Now wrapping up their second year, the St. Ambrose Model UN team, including several new members, has continued to earn many honors at conferences this spring. Faculty member Michael Kwas and parent volunteer Claire Falk-Wells have helped to prepare and transport students to the conferences.

The team competed in Illinois at the Lyons Township Model UN in February and Model UN Illinois-Champaign in March, winning several individual awards. Senior Matt Marsland, Secretary General of the SAA team, represented St. Ambrose as an individual delegate at the Washington D.C. Area Conference and at the Harvard Model UN, where he was named “Best Delegate.”

Model UN is a simulation of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly, UN Security Council, or other multilateral body in order to introduce students to diplomacy, negotiation, and decision-making. Students assume the roles of ambassadors of UN member countries and debate current issues on the UN’s vast agenda. Delegates prepare draft resolutions, plot strategy, negotiate with supporters and adversaries, resolve conflicts, and navigate the UN’s rules of procedure – all while resolving problems that affect the world.

Model UN delegates learn how the international community acts on its concerns about peace and security, human rights, the environment, food and hunger, economic development, and globalization. “This is one of the hardest things I’ve ever done,” reported sophomore William Donohoe after his first conference, adding, “It was a blast!”

“Teach ‘Em to Think” School Tour
Join us for a peek into our school
Friday, May 8, 2015
9:30–10:30 a.m.
Breakfast and Tour, on us!
(St. Ambrose Academy, Madison)

St. Ambrose Academy Graduation
Celebrating with our Class of 2015 and 8th grade graduates!
Sunday, May 24, 2015
1:00 p.m. - Mass
2:00 p.m. - Graduation Ceremony
7:00 p.m. - Dance
(St. Ambrose Academy, Madison)

“Once in a Lifetime” with The Music Man Director Angela Hineline
As a former SAA English teacher and as head coach of the Guardians Cross Country team for 5 years now, “Coach” Angela Hineline knows she can set the bar high for St. Ambrose students. It turns out, though, that directing a musical hardly resembles coaching a cross country team.

“Coaching cross country is about a thousand times simpler!” said Hineline. “Cross Country focuses on one skill: how to run. In musical theater, there is acting, vocals, choreography, light design, set design, costume design—so many elements go into it.” She added, “Instead of running to a finish line, we’re telling a story.”

Like a good coach, Hineline demands 100% from all the students involved. The students have excitedly stepped up the plate. “There’s something new for every single cast and crew member to learn,” explained Hineline. Yes, learning continues even outside the classroom!

St. Ambrose musical productions are unusual because of the wide age range of sixth graders through twelfth graders all working together, with an occasional alumnus joining the fun. “This production is special because it captures a point in time for each performer,” commented Hineline. “This is the one time in each performer’s life that he or she will get to do this musical in this way, and it can never be repeated.”

“More than putting on three shows, our goal has been to set the students up for success, so they can go out there and do the very best that they can possibly do,” she reflected. Congratulations to the cast and crew of The Music Man for a job well done!
Faculty Focus:
Fran Ray

When Fran Ray joined the St. Ambrose Academy faculty in September, he was fulfilling a goal that he had set years before with his late wife, Dr. Monica Bischoff. Monica was the Assistant Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Madison. She and Fran learned of St. Ambrose early on and immediately became supporters of St. Ambrose. When Fran became a certified teacher after 23 years as an engineer, he told Monica, “My goal is to teach for [St. Ambrose] some day.”

Fran’s experience teaching Math and Science (Senior High) and Religion (Junior High) has not disappointed: “From the students, to the parents, to the faculty, I am surrounded by people who know the struggles and joy that come from trying to live Christ-centered lives, so that we continue to grow in the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.” He added, “…having opportunities to infuse our faith into the classroom has led to some very enriching and engaging dialogue, and I find myself learning as much from [my students] as they do from me.” One of his students commented, “It is easy to see that [Mr. Ray] loves what he does, and there is no place he would rather be than in that classroom, teaching teenagers long division and chemical reactions.”

However, after this school year, Fran Ray will move to Indianapolis to make a new home with his new wife, Dr. Trish Devine, a Butler University professor. Fran and Trish married on March 21, 2015. We wish Fran the very best in this newest chapter of his life, thank him for his dedication to teaching, and look forward to remaining in touch.

St. Ambrose Academy, Grades 6–12  •  602 Everglade Dr., Madison WI 53717  •  School Office: (608) 827-5863  •  www.ambroseacademy.org

St. Ambrose Benefactors:
The Kachel Family

It started with bullying. Although Roger and Kim Kachel had heard good things about St. Ambrose from fellow parishioners at St. Clare of Assisi Parish in Monroe, WI, it took a very difficult freshman year for their daughter, Michelle, before they considered St. Ambrose. By nature, Michelle is a joy-filled young lady, but her happiness seemed to make her a target for bullies. Desperate, they took the advice of parishioners who had children already at St. Ambrose and enrolled Michelle as a sophomore last school year.

Kim quickly saw a change in her daughter: “Immediately, [Michelle] felt the warmth of the teachers, students and families. She fit in right away. We saw Michelle come back again.” But, the impact for the Kachel family has been longer lasting. Kim explained, “We strongly believe in our faith and have been active, but St. Ambrose has taken the family a step further.” In this warm, supportive environment, both Michelle and her parents gained the courage to forgive those who hurt Michelle. Through Michelle’s suffering, Roger and Kim were given the grace to choose Catholic education, which didn’t seem like an option before.

The Kachels’ spiritual growth along with that of other St. Ambrose families at St. Clare has led to a spiritual renewal at the parish. Deb Krebs and Ann O’Leary, inspired by their students’ formation at St. Ambrose, have joined the parish staff and greatly expanded religious formation programs. God can make good come out of evil, even bullying. Roger and Kim live in Monticello with their daughters Michelle and Anna. Kim is an oncology nurse, and Roger is a meat manager; they bring Michelle to St. Ambrose on their way to work in Madison.

St. Ambrose Wish List

- Ambassadors willing to share the school!
- Projector for school events
- Laser Printer