



SADDLE NEWS

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Principal's Message



With the year 2008 coming to an end, it helps to recall the past and make plans for the future. We completed our first school year in our new surroundings; we held our Baccalaureate and Graduation off campus; we became known in Macomb County for our Franciscan mission and for our strength in academics, athletics, and service to our community. With your help and with God's blessings, we will continue our Ministry for many years to come.

Franciscan Core Values are the guiding principles of Regina High School and the roots from which all activities, decisions, and behaviors follow. "Stewardship" is one of those values. It is a marvelous way of carrying on the charism of care and respect for all of God's creation and the wise use of all resources.

Our Annual Giving fund has been successful because of the generosity of our alumnae, parents, and friends. We need this support in order to strengthen and expand our programs while keeping tuition at an affordable level.

The need for long-term capital funding for Regina High School is of paramount importance to guarantee the continuation of our Mission and Ministry. You can help in Building Our Future. Your gift to our "future" lets us know that you believe in our mission and provides us with the incentive to carry on.

It is exciting to see growth and vitality in our new environment. Your prayers and financial support will make this continue. Our debt is of great concern to us but with the wise use of our resources and your generosity, we can certainly Build Our Future!

God bless!
Sr. Mary Leanne,

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace...

For most people, "high school" is a thing that begins with the first bell freshman year and ends with a diploma and a walk across a stage. When you are a part of the Regina Family, though, the idea of "high school" takes on a very different form. While it is about the intellectual growth of a young woman, it is also about the instilling of creativity, confidence, and above all, a living faith. A Regina Education isn't about the degree you earn or the career you achieve, but the woman you become.

Regina High School prides itself in sharing in the Franciscan Tradition, inspiring in its students a philosophy of life that embraces community responsibility and service to others, defining success not in recognition or dollars, but on the impact one makes on the world around them.

It is the belief of educators at Regina High School that the spirit of service must be present in the classroom. "When a young lady attends Regina, she is not just receiving an education," says Science Teacher, Jessica Zablocki. "She is gaining 4 years of life lessons, lasting friendships, camaraderie among women, and moral influences that will help her to succeed in life. My vision as a new teacher at Regina is to continue to educate young women so that when they move beyond the walls of this school they make the right decisions, are able to reach their goals, and ultimately find success in whatever dreams they may have. I want to challenge my students to think critically about the world around them and ask questions that produce thought-provoking answers."

Outside of the classroom, it is evident that the girls are rising to this challenge. In addition to the Christian Community Service program that requires all students to perform 60 hours of outreach before graduation, many girls invest their time in other activities, organizations, and clubs within the school that are dedicated to service learning. The rich legacies of extracurricular activities such as SADD, and Missions Club have paved the way for newer organizations like 4 Peace, an organization dedicated to the promotion of peacemaking. Even Student Council and National Honors Society have an intense stewardship component, linking leadership and service.

For parents, the spirit of service resonates with family values at home. Jaclyn Lutey, a current Regina parent, sees Regina as more than just schooling. "Educating our daughter at Regina has not only helped her to become a more confident, intelligent young woman, but has also enhanced her Catholic faith, assisting us in raising her to become a woman of character with high morals and values."

As seniors like Ashley Ratusznik, Jessica Melendez, Amanda Doyle, and Hannah Sabol prepare to graduate and move on in their education, they recognize how they have benefitted from the Franciscan Tradition. "We know the service we do is preparing us for the future because it's teaching us to be disciplined, well prepared, and respectful. We've learned how to handle ourselves in many situations without judgment or discrimination," says Ashley. Amanda adds, "It has given us a unique perspective. When I have my own children, I want to raise them with these same values."



2009 Calendar Raffle...details on page 5
Women's Workshop...Save the Date page 5

SADDLE NEWS...Transforming Girls



Where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith...

In our Catholic School setting here at Regina, the girls are nurtured in a safe, secure, and Christian environment that fosters the Christian principles of faith, hope, and love, with respect for all life and for each other. In carrying out these principles, the girls venture out to the unsafe world around them in giving service to the poor and down-trodden.

Campus Ministry enhances the Catholic experience at Regina. In addition to organizing masses and liturgies, Campus Ministry also arranges Student Retreat experiences for all students at each grade level and in many different forums. Freshman and sophomore students experience reflective, spiritual retreats that focus on the development of the individual and collective Christian identity of our students. Other lower classes have their personalized class retreats as well. They are taken in class groups to places such as the Capuchin Monastery in Detroit where they experience giving service by spending a day at the Capuchin Soup Kitchen and Warehouse, or St. Leo's Soup Kitchen in Detroit. Here, they interact with the poor and needy, learning and experiencing that what they personally have in their lives, many do not have. The seniors have their class overnight retreats at a professional retreat house, where guidance, formation, questions, and answers are sought after and openly discussed in a Christian atmosphere.

Despite the group or grade level, our girls are all growing in their relationship with God. They begin to appreciate the gift of giving, serving, reflecting, and praying in the Franciscan Tradition. They bring a little light into the darkness of the poor and lonely. They try to bring a moment of joy to the sadness surrounding any of the people they serve. They learn that it is when they give to others that they receive the blessings of the Lord, and want to give more and do more.

Teens for Life are Regina students who promote the prolife teachings of the Catholic Church. We are devoted to respecting and promoting human life from conception through natural death. We are affiliated with Right to Life / Lifespan, Rock for Life and other local and national prolife groups. Activities we are involved in focus on Education, Service, Political Action, and Prayer.

The Student Outreach Organizations include Save the Animals Now from Devastation, Free The Children, Campbell Soup Labels, and Christian Clown Ministers. Save The Animals Now from Devastation responds to the needs of animals that are endangered, homeless and abused, as well as environmental concerns. S.T.A.N.D. reaches out to care for God's creation. Free The Children responds to the needs of children living in abject poverty, and are also being exploited. F.T.C. members raise money to build schools for the less fortunate. Campbell Soup Labels prepares labels for shipment in order for Regina High School to acquire electronic equipment for the school's use in education. Christian Clown Ministers visit those in hospitals, nursing homes, day care centers and pre-schools bringing joy, and allowing Jesus Christ to work through them.

The Missions Committee is composed of Regina students who help to support the missionary apostolate of the Catholic Church which spreads the Gospel and provides food, clothing, housing, medical care, and education to the poor of the world. The committee plans collections, promotes mission awareness, chooses mission funds recipients, and counts the collections.

4 Peace Club, the newest advocate organization at Regina, promotes programs of peacemaking in the Franciscan Tradition. Three major projects the 4Peace Club is taking on this year are The Student Peace Alliance, working to promote a cabinet-level Department of Peace in the U.S. Federal Government, Pennies for Peace, raising money to fund education for girls in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and Mix-It-Up Day, a program to foster new friendships within the school by students eating lunch with girls they haven't met before.

SADD is a high school-based, youth-centered, peer organization working to reduce alcohol and other drug problems, particular drinking and driving by youth. We believe our actions have a significant effect in creating positive change. 🌱



*Girls Pray together during
Freshman Retreat*



*Regina Students get involved
in St. Jude's Walk*



Christian Clown Ministers bring joy to all

Student Spotlight

When Megan Hurley began Girl Scouts as a second grader, she probably had no idea that by the time she was seventeen it would be such an important part of her life. As a Senior, Megan is leading the pack, so to speak, having dedicated over 500 hours of Christian Community Service to Girl Scouts of America. During her summers, Megan has been volunteering at Camp Hawthorn Hallow, a Girl Scout Camp in St. Clair County.

In her years working with the young girls at Hawthorn Hallow, Megan has learned a lot about her little campers. She enjoys the connection she gets to make with these kids, helping them with their challenges, watching them succeed, and even seeing them conquering their fears. "It takes up a lot of time, but it is so worth it. I've learned things. Besides First Aid and CPR, you need to be able to communicate well, to live with lots of people in very close quarters, and you learn a lot of team building."

Megan remembers her own days as a camper at Hawthorn Hallow, and even gets to work with many women who were her own counselors. It was the interaction she saw between the staff and the kids that made her want to pursue this opportunity, but she never would have guessed just how fulfilling it would be. "I'm pretty sure I want to be a pediatrician. I know I want to do something with kids. That's the main thing."



SADDLE NEWS...Tidings of Great Joy

Alumnae Updates

We have had such an overwhelming influx of Alumnae Updates; it will take some time to publish all of them. Thank you so much for your patience and for staying in touch. We love to hear from you. Keep 'em coming, Ladies!

1973 Michaelena (Alcala) Moore is a respiratory therapist at St. Joseph Hospital in Denver, Colorado where she lives with her three boys and her husband Robert. She was pleasantly surprised when she learned of Regina's move to Warren to find that we are now in the building that was her Middle School, Melby Jr. High.

1986 Kelly Marie (Sammelroch) Lewerenz is an Educator Executive Representative for Eli Lilly and Company. She is very proud of her growing family, having recently adopted son Logan Seth Lewerenz. **Toni (Cognetto) Minano** lives in St. Clair Shores with her husband Gino and her daughter Amanda, Class of 2012. She enjoys scrapbooking and is proud of her family and her career as an Occupational Therapist at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan (DMC).

1990 Jill (Kirschke) McKenzie is a KC135 Crew Chief for the Pennsylvania Air Guard. She lives in Follansbee, WV with her husband Scott and her three children William, Nicole, and Emma. She has earned the Air Force Commendation Award and the Air Force Achievement Medal. **Kristin (Piana) Schena** is a Speech-Language Pathologist for Beaumont. She lives in Grosse Pointe Woods with her husband Anthony and her three children, Anthony, Audrey, and Luke. She enjoys reading, travel, golf, and her children, and is proud of the work she has done as Founder and Executive Director of Kids on the Go, a nonprofit organization for children with special needs. **Michele (Helm) Baer** is owner of Baer Consulting Inc. She lives in Bloomfield, NJ with her husband Justin and two young sons Toby and Nate. **Nicole Gize** lives in St. Clair Shores and is Director of Alumni Relations - Southeast Michigan for Northwood University. **Michelle (Williams) Babbish** is an Elementary School Teacher for Roseville Schools. She lives in Warren with her husband Jim and her three children, Jenna, Jake, and Isabella.

1991 Alison (Moser) Owens is an Office Assistant for St. John Eastwood. She lives in Sterling Heights with her husband Jeff and her three children Bethany, Alyssa, and Scotty. **Karen (Kudla) Tanner** is a teacher for Hamtramck Public Schools. She lives in Taylor with her husband Michael and her son Andrew and enjoys bowling, motherhood, watching the Red Wings, and Shopping. **Lynn (Schwarzwalder) Cunningham** is a stay-at-home mom living in Shelby Twp with her husband Joe and her son Joey. **Lynn (Stys) Nardelli** is Director of Group Sales for Tony n' Tina's Wedding in Chicago, where she lives with her husband Raymond and her two children Elliot and Olivia Rose. **Michelle (Corrigan) Heitz** is an Office Manager for the Masonry Institute of Michigan. She lives in Eastpointe with her husband Jacob and their son Trent. She enjoys scrapbooking, planning events, reading, and going to the Detroit Science Center. **Tammy (Prince) Toppi** is in Sales and Marketing at R.L. Polk & Co. She lives in Plymouth with her husband Leo and her son Dario.

1992 Amy (Banaszewski) Koslowski is an Executive Assistant at Campbell-Ewald. She lives in Roseville with her husband Tommy and her three-year-old son. **Erica (Hughes)**

Buckman lives in Grosse Pointe Woods with her husband Jason and their two children Jenna and Andrew. She loves being a stay-at-home mom, but looks forward to returning to her career as a Registered Nurse once they are both in school. **Janet (Larkin) Binkowski** is a Dentist living in Macomb Township with her husband Brian. She enjoys Scuba Diving and traveling, especially taking trips across the eastern US. **Nicole (Hoyumpa) Curtis** is an Operations Research/Systems Analyst for the US Army. She lives in Wadsworth, IL with her husband Roger and her daughter Sarah.

1993 Jennifer (DePestel) Rizzo is a Therapeutic Recreation Specialist at American House. She lives in St. Clair Shores with her husband Joseph and her two children and newborn baby! She enjoys exercise, hiking, reading, and crochet, has traveled to Alaska and Germany, and volunteers for the American Red Cross. **Lauren (Wagner) Komorski** is a Dental Hygienist. She lives in Shelby Township with her husband Dan and her young children Matthew and Anne. She is proud of her marriage and her two wonderful kids!

1994 Margaret Aileen (Bittner) Dickson is an Administrative Aide for the City of Troy's Clerk's Office. She lives in Troy with her husband Robert and her daughter Amelia, and all three are eagerly awaiting the birth of a new baby! **Michelle (Ocampo) Mejia** is a Project Manager for USAA. She lives in San Antonio, TX with her husband Manuel. She has traveled to Italy, Spain, Portugal, Mexico, and throughout the US and Canada. She credits Ms. Gerard's Spanish classes for being able to communicate with her Manuel's family and friends in Mexico!

1995 Cynthia (Pasvant) Hargis was just married this September to her husband Matthew. **Danielle (Salvia) Chwalek** has started her own embroidery business in Flat Rock where she lives with her husband James and her children Abigail and James. She has traveled to Russia, Denmark, Sweden, Italy, Norway, Finland, Florida, and the Caribbean, and she enjoys being a Lia Sophia jewelry advisor. **Michelle (Taormina) Hall** is a Graphic Designer for EA Graphics. She lives in Warren with her husband Michael and their baby boy Nicholas.

1996 Amy (DiFranco) Fencyk works in Human Resources for Borders Group Inc. She lives in Ann Arbor with her husband John and her newborn baby daughter Katherine Grace. She volunteers in the Junior League of Ann Arbor, Race for the Cure, and Ronald McDonald House. **Erin (Hendrick) Crist** is an Actuarial Consultant for Towers Perrin. She is newly married, living in Chicago with her husband John. **Jamie (Kleisinger) Fox** is a Recruiter for Batton. She lives in Roseville with her husband Dan. **Michele (Jones) Pageau** is a CAD Designer for Lowes Home Improvement. She lives in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina with her husband Jeff (known to his former students as "Mr. Pageau") and her two young daughters. **Michelle (King) Wirgau** lives in Roseville with her husband Steve and their three young children, Conor, Zoe, and Keegan.

1997 Gerri-Therese (Ventimiglia) Phillips is pursuing a Master's Degree at Walsh College. She lives in Clinton Township with her husband Aron.

1998 Amy (Shubnell) Lefurgey was recently married to her husband Quincy. She lives in Macomb Township and works as a medical assistant for St. John Health - Cornerstone

Cardiology. **Ann (Surman) Coker** is a Clinical Assistant at Beaumont Hospital. She lives in Mount Clemens with her husband Nicholas and her two sons Lucas and Bennett. Ann enjoys traveling and in recent years has found herself in China, Las Vegas, Arizona, and California. **Lauren (Laskowski) Schreel** is a Golf Professional at Thornblade Club in South Carolina. She lives in Greenville with her husband Kevin and her brand new baby daughter Gracyn Marie. **Melissa (Munar) Burchette** Works for Mansanto Co., an agricultural company in Montana. She lives in St. Louis with her husband Scott.

1999 Cheron (Hildreth) Bibbs is a Registered Nurse for St. John Hospital and Medical Center. She lives in Sterling Heights with her husband/high school sweetheart Curtis, and her two sons CJ and Caden. **Jaclyn Toepel-Hartzell** lives in Shelby Township with her husband Adam. She is a High School Teacher and enjoys hiking, traveling, bird-watching, reading, puzzles, and photography. She is proud of her Education Degrees, (Bachelors Degrees of both Environmental Health and Biology, and Master of Arts in Teaching), the opportunity to spend her first year teaching at Regina High School, and her travels to 48 of the 50 states. **Lisa (Green) Kilcoyne** is the co-owner of Kilcoyne Builders with her husband Patrick. They live in Fraser with their children Kaylee and Riley. **Melissa (Sledz) Elsey** lives in Grosse Pointe Woods with her husband David and her daughter Abigail Ania. **Stacy Ziarko** lives in Sterling Heights and is a Fundraiser/Event Planner for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

2000 Corinne Forys lives with her husband Brian Robert in St. Clair Shores. She graduated from U of M in 2004 and is starting a Graduate Degree in Counseling at Wayne State University. **Elizabeth (Bilbrey) Gray** lives in St. Clair with her husband Kevin. She recently purchased a home and graduated from MSU with a doctorate in Veterinary Medicine, which she practices at Veterinary Associates. **Jennifer (Stalker) Milovanovski** lives in Washington Township with her husband Steve, and her two children, a two-year-old and a newborn. **Melissa Adams** works for GI Medicine and goes to school. She lives in Macomb Township, and she loves to cook. **Theresa (Dokianos) Rekuc** is a Project Coordinator for Xperience Communications. She lives in Chicago with her husband Bobby and enjoys coaching tennis, traveling, and playing volleyball and tennis.

2001 Erin (Collica) O'Keef is a Kindergarten teacher in Roseville Community Schools. She lives in Clinton Township with her husband Sean and is currently working on a Masters Degree. **Elizabeth (Rogal) Hart** earned her Bachelor Degree in Industrial Engineering and is an Engineer for American Axle and Mfg. She lives with her husband Ryan in Royal Oak. **Nicole Soresi** is a Financial Analyst for Blue Care Network. She has just bought her first condo and she is going back to school for her MBA.

2002 Rachel Mocer is a Production Assistant for Salty Pictures in Salt Lake City, Utah. She has worked on six films, already, the most recognized being High School Musical 3. **Shelby (Liebler) Maidment** lives in St. Clair Shores with her husband Brendan. She is a teacher at Cesar Chavez Middle School and enjoys traveling and children's ministry. She is most proud of marrying the perfect man and becoming a teacher.

SADDLE NEWS...Women of Faith & Vision

Alumnae Spotlight

Jaclyn Sheridan graduated from Regina High School in the spring of 2005. Now in her Senior year at the University of Notre Dame, working towards a double major in Political Science and Russian Language and Literature and a minor in Peace Studies, the spirit of service and volunteerism Jackie experienced at Regina has followed her as she continues her education.

As a student at Notre Dame, she has enhanced her studies with many service-oriented activities, such as participating in Russian Club, Pi Sigma Alpha, tutoring ESL students, and volunteering abroad. Jackie spent the summer of 2008 volunteering at a camp outside of Moscow. This hands-on application of her studies has taught her lessons she could never have learned inside of a classroom. "As my college career has unfolded, I've found myself becoming more and more interested with the way things work on a smaller level. Understanding those with whom you work is a crucial part of recognizing in them their humanity, so that you can serve them without pity, without pride, but with respect."

In addition to her volunteering, Jaclyn is now serving as a Resident Assistant in her dorm. "Between 2 a.m. heart-to-hearts and emergency grocery store runs, I never get bored and I constantly find new depth to the people around me." It is this sense of community that has kept her in the dorms, despite the lack of amenities. She is happy to trade the comforts of solitude and air conditioning for the once-in-a-lifetime relationships she is able to cultivate with her residents.

Jackie is keeping an eye on the big picture, and while she loves each minute of being a student, volunteer, and RA at Notre Dame, this part of her education is only a few steps of the journey for her. "Knowledge for its own sake is not enough—knowledge should lead to good works...this is probably the most important thought for me. Why stuff your brain full of thinking if you never do anything with it. Good comes in many ways—but you should always try to bring it about by your own hands, by offering whatever you can."

So what's next for Jackie? With graduation on the horizon, she has some big decisions ahead of her. One thing is for sure—the spirit of service will remain a big part of Jackie's life. "I'll keep the Franciscan Tradition present in my future—it's been a part of me for at least the past 8 years. But my ideal post-graduate move at this point would be entering the Peace Corps. I want to help by working side-by-side with others—I want to continue living in a community of people whose aim is to help, to make a difference."



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year end gift to Regina...
use the enclosed
envelope...Thank you and
Merry Christmas!

*I am the Resurrection and the
Life... John 11,25*

Daniel "Danny" Nicholson

Father of Major Jennifer Nicholson '88
and Laura Nicholson Parrott '96.

Kathy Gatewood Stafford '69

Sister of Marianne Gatewood Schafer '81.



Distinguished Women Honored

This year, the Alumnae Association is honoring four very special Women of Faith and Vision. Not only are these women alumnae, they all returned to Regina in a professional capacity and also chose a Regina Education for their own daughters. Their continued dedication to Regina High School's tradition of excellence has enriched the educational experience for countless girls.

Flora Pelino Tersigni graduated from Regina High School in 1967. In the late 1970s, she returned as a Social Studies teacher. Her relationship with Regina High School didn't end when she and her husband opened a floristry business. Flora continued to work at Regina as a part time Floristry instructor. In 1992, Flora enrolled her daughter Mariateresa in the class of 1996. Andrea followed, graduating with the class of 1999. Flora returned full time as the Christian Service Coordinator, creating much of the program that is still used today. She has since moved to St. Louis, MO with her husband, but still remains active in the Regina Community as an honorary Committee Chairperson on the Capital Campaign Steering Committee, and readily supports the school whenever it needs her.

Josephine Guastella Strasz graduated from Regina High School in 1969. She returned to Regina in the mid 1970's, teaching English and Religion. After she left Regina, Josephine kept herself very busy raising five children, and sending each of her four to Regina. Joanna began in the fall of 1995 and graduated with the class of 1999. She was followed by Katrina, class of 2001, Mary, class of 2005, and Caroline, who graduated with the class of 2008. Josephine continues to support Catholic Education, and as a junior high teacher at St. Joan of Arc and is proud that so many of her students end up enrolling the high school that she loved so much.

Rosanne Kowalski Jamieson graduated from Regina High School in 1970. Her oldest daughter Therese began her freshman year at Regina in the fall of 1987 and graduated in the spring of 1991. She was followed by Clare, class of 1992, Bridget, class of 1994, Colette, class of 1996, Veronica, class of 1998, and Bernadette, class of 2003. While her daughters were attending, Rosanne joined the staff of RHS in the 1990's. In her many years at Regina, she served as Administrative Assistant, in Admissions and Recruiting, Public Relations, Advancement, and even the Mother's Guild. Rosanne is now assisting in an early elementary classroom at Star of the Sea and is still very involved in supporting Regina High School.

Sherill Cucchetti Piscopo graduated from Regina High School in 1973. She returned in the early 1980s to teach dance. She was also involved in the school with the Drama Club and as Moderator of the Senior Class. She moved on from Regina to study Divinity and had no doubt where she would be sending her daughters to high school. Genna enrolled as a freshman in 2002, graduating with the class of 2006, and Gabrielle followed, graduating in 2008. Sherill remains a very active alumna, continuing to work with the Drama Club, volunteering at student retreats, and serving on the Alumnae Board.

It's Calendar Raffle Time!

The 2009 Pocket Calendars are on sale! Order yours now for 71 chances to win \$15,700.00 throughout the 2009 calendar year. Still \$20.00 each (28 cents per prize drawing) **Regina Calendars make terrific gifts for family and friends.** Your purchase makes a great gift to a great school! There will be a special \$250.00 prize drawing on January 7, 2009 for alumnae and friends who have purchased 5 or more calendars by January 6th, 2009.

I'd like _____ calendars for \$20.00 each. I have enclosed \$ _____. Please mail to:

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Register additional calendars to: (write same if all calendars are to be registered to the name above).

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(must be received by January 6, 2009 to be registered for all 2009 drawings.) You can pick up your calendars at the school, or we will mail them to you directly. Calendars are \$20.00 each. Make checks payable to Regina High School

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Save the Dates:

The Alumnae Association is sponsoring a Women's Workshop during Lent. For three consecutive Wednesdays in March we will host introspective, inspirational, and fun lectures and activities for you and your friends. The evenings will begin with a light soup supper at 6:15 p.m., a prayer service at 7:00 p.m. and the topic of the evening will be covered until 8:30p.m. Plans are still being finalized...but reserve March 11, 18 and 25, 2009 for some personal reflection time at Regina High School. Tickets are \$20.00 each session, or all three sessions for \$45.00.

Also: the third annual Alumnae Mass and Brunch will take place on Sunday, March 29, 2009 time to be determined.

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Regina Alumna, Class of '74

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