foundation is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization, founded in 1986 to ensure that the resources were available to support future generations in their desire for quality Catholic education. The Foundation remains strong today after 35 years!

Each year, Fisher Catholic High School is awarded funds as identified by the William V. Fisher Catholic High School Foundation Board, the Principal of the school, and the wishes of contributors. Since 1986, the Foundation has given Fisher Catholic over ONE MILLION dollars, while continuing to grow the principal. The main support the school receives is normally around \$60,000 annually for tuition assistance. The FC Foundation has also assisted with contributing funds for the lease payments for 4 years for our student Chromebooks, for equipment/green screen for the Digital Communications class, and for a part-time teacher salary.

You can make a gift to the Foundation at any time. Gifts of cash, property or insurance policies are common for the Foundation. Any amount is appropriate. Although many gifts are directed towards tuition support of students with financial needs, gifts can also be dedicated to a specific department of the school, such as computer technology, theology, science, or music.

For inquiries, please consult Dawn Burley (Winders '89), Finance Manager, at dburley@cducation.org.



FISHER CATHOLIC ALUMNI | McCauley ('05) FC Foundation Treasurer & Cheerleading Coach

Erin (McCauley) Hesterman is a 2005 graduate of Fisher Catholic. She was a basketball cheerleader for 4 years, a competition cheerleader for 3 years, and a football cheerleader her senior year of high school.

After high school, Erin attended Ohio Dominican University where she earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Accounting and a Master of Business Administration degree. She was a member of the ODU cheerleading squad her sophomore year.

Erin is in her 16th year of coaching cheerleading at Fisher Catholic. She began as a volunteer assistant after high school graduation, then took over as head coach in 2012, and now shares the head coaching position with Katie Gillum. Her husband, Kyle, has been an assistant football

Erin
McCauley



coach at Fisher for the past 7 years. Erin has also served as Treasurer of the Fisher Catholic Foundation for 9 years.

Erin works as an accountant at Snyder & Company. She is a member of the Lancaster Rotary Club for which she has served as treasurer for several years. Erin and Kyle have 4 children: Kinsley, Harper, Paisley, and Hudson; 3 of which attend St. Mary School and are parishioners at St. Mary of the Assumption.



Erin with her precious family and future alumni, Kinsley, Harper, Paisley, and Hudson!

