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# BEAUMONT

# NEWS

A MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS OF BEAUMONT SCHOOL | SPRING 2019



## JUSTICE MELODY STEWART '80

began her public life  
at Beaumont

### ALSO INSIDE:

› A conversation with  
Wendy Bihuniak

› Touching base with Beaumont's  
first Robotics Team

WHERE YOUNG WOMEN LEARN TO CHANGE THE WORLD



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The only all-girls' school in Northeast Ohio to offer the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

# Wendy A. Hoke, President of Beaumont



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*"This edition of **Beaumont News** is a celebration of our students, faculty and alums, sometimes all of them together."*

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Spring has arrived at this beautiful place we call Beaumont and with it a great deal of excitement and possibility. With the change in our academic calendar, the end-of-the-year activities are happening earlier in the spring. As I write this, we are celebrating Holy Week and anticipating the renewal and joy that is the great promise and blessing of Easter.

Part of that renewal is our seniors who will soon transition from student to alumna. They will go "over the wall" and out into the community as they begin their Project REAL experience. The time we spend together these next few weeks in celebration of their four years at Beaumont is truly special. We will laugh, cry, sing, and pray together. This edition of **Beaumont News** is a celebration of our students, faculty and alums, sometimes all of them together.

In January, our Board of Directors approved a five-year strategic plan, which maps an exciting vision for Beaumont. **Beaumont and Beyond: Preparing Global Leaders** builds on our long legacy of educating women in the Ursuline tradition, supporting them as they fully become women of purpose. Our priorities focus on preparing them academically and spiritually to be agents of change; advancing the legacy of Ursuline education through strong financial and enrollment plans; building the visibility of Beaumont students and faculty, but also of the amazing work of the 6,000 living alumnae; and stewarding this beautiful campus through a new master campus plan that prioritizes projects that support our student experience. You can read our plan in the **About** section on our website.

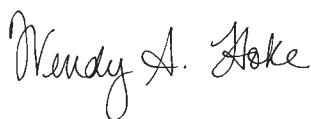
Finally, I want to update you on the status of our plans to demolish the Lennon House, which I wrote to you about in March. I am sorry to report that the Cleveland Heights Planning Commission voted to deny our application to demolish the building. While we had many alumnae in the audience who spoke very passionately on our behalf, and while we made a very strong case for the need to use the space to better support our students and our school's

mission, our arguments were not enough to overcome the objections of those who clearly believe the mansion must be preserved at all costs.

Obviously, we are very disappointed, but we do not intend to abandon this project. Above all, we remain committed to providing our students with the caliber of facilities they need, deserve, and demand. We have the opportunity to apply again to the city and are determining what actions we need to take to strengthen our case for demolition. While we identify next steps, I want to thank every member of the Beaumont family for your support and encouragement during the last few weeks. And I'd like to thank those who expressed their concern about losing the home as well. You'll find FAQs and more in the **About** section of our website.

As I told the Planning Commission members, we did not come to the decision regarding the Lennon House lightly. Whatever course of action we take, I want to assure you of two things: we will always honor the history of Beaumont and the role the building played in our past, and we will always remember that our mission, above everything else, is to provide our students with a well-rounded, global education that prepares them to be leaders and women of strong moral conviction in a world of change and challenge.

In St. Angela,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy A. Hoke". The script is elegant and cursive.

Wendy A. Hoke  
President

# NEWS AND NOTES FROM NORTH PARK



## SOMETHING ABOUT A TRUCK

Beaumont's Academic Scholars and Veale Entrepreneurs traveled to the Ford River Rouge Plant in Michigan, courtesy of the **Veale Youth Entrepreneurship Forum** grant to Beaumont. The students witnessed the complex web of equipment, robotics, parts delivery and skilled workers that come together to build one truck per minute at full line speeds.



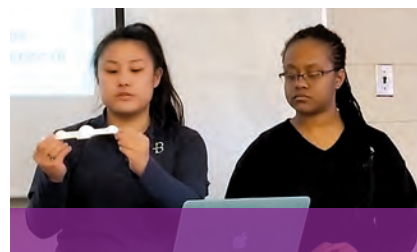
## THE INS AND OUTS OF eSPORTS

Students traveled to Ohio University for the Business of Games Summit in February to learn about the business of digital games and eSports. Pictured left to right are: **Nyomi Morris '20**, **Gabriella Belsito '20**, **Alyana Sturgill '21**, **Isabella Belsito '20**, **Crystal Yormick '22**, and **Katie Bagley '20**.



## REAL-WORLD RESEARCH

**Gabriella Belsito '20**, **Isabella Belsito '20**, **Brianna Davis '19**, **Colleen Martin '20** and **Alayna Sturgill '20** presented their research conducted during Harrington Discovery Institute (HDI) summer internship. Beaumont students are the only students being offered this outstanding opportunity to work at the Harrington Discovery Institute, thanks to Natalie Haynes, former Program Director at HDI and Beaumont parent to Parker, and Academics Scholars Director, Gretchen Santo. This opportunity to work with mentors on research is led by Dr. James Reynolds and the team leaders from HDI/University Hospital and Case Western Reserve.



## LIFE ON MARS?

The IB Design Tech class presented research on how best to live on Mars. They presented ideas about housing, food production, clothing, and sleeping. Pictured are seniors **Sydney Fitzcharles '19** and **Layah Hodges '19**.





## BEACHWOOD ARTS COUNCIL'S ILEEN KELNER JURIED HIGH SCHOOL ART SHOW

Senior **Natalie Noble** (center) won Third Prize for her oil painting in the Beachwood Arts Council's Ileen Kelner Juried High School Art Show. **Emily Miklowski '19**, **Shannon Gron '20** (left), and **Samantha Antczak '19** also participated in the show which was on view through March 3 at the Beachwood Community Center.



## BEAUMONT DAY 2019

Beaumont Day 2019 was a fun celebration of our school, our students, our faculty, and to celebrate St. Angela Merici Day.

Students participated in service projects creating care bags for homeless teens and women and children shelters.

On this day also Beaumont held its second Beaumont Day of Giving which raised more than \$21,000 in 24 hours in celebration of our Ursuline Mission and Beaumont Tradition. Thank you to our wonderful "family" of donors for making the day a success.



## DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION TEAM

The FAME and Diversity and Inclusion Team trained with Beaumont alumna **Kaila Johnson** with the Cleveland Diversity Center to address bias, bigotry and racism while increasing cultural competency, building leadership, and creating inclusive environments in the Beaumont and greater society.

# #GOBLUESTREAKS

Highlights of Beaumont Blue Steaks from some of our Fall and Winter Sports. Follow our sports teams on social media with hashtag #gobluestreaks, @BeaumontAD, and online at [beaumontschool.org/athletics](http://beaumontschool.org/athletics).



**CONGRATULATIONS**  
Carly Perusek '20  
**1,000**  
Career Points



Junior **Carly Perusek** scores career 1,000 points for Beaumont Varsity Basketball. The team was Sectional Champions led by the scoring of sophomore **Lydia Gatozzi** (center) and the defense of **Tamy Edwards** (left).



Beaumont Golf advanced to the district tournament for the first time in program history and placed 6th overall. Pictured top, junior **Nyomi Morris**. Team left to right: **Olivia Panichi '19**, **Lauren Bangasser '22**, **Kathryn Foerg '21**, **Natalie Noble '19**, **Greta Engel '20** and **Ann Koppitch '22**.





Crew is back at Beaumont! The new club team had a good start this fall and continues its first season this spring.



Indoor Track and Field qualified for the State Meet, with **Addison Ciecierski '20** in the 3200 meter run and **Lizzie Rubadue '21** (top) in the 800 meter run. They both ran in the 4x800 meter relay along with **Hannah Heathcote '20** (bottom) and **Ashley Rulison '19. Josephine O'Neill '21** joined the initial team in the 4x400 meter.



Beaumont Cross Country Team (top) member **Addison Ciecierski '20** (above) wins individual District Champion, while the Beaumont Cross Country Team wins Division II Regional Runner-Up. The team also took 8th place at the Division II OHSAA Cross Country State Championships.

# BEAUMONT

*plants the seeds*

## FOR JUSTICE MELODY STEWART'S PATH TO OHIO SUPREME COURT

By Patricia Kuivinen



### She continues to count on the sisterhood of support and strength

Nearly 40 years after being the first African-American elected to student council at Beaumont High School, alumna Melody Stewart '80 blazed another trail by becoming the first African-American female to be elected to the Ohio Supreme Court. Stewart was elected in November 2018 to a full term as the 161st Justice to serve on the Court. Prior to her historic election, Justice Stewart also served on the Eighth District Court of Appeals, and had forged a formidable law career, graduating as a Patricia Roberts Harris Fellow from the Cleveland-Marshall College of Law at Cleveland State University in 1988.

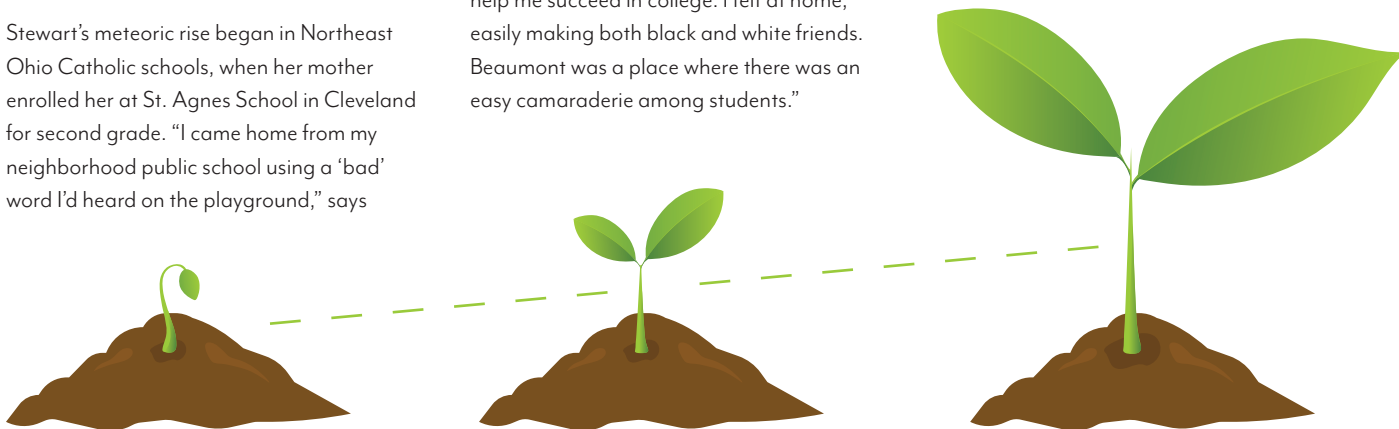
Stewart's meteoric rise began in Northeast Ohio Catholic schools, when her mother enrolled her at St. Agnes School in Cleveland for second grade. "I came home from my neighborhood public school using a 'bad' word I'd heard on the playground," says

Stewart. "My astonished mother said 'we don't talk like that' and I was attending a Catholic school shortly thereafter" she says, laughing. From St. Agnes Melody moved on to St. Philomena and Christ the King Schools in East Cleveland and eventually to Beaumont, where she was part of a large influx of minority students in 1976.

"I was part of a huge class," she recalls. "I think there were 135 of us—so many that we had homerooms in the Art Wing. I remember loving the beauty of the Beaumont campus, and thinking I could easily blend my love of music with the strong academics that would help me succeed in college. I felt at home, easily making both black and white friends. Beaumont was a place where there was an easy camaraderie among students."

Stewart quickly dived into a variety of activities at Beaumont, pursuing her keen musical interests by becoming piano accompanist to the choir while also playing softball and basketball. "Keeping my grades up was always the most important thing," she says. "I didn't think of the future too much back then. Like a lot of Beaumont students, I just hoped I could get all of my homework done!"

Stewart's repertoire of involvement at Beaumont was destined to expand further when Sister Martha Mooney, OSU, suggested she run for Vice President of Student Council in 1979. "At first I had no





real understanding of student council or why I was being asked to run” she admits. “But I discussed it with my mother, who wisely said ‘Honey, Sister Martha must see something special in you that she thinks would serve the position well.’ Reflecting back on that moment, I realized that was one of the first times someone other than my mom had seen something in me that I didn’t see myself.”

“Melody stood out in her class as a leader from day one”, recalls Sister Martha. “Among many gifts her inclusivity welcomed all her classmates and the entire student body into her circle of friends. Listening thoughtfully came naturally to her and has surely benefitted her career in law, but as I witnessed this gift in Melody it was an understood ‘welcoming mat’ for the benefit of all—students and adults alike.”

Her confidence rising, Stewart not only embraced the idea of running for student office, but she decided to take her campaign up a notch, running for President of Student Council rather than VP. “I felt that if Sister Martha thought enough of me and my abilities to serve in a student leadership role, I would seek the highest possible office,” she recalls.



“ I felt at home, easily making both black and white friends. Beaumont was a place where there was an easy camaraderie among students. ”

Stewart earned the backing of the students and won handily, then became fast friends with her class VP cohort, Suzanne (Chesko) Sacks, who remains a loyal supporter to this day. “We built a great partnership that remains,” says Stewart. “Sue even called me the day before my election last year and told me she just moved back home from Florida and asked me what she could do to help my campaign. It was a real testament to my Beaumont class and made me reflect on just how strong and lasting the Beaumont sisterhood really is.”

Being a pioneer within Beaumont so long ago has had a profound impact on Stewart, informing her approach to public service, leadership and social justice to this day. “I realized I was being asked to represent

the entire image of Beaumont School as a supportive, inclusive community where all girls could excel. I have no doubt this experience instilled in me the willingness to put myself ‘out there’ while at the same time realizing I didn’t have to be perfect. I was just an ordinary student who accepted the challenge to try something out of the ordinary.”

A sense of curiosity and wonder has followed Stewart since her election, with many people asking how she achieved her success. She is quick to provide some modest context. “In so many ways, working as a Justice on the Ohio Supreme Court is no different from other jobs I have had. My approach to my work responsibilities hasn’t changed—do the job,

*continued on page 10*



Beaumont alumnae showed their support of their classmate by attending the swearing-in ceremony for the Ohio State Justice Melody Stewart in Columbus, Ohio.



“ Beaumont taught me that everyone has a special contribution to make, and everyone should try to bloom wherever they are planted. ”

Justice Melody Stewart (center) took time out of her statewide campaign to talk to Beaumont students on Career Day. She is pictured with Sister Martha Mooney, OSU, and President Wendy Hoke.

whatever it is, to the best of my ability; be respectful of and try to work well with others; be mindful when others work is dependent on mine; and never hesitate to do a bit extra whenever needed. I am humbled by being elected to serve at the highest level of our judiciary and also by the tremendous sense of pride that so many people have as a result of my election.”

Despite her remarkable achievements, she is quick to joke, “I’m still figuring out what I want to be when I grow up. Even though I’m proud of what I’ve achieved, I want to let current Beaumont students and parents know it was never really ‘planned’. My primary goal has always been to be very diligent at whatever I am doing and to take pride in my work, whatever it may be. I don’t believe there is any inferior work—whether it is as a homemaker or secretary, a neurosurgeon or wearing a black judicial robe and sitting on the bench like I do. Beaumont taught me that everyone has a special contribution to make, and everyone should try to bloom wherever they are planted.”



Beaumont alumnae made a big impact on state politics in the November 2018 election. The Foyer was packed when Justice Stewart came to Beaumont in December to swear in State Rep. Juanita Brent '02 (left) to her first time in the state house and State Rep. Janine Boyd '90 (right) for her third term.

*Patricia Kuivinen is a freelance writer and parent of Kaitlyn '13 and Tiffany '18.*



# ALUMNAE COME BACK TO BEAUMONT

Academic Scholars Luncheon Series hosts Beaumont alumnae who come back to campus to speak to our students about their careers and the path they took to get where they are today. It is powerful and impactful when our students hear directly from our alumnae at a time when they are planning their own futures. If you would like to participate in our luncheon series or be a part of Beaumont Career Day, please contact Christy Salata, Director of Alumnae Relations, [csalata@beaumontschool.org](mailto:csalata@beaumontschool.org).



**Jaelle Croom '12**

(with John Michael Langa, World Language Department Chair and French Teacher) shares how knowing French has changed her life, the importance of knowing a second language

and being culturally competent. She has a B.A in anthropology and sociology and a Masters of Education from Loyola Chicago. She is teaching in France and hopes to one day work for the United Nations as an agent for cultural and educational policy in developing countries.



**Kate Pifer '10** answered questions about her full-time job with the Red Cross in Hawaii focusing on Disaster Preparedness and Resiliency. As part of this role she deploys out to national disasters (Puerto Rico and California have been recent deployments). Kate did post-graduate volunteering in Micronesia and then went to work with the Red Cross in Alaska. She shared that Beaumont taught her to take any opportunities that are presented and encouraged the students to do the same. "Take the path that makes the most sense to you and don't be afraid if it's not traditional!"



**Dr. Julia Coughlin '08** (center, with Pre-Med and Academic Scholars, Gretchen Santo, far right) shared her inspiring experience on becoming a surgeon, beginning with her time at Beaumont and going through medical school and residency at Rush University in Chicago. Her parting words for our students—Go forth and set the world on fire!



**Molly Cogan '15** and **Alyssa Muttillio '15** (center back row) from the original Beaumont Robotics Team joined this year's team at Christopher Tool for a Saturday morning building session, guiding and inspiring the engineers-in-training.



# WENDY BIHUNIAK:

## Striving For Sparks To Fly

"...writing a literary paper or reading a difficult writer is hard and that hard is good, like muscle aches following an intense workout."

—Wendy Bihuniak

If you've been fortunate enough to have Wendy Bihuniak for English during your years at Beaumont, you know what a gifted teacher she is. Maybe you didn't know it at the time, but surely you realized it when you met the rigors of college and professional life with more ease than your classmates and colleagues. To quote many of her students after they have graduated, "She prepared me well."

Inspired by her college professor, Wendy fell in love with the magic of Shakespeare, with the magic of his words, with the discussions, and that was all she needed to be hooked. She was galvanized by the professor's ability to inspire his students to deep dive into the text, to examine one soliloquy for the entire class. Of course, her love of reading and writing steered her toward a profession that would allow her to keep company with brilliant authors and would give her the opportunity to foster an appreciation for the countless worlds authors open up for us, for the emotions they stir, the insights they induce.



**We asked her to share a bit of her time-tested and proven wisdom of the value of writing well.**

#### **HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN AT BEAUMONT?**

Altogether around 24 years. Yikes. While this answer merits several exclamation points, I do not allow my students to use them, so I won't either. Fitzgerald said "exclamation points are like laughing at your own joke." I first came to Beaumont when I quit my job as a paralegal at Jones Day. I had taught before in upstate New York and acutely missed it. I first taught at Beaumont for about 5 years until we moved. I returned in 2000.

#### **DO YOU HAVE A PHILOSOPHY OR A GOAL THAT YOU ARE ALWAYS STRIVING FOR WHEN TEACHING?**

I am always striving for sparks to fly. By that I mean students appreciating the parade of brilliant writers they study as well as understanding the social and historical climates that have shaped these writers. I strive for their eyes to light up when they read

Thoreau or register awe that Emily Dickinson wrote over 1,800 poems. Also, I always strive for critical thinking, for synthesizing the disparate settings and characters emerging from the pages. I love it when a student can find similarities in two very different characters, that Captain Ahab's whale quest is not so different from Gatsby's green light pilgrimage. Finally, I am perpetually evaluating what I can do to improve my teaching: How can I make a lesson clearer, more engaging or craft an assignment that will be stronger in its goal?

#### **WHAT DO YOU THINK MAKES BEAUMONT STUDENTS DIFFERENT?**

Having taught in a variety of schools, public, college and another all girls' Catholic school, I have engaged with so many students in different environments. Beaumont students stand out because of their generosity. They respect one another in the classroom; they help each other in countless ways. The Beaumont community cultivates an atmosphere of caring and spirituality that emanates from faculty and staff and from a

wonderful menu of activities and programs that are tailored to welcome them, to care for them and to offer them the opportunities to thrive. They also stand out because of their passion for learning. I have never taught anywhere else where the students thank you when class is over. As Mary Grimaldi, a guidance counselor, has said to me many times, "There is just something special about Beaumont girls."

#### **PEOPLE SAY STUDENTS ARE WELL PREPARED TO WRITE WHEN THEY LEAVE YOUR CLASS. WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU ARE DOING THAT MAKES EVERYONE SAY THIS?**

Well, the short answer is I am very demanding. I first ask a class what they find most difficult about writing. The usual culprits surface in their answers: grammar rules, becoming stuck for lack of knowing what to write, beginning paragraphs, ending paragraphs, and just finding the right words and sentences.

*continued on page 15*



# CHRISTINA KERNER '15

## MS. BIHUNIAK'S INFLUENCE REACHES TO HARVARD



We hear from recent graduates who frequently write to thank our English Department for how well-prepared they are for the rigors of college. But we were intrigued by the story of one in particular.

Christina Kerner '15 will be graduating from Harvard University in May as a double major: English and Pre-Med. Not your typical path to a career in medicine so we had to find out more.

"My decision to major in English at Harvard may be considered unconventional, but my literary education will ultimately make me a more effective physician," she says. We were sold, but she goes on.

"Reading and analyzing literature have enhanced my critical thinking and interpersonal skills, both of which are essential to the practice of medicine. I understand others better—and myself—after reading a great work of fiction," says Christina.

***"It is a rare and special gift to have teachers like Ms. Bihuniak who are so invested in their students' learning and success."***

Christina can't say enough great things about Ms. Bihuniak, her American Literature teacher at Beaumont. "It is a rare and special gift to have teachers like Ms. Bihuniak who are so invested in their students' learning and success. She helped me hone my writing skills, develop further my passion for reading. But most impactful was the fact that Ms. Bihuniak took the time to get to know me personally. She encouraged my talents and academic interests. She was an incredible mentor and truly one of the greatest assets in the Beaumont community."

Christina credits Beaumont for helping her come out of her shell during her high school years. The all-girls' environment and caring faculty helped her to develop a sense of self-confidence. Beaumont offered a safe and supportive place to cultivate her academic interests and artistic talents.

"While I have faced many challenges at Harvard—academically, socially, and spiritually—my formative years at Beaumont helped me to develop the strength and maturity to successfully overcome these challenges," she says.



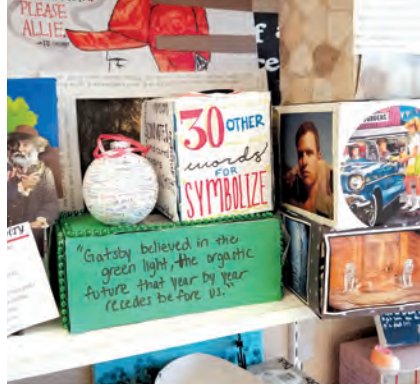


I hold a writing workshop early on where I shower the students with many handouts: verb lists (you can ask any of them; I am adamant about strong verbs and how they serve as the most important part of their sentences), other ways to say anemic words like 'went' or 'happy', and ways to sophisticate their sentence structure. I think I am well known for my forbidden word list and The Literary Bible.

The forbidden word list is a compilation of weak and useless words (I liken them to empty calories) that they tend to constantly use like 'get' or any word with "thing". Also on the list are "kind of" and "sort of", wording that immediately cripples any sentence you write. Through this, I am forcing them to become specific, to search for words that offer strength and clarity. One of the best moments for me during the school year occurs when I grade papers that have improved immensely after the writing workshop instruction. When I tell students to compare their latest writing to their earlier papers, they light up with pride.

### WHAT DO YOU HOPE STUDENTS LEAVE YOUR CLASS LEARNING?

Short answer: The book is always better. Better than the movie, better than Spark Notes. To read or write well, you need to be able to be alone, away from social media. All of us who teach battle the quickness, the rapid delivery that the internet affords our students. I hope they learn that good reading, good research and good writing take time. That writing a literary paper or reading a difficult writer is hard and that hard is good, like muscle aches following an intense workout. That reading and writing are wedded together. That to read well, you must be an aggressive reader, look up words you do not know, reread paragraphs you do not understand. That the brilliant writers we study offer us strands of lives that transfer to our own lives; they bring characters and settings and situations that



will help us to empathize. That a classic like *The Great Gatsby*, inexhaustible in its meanings, remains with us as we move on through life. I hope they have learned that when they do not achieve the A they had hoped for, they will benefit from their mistakes and move forward. Above all, I hope they leave my class feeling more confident when they read and write, and that their appetite for reading and writing has enlarged.

### WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR YOU TO TEACH AT BEAUMONT?

It means that at the beginning of every school year I will meet new students whom I will, hopefully, help to mature in a myriad of ways. A novel written by Richard Bausch centers on a teacher who said that each student was a gift to be opened. That image has stayed with me. It is a bit like Christmas morning, those first days of school. And to use a cliché, they are the gifts that keep on giving. Teaching at Beaumont brings me students who email me from college to thank me because they received the only A in their class.

Or students I run into, who tell me they are still arguing, years later, with their friends over a trial we held for the novel, *The Scarlet Letter* to determine who is the most evil character. It means walking down the hallway and listening to my very talented colleagues teaching, hearing the sounds of learning as I pass by every doorway. It means I am so fortunate to work in a school where there is an intersection of faculty and staff who are so caring and generous. If someone sends out an email asking for help, the responses are quick and numerous. If you are absent, many will ask if you are okay. Most students thrive here for a reason; everyone works so hard to listen to them and to work with them, to offer them so many opportunities to be successful. A line from the school's Alma Mater is right on: Beaumont is a beautiful place.



The many mobiles hanging in my classroom emanate from a requirement for part of my final exam. The assignment is to capture any work we have studied in a visual form and to present it in class.

For students who might not be as strong writers as others but who are very creative and artistic, this offers a different opportunity to express their understanding of a literary work that they really enjoyed. The final product does not have to be a mobile, and there are some amazing projects that reside on my shelves. Always, their creations move me to say, "You girls never fail to astonish me." You can also file this under what makes Beaumont girls different.

At the start of a new school year, I tell my students that by the end of the year, you will know what all of these mobile and projects represent. They are invaluable in my teaching. After we finish a work, we play, "find the project" game. After students scan the room, searching for the mobile that represents the work we have just finished, they express their admiration and understanding of how the mobile or project captures the work. They always ask when can we do that?

# CATCHING UP WITH BEAUMONT'S FIRST ROBOTICS TEAM

Six years ago when our then-Biology teacher Gretchen Santo asked her Academic Scholars class who wanted to build combat robots, she didn't expect 20 hands to go up in the air. Ms. Santo was asked by Christopher Tool, a local manufacturer, to put together a Beaumont Robotics Team to compete in the Alliance for Working Together (AWS) Robobot Competition. She had no idea how important and significant this venture would become for the student team members and the future of robotics at Beaumont.

The group paired itself down to the original five due in part to schedules after the

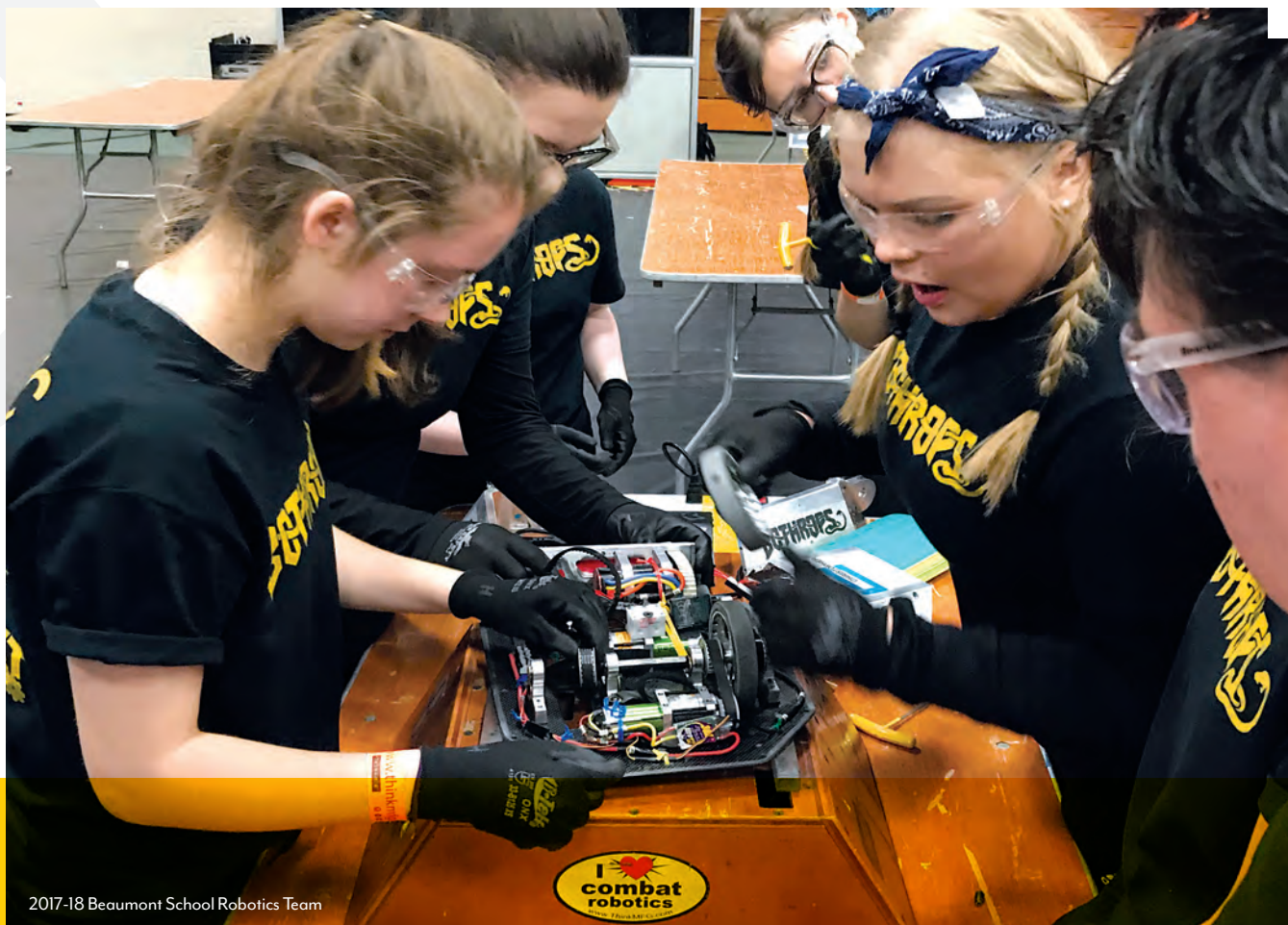
students learned that every Saturday morning from October to the competition in May they would be committing to going to Christopher Tool and working with their engineers who mentored our students in how to design, build, and eventually compete with their combat robots.

"The original team set the gold standard for Beaumont Robotics. They were the only all-girls' team to compete, and Beaumont School still continues to hold this distinction. They were enthusiastic and absorbed every bit of the engineering process that they could. They were invited to speak at events, were interviewed for articles, and were watched to

see how they would succeed. They solidified our relationship with Christopher Tool, an invaluable relationship for Beaumont School that makes all of this possible," said Ms. Santo.

The original team also mentored the teams that came up behind them, giving example of how to dedicate yourself to an important goal and how to collaborate and support each other—a necessary skill in engineering and in life.

Today the original team members still find time to come back and visit the team, Ms. Santo, and the engineers at Christopher Tool.



2017-18 Beaumont School Robotics Team



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

As we catch up with most of the original team members to find out where they are today and how the experience impacted their lives, they had one common piece of advice for incoming Beaumont freshman:

“ Step out of your comfort zone and pursue as many new experiences as you can. High school is the time where you can experiment with different activities to figure out where your passions lie. Do not be afraid to try something new. Whether it's playing sports, acting, solving math equations, building combat robots, learning a foreign language, painting, participating in mock trial, sailing on tall ships, or whatever other opportunities lie in front you, trust your gut and pursue them. ”



**MOLLY COGAN '15**

Senior, The Ohio State University

**Major:** Biomedical Engineering with concentrations in Cell and Tissue Engineering and Bioluminescence

Health Sciences Scholar

**Career Plans:** I have worked and volunteered for the last 2 ½ years as an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT). Initially I was set on going to medical school after my undergrad, but I realized that my deepest passion is Emergency Medicine. I plan to go to paramedic school, firefighter school, become a flight medic for life flight, and eventually, I plan on going to medical school or become a Physician Assistant to further advance my medical training in the field of Emergency Medicine.

The Beaumont Robotics Team first introduced me to the field of engineering and made me realize how much I love to work with my hands and solve problems through critical thinking. The experience I had building combat robots combined with my love of interacting with other people, especially in the medical setting, led me to study Biomedical Engineering in college because it combined my two greatest passions: engineering and medicine.

One of my favorite parts of being on the Beaumont Robotics Team was at the competitions when we were pressured for time to repair our robot in the pit crew area after it had been damaged in battle. The pure adrenaline rush of trying to get our robot back to working condition in sometimes just 20 minutes was nerve racking, but also just thrilling for me. I thrived under the pressure and was deemed the pit crew manager for our team.

Looking back on these moments, I realized that these intense, high-pressure situations steered me toward a career in Emergency Medicine. Instead of fixing a damaged robot, I fell in love with the idea of being able to help restore an injured or ill person back to health in a limited amount of time because I knew I could remain calm under pressure while also enjoying the adrenaline rush on a much larger scale.

Ultimately, I am also just so grateful for the engineering experience I gained from

robotics because as I gain more advanced medical training, the critical thinking and problem solving skills that I am obtaining from my engineering degree can help me create more effective treatments for patients in need of emergency medical care in the future.

I will never forget the moments at competitions when fellow competitors would boast about how they would destroy our robot because a team of girls could obviously never make anything good enough to compete in a male-dominated competition. The best was when we could incapacitate the robots of those competitors in less than 20 seconds.

Beaumont has had a profound impact on the woman that I am today. The values Beaumont instilled in me influenced me to become an empowered, confident, and resilient woman. The environment that Beaumont fostered taught me to never be afraid of standing my ground as a woman and to always speak up for what is right because I know there are hundreds of Beaumont sisters who had my back not only throughout all of high school, but who also will stand alongside me for the rest of my life.

Beaumont has empowered me to be a leader in my future career while keeping the service of others at the center of my life. I am proud to be one of so many amazing Beaumont women who are all driven to bring positive change to our world.

*continued on page 18*



### JULIE SCHIFFER '15

Graduate Student,  
West Virginia University

**Degree:** Masters of Arts in Teaching English to Speakers of other Languages and Linguistics

Graduate Teaching Assistant, French

**Career Plans:** Upon graduation from this program I plan on spending a year participating in a program for teaching English in France and then returning to the states to teach French and ESL.

Although I am no longer pursuing a degree or career that is directly related to my robotics experience, I am still grateful for the many lessons that those experiences taught me. My time on the robotics team taught me the value and importance of teamwork, how to present myself and my ideas in a professional environment, and how to handle working under pressure.

One of my favorite memories from robotics was when we went to nationals for the first time in Indianapolis sophomore year. We ended up earning third place in our first national competition. During the competition we won against several college teams and grew a lot as a team.

My Beaumont education, and especially some of the incredible teachers who I had there has definitely helped to shape me into the woman I am today. Throughout my time at Beaumont, these teachers encouraged me to continue to grow in my faith and instilled in me a love of learning which has inspired me to pursue teaching today.

**Degree:** Mechanical Engineering

Lead Engineering Ambassador,  
School of Engineering

President, Tau Beta Pi, engineering  
honors society

**Career plans:** I work as a Lead Engineering Ambassador, Lead Enrichment Workshop Manager, and President of Tau Beta Pi, an engineering Honors Society. I participate on an advanced materials research team. I would like to pursue my Master's degree in engineering and would like to work for an aerospace component manufacturing facility as a design engineer.

Without the Beaumont Robotics Team, I would not be in an engineering field. The team exposed me to the design process from conceptual design to a finished product. I was also unaware of the manufacturing environment and spending Saturday's at Christopher Tool allowed me to become more familiar and to really enjoy working in a manufacturing environment to solve different problems.

The most impactful experience of being on the team was working with my fellow teammates and wonderful mentors who truly cared about our learning experience. This was my first experience with an engineering team and I was fortunate to have such incredible people to work with. The experience would not have been the same without them! Also, working at Christopher Tool on Saturdays and being in a manufacturing environment was extremely impactful. Our mentors allowed us to work on the different machines and we were directly involved in manufacturing our robot. From this experience, I knew I wanted to be in an engineering field.

Beaumont means so much to me. The academic side of Beaumont taught me how to work hard and study correctly to do well in my classes. Beaumont prepared me very well for the rigor and intensity of Engineering School. The extra-curricular side of Beaumont allowed me to experience engineering first hand and allow me to develop a passion that will stay with me forever.



### ALYSSA MUTTILLO '15

Senior, University of Dayton





## ELIZABETH STANITZ '14

2018 Graduate, University of Rochester in New York

Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering

**Career Plans:** I moved to Ann Arbor, Mich., immediately after graduation to start my job at Toyota as a Design Engineer in the Automatic Transmission Group. I work in quality looking for any reoccurring issues by analyzing data and processes, and then finding potential design solutions.

The Robotics Team definitely had an impact on what I chose as career path. I thought I would become a doctor, but soon learned I was more interested in engineering. The team experience really prepared me for my current role: hands-on to fabrication, collaboration, design thinking, and problem solving.

Beaumont is a big family and a safe community where you could try things outside of your realm. It was easy to be a leader because of the supportive atmosphere.

Beaumont is the **only all-girls' team** in the AWT Robotics competition and the results speak for themselves:



**2012:** Deus ex Machina, 2nd Place AWT Regionals

**2013:** Ramses, 1st Place AWT Regionals, Coolest Bot AWT Regionals, 3rd Place NRL Nationals

**2014:** Alexander the Great, Best Presentation AWT Regionals, Best Presentation NRL Nationals, Best Engineering NRL Nationals.

**Dark Horse:** Best Documentation NRL Nationals

**2015:** Joan of Arc, 2nd Place AWT Regionals, Coolest Bot AWT Regionals, Best Presentation AWT Regionals, 4th Place NRL Nationals, Best Engineering Award NRL Nationals

**2016:** Stobor, 3rd Place AWT Regionals, Best Documentation AWT Regionals, 5th Place NRL Nationals, Best Documentation NRL Nationals

**2017:** Stobor II, 2nd Place AWT Regionals, Best Engineering AWT Regionals, Coolest Bot AWT Regionals, Coolest Bot NRL Nationals

**2018:** Bothrops, 3rd Place AWT Regionals, Best Documentation AWT Regionals, Best Presentation AWT Regionals, Coolest Bot AWT Regionals





# COACH

## ELIZABETH “BIRDIE” WARGO

### *Aims High with Beaumont’s Soccer Program*

“I want soccer to be part of Beaumont’s amazing legacy of winning sports teams.” — Elizabeth “Birdie” Wargo

By Patricia Kuivinen

Elizabeth “Birdie” Wargo is a competitor. As Beaumont’s new head soccer coach, she has high hopes for the Beaumont soccer program, including eventually winning a state championship. “I want soccer to be part of Beaumont’s amazing legacy of winning sports teams,” says Birdie. Her two shorter-term goals include attracting more players to have a junior varsity squad and winning more games so players can quickly build their confidence.

Bringing 24 years of competitive soccer experience to her role, she started playing

at age 3 and competed at Hathaway Brown in high school to Division I Varsity at the University of Cincinnati. She was chosen for the Youth National Pool her senior year – an elite club of the 100 best female soccer players in the United States.

Birdie has been coaching since her sophomore year at the University of Cincinnati, where she became their youngest-ever student assistant coach. That was seven years ago, and she has worked with various ages and skill levels ever since. “My approach to coaching is to emphasize the fundamentals. I remind players that a team is only as strong

as its weakest member, and there are no real shortcuts to excelling in this sport.”

#### BUILDING A COMPETITIVE TEAM AT BEAUMONT

Coming from Hathaway Brown (HB), Birdie is more than acquainted with the long-standing Beaumont-HB rivalry. “Hathaway Brown has always had a strong soccer program, and they have the added advantage of being able to cultivate players for a full 12 years. Ironically, during my freshman season at Hathaway Brown, our team lost only one game, and that was to Beaumont! Now that I coach here, I feel the strong sense of belonging, and I really appreciate the school’s openness to spirituality.”

Birdie wants to help Beaumont students understand how participation in competitive soccer can open other doors for them. There are more options than ever before for women players – more college teams and scholarship money, as well as growing opportunities for post-college play. Birdie sees a bright future for the sport, especially for student players, and hopes to position more Beaumont student-athletes for competitive college offers.

#### WINNING ADVICE FOR THE GAME AND LIFE

Perhaps Birdie’s most crucial advice to her student-athletes, applicable on the field and off is learning to be a strong self-ambassador. “It’s a mistake to rely on parents, coaches, reference letters or even the quality of your own play to convey your passion,” says Birdie. “Young women need to find their own voice and be able to explain how playing college soccer fits into their aspirational life plan.”

*“Birdie” earned her unusual nickname at age eight from a coach. “During a team break at a summer soccer camp, I wandered over to look at some trees at the edge of the field,” says Birdie. “Apparently the coach was calling me back to practice for quite some time, but I was daydreaming. When I finally went back to the field, he jokingly called me “Birdie”, because he said I had my head up in the trees. The name stuck, and I’ve owned it ever since!”*





*“We change the world one person, one moment, and one place at a time.”*

## BISHOP NELSON J. PEREZ CELEBRATES MASS WITH BEAUMONT

Beaumont School welcomed Bishop Nelson J. Perez to preside over our All-School Liturgy on the day following Oscar Romero's canonization in Rome. Students, faculty, staff, and guests participated in the inspiring Mass about the life and example of not only Oscar Romero but also that of the Salvadoran martyrs, including former Beaumont guidance counselor, Sister Dorothy Kazel, OSU.

Bishop Perez began his homily by asking the students, “What makes Beaumont different, what distinguishes Beaumont from other schools?” The students enthusiastically answered: the community, the education, the teachers, the athletics, the music, the arts program, Chef Bo's chocolate chip cookies.

The Bishop pointed out that our faith distinguishes us most of all and is what forms

our hearts and minds. Channeling the Ursuline educational charism, he told them, “We change the world one person, one moment, and one place at a time.”

Citing Saint Oscar Romero as someone who changed the world, Bishop Perez reminded us that his life had been given as a gift, and that he was someone who changed the world with

a courageous and generous heart by lifting his voice for the people of El Salvador and not succumbing to fear.

Bishop Perez encouraged the young women of Beaumont to recognize their own power and to go out and, as our vision statement says, change the world.

Mary Stevenson '78 (far right), Community of Oscar A. Romero's (COAR) Executive Director in blue, joined 60,000 people in St. Peter Square as Pope Francis canonized Saint Oscar Romero on October 15, 2019. Under his vestments, Pope Francis was wearing the rope belt that St. Romero was wearing when he was murdered. It still has his blood on it.



## 2018 PRESIDENT'S RECEPTION AND BEAUMONT AWARDS

It was a magical evening when Beaumont welcomed back alumnae, friends and family to enjoy an evening of celebration, honoring the best of Beaumont. Our beautiful campus was transformed as we inducted the inaugural class of the Athletic Hall of Fame, honored a Distinguished Alumna and celebrated a Beaumont Award winner.

There were powerful introductions and gracious acceptance speeches and a tear here and there. But, above all it was a night to celebrate all that is Beaumont. To see the full event, watch the video online at [beaumontschool.org/alumnae/events](http://beaumontschool.org/alumnae/events).

### BEAUMONT AWARD



#### Ray and Eleanor Smiley

Ray Smiley addresses the audience on the importance of supporting Catholic education. Mr. Smiley and his wife, Eleanor, were the 2018 recipients of the Beaumont Award for their

generosity to Beaumont through their philanthropy, spearheading the "Smiley Challenge" which advanced the school's fundraising efforts dramatically in 2018.

### DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD



#### Noreen Friend Fraser '71

Chris Ianni Maistros '71 (far right) nominated her best friend and Beaumont classmate,

Noreen Friend Fraser '71 posthumously, for the Distinguished Alumna Award. Her sisters Lucy Friend Hutchison '79 (far left) and Colleen Friend '70 (second from the left) accepted the award for Noreen on behalf of their family as presented by President Wendy Hoke (second from the right).



### ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME AWARDS



#### HALL OF FAME FOR COACHING: COACH GARY BILL, 1989-2000

Pictured: (L to R) Former Beaumont President Sister Beverly Anne LoGrasso, Coach Gary Bill and Sr. Susan Durkin, President of Ursuline Sisters of Cleveland



#### HALL OF FAME TEAM: BEAUMONT 1990 TRACK & FIELD TEAM

This record-shattering team still holds the record for most points scored in a state meet.



#### HALL OF FAME FOR INDIVIDUAL ATHLETE: RICHELLE WEBB DIXON '90

Michelle Hite '92 (pictured left) moved everyone to tears, including her friend, teammate and inductee Richelle Webb Dixon '90, with her poetic introduction.



# CLASS NOTES

Please find Class Notes online at [beaumontschool.org/beaumontnews](http://beaumontschool.org/beaumontnews). Moving notes online will help us be good stewards of both the environment and your generous contributions. We encourage you to continue to share any recent life events at [beaumontschool.org/classupdate](http://beaumontschool.org/classupdate) or through your class rep so we may share your news online in future Class Notes. You may go paperless by adding your name to the Beaumont School's Green List on the bottom of the contact update form at [beaumontschool.org/alumnae/change-of-information](http://beaumontschool.org/alumnae/change-of-information), and we will notify you when the latest issue of *Beaumont News* and Class Notes are available online.

## IN MEMORIAM

### Beaumont Alumnae:

Catherine Politzer '35

Christine Pekoc Eichhorn '47

Dorothy Leonard Wilkinson '47

Therese Demchok '48

Mary Meaker Gillis '49

Barbara Finneran Triskett '51

Rita Perko Nassif '52

Joanne Day Ulwelling '52

Dorothy O'Neil Donahey '52

Ann Marie Butler Emmerich '53

Patricia Bright Mawby '54

Margaret Zyta Miller '54

Beth Lanigan Reese '55

Phillis Bleich Greenhalgh '56

Kathleen Zahony Livingston Forgan '57

Marianne Skelley Reim '58

Patricia Bergen Cunningham '62

Patricia Conkey Fahey '64

Robin Harvey McGrane '65

Kathleen Sweete Stadtlander '65

Mary Beth Hunter Musk '68

Marjorie Brown '73

Karen Killeen Dittoe '78

Amanda Calhoun '80

Jill Mooney Cancelliere '80

Danielle Tripodo '92

Claire Kew '95

Lian Shalala Gravelle '98

Kirsten Hansen Zeiss '02

# SAVE THE DATE

## Reunion Weekend

### SEPTEMBER 20-22, 2019

**B** Beaumont  
School

Register online:

<https://www.beaumontschool.org/reunions>

Classes  
ending in  
**4's & 9's**



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# B BEAUMONT SUMMER SOIRÉE

Come support Beaumont's signature fundraising event. Enjoy the evening's strolling dinner to mingle and reconnect with friends, Beaumont classmates, and faculty and staff.

**Saturday, June 8, 2019**

6 pm VIP Reception | 7–11 pm

Beaumont School Campus  
Summer Casual Dress (Bow Tie Optional)

*Complimentary Valet at North Park Boulevard Entrance*



**RSVP**

Kindly respond by **May 17, 2019**. Please call **216.325.7316** or visit us online at **beaumontschool.org/summersoiree**.