

# The Paduan

Alumni Newsletter for St. Anthony of Padua Alumni

Vol. 1, No. 2 Sept. 2008

Visit: <http://www.paduaprep.com>

## **Alumni Reunion 2008**

Padua Alumni Reunion 2008 celebrated the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the graduating class of 1958. Other classes celebrating milestones included the class of 1968 (40<sup>th</sup>), class of 1953 (55<sup>th</sup>) and class of 1963 (45<sup>th</sup>). The festivities started on Friday August 15<sup>th</sup> with check in at the Longhouse Lodge, followed by a dinner at Castel Grisch, and the day ended with catching up with fellow alumni. Saturday included a variety of activities which included a tour of the Elk Farm, Lunch at the Manor House, an update by Fr. Austin, Mass at St Mary's of The Lake and a dinner at the Glen Motor Inn. Sunday ended the festivities with a farewell until Reunion 2009.



Group photo (by Carol LaSalle) at the 2008 Reunion. To see more photo's go to [John LaSalle's photo gallery](#).

## **2008 Reunion Recognition**

A special thanks goes out to Joe Biernat '68 and Steve Kurpiel '58 for contacting and arranging attendance for their classmates. A very special thank you goes out to Tom Malina '66 for his help in arranging and organizing the reunion agenda. A thanks goes out to Fr. Austin for and all the attendees for making the reunion a memorable experience.

## **Reunion 2008 Attendees**

Class of 53 (members Celebrating their 55<sup>th</sup>) -Henry Cecce is a retired roofing contractor and lives in Corning NY. Hank has 2 children and 3 grandchildren.

Class of 54-Dr. John Pilch is a Professor of Theology at Georgetown University, John has authored numerous books on Religion and Cultures. He also enjoys music and has made appearances singing with the Baltimore Choral Arts Society and Baltimore Symphony Chorus

Class of 55-Leonard Dmuchowski is retired from the Security Field with Bulgari Corp of America. Len and wife Mary Ann (a Malina sister) both attended the reunion. They live in East Northport NY and have 2 children and 5 grandchildren.

Class of 56-Paul Golinski is an Attorney at Cullen and Dykman. Both Paul and wife Loretta attended. They live in Massapequa NY and have 3 sons and 2 daughters; 2 grandsons and 2 granddaughters.

-Edward Opiola is a retired Associate Director from Proctor and Gamble. Ed and wife Barbara attended the reunion. They reside in New City, NY and have 3 children Richard, Terence and Sabrina; and 6 grandchildren Jack, Edward, Emelia, Finnegan, Emma, and Gabriella with a 7<sup>th</sup> due in October.

Class of 57-Joe Barstys is a marketing manager at Subaru of America. Both Joe and wife Carmen attended and they reside in Cherry Hill, NJ and have 2 daughters Claire and Ana; and 2 grandchildren Brandon and Seth.

Class of 58 (members celebrating their 50<sup>th</sup>)-Fr. Joel (Frank) Szydlowski OFM is an active Chaplain and resides at Our Lady Of the Lady Angels, Green Bay Wi.

-Stephen Kurpiel is a retired Field Engineer at Burroughs-Unisys. Steve and wife Irene attended. They reside in Copiague LI and have 3 Children Kenneth, Philip and Stephanie and one grandchild Sean Patrick.

-Dr. Michael Uss DDS is active in his Dental practice. Both Mike and wife June attended the reunion. They reside in Onalaska Wi and have 3 children and 1 grandchild.

-Gerald Nowotarski is retired from Technical Sales at DuPont. Gerry and wife Anna reside in Oley Pa. and have 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

-Andrew Zarski is retired from Telecom Comm. Andy and wife Yung Suk reside in Greenwood Lake NY and have 2 children.

-Stanley Ostaszewski is a Information Technology Consultant. Stan and wife Alyce reside in Batavia IL and have 6 Children, 14 Grandchildren and 5 great Grandchildren.

-Ronald Gajewski is a retired wholesale manager. Ron and wife Christina reside in Bayonne NJ and have 2 daughters and 4 granddaughters.

Class of 59-Richard Uss is a retired plant Manager at American Cyanamid. Rich and wife Wanda attended. They reside in Longmeadow Ma and have 2 children Stephen and Christina and twin Grandchildren Jack and Susannah.

Class of 61-Chester Ostaszewski is a dual retiree from The US Air Force and as a Computer Technician. Chet and wife Donna reside in San Antonio Tx and have 4 sons Joseph, Timothy, and twins Mark and Matthew and 3 grandchildren Joshua, Justin and Faith.

Class of 62-John LaSalle is the owner of a textile company. John and wife Carol attended the reunion and they reside in Searingtown, LI. They have 2 children John III Esq. (Attorney), and Daughter Holly

(Psychologist); and 1 grandchild Carolina Marie

-John Mielnik is a retired Administrator for Gas Customer Service at PSE&G. John and wife Joyce attended. They have 2 daughters Tonya and Veronica and 2 grandsons.

-Walter Kurpiel Wally is currently with Lowes Corp after retirement from Sears. He is a wine connoisseur and has become an expert salt and fresh water angler. Wally resides in Copiague LI.

Class of 63 (Celebrated it's 45<sup>th</sup>)-John Gryszan is a retired microbiologist. John and wife Hedy attended. They recently moved to Tucson, Arizona and have 2 children Christopher and Dana.

-Michael Asiello is a retired teacher. Mike and wife Vivian reside in Corning NY and have 3 children and 4 grandchildren.

-Edward Sudol is a consultant. Ed and wife Jean reside in Sleepy Hollow NY and have 2 children John and Chris.

Class of 64-Alexander Ostaszewski is a retired Transit Police Officer. Alex and wife MaryAnn reside in Union Beach NJ and have 2 daughters; and 2 grandsons and a granddaughter

Class of 66-Tom Malina is owner of [Castel Grisch Restaurant and Winery](#). Tom and wife Barbara reside in Montour Falls NY.

Class of 68 (Celebrated it's 40<sup>th</sup>)-Stephen Kiersznowski is a Retired Regional VP Retirement Plan Sales. Steve and wife [Meredith](#) attended. They live in Dardenne Prairie Mo and have 3 daughters Alicia, Claudia and Emily.

-Vincent Burcz is a Computer/IT analyst. Vince and wife Betty reside in Mt Morris NY and have 2 children Karen and Matthew.

-Richard Olechnowicz is currently the Technical Services Manager for Duracote Corporation, previously he worked 30 years as the Quality Manager for a Catalyst Manufacturing site at Engelhard Corporation. Rich and wife Becky reside in North Royalton Ohio and have 3 children: Michael, Joseph and Mary Beth.

-Joseph Biernat is a VP of Finance at Goodrich. Joe and wife Chris attended. They reside in Southington Ct and have 2 children Christopher and Melissa; and 1 grandchild Holden Thomas.

-August Kuklinski is an Aero Engineer. Gus and wife Linda attended. They are relocating to Wichita Ks and have 2 children Monica and Brian.

Class of 69-Kevin Glynn is a Sales Manager. Kevin and wife Barbara reside in Shelton Ct and have 2 sons Mike and Corey

-John Pludrzynski is in sales and contracting for a Tile and Marble company. Both John and wife Mary attended. They live in Delmar NY and have 2 sons.

-Edward Scarp is a Stockbroker for Smith and Barney. Both Ed and wife Mary attended. They reside in Mt Top Pa and have 3 daughters Katie, Ann and Brigid and 3 grandchildren Dylan, Tyler and Lydia.

### **Padua Property Status** By John Gryszan

At the August 2008 reunion, a number of Padua alums got to meet the present owner of the property; Martin Wojcik, who took us on a bus tour of the entire property. To say that the property as we knew it has changed is an understatement. Where once stood a small wooden building for pigs, are now several large metal structures housing construction equipment. The entrance to the property from RT 409 has a gate which says "Padua Ridge" and "Elks In The Glen". It is at this point that visitors board buses that have huge photos of Elk silk screened on them and tour the grounds to view the herds of Elk and the small lakes etc. that the owner is developing there.

As we drove up the old pig farm road back towards the Gym, we came upon the area that is being dug out for process stone. They have basically removed the entire hillside on the side of the road. The dug out area is so huge that you can clearly see it from the other side of Seneca Lake. At the location of the old Padua scout camp, the pond that Fr. Austin started there has now been dug out into a small lake which has countless ducks and Canada Geese in it. A restaurant is nearing completion there also at which the owner plans to serve Elk, of course, and other game. He hopes to open the restaurant next year. Plans are also in the works for a hotel to be built in a meadow near the old scout camp from which point the view of Seneca Lake is spectacular. A winter activity center is also planned to include an alpine type tubing slide area etc.

The entire property perimeter is fenced in with 12 foot high fence to keep the Elk in. This is in addition to the Elk pen fencing within the property. There is a total of 12 miles of fencing in place which according to the owner cost over a million dollars to construct. As we drove the perimeter of the property in the bus, we all commented that we never realized how extensive the Padua property was.

Mr. Wojcik also told us an interesting fact that none of us knew. Apparently the border between what is Watkins Glen and the town of Dix, runs near where the golf course was. So the old pig farm and all the Padua property beyond that is in Dix NY. None of us had ever heard of Dix, NY!

The immediate area near where the Padua building stood is also changing. The Rectory is now gone entirely. The Lab has been gutted and plans for its future are uncertain. The section of the Boiler room closest to the Gym that housed the school bus is also gone. The Gym itself is in bad disrepair with the front door glass smashed and trees starting to cover the sides of the entrance. The guest house, where Fr. Austin still resides is in good shape. Also, the Pagoda which was to the right of the Padua building is still partially there.

To all you alums who have not been to the grounds, think about attending the reunion in August of 2009. It's not certain how long the remaining Padua structures will remain standing. There have been some suggestions that the alumni ask the owner if a small memorial marker can be placed at the location of the Padua building. Also it has been suggested that perhaps the owner would allow the Lab to remain as a museum for the Glen Springs and Padua historical items. Perhaps with alumni interest these ideas may come about.



Photo by John Gryszan. For more photo's [click here.](#)

### **The Seneca Lake Wineries** By John Gryszan

If seeing your old classmates and other Padua alums isn't enough to make you want to attend the 2009 reunion, then perhaps the fifty or so wineries that are on Seneca Lake will. The wine trail areas surrounding Seneca, Cayuga and Keuka Lakes have the largest concentration of wineries outside of California's Napa Valley. You can sample internationally acclaimed Riesling wines, as well as a fine array of Chardonnay, Pinot Noir, Cabernet Franc, Merlot, Cabernet Sauvignon, native varietals from sweet to dry to sparkling and even rare ice wines.

One of the wineries on Seneca Lake is owned by Tom Malina. Padua '66. It is called [Castel Grisch Vineyards](#) and is one we always visit. Some other great wineries close to Watkins Glen include [Glenora](#), [Lakewood Vineyards](#), and [Wiemer Vineyards](#). You can preview all other wineries and restaurants in the area by going to [Finger Lakes Wine Country](#). During all of the reunions groups of Paduans make their way to the wineries on Seneca Lake and you don't even have to get "town permission" or be back by 3 p.m.! During one of these wine tours several years ago, a group of us from the class of 1963 walked into Glenora Vineyards wearing Padua tee shirts and were greeted by an elderly lady who upon seeing us exclaimed, "my, my, I haven't seen Paduans in years"! Well it turns out this lady was Rose Ciccone, wife of Tony Ciccone, the barber who cut our hair on Saturdays at Padua. Seeing us brought back some nice memories for her and for us it was nice to meet someone connected in this way to our past.

The next Padua reunion is scheduled for August 2009. Please try to attend if you can; it's always a great time. After all, great wine and old friends is a combination that can't be beat.

### **Things to do when Visiting Watkins Glen**

by John Mielnik

How far and how much will it cost to Drive to [Watkins Glen](#)?

Yes the [Glen](#) is still there and open.

Museums: [Corning Museum of Glass](#), [Glenn Curtiss Museum](#)

Cruises: [Captain Bill's Seneca Cruises](#), [Seneca Day Sails](#), [Esperanza Rose](#)

Shopping: [The Windmill](#), [Waterloo Premium Outlets](#), Waterloo Market Street – Corning

Places to Dine: [Castle Grisch](#); [Edgar's in Belhurst Castle](#); [Seneca Harbor Station](#)

Places to Stay: [Villager Motel](#), [Idlwilde Inn](#), [Glen Harbor Hotel](#), [Longhouse Lodge](#)



## **Memory Lane**

Turn back the hands of time and take a trip down memory lane. Chad Orlowski has undertaken the mammoth task of digitizing some old 16 mm films and preservation of artifacts from our Padua days. A total of 5 different films of varying length have been converted at a hefty cost. These films will be available on DVD to the alumni for a cost of \$13 each to cover shipping and help defray the cost of the digitizing process and recovery of other historical artifacts. A short sample of the silent films most in color some in B&W can be viewed at the [paduaprep.com](http://paduaprep.com) bulletin board. The DVD is over 90 minutes in length will play on just about any DVD player or computer (best viewed on smaller screen). Events covered include: Padua dedication, construction of the AC field, early Marathon day activities (Soap box Derby), fun in the snow, the gym team, May Procession and a scenic tour of the Padua property with Bro. Martin with a cameo appearance by Bro. Tim, Bro. Benedict at the pig farm and Fr Austin's dog Duke. Included is a 1968 promo that has a lot of indoor scenes. Please specify video format for other than the normal video format.

A limited number of embroidered Padua Prep caps in brown or olive are also available for \$15. Please check with [paduans@mac.com](mailto:paduans@mac.com) for color and availability, before ordering. Also available is the embroidery designs that were digitized and can easily create more Padua articles (caps or whatever).



To purchase a DVD please send check or money order to for \$13 to: Chad Orlowski, 100 Kristen Ct., Warwick, RI 02888

## **Reunion 2009**

Next years reunion is planned for August 13<sup>th</sup> to August 16<sup>th</sup>. Celebrating milestones will be the Class of 1959 (50<sup>th</sup>), 1954 (55<sup>th</sup>), 1964 (45<sup>th</sup>) and 1969 (40<sup>th</sup>). A golf outing is on the table as an alumni activity.

## **Paduan Receives Honorary Doctoral degree from**

**University of Coimbra, Portugal.** Edited excerpts from Bay City Tribune.

Bob Malina PhD FACSM (class of 55) Professor Emeritus in the Department of Kinesiology and Health Education of the University of Texas at Austin and Research Professor at Tarleton State University in Stephenville, was the recipient of a doctor honoris causa degree (honorary doctoral degree) from the University of Coimbra in Portugal on 8 July 2008. In a very traditional ceremony, Professor Malina was recognized for his contributions to the sports sciences and physical education, specifically studies dealing with the health benefits of physical activity for children and adolescents and his research into the growth, maturation and performance of young athletes in a variety of sports. Professor Malina has collaborated for many years, and continues to collaborate, with professors and students of the Faculty of Sports Sciences and Physical Education at the University of Coimbra. The University of Coimbra, located in the midlands of Portugal between Lisbon and Porto, is among the oldest in Europe. Its foundations date to the late 13<sup>th</sup> and early 14<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Bob is the husband of Dr. Eva Anne Stell Malina, a native of Bay City. She teaches eighth grade mathematics at O.J. Hermann Middle School in Van Vleck. Bob and Eva have been married 39 years and have 3 Children: Robert, Elizabeth and Stephen; and 2 grandchildren; Avery and Coco Marie.

Professor Malina has earned doctoral degrees in physical education from the University of Wisconsin and in anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. He has been recognized on several occasions for his contributions to the study of the growth and maturation of children in the context of sport and physical activity and human biology. These include a citation award from the American College of Sports Medicine, the honor award of the North American Society for Pediatric Exercise Medicine, the Clark Hetherington award of the American Academy of Kinesiology and Physical Education, and the Franz Boas Distinguished Achievement Award of the Human Biology Association. In addition, he has been recognized with honorary doctoral degrees from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium (1989), the Bronisław Czech Academy of Physical Education of Cracow, Poland (2001), and the University School of Physical Education in Wrocław.



The photo shows Professor Malina in the traditional academic robes of the University which were worn during the ceremony. The ornately decorated cape worn over the shoulders is in the colors of the Faculty of Sports Sciences and Physical Education (brown and white). The cape is similar to the hood worn at American universities. The hat is the official “insignia” of the doctoral degree. It is placed on the recipients head at the time the degree is officially conferred.



Group photo (by Carol LaSalle) at the 2008 Reunion.  
To see more photo's go to the [Padua Prep Website](#)

### Class Notes

Class of 53-Joe Danchek and wife Jacqueline (niece of Fr Claude) have been living in West Chicago for the past 35 years. They have 2 daughters Julie Ann and Danielle and 3 grandsons: Matthew, Joseph and Jackson. After graduation Joe served in the Air Force. After retiring from the Air Force Joe earned a Masters degree and served as V.P. and Director of Risk Management for Harris Bank Corp and retired in 1994 after 27 years of service.

Class of 56-John Asiello is retired from the US Army. John and wife Laura Jean reside in Springfield Va and have 5 children: David, Elizabeth, Ann, George and Laura and 11 grandchildren.

Class of 62-Congratulations to Carol and John LaSalle on the birth of their first grandchild Carolina Marie born to daughter Holly.

Class of 63-Dr. Gerard Szczygiel DO (Retired) has spent the last three summers working among the Native Alaskans. Natives are flown in from distant areas to see Gerry. Gerry claims it can get cold but he thoroughly enjoys and finds the work very rewarding. The Native Alaskans are very appreciative for his services.

Class of 66-Stan Martin retired from the US Marines, resides in Jacksonville NC with wife Caroline. When asked who was tougher the Marines or Franciscans, Stan called it a draw. Semper Fi Stan.

-Andrew Staroscik employed 31 years for Western Electric-AT&T-Lucent-Bell Labs, presently at Rutgers University as Manager Licensing and Technology for the Office of Corporate Liaison and Technology Transfer. Andy and wife Lorraine reside in Langhorne Pa, and have 3 children Michael, Christine, Marianne, and 1 grandchild Sage

-Christine and Tony Specian celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on April 22. They met at a company sponsored bowling league. Christine is an Audit Alliance Co-ordinator and Tony works in Discovery Chemistry/Oncology, both work at Hoffmann-LaRoche Pharmaceuticals, Nutley NJ. They have 2 daughters Dana-24 ASA Actuary at Met Life and Lindsay-21 Montclair State University with majors in Anthropology and Family & Child Studies.

Class of 67- Tony Dabrowski will be retiring from the Philadelphia Fire Department on January 17, 2009, after 35 years of service. Oldest son Anthony Jr, will have 2 years in the Department He loves it as much as his dad does. He will start St. Joe's University this fall to get his Masters in Public Safety. Daughter, Rebecca, works at a pharmaceutical advertising company in center city. Son Greg, will start his third year at the Wharton Business School at the University of Pennsylvania. On July 5, 2008 Tony and wife Stephanie reside in Philadelphia and celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

-Roger Hetel has been a dedicated teacher at Garfield High School, Garfield, NJ since 1971. Roger has taught mostly English but has also taught Speech and Theater on and off for all 37 years. He is currently teaching Public Speaking and Theater along with the responsibility of Student Activities. Roger has also spent a lot of time in Europe, first as a foreign exchange student, then leading tour groups, and also as a regular visitor. Roger has followed in the footsteps of Fr. Eric Skalski, a friar he admired during his days at Padua and has served as the Drama Director at Garfield High since 72 and has directed one to two plays a year. Most recently, he's directed The Dining Room, Dracula, Our Town, Guys and Dolls and the Good Doctor.

-Congratulations to Wayne Wojcik and his wife Mary Ann on the wedding of their only son Jeffrey this past summer. Jeffrey is a high school math teacher. Wayne and Mary Ann have been married 32 years. Wayne worked for NJ Bell and AT&T for 34 years before retiring in 2002. He now works in Marketing and Product Management for Cingular Wireless which was bought out by AT&T Mobility. Wayne finds it amusing that he is now working for a company owned by a company he retired from! Class of 70 [James Gomiela](#) is a successful

businessman on Long Island, founder, owner and president of Celebrity Moving. Also served as Treasurer for the New York State Movers & Warehousemen's Assn. Jimmy and wife GERALYNNE reside in Rockville Center NY and have 3 sons: John, Zack, and Robert; and one daughter Elizabeth. Jimmy has stayed in touch with some faculty and many of his class over the years and recently hosted a reunion for fifteen members of the Class of 1970. Jimmy is very proud of the fact that he was able to overcome adversity in early adulthood and turned his life around.

### **In Memory:**

#### **Class of 65 Fr. John Drozdal**

Excerpts From: Catholic Sun  
(Diocese of Syracuse, NY),  
March 29-April 4, 2007

By Claudia Mathis/  
SUN staff writer. A Gentle Giant

Father John Drozdal  
was born March 8, 1947

in Bad Gandersheim, Germany,  
to Joseph and Gabriela Drozdal.

John graduated from Padua in 1965.

After completing theology work at

SS. Cyril and Method Seminary in Orchard Lake, Mi..

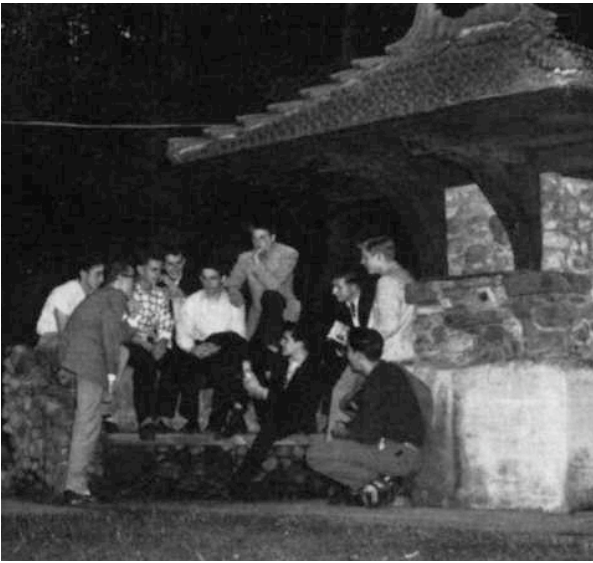
Father Drozdal was ordained May 18, 1974. He

earned a Master's degree in religious studies at the University of Detroit and also a certificate in Polish Language and Culture at Jaggielonian University in Krakow, Poland. His first assignment in the Syracuse Diocese was to serve as associate pastor at St. Mary's Church in Cortland, starting on June 7, 1974. In 1975, he went on to serve in the same capacity at St. Mary's Church in New York Mills, as well as St. John's, St. Vincent de Paul's and St. Stanislaus in Binghamton. He also served as associate pastor at St. Bartholomew's in Norwich, before assuming the position of pastor at St. Ann's Church in Binghamton Dec. 1, 1989. Father Drozdal's years of service also included several years as temporary administrator at St. Ann's Church in Hinckley. From September 1997 until the time of his death, Father Drozdal served as chaplain at St. Luke's Hospital in New Hartford.

Father Mark Pasik, pastor at Transfiguration Church in Rome, delivered the homily. And said this of John "He was a man of few words yet an excellent listener, which is premium in today's world. He was simply an uncomplicated priest in a complicated world. One could only be enriched by his priestly demeanor, humor and gentle spirit."







Members from the class of 1958 at the Gazebo. See the [Gazebo now](#).

### **Tough Times at Padua High** by Tony Specian

We all remember the stories our parents and grandparents told us about their hardships and experiences when they attended school. Probably the most famous one was how our parents had to walk 2 miles in 2 foot of snow to get to school. Our grandparents took it one step further they had to go 4 miles in 4 foot of snow; barefoot. Unfortunately, we can't use the snow day stories because we boarded in and we all remember how much fun we had with all the outdoor winter activities. But if we did share some stories this is what we have told to our children or grandchildren.

We had to go to bed every night at 9:15 PM with lights out and keep complete silence. The following morning we were awoken at 6:00 AM by that annoying bell. In the mid 60's the students got a big break with a wake up time of 6:30 AM. Once up we had less than 25 minutes to get ready, battle thirty or more other students for positioning in a small community bathroom with a few sinks and mirrors, then get dressed and make our beds perfect, then off to morning mass. All in silence until breakfast.

We were limited to the the amount of time we could spend in our dorm room during the day. No doors for privacy and our rooms were kept clean.

The only free time we had during the week was an hour and a half after class and an hour after supper. We even had to go to school ½ day on Saturday. Study time was about 3 hours per day.

On Sunday we had to go to Mass two times.

Proper attire during the school day consisted of jacket, tie and dress pants.

Fortunately, those annoying bells dictated our daily routines, but we did have to make sure our watches were always wound every day so we would not be caught being late if we wandered too far from the main buildings. We weren't allowed off the property without permission.

A demerit system help keep us in line.

For math class and tests we had to use those cumbersome slide rulers or do the calculations long hand on paper. We did not have those fancy scientific calculators students have today.

All our class assignments were accomplished by writing them out long hand. We could type them out on a mechanical typewriter. Some of the latter day alumni were fortunate to have electric typewriters. Make a mistake forget it. Either do it over or have some good white out to correct the errors. Can you imagine the time we would have saved if we had computers? Our assignments would have been a breeze. We would have not had those many late nights editing for the Paduan or Yearbook. Can you imagine automatic spell and grammar check? Let us not forget writing out those dreaded "Doc take 5,000", "I must not \_\_\_\_" 500 times or one of the all time favorites: a 5000 word essay on "Life inside of a ping pong ball"

All our research for class work was done the cumbersome way in the library. It took a lot of free time going through the library card index, encyclopedia or reference section. No "google"- how did we manage to find things?

Remember waiting in line to call home after class or dinner to use the pay phone adjacent to the stairwell? A few times a month a dime in the coin slot, reverse the charges and for ten to fifteen minutes we'd exchange stories with our family. Take too long and you might have to pay the consequences from an impatient upper classman. Can you imagine cell phones back then? - communications, a clock with alarm, calendar, calculations, taking pictures and text messaging all on one device. Imagine texting answers to assignments or answers to quizzes or tests.

Remember waiting patiently after we finished dinner for that "opened prescreened" letter from home or a girlfriend? No emails or instant messaging back then.

On special occasions, we'd get town permission. But for spending money, all we'd get was one dollar. What we might not mention was with some wise choices one could purchase a few items and the choices included: a pack of cigarettes, soda (pop), ice cream, a burger or hot dog, candy bars, a couple of games at the pin ball machine, a

couple songs on the jukebox, a magazine, soft cover book or the purchase of a 45 rpm record.

We did not have a credit card or an ATM machine at our disposal, but we did have the Padua version of a credit card at the Px? A simple hole puncher recorded your purchase. The only problem was that the Px was only open for about half an hour after class on select days and you'd have to wait in a long line to get a snack or a specialty item such as deodorant or a jock strap.

We were served three meals a day, and if you didn't like what they served, you didn't eat- unless you had some smuggled goodies from home. Unfortunately those smuggled goodies could create a rodent problem. No snacks in between meals were allowed except from the Px.

By our junior or senior year, many of us worked summer vacation to purchase our first car. Some were lucky and got a hand me down. The 40 h a week summer job netted us 25 to \$50 a week. Ouch! 2 to \$5 to fill our tanks with gas really hurt the wallet. Well at least we got full service! If we were lucky our car came equipped with state of the art monaural static AM radio sound system and air conditioning-that was if the crank on your roll down window worked. We did have to sacrifice and give up use of the car for the entire school year.

For recreation and entertainment we did have the gym and outdoor activities. In the lower gym we viewed a black and white TV (3 or 4 channels with poor reception). We never got to see prime time TV. Also available to us in the lower gym was billiards, ping pong, darts, shuffle board, chess, checkers and card games (pinochle, poker, black jack, war, euchre, solitaire and hearts). On Wednesday afternoon and the weekends we were able to sign out our transistor radios. Some of us were fortunate to have our own record player with a stack of 45's. And if the record started to skip, a nickel on the cartridge solved the problem. Imagine having no cable TV, internet, video recorders, DVD's, mp3 players, game boys, Playstations, or Wii's.

Once a week on Sunday night we did get to see an older movie unless punished and banished to the back stairway of the gym. The worst possible thing that could happen would be no cartoon with the movie. Student body riot, that crazy and zany 5 to 7 minute flick would help brighten our perspective and preserve our sanity for the upcoming week of school.

We received free medical care from Brother Casimer.

Socializing with the opposite sex was practically nonexistent, except in the last few years of Padua's existence when students actually had mixers with girls. No prom though, the closest to that for most of us was Coach Lemak's dance lessons in gym class. In all fairness,

we may have used what we learned from those lessons and danced with our Mom on Mothers Day weekend.

It was really tough on us spending our adolescent years away from home and being on our own. When we reflect back on our days at Padua, those hardships we had is what probably made those times so memorable.

Can you imagine paying less than \$1,000 for an education, room, board, school supplies and activities, for an entire school year?



Class of 1968 celebrating Marathon win

### **Class Contacts**

We have class contacts in place for all the classes except for the class of 1953 and 1970. Since the class of 1960 is so large, their class could use another volunteer. The class contacts duties are simple. Have an email account and help keep the lines of communication open between his graduating class and keep us updated on any changes in emails or addresses from his class.

Volunteers contact Tony Specian at: [paduan5370@gmail.com](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com).

### **Next Issue**

Another issue of the Alumni Paduan is planned for Spring 2009. This issue will include a planned agenda and application form for the 2009 reunion, slated for Aug 13<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup>.

Please inform us of any errors or omissions in this issue, we'll repost next issue. The success of the alumni Paduan newsletter will depend on your help, ideas and input. Volunteers and material are needed for the next issue. Submit a bio about you and your family or a story about your days at Padua. If you have a family page or business site online send in the url and we'll link you up. Share with your fellow alumni an anniversary, birth of your first grandchild, a retirement, a promotion, or a memory from your days at Padua. Send submissions to: [paduan5370@gmail.com](mailto:paduan5370@gmail.com).

### **Paduan Staff and Contributors.**

John Gryszan '63, John LaSalle '62,  
John Mielnik '62, Chad Orlovski '65,  
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