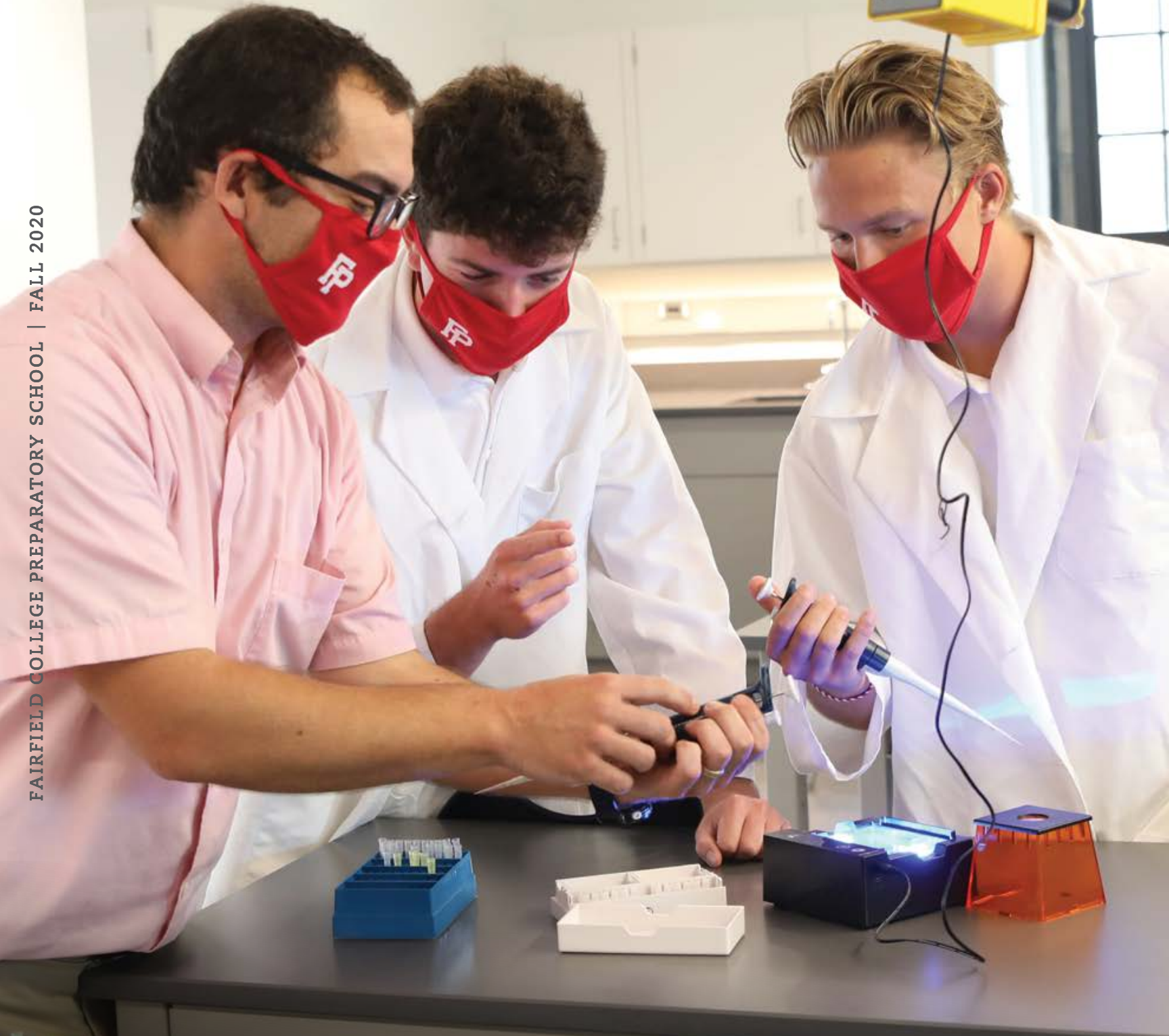


# PREP TODAY

FAIRFIELD COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL | FALL 2020



## The Barrett Science Center Transforms Learning

PAGES 14-15

Christian Cashman is  
New Prep President

PAGE 3

2020 Commencement

PAGES 4-11



# INSIDE **PREP**TODAY

## 4 Commencement 2020

For the first time in Prep's history, the graduation ceremony was held in Pelletier Quad. Divided in two sessions for health safety, 170 members of the Class of 2020 received diplomas with their classmates present while, at the same time, their parents pulled up on Loyola Drive in a choreographed car parade to witness their son's honor a few feet away on the stage. Congratulations!



**Cover:** Science chair Anthony Dotolo instructs **Conner Moore '21** and **Spencer Spellane '21** in a high-tech lab classroom, one of five in the just opened Barrett Science Center on the fourth floor of Xavier Hall. Photo by Robert Taylor Photography





14

### Barrett Science Center Opens

Faculty and students amazed with new state-of-the-art facility



28

### SCC Hockey Champs

Hockey season ends early with standout performance

52

### Prep Mourns Legend Bruce Jaffe

Teacher and coach leaves an impact on generations of young men



### President Christian Cashman Missioned

New President installed at the celebration of the Mass of the Holy Spirit



### Prep Basketball Retrospective

A historical summary of Prep's great players and teams

### TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 2 President's Letter
- 20 COVID-19 Response: Men for Others
- 24 Prep Performing Arts
- 46 Fr. Charles Allen, S.J. Retires
- 48 Alumni News



## FROM THE PRESIDENT



# Dear **Friends,**

It is a great joy to greet you for the first time as the 17th President of Fairfield Prep. I am thrilled to be back home on North Benson in this most extraordinary moment in Prep history.

As I write this message, we find ourselves in a moment of crisis that tends to come along once every century—a global pandemic and, what some Jesuit friends have termed, the “second pandemic,” of racism, intolerance, and global economic injustice. Many would shrink away into cynicism and hopelessness in such times, but not the men of Fairfield Prep.

At our opening Mass of the Holy Spirit, I reminded our community of the many spiritual gifts that we enjoy in the long arc of Jesuit educational history—discernment, intellectual rigor, contemplation, cura personalis and most importantly “love that shows itself in deeds more than in words.”

As we navigate the stormy waters of this time, it is urgent that we fully embrace our mission and the core values of our Catholic Social Teaching. For 480 years, Jesuit schools have sought nothing less than a sincere care and respect for the dignity of every human person. This has also been the shining hallmark of Fairfield Prep since 1941.

As I enjoyed the historical images of this “*Prep Today*,” I was filled with awe and hope at the dedication and passion of the Prep giants who have gone before us. When I consider the heroic Jesuits who paved the way, good Fathers like Brissette and Allen, and the lay teachers who have inspired thousands of Prep men, like Szablewicz and Jaffe, I am both humbled and inspired. When I see the generations of alumni, such as the basketball giants featured here with **Wally Halas '69** of that infamous championship team, and the gifts of **Jim Barrett '60** and **Chris McLeod '73**, I feel the strength of Fairfield Prep in my heart.

We are strong today because of the giants of Prep who have paved the way, and we will remain strong by living out their fierce dedication to our Jesuit values in all times and seasons. As we embark on this most unique year, be assured of my deepest gratitude and daily prayers for you and all those you love. May each of us continue to live out the graces Prep has given to us, and always for the greater glory of God! +AMDG

In peace and hope,

Christian J. Cashman P '15, CP '23  
President





## Christian J. Cashman Missioned as Fairfield Prep President

On September 18, Fairfield Prep celebrated its annual Mass of the Holy Spirit which marks the beginning of the academic year. The Mass is a tradition among Jesuit academic institutions dating to 1548, in which the community gathers to thank God for the gifts of creation and salvation, and to seek the guidance and wisdom of the Holy Spirit in the coming year. For the first time, Mass was celebrated in the Pelletier Quad. This was a special year in that we missioned the 17th President of Fairfield College Preparatory School, Christian J. Cashman. The principal celebrant was Rev. Joe Parkes, S.J., Provincial Assistant for Pre and Secondary Education for USA East Province of the Society of Jesus.

Fairfield University President Dr. Mark Nemecek participated in the Rite of Installation and Missioning. Following the missioning ceremony, Mr. Cashman offered powerful and poignant remarks. In his address, he reflected on “where I feel the Holy Spirit is with us in this moment, and where we are being led by the Spirit as we look ahead.” Mr. Cashman

encouraged the school community to embrace its Catholic and Jesuit mission in light of the gifts of the Holy Spirit. He was also poignant in speaking to the challenges we are facing as a larger society:

*“Certainly we are called to LOVE each other through this time of pandemic. To be LOVING in our Catholic and Jesuit faith tradition also calls us beyond our insulated walls out into the world—a world in need of healing. We know that our nation, and our global community, are convulsed and in anguish over the mistreatment and injustices perpetrated against black Americans. We know that our black and brown skinned brothers and sisters, and the marginalized in our country and around the globe, cry out for justice and mercy.”*

Mr. Cashman’s call to action was clear: “As men and women for and with others, our call—dare I say—our mandate—is to reach out in love and justice!” Amen! +AMDG



Christian Cashman is pictured with his family, from left: John, Janet and Joseph '23. (Not pictured Paul '15 and Matthew). Paul '15 graduated from Loyola-Chicago and works in Chicago; Matthew graduated from Northwest Catholic in 2017 and is a senior at Xavier University; John graduated from Northwest Catholic in 2020 and is a freshman at John Carroll University; and Joseph transferred to Prep's Class of 2023.



## Matt Sather named Ignatian Educator of the Year

At the Mass of the Holy Spirit, the Prep Community recognized **Matt Sather '93** with the Martin G. Shaughnessy, S.J., Ignatian Educator of the Year Award. Matt was nominated by his peers for his guidance with and for students on their formational journeys in a Jesuit school. The “Ignatian Educator” engages in ongoing personal, professional and religious development in order to sustain a vibrant community committed to the mission of Jesuit education. Following are a few excerpts taken from nominations, testament to why students, athletes and colleagues are inspired by Matt’s professionalism, dedication and leadership.

- Matt has Prep's best interests at heart. He cares deeply about the community and is willing to give of his time and energy to advance its core values.

- Matt’s love and passion for the Prep community is unmatched in many ways. He is an excellent ambassador for the school providing wisdom and experience while animating the vision.
- Matt consistently challenges his students to dive deep into the subject matter and be creative, especially in their writing.
- Matt is passionate about both his subject matter and Prep. His quiet and humble demeanor both in the classroom and on the ice underscore what is best about Prep and its Jesuit mission. He is a Man for Others and he makes sure that his students and his players live up to that ideal.

Congratulations to Matt Sather for this prestigious award and his well-deserved accolades. +AMDG.



# A Place to Call Home

Throughout our lives, we have been taught to believe that home is somewhere where we feel comfortable. A place where we are sheltered from the world and all the struggles it brings forth. In fact, the word itself conjures up images of safety, security and a relative certainty of what is to come.

But oddly enough, as I look back on my four years at Prep, and the inevitable culmination of my senior year, it wasn't the moments of success, glory and conviction that enabled me to finally embrace Prep as my home. Rather, it was the chaos, the uncertainty, and the desperate yearning to see my brothers one last time, that allowed me to see Fairfield Prep as more than just a high school, but truly a lifelong community that I can now call home.

A lot can change in the span of three years. Strangers become friends. Teachers become mentors. School becomes community. Senior year was the time where the Class of 2020 could finally take a step forward and shine. And for those first few months, everything seemed to click. College applications and standardized tests were behind us. Finally, it seemed, we could take a much needed deep breath and enjoy the last few months of our time together. We, as classmates and brothers, were slowly leaving an indelible legacy in our own unique and influential way.

Fast forward to April 6, 2020. Second



semester seniors, eager to return to school, and even take our classes a little less seriously (sorry teachers!) are suddenly hit with the crushing news that due to the pandemic, we would not be returning to school in person.

As shock turned to sadness, my Prep brothers and I flooded social media with tributes to our time at school. From prom photos to shared memories of our favorite teachers, we realized that our time at Prep was suddenly coming to an end. No opportunity to say goodbye, nor to walk down Arrupe Hall one last time — it truly felt as though Fairfield Prep was no longer our home.

But what was initially sadness and anger, slowly turned to something greater. Over those next few months, our courage and resolve were tested immensely.

But as Prep men, we faced each new challenge with greater passion than before. From the tiny windows of our iPad screens, we grew closer than anyone could have ever imagined.

No longer were we divided by our schedules, classes or extracurricular activities. Suddenly, every single student at Prep, in particular every member of my graduating class of 2020 was the same. In a time of collective struggle, we broke down the social barriers that divided us and finally came together as true Prep brothers living and thriving in a chaotic time. And it is for that, that I am forever grateful.

So as I walk across that stage this Sunday morning; mask in hand, and six feet apart from my nearest classmate, I will clutch that diploma with greater fervor than I could have ever imagined.

Because in the end, its tangible proof that home isn't always found in times of harmony and predictability, rather a true home is often found when we unite as individuals and triumph over life's greatest adversities.

All the best to my Prep brothers.

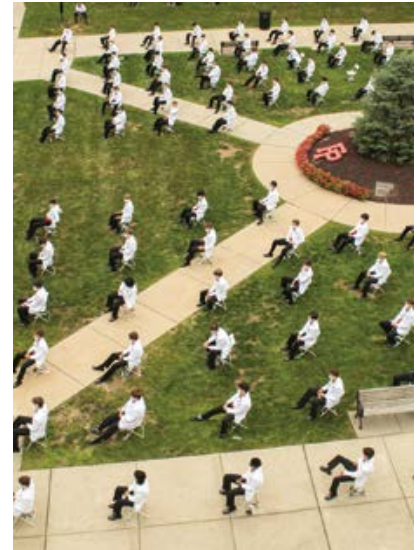
Reflection by **Evan Small '20**



*“...home isn't always found in times of harmony and predictability, rather a true home is often found when we unite as individuals and triumph over life's greatest adversities.”*

**Evan Small '20**, Student Government Secretary, recipient of The St. John Francis Regis, S.J. Campus Ministry Award and The Rev. Arturo Sosa, S.J. Leadership Award.





Watch video highlights on the Prep YouTube channel  
[YOUTUBE.COM/FAIRFIELDPREP1](https://www.youtube.com/fairfieldprep1)

Find more graduation photos at [FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG](https://www.fairfieldprep.org)







**Christian  
Cashman**

*Fairfield Prep  
President*

If ever the world needed the gifts of an Ignatian Spiritual Warrior, it is today, in this time of global upheaval and pandemic. But take heart my brothers, you have all you need within you for this great moment. You have been given the tools unique to our Jesuit way of proceeding, and I implore you to use them every day of your lives—Examen, Discernment, Contemplation and most of all your Love, shown not in words, but in action.



**Sam Davenport**

*Senior Class Speaker &  
Student Government  
President*

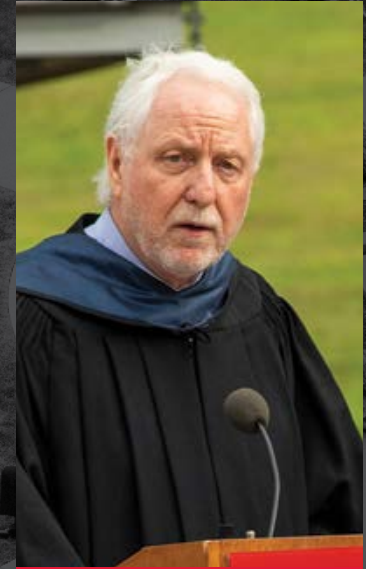
I'm grateful for all we've been through together, and I am happy to say collectively we can define ourselves as Prep men who can have a real impact on society in the future. As we move forward, Prep Class of 2020, I want you to reflect on the experiences that make you grateful for Prep. Although we will never walk these halls as students again, the lessons will stay with us forever. We now owe it to each other to engage in our futures, determined to maintain the ethos of Prep.



**Father Tom  
Simisky, S.J.**

*Fairfield Prep  
President (former)*

I can't tell you how happy I am to see you back at Prep! For all of us, this was a bizarre year. A downer in many ways and a true testament to the strength of your class. Class of 2020, you were the leaders we needed you to be to take on these challenges. You did an amazing job building up the Prep Community even while sheltering in place. And now we're back!



**John Szablewicz**

*Fairfield Prep Social  
Studies Teacher  
(retired)*

Try to find novel ways to serve your communities, without exposing yourself and others to the virus. And once this plague passes, let's get back out there! As my thousands of former students out there know, I am passionately committed to social activism. Men of the Class of 2020, you have been through so much, you have achieved so much, and you have made an indelible mark on the history of Fairfield Prep. Fr. Simisky has rightly acknowledged you by naming a new student lounge in the renovated Xavier Hall in your honor.



# A Socially-Distant Commencement Celebration

On Sunday, August 2, members of the Class of 2020 graduated during Fairfield Prep's 78th Commencement. For the first time in Prep's history, the commencement ceremony was held in Pelletier Quad with students separated with six feet of distance to keep proper health guidelines. The 170 graduates were divided in two groups of approximately 85, with complete, carefully orchestrated ceremonies conducted for each session at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Following featured speakers, each graduate was called to a stage near Loyola Drive at the outer edge of the Quad where outgoing Prep President Rev. Tom Simisky, S.J., awarded each graduate his diploma in front of both his classmates and his family who drove by to witness the conferral. Each full ceremony was livestreamed so that family members — stationed in their cars in the Alumni Hall parking lot — could watch remotely. Congratulations to our amazing Class of 2020, who showed such resilience and strength throughout this unprecedented health crisis. We wish you Godspeed!!



**THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR SUCH A NICE GRADUATION CEREMONY** yesterday for the Class of 2020! We truly appreciate the countless hours of planning and implementation that went into the event. Everything looked beautiful, the boys had a meaningful culmination of their years at Prep, you devised a way for parents to participate, and above all, it was done in a way that adhered to public health guidelines and let everyone feel safe. Terrific job!  
**— The Geisert Family, P'18, '20**







# HIGH ACHIEVERS

## 2020 Baccalaureate Mass Awards

### Rev. Mateo Ricci, S.J. Academic Awards

Members of the Fairfield Prep faculty selected outstanding students in each academic subject area to be honored for academic excellence, openness to growth, and a willingness to share their talents with others.

#### English

- ★ Benjamin M. Short

#### Visual Arts

- ★ Ryan D. Davis

#### Instrumental Music

- ★ Brian P. Rooney

#### Choral Music

- ★ Matthew G. Muro

#### Theatre

- ★ John A. Godino
- ★ John P. Queenan

#### French

- ★ Liam G. Wilson

#### Latin

- ★ Andrew J. Lee
- ★ Conner P. Smith

#### Spanish

- ★ Kai Imery
- ★ Cristian J. Ortiz

#### Mathematics

- ★ Mark J. Ballesteros,
- ★ Samuel M. Davenport
- ★ Bruce Guo

#### Computer Science

- ★ Maximilian A. Fuligni

#### Biological Sciences

- ★ Kevin H. Miller

#### Chemical Sciences

- ★ Brendan R. Divincenzo

#### Physical Sciences

- ★ Keebo Chen

#### Social Studies

- ★ John A. Godino
- ★ Aryaman Sharma
- ★ Andrew Simoneau

#### Theology

- ★ Kevin H. Miller

### The Rev. Eugene C. Brissette, S.J. Award

honors that senior who is Prep's most representative scholar/athlete.

- ★ Max T. McGillicuddy

### The St. John Francis Regis, S.J. Campus Ministry Award

honors five seniors who have shown outstanding leadership and generosity in their contribution to the enhancement of the spiritual life of Fairfield Prep.

*Outstanding dedication and leadership in the promotion of the Fairfield Prep retreat program*

- ★ Kevin H. Miller
- ★ Evan D. Small

*Outstanding leadership and generosity in their contribution to the liturgical life of Fairfield Prep*

- ★ Ethan K. Dubrovsky
- ★ Brian P. Rooney

*Outstanding leadership and generosity in his contribution to the Liturgical Music Program at Fairfield Prep*

- ★ Kenneth A. Geissert

### The St. Isaac Jogues, S.J. Award

is given in memory of Mark Masiello, Class of 1983. To two seniors who have shown tremendous courage during their years at Prep

- ★ Ethan K. Dubrovsky
- ★ Matthew J. McCauley

### The Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J. Award

is given in memory of John Lambert, Class of 1994, to a senior who has been key to the success of one of our literary publications.

- ★ Maxwell N. Weinbach

### The Cardinal Key Society Award

is presented to two members of the Cardinal Key Society who have distinguished themselves through their leadership and service to the Prep Community.

- ★ Richard J. Graf
- ★ Michael R. Morales

Recognition for a student who has received the **Four-Year Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Marine Option Scholarship at Boston College.**

- ★ Joseph A. Bednar

### The Rev. Arturo Sosa, S.J. Leadership Award,

named after the current Superior General of the Society of Jesus, is presented to the senior class officers for their outstanding efforts in service to the Prep community.

- ★ Anthony P. Casablanca
- ★ Samuel M. Davenport
- ★ Richard J. Graf
- ★ Ziyuan Guo
- ★ Evan D. Small
- ★ Connor C. Wackerman

### The Medal of St. Ignatius Loyola

is awarded to the students in the top 5% of the Class of 2020 in honor of their outstanding academic achievement.

- ★ Mark J. Ballesteros
- ★ Richard J. Cottrell III
- ★ Samuel M. Davenport
- ★ Christian K. Eidt
- ★ Kai Imery
- ★ Kevin H. Miller
- ★ Andrew P. Rios
- ★ Brian P. Rooney
- ★ Aryaman Sharma
- ★ Evan D. Small

### The Principal's Award

is presented to three students for outstanding academic achievement.

- ★ Joseph Centopani
- ★ Kyle S. Pearson
- ★ Evan D. Small

### The President's Award

is presented to a student for providing outstanding leadership to the Fairfield Prep Community throughout the year.

- ★ Joseph A. Bednar



## Special Awards at Commencement

### The Jesuit Schools Network Award,

which honors a senior who has distinguished himself as a well-rounded, intellectually competent individual who is open to growth, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice in generous service to the people of God.

- ★ Anthony Casablanca
- ★ Max McGillicuddy

### The St. Peter Claver Award,

which honors the senior who has distinguished himself by his leadership and commitment to the preferential option for the poor.

- ★ Kevin Miller (pictured above)

**St. Francis Xavier Award** which honors a senior who by his choices and actions has taken advantage of the full array of opportunities and experiences offered throughout his four years at Prep.

- ★ Andrew Rios
- ★ Evan Small

### The Reverend Pedro Arrupe Award

which honors the senior whose vitality of faith frees him to be a "Man for Others."

- ★ Brian Rooney

### The St. John Berchmans Award,

which honors a senior whose faith has led him to become a man of conscience, compassion and action in service of others for the greater glory of God.

- ★ Luke Hopkins
- ★ Aryaman Sharma

### The St. Edmund Champion Award

which honors the senior who has demonstrated an enthusiastic quest for academic excellence which leads him to explore the possibilities of self, faith, goodness and justice in the world.

- ★ Kai Imery



# SCC SCHOLAR LEADERS

## Luke Hopkins and Max McGillicuddy honored

*This year, the SCC (Southern CT Conference) held a virtual Scholar Leader Banquet for their annual awards. Two recipients, as selected by their principal, from each SCC member school were recognized for their leadership and excellence, in the classroom, in their schools and local communities.*



**LUKE HOPKINS** is an outstanding student and leader, and is a member of the National Honor Society. He serves the Prep community as a Peer Tutor and the outside community as part of his Senior Service Project. He is known across campus for his outstanding character, and this year, he was honored as a Heart of a Giant Award Nominee. Luke excels on the field as a member of the football and rugby teams, where he is a two-sport captain. He has stood out in the area of retreat ministry, leading the Freshman and Kairos Retreats. Luke will attend University of Southern California with plans to major in psychology and math in hopes of becoming a high school teacher/counselor.



**MAX MCGILICUDDY** is a model student and a dynamic leader, and has earned a reputation as an incredibly hard worker inside the classroom and beyond the afternoon bell. Max is a member of the National Honor Society and a three-sport captain (football, basketball and lacrosse) and All-SCC honoree. He was chosen as the News 12 Scholar Athlete of the Month in February. As a Kairos Assistant rector, he led a group of underclassmen through their Christian retreat experience. Max also has been exemplary in his volunteer service to the community. He will attend Loyola University of Maryland where he will play lacrosse.

## Imery and Stietzel named SCC Scholar Athletes

**A**ndrew Stietzel (hockey) and Kai Imery (track) have both been named Great Blue Research/SCC Scholar Athletes for the winter season. Both students are standouts in the classroom and leaders of their teams.

**ANDREW STIETZEL** plays goalie for the Jesuits and made several key starts for the hockey team during their State Championship season last year and was a steady presence in the net for the Jesuits this season. In the classroom, he has a 3.89 GPA and is a magna cum laude student. Stietzel is a member of the National Honor Society, Debate Club and Stock Market Club. He is also a member of the Prep golf team. For his service work Stietzel volunteers with the Urban Impact Program.



**KAI IMERY** has been a 5-time State qualifier for the Jesuit Indoor and Outdoor Track teams and served as a captain for the Jesuits this year. In the classroom, Imery has a 4.2 GPA and is a summa cum laude student. Imery has won the Johns Hopkins Book Award and is a member of the National Honor Society, The National Congress of Future and the Medical Leaders of the World. He is also a member of the ASPIRA club. For his service work, Imery shadows Dr. Paul Beard at St. Vincent's Hospital in the Department of Oncology. Imery interacts with the patients and provides them with an emotional release.



*Pictured from left: Elaine Tai-Lauria, Phillip Lauria, Sr., **Brian Rooney '20**, Kathy Rooney, Kevin Rooney at Our Lady of Fatima Catholic School where a memorial garden was named in the late Phillip A. Lauria's honor.*

## Brian Rooney '20 is awarded the Phillip A. Lauria Scholarship

**P**hillip and Elaine Lauria established a scholarship program in honor of their son **Phil, FP Class of 2005**, who passed away in 2018 after a courageous battle with neuroendocrine cancer. Their desire was to establish a scholarship that honored the inspirational way Phil led his life—as a “Man for Others”; with faith, integrity, respect, and kindness. This year's **Phillip A. Lauria Scholarship** was awarded to **Brian P. Rooney**.

Additionally, Brian was honored this spring with the Fairfield Rotary Club Scholarship. Brian, a summa cum laude student, is a giving young man, both in spirit and in action. A 4-year member of Prep's Music program, Brian's love for music led him to KEYS, a program through which volunteers bring their talents to children in the inner city. By his sense of mission, Brian experienced Prep's Appalachia service immersion and went on to offer others the same experience by leading the trip for underclassmen. Involved in Campus Ministry, Brian led Prep's Freshman and Kairos retreats, and served as an Eucharistic Minister. His passion for justice also led him to participate in the Ignatian Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C. A member of Prep's Environmental Club, Brian was instrumental in starting "Growing for Good," a parish community garden which produces over 1,000 pounds of fresh produce which is distributed through a number of local agencies. Brian served as Crew team captain, rowed four years, and was named a News 12 Scholar Athlete. He will attend Boston College.



# Mark Ballesteros named National Merit Finalist



Fairfield Prep is proud to announce senior **Mark Ballesteros** was named as a National Merit Finalist. Of the 1.5 million entrants in the nation, Mark was initially recognized among the top 16,000 semifinalists, and continuing on in the competition he was recognized as one of 15,000 finalists. This outstanding achievement is highly consistent with Mark's academic journey at Prep. A 4-year summa cum laude honor student who has taken the strongest course load available

and achieved a 4.13 GPA, Mark is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, and a peer tutor. He is also the recipient of the Yale Book Award.

Mark is a 4-year member of Model United Nations (Secretary-General), Debate Club (co-president), Fairfield Prep Plato Club (co-founder), Astronomy Club and Historians Club. Mark is also active in his hometown of Westport, where he serves on the board at Toquet Hall Youth Center. He volunteers at Wakeman Boys & Girls Club in Southport, participated in an Appalachian service trip, and volunteered with the Church of the Assumption youth group. Mark will attend the University of Notre Dame.

## READY TO PLAY

### Scholar-Athletes Earn College Opportunities

Fairfield Prep proudly announces that by their strong character, academic success, and athletic efforts, many senior scholar-athletes have earned the opportunity to compete in sports while achieving their college degrees.

#### BASEBALL

- Ryan Cowles**  
– Union College
- Henry Schwoerer**  
– Western New England University
- Liam Wilson**  
– Tufts University

#### FOOTBALL

- JP Iaropoli**  
– Carnegie Mellon

#### LACROSSE

- Max McGillicuddy**  
– Loyola University Maryland
- Jack Esse**  
– Gettysburg College

#### SOCCER

- Gavin Neumeyer**  
– Sacred Heart University
- James Burris**  
– Fordham University

#### SWIMMING AND DIVING

- Richard Nolan**  
– Villanova University
- Jack Rogers**  
– New York University
- Anthony Daccache**  
– New York University

## Tribute to Senior Spring Sports Athletes

Prep recognizes all of our amazing senior student-athletes, as they were unable to play spring season due to the health pandemic.

#### Baseball

- Ryan Cowles**
- Owen Fisher**
- Jay Joliet**
- Henry Schwoerer**
- Liam Wilson**
- Andrew Wymbys**

#### Crew

- James Byrne**
- Danny Duffy**
- Richard Graf**
- Aidan Harding**
- Tommy Hoover**
- Sean Kelleher**
- Whit Lupoli**
- Charlie Mallek**
- Matt McCauley**
- Deaglan O'Donnell**
- Brian Rooney**
- Bartlomiej Ruszczyk**

#### Golf

- Conall Bracken**
- Timothy Donahue**
- Ben Pulsifer**
- Xiting Zhang**
- Cooper Eckert**
- Brian Everard**
- Andrew Stietzel**
- Connor Wackerman**

#### Lacrosse

- Joseph Bednar**
- Henry Bosken**
- Seamus Carolan**
- Jack Esse**
- Sean Eustace**
- Liam Hawley**
- Patrick McAleavy**
- Max McGillicuddy**
- Mason Michalowski**
- Colin Murphy**
- Tommy Quinn**
- Sean Seiler**
- Conner Smith**
- Eryk Wenzia**

#### Outdoor Track

- Ryan Davis**
- John Dooley**
- Kai Imery**
- Kevin Miller**
- Steven Ngo**
- Luke Riley**
- Josh Samaras**
- Savyon Shaw**
- Ben Short**
- Andrzej Wiciorkowski**

#### Rugby

- Dany Ahuatl**
- Edward Bravo**
- Anthony Casablanca**
- Joseph Centopani**
- Nico Coerver**
- Jack Farrar**
- Luke Hopkins**
- Seanpatrick Lafferty**
- Ryan Marsden**
- Sean Nelson**
- Jack O'Brien**
- Obinna Onyekachiuzoamaka**
- Michael Rogan**
- Peter Rubinstein**
- Adam Shaak**
- Peter Strang**
- Matt Wenger**

#### Tennis

- Kyle Barry**
- Ethan Fabro**
- Max Fuligni**
- John Godino**
- Patrick Kelly**
- William Weinbach**



## Congratulations Eagle Scouts

- David Dilks-Anderson**
- Ethan Dubrosky**
- Jack Finnegan**
- Sean Patrick Lafferty**
- Whit Lupoli**
- Kevin Miller**
- J.P. Queenan**





RUDY MAURITZ '94  
**Most Inspirational Teacher**

Each year, the graduating senior class recognizes the effort and impact of one Prep teacher. The class of 2020 selected Social Studies teacher **Mr. Rudy Mauritz '94**.

As the proud son of an ironworker, Mr. Mauritz inspires through his adherence to a blue-collar ethos. Over the last two decades of service to Prep, all of his students and players are taught that hard work, responsibility, and unselfishness are the keys to success. Mr. Mauritz never wavers from those principles as he prepares his charges for an AP exam or a State Tournament game. It is that consistency and faith in the beauty and efficacy of hard work that makes him inspiring to be around.

In the classroom, Mr. Mauritz brings his own treasure trove of stories to his lessons, but also builds in ample time to let his students tell their stories. He listens, offers feedback and has an amazing ability to remember every detail. It is this warmth that endears students to him and creates close, lifelong relationships.

On the ice and diamond, Coach Mauritz sets high expectations, but helps players meet those standards through simple, methodical, consistent development. Often, players will look back on their season or career and feel amazed at how far they have come. Coach Mauritz pushed them hard, but always made success feel attainable. In the moment, they didn't know they were growing, they were just "punching in" every day, but you can be sure that Coach Mauritz saw the big picture.

Except for four years at Providence College, Prep has been his home since 1990. He met his wife Jenn here, they were married on campus by Father Boughton, S.J. His daughter, Amelie was baptized by Father Levens, S.J. He has led every retreat, gone to every dance, given every motivational speech, and served on every faculty committee. As the department chairman, he has safeguarded and strengthened the reputation of the Social Studies department.

Mr. Mauritz often says that he, "bleeds Prep red." I think what he means by this is that he believes in what Fairfield Prep has done for his life and knows what Prep can do for yours. In the face of that level of faith, how can we not be inspired?



By **Matthew Sather '93**, English teacher, Varsity Hockey Coach, Assistant Baseball Coach

## Szabs Honored by Students and Faculty

JOHN SZABLEWICZ  
**2020 Yearbook Dedication**

**T**hursday, 2:35 p.m. B407. The gavel would give a thunderous bang on the wooden front-desk, and an hour-long Political Awareness meeting would commence. During those 60 minutes, Mr. Szablewicz would exemplify a true passion for a subject matter he has instructed to countless pupils for the past 49 years at Prep. He would never shy away from engaging in debate with Prep students and would provide unique insight into any topic that was hotly debated on the floor. His words made me want to talk to him in person even while a meeting was going on. I would immediately make my way to the back of the room for a personal chat to hear what he had to say. That was the influence of Mr. Szablewicz. He could inspire in anyone a love for political science.

More importantly, Mr. Szablewicz's frequent participation fostered intellectual discourse among Prep students. He welcomed people to speak their mind in a time when the nation's political climate has divided Americans. Four years' worth of argument amongst people with a plethora of viewpoints has given me a better understanding of the political landscape and has made me a better person.



Words are not enough to express my gratitude to Mr. Szablewicz. Though I am saddened to know he is retiring, it is definitely well-deserved after five decades of service to the school. I will always miss his presence in B407, for there will never be another Mr. Szablewicz.

By *Hearthstone* yearbook staff member **Aryaman Sharma '20**



### Dear John,

**O**n behalf of the Prep faculty congratulations and thank you. For forty-nine years you have served the Prep community as teacher, mentor and friend.

John, while knowledge of the subject area and sound pedagogy are keys to good teaching, you demonstrated that in order to be great, to inspire, the teacher must be passionate about the subjects and the students. Combine the aforementioned elements with a degree of candor which allows students to feel comfortable with the material and who they are, and you get the Szabs experience. This experience has inspired many to pursue their passions, which for some has meant coming back to Prep. Congratulations on inspiring so many young men during your tenure.

John, for the last twenty years you have mentored many of us. You welcomed many into your classroom and shared your sage advice on teaching and life.

Most importantly, you have always been a gentleman. Always the first to ask about our families, especially our children, always reminding us of a younger generation to cherish every moment with our kids because the time will go by fast. For me, I will miss the before school pop-ins, our chats about baseball and hockey, the Mets and the Rangers, and of course family.

While you move on to spend more time with family, especially your granddaughter, know that you will be missed!

Wishing you well in retirement,  
**Rudolph Mauritz '94**

Social Studies Chair, Varsity Baseball Coach, Assistant Hockey Coach



# House Calls



Dean of Students Dean Davis surprises **Jeremiah Jean Louis** and his family



# Special Delivery! Swag Bags surprise Class of 2020

In what was an unprecedented and incredibly tough year for our Prep Senior Class, the young men showed patience, resilience and leadership as weeks and weeks of virtual learning continued throughout spring 2020. Ultimately, classes never resumed on campus this year. The many plans for Senior Week and special events, plus the hopeful opportunities for sports seasons and playoffs ended.

The Prep Administration and School Team decided they wanted to do something special that would surprise and recognize our graduates. First, in late April, staff members hand delivered and set up "Congratulations PREP Graduate" lawn signs outside of every senior's home in over 20 towns. Then, on Saturday, May 30, a faculty or staff member surprised the senior with a special home visit and Prep "Swag Bag" delivery.

The gift delivery included: FP lapel pin for graduation; 2020 Class mug; FP bucket hat; red and white FP balloons; Baccalaureate Mass program; a letter from Fr. Simisky, S.J.; and a copy of the letter that each student wrote to himself freshman year. Additionally, seniors received awards made at the Baccalaureate Mass.



*"Thank you, Prep, for recognizing our seniors and making them feel special."*

— Parent of senior



Clockwise from top:  
**Tom Shea '73** with **Kyle Pearson**;  
**Ethan Dubrosky** shows off his awards; the Prep swag bag;  
**Evan Small** with parents;  
**Steven Ngo** and family.





# THE BARRETT SCIENCE CENTER

## Transformational Learning



*Love ought to manifest itself more by deeds than by words*

~ Saint Ignatius, *The Spiritual Exercises*

Wow...Prep's new science facilities...I'm speechless.

As I stare blankly at my keyboard, struggling to conjure **the words** with which to express my awe and appreciation of the new Barrett Science Center, the imagined voice of Saint Ignatius rings in my head. Is he trying to drive home the irony? It's the deeds more than the words! Yeah, ok, sure... but my computer's cursor continues to blink impatiently. I'm staring at it when my perspective makes a subtle shift. The cursor is not waiting for my words - it's waiting for me to get the Ignatian hint.

Take Action. Go Forth. Do it. Love is in the **deeds**.

So I took the action; I did the deed. I went and sat with my students and got them involved. Buffered by our red FP face masks and six glorious feet of COVID clearance, I asked them what they thought of the new Barrett Science Center - the completely reimagined (and insanely cool) fourth floor of Xavier Hall. Brace yourselves, the muse of the teenage mind is about to reveal itself. This is going to be monumental:

*"It's sweet. It's mad sick."*

~ Timmy Pearson '22





New lab classrooms offer state-of-the-art resources and flexible table layouts for optimized, hands-on learning. Break-out areas allow for student collaboration, group meetings and studying.



## “I was like, ‘Where am I?’ Feels like a college campus.”

~ Will Quincy '22

For sure, my students have been blown away by this gift we have received, as have I. But man, I was looking to pry from them a sparkling phrase, a jewel of insight, something to reflect the revolutionary change at hand. “Guys,” I thought to myself, “I agree with you, but you’re not doing my presumptuous, blinking cursor any good here!”

Thankfully, there he was. Ignatius, dropping his hint once again, “*Love ought to manifest itself more by deeds than by words.*” Finally, it sunk in with clarity. The love made manifest in the spaces of the Barrett Science Center is the love of deeds. As it turns out, Timmy and Will are not here to talk about science. They are here, chomping at the bit, to DO science. The Barrett Science Center is an invitation to all Prep students to discover and follow their passions, to take action as Ignatius would have demanded.

Ultimately, science is an approach, a refined method for interacting with the world. There it is

again: **interacting**, it’s the deeds. The Barrett Science Center makes the hands-on pursuit of scientific understanding a daily reality for Prep students.

For the first time, my students can conduct experiments that span days, weeks, or even months. No longer are we forced to shoehorn an investigation into a confined time slot.

Our additional spaces allow for the possibility that Prep students can carry out independent research.

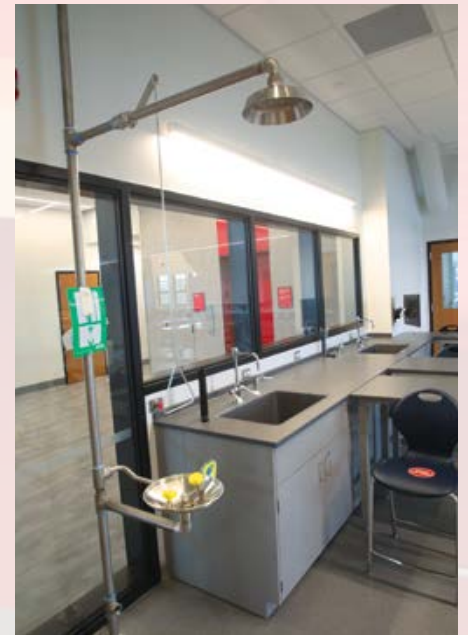
Our science oriented clubs can now collaborate in spaces adjacent to our labs, thereby facilitating greater kinship through a shared love of science.

I could go on, but I will stop here. It is with an overwhelming sense of gratitude that I share this good news. The Prep science experience is on the cusp of a new reality, and our way forward is clear. We need simply heed the calling of Saint Ignatius of Loyola. The love we have for each other, the love

we have for our common home, is rooted in our actions. Prep students now have a beautiful stage, one they richly deserve, on which to act.



By Anthony Dotolo, Science chair



The Fairfield Prep Community expresses gratitude to  
**Dr. M. James '60 and April P. Barrett.**









# ZOOM SCIENCE

## *AP Physics meets internet educator and YouTube star*

In April, Mr. Bob Ford's virtual-learning AP Physics class had the chance to meet with internet physics educator and YouTube star **Jonathan Thomas-Palmer** during their daily Zoom class.

In 2013 Thomas-Palmer began presenting a wide variety of Physics lessons on-line and has been recognized as one of the best YouTube Physics channels. He has over 58,000 loyal subscribers to his "**Flippin' Physics**" channel and his videos are regularly used as at-home lessons by Mr. Ford.

Mr. Ford is also a part of Thomas-Palmer's content review panel that helps to ensure the content is accurate and up-to-date. It is this connection that gave the students the chance to meet and talk with "Mr. P."

They asked about his professional education and background (he started as an engineer), where he got his ideas for the entertaining format (his own students when he taught full-time in a classroom), and how long it takes to do a high-quality video (about two hours per minute of video).



# Developing an Entrepreneurial Spirit



## Thinking Big

**Mr. Nick Morris, P '21 '25**, entrepreneur and one of the founders of Health Warrior chia bars, visited Prep and gave an overview of his early business plan and discussed challenges in starting a new company. The students had been participating in an exercise where they developed their own business plans to enter the health food market, and they got to compare their plans and strategies with a real success story.

## Portfolio Performance

Three class sections of the **Entrepreneurship Institute** went on a field trip to Citibank-Merrill Lynch in NYC. Their host, Mr. Morris Betesh, Sr. VP of Wealth Management, provided lunch and spoke to the students about portfolio management; then Tal Liani, Managing Director and Team Lead Research Analyst, gave an overview of transformational new technologies and relevant stock market performance. Mr. Liani also spoke about interviewing techniques for internships and fulltime employment.



## Market Research on Wall Street

Prep's **Stock Market Club** helps students develop a fundamental understanding of the Stock Market. Members have the opportunity to mimic real life stock trading through online simulations. In February, the club visited the New York Stock Exchange to learn more about what makes the financial world go around.



# Individual Efforts... Collective Power!



With in-person contact suspended due to the coronavirus outbreak, Prep families mobilized to serve in creative ways.

Some got involved making masks for healthcare workers, and helping others in the community with food provisions.

Other Prep students earned service hours through activities such as online tutoring and writing letters to isolated members of the local community.

Many students participated individually or with family members in the "Walk a Mile in Her Shoes" campaign to raise funds and awareness for the Center for Family Justice in Bridgeport.

Ms. Ashley Woodworth offered modified requirements for students to volunteer service for the spring (and summer) months. "Remember, the most meaningful service can often be a small act done with great love," Mrs. Woodworth wrote. "The world needs that from you now more than ever."



# Prep Raises Thousands to Feed Frontline Workers



**F**airfield Prep put their Jesuit mission of Men for Others into action. The **Lunch 4 Life** campaign successfully raised \$73,000, donating thousands of invaluable meals to frontline healthcare and community workers hardest hit by the COVID-19 crisis.

Launched on April 1, the greater Prep community responded immediately with donations to the appeal. The outpouring of generosity allowed the program to expand its reach quickly, delivering meals to over 10 organizations including hospitals, senior nursing facilities, veterans' homes, CT Hospice, and community outreach centers serving the unemployed and homeless populations. Prep will continue to do this with contributions, with plans to deliver over 7,000 meals.

Local restaurants are vital partners in the effort, preparing and delivering lunches in the greater Bridgeport and New Haven areas. In addition to Prep's food service provider Vazzy's, several Prep community restaurants have joined the team, including Little Pub, Old Post Tavern, Gaetano's and Country Cow.

When a Vazzy's catering truck packed full of bagged lunches pulled up to the Bridgeport Hospital Emergency Room, Steve Jakab, President of the Bridgeport Hospital Foundation and Prep alumnus, expressed gratitude. "Our frontline caregivers—our doctors, our nurses, all the hospital staff—are really making sacrifices, taking such risks to give great care to our COVID-19 patients, and this kind of support means the world to them," said Jakab.



Vazzy's representatives delivered lunches to Bridgeport Hospital





Gaetanos delivered lunches at Spooner House with Elliott Gualtiere, P'21, '24, Director of Campus Ministry



Old Post Tavern delivered lunch to Carolton Chronic & Convalescent Hospital.

At Northbridge Health Care Center in Bridgeport, which is dedicated to senior rehabilitation services, administrator Erica Roman was thrilled to reward her hardworking employees with a nourishing meal. "Today, in a world where we have to be so far apart, it feels like we're together with the community," she said. "We're so thankful and it's made such a positive impact on my staff."

**Lunch 4 Life** grew quickly in scope, with meal drop-offs completed at: Bridgeport Hospital, Northbridge Health Care Center, Carolton Chronic & Convalescent Hospital, Connecticut Hospice, the Thomas Merton Center food kitchen, Spooner House homeless shelter, Homes for the Brave veterans shelter, and Hall Neighborhood House community center. The list of benefiting agencies continued to increase, with deliveries scheduled for St. Vincent's Hospital, Open Door Shelter, Wesley Heights senior center, Kolbe Cathedral family assistance program and more.

"These times are difficult for all of us. We're told to stay home as much as possible, to stay in. But we're working with folks here who don't have a place to call home, and so they're feeling even more isolated than before," said Spooner House Executive Director Susan Agamy. "Aside from the food, this reminds them there are others who care, that they're not forgotten. It's a wonderful gesture of community service."



"Our frontline caregivers... are really making sacrifices, taking such risks to give great care to our COVID-19 patients, and this kind of support means the world to them."

STEVE JAKAB '84, P'16



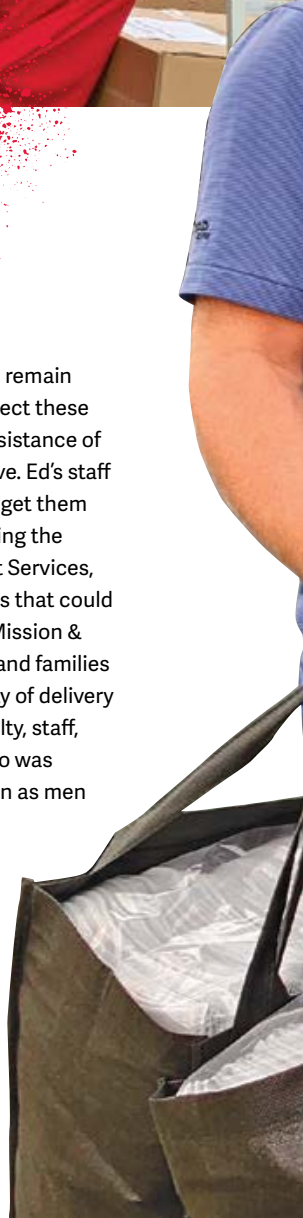




# OPERATION MASK



It was no secret that many organizations in our community had to remain open to help and serve others despite the health risk. To help protect these workers and the populations they serve, Fairfield Prep with the assistance of alumnus **Ed Gormbley '95** launched the "Operation: Mask" initiative. Ed's staff at Workforce Partners were able to source over 14,000 masks and get them delivered from the other side of the world! While they were acquiring the masks, Ruben Goodwin, Director of Diversity & Academic Support Services, connected with local non-profits and emergency food service sites that could use and distribute the masks to individuals who need them. Our Mission & Ministry team led by Ashley Woodworth mobilized Prep students and families to deliver them to 25 sites around Bridgeport and Norwalk. The day of delivery was a massive team effort that included Prep administrators, faculty, staff, board members, parents and students. Thank you to everyone who was involved. With your help we truly were able to actualize our mission as men and women for others!



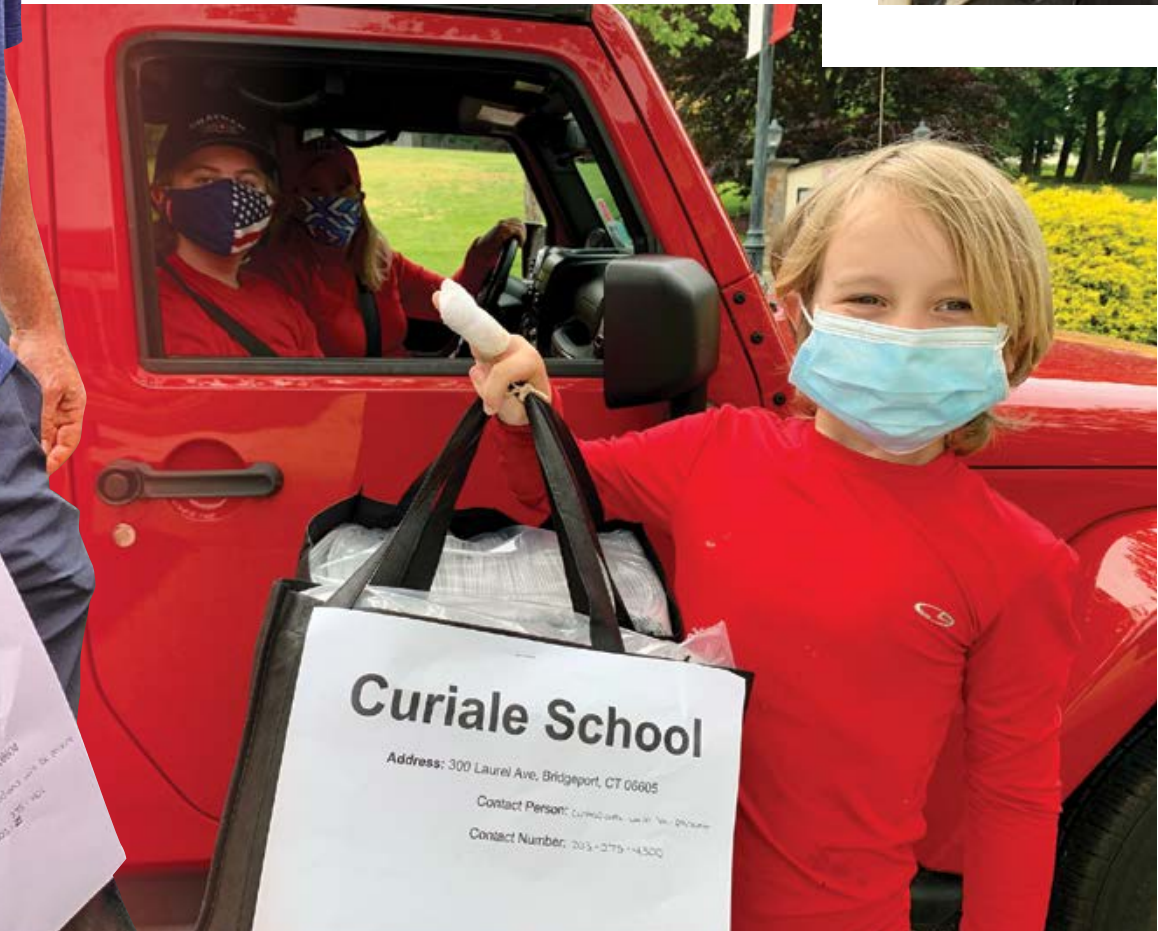


**MASKS WERE DONATED AND DELIVERED TO LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS**

- All Our Kin
- Bishop Jean Williams Food Pantry
- Bridgeport Rescue Mission
- Bridgeport Public School  
Emergency Food Service Sites
- Cardinal Sheehan Center/  
McGivney Center
- Cathedral Academy
- Catholic Charities of Fairfield  
County
- Cesar Batalla Family Center
- Dunbar School Family Resource  
Center
- Feed the People Food Pantry
- Greater Bridgeport Council of  
Churches
- King's Pantry
- Kitchen of Hope
- Missionary's of Charity
- North End Community Council  
Food Pantry
- Norwalk Housing Authority
- St. John's Community Supper
- Sterling House Food Pantry
- Supportive Housing Works
- Thomas Merton House
- Wakeman Boys & Girls Club



*Ed Gormbley '95, a member of Prep's Board of Governors (shown here with son Conner), underwrote and helped coordinate Prep's "Operation Mask" on campus this spring. Over 14,000 masks were donated to local non-profits and emergency food service sites throughout Fairfield County.*







## A Symphonic Achievement!

The Fairfield Prep Music Department highlighted our graduating seniors during an "An Evening of Virtual Music" on May 14. Hosted by Music Director Mr. Dan Horstmann, the event was livestreamed via Zoom during the originally scheduled evening of the Spring Concert. Mr. Horstmann recognized the members of the Class of 2020 who have participated in the music program these past four years.

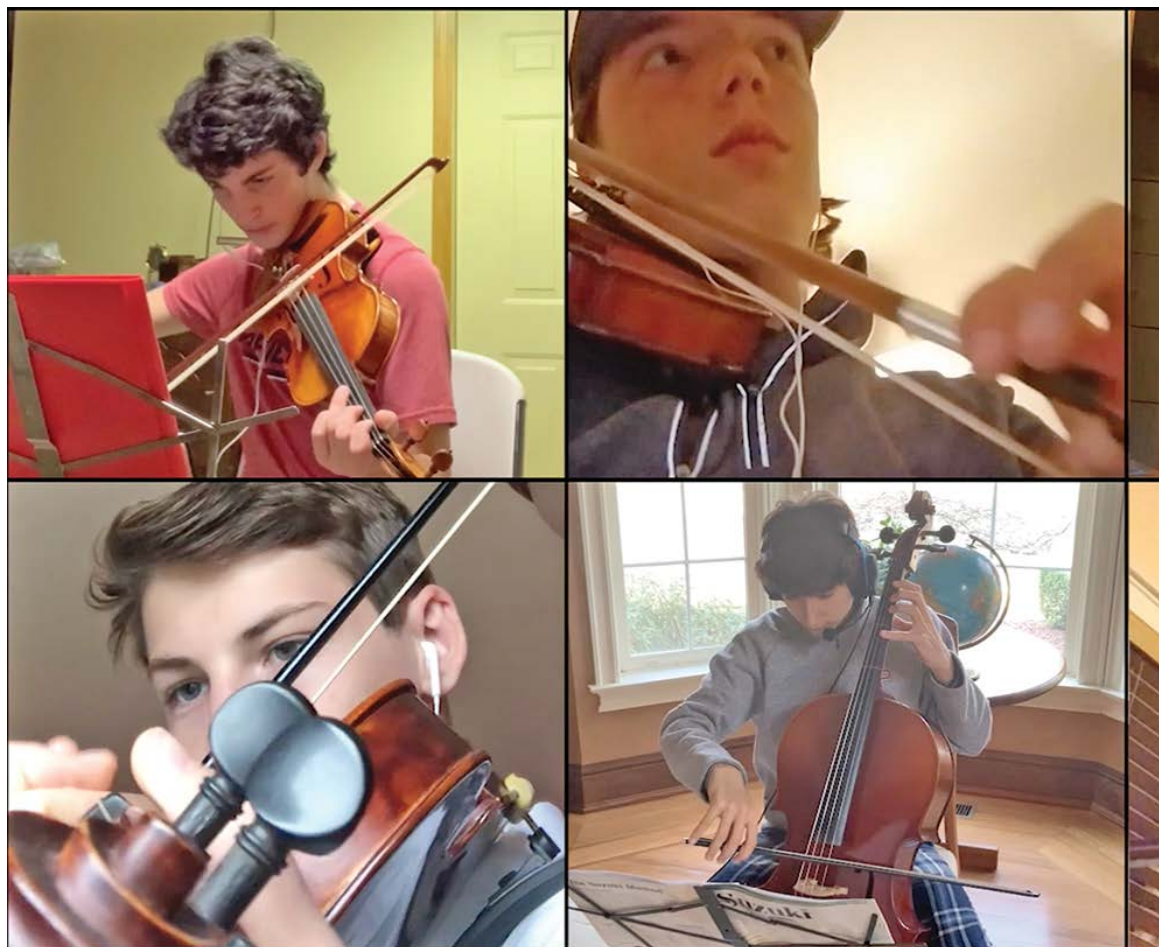
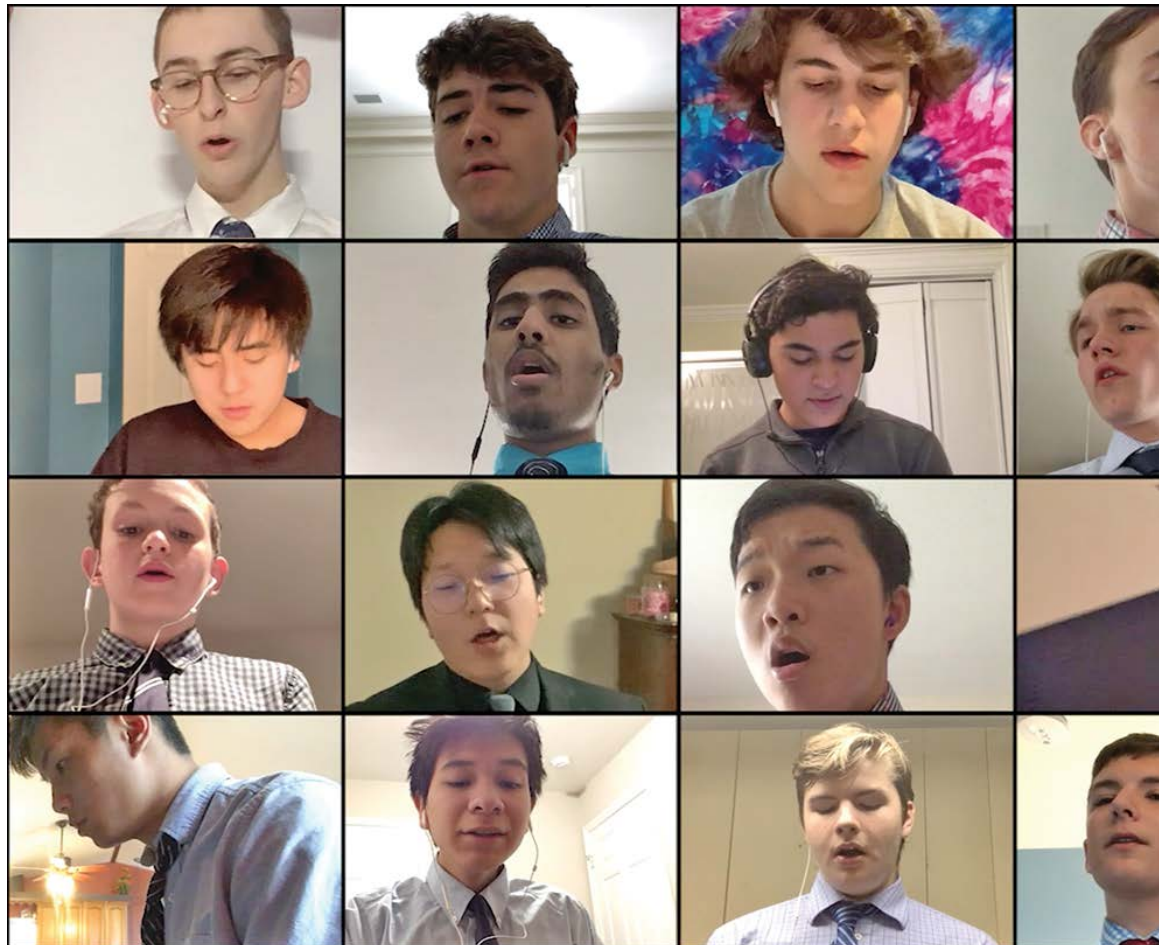
### Music Ministry performs for Prep Masses throughout spring

Prep's Music Ministry group, directed by Mr. Dan Horstmann, recorded with vocals and instruments remotely on a weekly basis, to produce a high quality, integrated performance at the school's Sunday Masses celebrated by Fr. Tom Simisky, S.J. Hundreds of families tuned into the Masses weekly. Music Ministry also performed remotely for the Baccalaureate Mass shared via Zoom.



### Farewell to the 2020 Music Program Graduates

Edward Bravo  
 Antonio Ferreira  
 Kenneth Geisert  
 Bruce Guo  
 Derrick Jia  
 Patrick Kelly  
 Harry Li  
 Eugene Lim  
 Steven Lin  
 Matt Muro  
 Jason Palladino  
 JP Queenan  
 Brian Rooney  
 Andrzej Wiciorkowski  
 David Zahrah







## Prep Players win Fearless Award



The Prep Players won the Connecticut "Fearless Award" for the fall production of *The Birds*. Seven Angels Theatre in Waterbury announced the award during a three-day livestream of the Halo Awards ceremony, an event that is typically held annually in a large hall. Prep was nominated for six awards.

Mrs. Megan Hoover, Chairwoman of the Arts Department and Prep Players Theatre Director, said that the Fearless Award best represents Prep's overall hard work as a group. "This award recognizes the cast for taking risks and supporting each other," Mrs. Hoover said. "The fact that others can see that makes me most proud."

### Farewell to the 2020 Theatre Program Graduates

**Brian Everard**  
**Kenneth Geisert**  
**John Godino**  
**Bruce Guo**  
**Derrick Jia**  
**Steven Lin**  
**JP Queenan**  
**Greg Torigian**



### 2019-20 Halo Award Nominations

- BEST COMIC MALE PERFORMANCE IN A PRODUCTION:  
**Tomas Lignore '21** as Euelpides in *The Birds*
- BEST ORIGINAL PROGRAM COVER DESIGN OR ARTWORK:  
**Ryan Davis '20** for *The Birds*
- BEST INCIDENTAL OR ORIGINAL MUSIC IN A PLAY:  
*The Birds* in *The Birds*
- BEST MALE STANDOUT PERFORMANCE IN AN ENSEMBLE PRODUCTION:  
**John Godino '20** as Pithetaerus in *The Birds*
- FEARLESS AWARD:  
*The Birds*
- BEST CLASSICAL PLAY:  
*The Birds*



Ryan Davis '20 was nominated for Best Original Program Cover

### Farewell to the 2020 Visual Arts Program Graduates


**Christian Eidt**  
**Noel Bernard**  
**Ryan Davis**  
**Jack Esse**  
**Maximilian Fuligni**  
**Andrew Rios**  
**Sean Seiler**  
**Yuxin "Lucas" Yang**



# Prep Community surprises Fr. Tom Simisky, S.J., with 'Rolling Rally' Parade

In order to recognize President Rev. Tom Simisky, S.J., at the end of his tenure, school administrators secretly planned a surprise parade to pay tribute to Father and honor his contributions and great passion for Prep.

More than 150 vehicles, filled with students, parents, alumni, faculty and friends, participated in a surprise on-campus "Rolling Rally" on the afternoon of Monday, June 8. Cars, Jeeps and trucks, many decorated with signs, balloons, and banners, drove by slowly with horns honking. Everyone shouted good wishes and waved to Father Simisky. The Prep family will be forever grateful for Father's leadership and guidance. Godspeed!

 Watch video highlights on the Prep YouTube channel  
[YOUTUBE.COM/FAIRFIELDPREP1](https://www.youtube.com/FairfieldPrep1)











# SCOREBOARD WINTER 2019-20



## COVID Cross-Checks Super Season

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this hockey season was abruptly ended on the eve of the state tournament. We were fresh off an SCC Championship and playing our best hockey of the season. So I apologize if my remembrance of the 2020 season feels a bit strange. It seems I have not the words. So perhaps it best to turn to someone else who understood the dynamic of sport better than most.

In his classic novel, *The Natural*, Bernard Malamud sought to personify the competitor's challenge through his main character, Roy Hobbs. In the movie version Robert Redford climbs out of his hospital bed to smash the game winning home run. But in the novel, Malamud sings a very different tune. Roy is tortured by his appetites. He is a prisoner of his desires, chief of which is his desire to "walk down the street [and have] people say, 'there goes Roy Hobbs, the best there ever was in the game.'" In the novel, Roy never hits the big home run, never wins the big game, never achieves what he truly wants.

There is another part of the novel that always hits me hard. Roy is reminded, "We have two lives, Roy, the life we learn with and the life we live with after that. Suffering is what brings us toward happiness." Reading this tale always reminds me about the nature of sport and why

### HOCKEY HONORS

- **Mason Whitney**, All-SCC First Team, SCC Player of the Year, CHSCA Division 1 All State First Team
- **Andrew Stietzel**, All-SCC First Team, SCC Winter Scholar Athlete, CHSCA Division 1 All State First Team
- **Cooper Eckert**, All-SCC First Team, CHSCA Division 1 All State First Team

I love it so much. Win or lose, we move forward, better than before.

Most hockey seasons follow this path. We suffer through the lows, celebrate the highs and move just a little bit closer to an understanding of what makes us truly happy in this world. At first glance, because our season was cut short without an opportunity to pursue our ultimate goals, it might seem like there was no lesson. But clearly we learned:

- ... how to be better teammates, friends, brothers, and sons,
- ... how to be more responsible and trustworthy,

- ... how to give of oneself for the good of another,
- ... how to win and lose with class and dignity,
- ... how to respond to challenges and focus on what is within our control,
- ... how to keep the important aspects of our lives in an appropriate balance,
- ... how to come together as a group.

The list of lessons goes on. Malamud would argue that the challenges in this hockey season have led to great, lifelong lessons. If we heed those lessons, truly live them, especially in the midst of suffering, we will inch closer to happiness. I agree, and I hope you all take some solace his wisdom as well.

To our seniors and their families, I bid a fond farewell. Best of luck in your future endeavors. We know you will make us proud. Check in frequently and report back on your successes. When you hit a few bumps in the road, remember we will be here at Prep should you need any help. Don't be afraid to reach out if there is anything I



can do for you. You know where to find me.

By **Matthew Sather '93**, English teacher, Varsity Hockey Coach, Assistant Baseball Coach





## Basketball

The Basketball team recorded a great season under second year Head Coach Mike Papale, finishing with a 13-10 record. The Jesuits started slowly and fell to 2-6 on the year after dropping a heartbreaking game to the #3 ranked team in the state, Notre Dame West Haven, by 1 point. The Jesuits turned it around, upsetting the #2 ranked team, Hillhouse, 53-51 three days later. Prep went on to win 9 of its next 12 regular season games and the opening round of the SCC Tournament before falling in the league quarterfinals. The Jesuits opened the CIAC Division 1 Tournament with a convincing 58-37 victory over Trumbull High School before the tournament was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Jesuits were led by their two senior captains **Max McGillicuddy '20** and **Aidan Harding '20** and juniors **Finn Donelan '21**, **Tim O'Leary '21** and **Conner Moore '21**. They will also return sophomores **Logan Carey '22**, **Max Manjos '22** and **Jack Petrafesa '22** who were all in the starting lineup and played significant varsity minutes for the team.

★ **HONORS:** **Max McGillicuddy '20** All-SCC Second team, News12 Scholar Athlete; **Max Manjos '22** All-SCC Second team

## Indoor Track

The Indoor Track team experienced some of the best postseason finishes in school history. The Jesuit squad, captained by **Kai Imery '20** and **John Dooley '20**, kicked off the postseason with a 6th place finish out of 18 teams at the SCC Championship. The SMR team of **Joshua Samaras '20**, **Joshua Bacon '21**, **Tymaine Smith '22** and **Azaan Dawson '21** took first place overall in the league. **Dawson** also took first place overall in the 1600m run. The Jesuits moved on to the CIAC Class LL Championships and finished 10th out of 22 teams. **Dawson**, **Darren Blount**, **Bacon** and **Caleb Bolden** won the 1600m Sprint Meter Medley by a tenth of a second as **Dawson** crossed the finish line. In the State Open, the Jesuits placed 9th out of 44 teams. **Dawson** and **Blount** advanced to the New England Open and the SMR team of **Blount**, **Dawson**, **Bacon** and **Tymaine Smith** took second place, missing out on first by one second. That SMR combination qualified to compete in the New Balance Nationals at the Armory in New York. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 canceled both New Englands and Nationals.

★ **HONORS:** **Azaan Dawson '21**, All-SCC First Team, All-State; **Joshua Bacon '21**, All-SCC First Team, All-State; **Joshua Samaras '20**, All-SCC First Team; **Tymaine Smith '22**, All-SCC First Team; **Darren Blount**, All-State; **Caleb Bolden**, All-State; **Kai Imery '20**, SCC Winter Scholar Athlete

## Skiing

The Prep Ski team continued to be a force to be reckoned with in 2020 as they won the Class L regular season Championship and finished second in the State Open Championships. Under the leadership of captains **Patrick Kelly '20**, **Evan Small '20**, **Dylan Allman '20**, **Jack Farrar '20**, and **Kyle Vaccarella '21**, the Jesuits finished the regular season with a record of 25-2. At the State Open **Vaccarella** led the way for the Jesuits with a 12th place finish out of 138 skiers. The Jesuits placed 6 other

racers in the top 50: **Patrick Kelly '20** (17th), **Ryan O'Meara '22** (20th), **Brice Muller '23** (21st), **Evan Small '20** (26th), **Kevin Dong '23** (42nd) and **Jack Farrar '20** (46th). In addition to the championship meet, the Jesuits placed **Vaccarella** and **Muller** on Team CT for their efforts in the "GS Shootout" earlier this season. Prep will have plenty of young talent returning as the JV squad finished the season with a perfect 14-0 record.

## Swimming & Diving

The moment that defined the Swimming & Diving season was an away meet vs. perennial SCC powerhouse Cheshire High School. After a back and forth contest Prep trailed 88-84 heading into the final event, the 400 Freestyle Relay. A mixture of seniors, sophomores and even a freshman combined to finish first and third in the relay to secure the 94-92 victory. Seniors led the way with first and second places. Divers quietly and efficiently scored big points and underclassmen pulled out the 4th and 5th place points that were so crucial. Boundless energy from the side of the pool deck rallied the team. A total team effort, it was Fairfield Prep Swimming & Diving at its finest. After a 15 year run, the Jesuits battled hard but surrendered the SCC crown to a strong Xavier squad and then the state championship season was canceled due to the coronavirus. Yet the team handled it all with grace and leave behind an 8-2 season record, a dual meet win for the ages and the Prep Swimming & Diving tradition firmly in place.

★ **HONORS:** **Richard Nolan '20**, SCC 200 IM Champion, All-SCC (100 Breaststroke, 200 Medley Relay); **Jack Rogers '20**, SCC 50 Freestyle Champion, All-SCC (100 Butterfly, 200 Medley Relay); **Thomas Kehoe '22**, SCC Diving Champion; **Anthony Daccache '20**, All-SCC (100 Breaststroke, 200 Medley Relay); **Alexander Pysk '20**, All-SCC (200 Medley Relay); **Rick Hutchinson '87, P'22**, SCC Coach of the Year

## Wrestling

The Wrestling Team completed one of the best seasons in school history winning the SCC Division 2 regular season championship as well as the Ludlowe Invitational. Junior Captain **Dean Tsiranides '21** led the way for the Jesuits, winning his second SCC title as well as winning the CIAC Class LL State Championship and State Open Championship in the 160 pound weight class. **Tsiranides** would go on to finish third in the New England Championships. Senior captain **Henry Bosken '20** also had an impressive postseason, finishing runner up in the SCC Championship and 5th place in Class LL. Sophomores **Malachi Mercer '22** and **Alex Cardozo '22** also placed in the State tournament helping the Jesuits to an 11th place out of 25 teams finish in the state's largest division. The wrestling team's depth proved to be a strength as the Jesuits received strong contributions from **Greg Torigian '20**, **Patrick Tiernan '21**, **Ian Connelly '21**, **Joe Cardozo '22**, **Will Clegg '23** and **Sebastian Rodriguez '23** all season long. With the Jesuits only graduating two seniors, the future is very bright for the grapplers who return a battle-tested and experienced squad next year.

★ **HONORS:** **Dean Tsiranides '21**, All-SCC First Team, All-State; **Henry Bosken '20**, All-SCC Second Team





# PREP BASKETBALL

## The Early Years

In 2017, Fairfield Prep celebrated our 75th Anniversary with a historical sports retrospective of some of the greatest players and teams of both football and basketball. The Football Retrospective was published in the Winter 2017 issue of *Prep Today* magazine; the basketball summary followed as an online feature on our website. Now, we are sharing a print version of the Basketball Retrospective, allowing a greater reach to decades of Prep alumni and fans.

Contributing editors are retired Connecticut sports writers



Sandy Sulzycki '64



Lou Pintek '72

**Sandy Sulzycki '64 and Lou Pintek '72,** both well-known from their careers at the *Bridgeport/Connecticut Post*. They culled huge amounts of historical information with personal interviews to report on the sports legends of the past, and their memories and paths. Much information was also gathered from the Prep history, *A Tradition of Excellence*, written and edited by retired Prep teacher and historian John Szablewicz, as well as the *Hearthstone* yearbook and news clippings from the times.

## Hard Work, Talent and Brotherhood

By Sandy Sulzycki '64 and Lou Pintek '72

Just as their counterparts in football, the basketball program has also played a key role in the Fairfield Prep experience right from the start and throughout Prep's history. Here's a look at some of the coaches, players, and highlights from that pivotal era when Prep had to earn the respect of the region's public schools that already had long-established reputations in athletics.

Prep teams in all sports were not recognized by the CIAC at the time, had to play independent schedules, and were not eligible for state tournament consideration nor its players for all-state honors until the fall of 1955. The Connecticut Association of Secondary Schools had voted earlier in April of that year to end the ban on private and parochial schools, allowing such schools as Prep to join the CASS.

Fairfield Prep and Fairfield University did not have a home court until the construction of Alumni Hall in December of 1959. Practices and home games had to be conducted at various sites in Bridgeport, including the old Knights of Columbus Hall on Washington Avenue, The Armory (also known as the Brass Center, currently the Archbishop Shehan Center) on Main Street and the North End Boys Club on Madison Avenue. The school did not provide transportation so players were expected to car pool or take public transportation for practices and then get back home on their own.



### THE COACHES

- **Tom Murphy:** 4 years, 1942-43 to 1945-46  
Record 39-31 (.557)
- **Fella Gintoff:** 6 years, 1946-47 to 1951-52  
Record 56-36 (.607)
- **George Bisacca:** 6 years, 1952-53 to 1957-58  
Record 75-45 (.625)
- **Vin Burns:** 3 years, 1958-59 to 1960-61  
Record 32-29 (.524)
- **Bob Sylvester:** 17 years, 1961-62 to 1977-78  
1969 CIAC State Champions

Source: "Hearthstone" yearbook reports



**Tom Murphy** After guiding the football team through its inaugural season in the fall of 1942, coach Tom Murphy did the same in basketball with a small but scrappy team that finished 6-10. Murphy did not teach at Prep but was employed as a purchasing agent at Bridgeport Molding Products on Kings Highway in Fairfield and at Park City Metal in Bridgeport.

Murphy compiled a 39-31 overall record (.557) over his four years. His teams showed steady improvement the next three years, going 7-6

in 1943-44, 11-6 in 1944-45 and 14-9 in 1945-46. His last two teams played in the prestigious eight-team Eastern States Catholic Invitational Tournament in Newport, R.I., losing to Cumberland, Md., 42-28 in the 1945 finals and in the 1946 semifinals to St. Elizabeth of New Jersey, which was coached by Vince Lombardi, who had played college football at Fordham and had become friends with Murphy, an end at Notre Dame. Emil Garofalo captained Murphy's teams his junior and senior seasons.

**Fella Gintoff**, who earned All-American citations during his three years in the backfield at Boston College, came to Prep after coaching at St. Raphael's Academy in Rhode Island and then Boston College High. Gintoff coached football, basketball and baseball for six years in addition to teaching math. Prep went 8-8, 6-7, 11-7, 12-2, 11-4 and 8-8 during his tenure, highlighted by impressive victories over regional, state and New England powerhouses Central, Harding and Hillhouse during the 1949-50 and 1950-51 seasons. Serving as captains for Gintoff's teams were Dave Roach, Kendall Murphy, John Maiocco twice, Jack O'Connell and Dick Ramik.







Fairfield Prep 1944-45 Basketball Team



Fairfield Prep 1945-46 Basketball Team



**Vin Burns '48** took over in 1958-59 when Bisacca departed to become the head coach at Fairfield University. Burns was a member of the 1942-51 All-Decade Baseball Team as an outstanding pitcher. An English teacher, he was assisted by Bob Sylvester. He went 8-10 his first season with Joe Troiano earning All-District honors, and 10-11 his second year with captain Rocky Inglis. Frank Grywalski captained Burns' third and final team that finished 14-8, earning co-MBIAC championship honors and a pair of CIAC wins over Bassick and Andrew Warde before losing to Wilbur Cross in the quarterfinals. Brian Murphy led the team in scoring (18 ppg) closely followed by Ray "Sparky" Ulatowski and sophomore Jim Lyddy. Five team members also played on the legendary 10-0 football team of 1960 that earned Prep's first state championship in any sport (backs Pete Frigon and Donald "Ducky" Moran, QB Ed McCarthy, George Pond and Grywalski, an end). McCarthy and Grywalski were all-state selections. Tackle Gene Skowronski was the third all-stater from that team, but did not play basketball.

**Bob Sylvester's** early

17-year career got underway in impressive fashion with his first two teams posting 18-5 and 18-6 records. The 1961-62 edition not only set a school record for wins, but was also co-MBIAC champs for the second straight season and upset top-rated Bristol Eastern in the opening round of the CIAC tournament before falling to Notre Dame-WH. The following season co-captains Jim Lyddy and Bill Lavin led Prep to the 1963 CIAC semifinals where it lost to eventual champion Hillhouse 89-69 at the original UConn Fieldhouse in Storrs. Lyddy capped off a brilliant four-year varsity career by becoming the first Prep player to earn all-state honors and surpass the 1,000-career point mark with 1,308.



**George Bisacca '46**

played three years of baseball and basketball at Prep and was a member of the school's first four-year graduating class in 1946. It was no secret that Tom Murphy and Fella Gintoff were considered football-oriented coaches and handled the baseball and basketball duties as a sidelight. During his tenure, Bisacca helped several players continue their careers on the college level. After the 1957-58 season, Bisacca moved across campus to Fairfield University where he led the Stags for 10 years (151-87,634) into the Division I era, starting with a stipend of \$1,500. He became known affectionately as "The Father of Fairfield Basketball". He also served as its Athletic Director from 1964-71. He accomplished all this on a part-time basis while never relinquishing his busy law practice, where he specialized in Sports Law. On Nov. 6, 2016, the Alumni Hall court was dedicated in his honor and is now the George R. Bisacca Court.



the rest were just awful. Tom Murphy would throw them out on the court and our captain, Emil Garofalo, would then take over practice and be our coach. We did not have a home court so all our games were considered "road games." After games or practices at the Knights of Columbus, the professional wrestlers would be in the locker room smoking their cigars; they were a pretty scary bunch. I was able to pick up a lot of the finer points of the game by going to clinics at the Catskill mountains in New York from legends like Adolph Rupp of Kentucky, Joe Lapchick of St. John's and Notre Dame's Elmer Ripley. Growing up in Bridgeport I benefited from going to Middle Street Boys Club under the tutelage of Clay McGran. Joe Sikorski was the toughest kid I ever coached, and coupled with Frank Robotti made a formidable frontcourt combination."

**Bisacca recalls:** "My father was a big fan of Prep and I was going there, like it or not, and it turned out to be one of the best things I ever did. The Jesuit education formed us for the rest of our lives. Thanks to Irishmen like Ed Dailey, Mickey McBride, and Dick Shea, life at Prep was a thoroughly rewarding experience. ... We might have had one or two balls that were decent and



Vin Burns (second from the left with the 1960-61 team): Three years, 1958-59 to 1960-61, record 32-29 (.524)



## THE PLAYERS

### Emil Garofalo '45

After spending his freshman year at Ludlowe H.S. in Fairfield, Garofalo became a member of Prep's first sophomore class in the fall of 1942. He played three years of basketball and baseball, was named to the All-Decade team of 1942-51 in both sports and was a two-year captain in both sports. He went on to play three years of baseball at the University of Notre Dame. ...

Emil served as an assistant coach at Fairfield University for four years, two under Jim Hanrahan and two under former Prep teammate George Bisacca. During his four years as coach, he helped elevate the program to Division I competition, mentoring the likes of Pedro Tagatac, Harry Hyra, Nick Macarchuk, Larry Rafferty, Art Crawford and Bob Jenkins. He holds the distinction of being the first coach to earn a win at Alumni Hall when his freshman team beat Holy Cross in 1959. He was inducted into Prep's Hall of Fame in 1980 and Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019. He is a member of the Connecticut ASA Softball Hall of Fame.

**GAROFALO RECALLS:** "When Prep was first getting started we practiced and played our games at the old Knights of Columbus Hall on Washington Avenue across from St. Augustine Cathedral. We had to drive there and I served as the chauffeur. The court was very small with fan-shaped baskets, was not well-lit with a few rows of wooden bleachers on both sides that seated a couple hundred at best. Players had to go downstairs to the locker room. ...

We had some great players like Matt Forman, Dick Shea, Ed Dailey and John "Mickey" McBride and that was important because we were just trying to get established and earn some respect. In short time we made it known that Prep was a school that had to be reckoned with. We had to play against some great athletes: Central with George Saccone, Ed Bowden, and Buck Buchannon was one of our main rivals. Stamford had Andy Robustelli and Frank Robotti Sr. Zeke Bella was at Greenwich while in-town rival



Ludlowe had Pat Farma, Rocko Jacuzzi and Bob and Bill Seirup. ...

The game was mostly guard-orientated back then with very few big men, zone defense was very popular as were set plays with the fast-break only used occasionally. ...

Making our first trip up to the 1945 Eastern States Catholic Invitational Tournament in Newport, R.I., in only our third season was quite an experience since it was the first time for any of us playing out of state. Plus we had brand new uniforms for the tournament thanks to our Athletic Director Father John Barry, who had developed a friendship with Fella Gintoff's friends like businessmen Marty Tristene and John Neary. Our old ones were a little better than practice jerseys so we looked pretty good."

### Matt Forman '46

One of the most ironic and compelling personal stories of Prep's early years in athletics is that of Matt Forman '46, who grew up in the East End of Bridgeport on Union Avenue, went to St. Cyril's and would have gone to Harding High School. As a youth Matt was not allowed to play sports by his mother. At first his name had to be "accidentally" left out of the box score that appeared in the newspapers the next day or his points attributed to another player. But Matt eventually won her over and she became one of his biggest supporters who rarely missed a game. Forman was only listed as 6-foot-1 and was very thin as a sophomore, but developed quickly and came into his own by the second half of his junior year and was close to 6-4 his senior year with great upper body strength.

After playing his final game of the 1945-46 season at the no-frills Knights of Columbus Hall in Bridgeport, little did Forman, or his mother, realize that his freshman year Holy Cross would end before a sold-out Madison Square Garden crowd as the Crusaders of coach Alvin "Doggie" Julian put the small Jesuit college from Worcester, Mass., in the national headlines by winning the 1947 NCAA championship 58-47 over Oklahoma. Holy Cross was the last seed in the eight-team field but got superb play from MVP George Kaftan, Joe Mullaney (long-time Providence coach), Andy Laska (Assumption College coach) and freshman guard Bob Cousy. The Crusaders were greeted by a crowd estimated between 20,000-35,000 on "Holy Cross Day" when they returned to Worcester.

Forman was also a member of the Final Four team his sophomore season in 1948 when Holy Cross beat Michigan 63-45, lost to Kentucky and Alex Groza 60-52 and beat Kansas State 60-54 to finish third. As a senior he helped the Crusaders



reach the Elite Eight when they lost to North Carolina State and Ohio State. Forman was selected as the first pick of the Boston Celtics in the 10th round of the NBA draft (109th overall). Forman later starred for Hamilton Standard of Windsor Locks which monopolized the State Industrial Championship. He would also perform locally during the 1950s for Perry Pilotti's All-Stars, along with Jack O'Connell and Bob Gerwien, as they battled Carl Braun's NBA All-Stars before large crowds at the Brass Center. Forman was also a standout pitcher at Prep, making the 1942-51 All-Decade team as well as in basketball. Forman would also pitch at Holy Cross.

### Jack O'Connell '51 and Bob Gerwien '51

You can't talk about one without mentioning the other. Their story covers a lifetime of being classmates, teammates and friends and is a remarkable one that very few, if any, can match.

O'Connell and Gerwien attended the same school (all eight years at Blessed Sacrament in the East End of Bridgeport where they won the state parochial school basketball championship as eighth-graders).

Both played on Middle Street Boys Club's State League championship team coached by Clayton McGran whose teams became well-known for their full-court press. Both were teammates at Prep for coach Gintoff where they earned All-District honors and were selected to the All-Decade Team. Both played at Fairfield University for Jim Hanrahan and were co-captains as seniors. Both were among the first inductees into its Athletic Hall of Fame in 1982.

Remarkably, that's 16 straight years at the same schools and on the same teams unless it was during pickup games on the asphalt courts in the back of Blessed Sacrament before Father Tierney organized a team.

After their college seasons were over, both would play in local and regional tournaments, including exhibition games at the Armory against touring pro teams from the NBA like Carl Braun's All-Stars which included his teammates from the Knicks like Harry "The Horse" Gallatin and Dick McGuire. ... Both proudly say that during all that time they never had an argument, not even a minor disagreement.

Immediately after college they served for two years in the U.S. Army. They still meet monthly in Bridgeport with old friends from the East End and Fairfield University, with Gerwien making it in from Danbury and O'Connell from Stratford.

Gerwien worked for the Diocese of Bridgeport for 37 years before retiring in 1996. He was the first lay principal in the state at Immaculate High School in Danbury where he was a math teacher,



George Bisacca coaching



athletic director and basketball coach from 1963-72. He also taught and coached basketball and baseball at Stamford Catholic (recently closed Trinity Catholic) from 1959-63.

O'Connell retired from the food brokerage business in the Boston area in 1998 and returned to the Bridgeport area.

At Prep, O'Connell was an adept playmaker with a deadly one-handed, patented push shot. He was a three-year starter while Gerwien was a two-year starter and rugged rebounder in the frontcourt who blossomed into a star his junior and senior years.

O'Connell was the captain his senior year when he was third among the district's top scorers (15 ppg) as he and Gerwien (14.2 ppg) earned All-District honors (Bridgeport, Stratford and Fairfield) along with: Nick Vancho – Harding; Porky Vieira, Ernie Petruciano and Ron DelBianco – Central; Walter Waltz – Ludlowe, Joe Markoya – Bullard-Havens; and John "Sunny Boy" Forizs – Stratford. During the years of 1949-51, the Jesuits went 34-13 (.723) upsetting regional and state powers Bridgeport Central, Harding and Hillhouse of New Haven the years they were state and/or New England champs.

Vancho, a two-time all-state selection at Harding and fellow Bridgeport East Ender, had high praise for Prep's teams and players. "Without a doubt Prep was the equal of any of the state's best teams of that time and O'Connell, Gerwien, Babe Risley and Fred Lane certainly were right up there with all the top players and would have drawn support for all-state recognition, if eligible," he said.

After graduating from Prep, the two stayed together and continued their careers across campus at Fairfield University. The Stags were in need of a rebounder and Gerwien stepped in right away as a freshman, earning a spot in the starting lineup and keeping it all four years. Just like at Prep, rebounding and scoring from down low were the strongest parts of his game. He put those skills to good use by leading the Stags in rebounding while posting 1,062 career points. O'Connell (1,016 career points) played four years of varsity, three as a starter, and his 20.6 ppg average as a senior still ranks as 7th best in school history. It was during this time that they were referred to as the "Gold Dust Twins" by the local press.

O'Connell will be inducted into Prep's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2021.

**O'CONNELL**

**RECALLS:** "Growing up in Bridgeport, I naturally wanted to go to Harding, but my parents made the sacrifice and sent me to Prep. It would be a decision I will always be



Fairfield Prep 1950-51 Basketball Team

the better for. I had so many great memories of my basketball career there, but as I reflect, I loved to practice and be with my teammates. We never considered the obstacles we had getting to school and practice at the Armory, all the time on the old CRL bus line. The teachers were great and expected us to perform in the classroom and athletes did not get any breaks, setting a good example for the other students. One teacher I had always called on me first thing if he knew we had a game the night before so I knew I had to be prepared. I made so many great friends on account of sports and still see many of them now. I consider myself very lucky to have attended Prep and that I was a help in laying the foundation for Prep athletics and basketball in particular. ...

At that time freshmen could not play junior varsity or varsity, but only on the freshman team. However, we were permitted to play on outside teams so Bob (Gerwien) and I were part of that Middle Street Boys Club State League championship team. Thanks to our coach, Clayton McGran, that's where we learned the fundamentals — how to box out, how to play defense and it laid the groundwork for us to make in on the varsity level. The Clubs were a hotbed for youth basketball. It was where all the kids played and the best players came from.

Our freshman team at Prep included many players from the schools we played against in the Parochial League like Bill Burns, St. Ann; Tony Scippa and Charlie LaChioma, St. Augustine in Bridgeport; and Swing Incerto from St. Mary's in Norwalk. ...

All that exposure helped out right away my first varsity game as a sophomore when we played at Ansonia. I went out for the opening jump and was matched up against all-state quarterback Vin Drake. We weren't intimidated and we won 33-31. Later that season we got the opportunity to play at the Boston Garden where

we lost to LaSalle of Newport, R.I. It was the first time for any of us to play out of state. ...

Bob (Gerwien) really blossomed as a junior when he grew five inches and grew into a man, very strong, a great rebounder and jump shooter with an amazingly fast first step. He really controlled the boards for us. ...

Babe Risley was a year ahead of us and was our best all-around athlete, very smart playing up front although only 6-foot-1. That was a great team my junior year in 1949-50 with Risley in the pivot and captain John Maiocco and Ed Dardani in the backcourt. Fred Lane was also a key player for us, very smart. ...

We knew that we were not eligible for the state tournament so we just wanted to beat our local rivals like Harding, Central, Ludlowe and Stratford. We knew most of those players from our early days from the Boys Club, Parochial League or the playgrounds."



**GERWIEN RECALLS:** "The good Dominican nuns and priests at Blessed Sacrament really stressed the importance of continuing our Catholic education. Fairfield Prep was at the top of the list because the Jesuits had a great reputation. ...

Two of our biggest wins came my junior year in 1950 when we beat Harding for the first time in school history 62-61 in overtime before a capacity crowd on their court as Babe (Risley), Ed Dardani and Gene DeMalt came through with key baskets in overtime. Risley had one of his best games ever with 24 points. We also beat Central 38-36 as Risley hit a "sensational" one-handed buzzer-beater. *The Bridgeport Telegram* reporter described it as, 'One of the most thrilling games ever played at the Lyon Terrace gym.' Central was loaded with Alvin Clinkscapes, Jim Neary, Ernie Petruciano and Gene Bethea. Risley had done the





Fairfield Prep 1956-57 Basketball Team



Fairfield Prep 1957-58 Basketball Team

same the previous year in '49 when his last minute basket upset Central 32-30. This came at a time when Harding and Central were winning state and New England championships up in Boston so it was quite an accomplishment. ...

Matt Forman from the class of '46 would bring his Holy Cross teammate, Bob Cousy, down to the courts behind Blessed Sacrament during the summer even after they had won the 1947 NCAA tournament. ...

One of the problems back then was getting teams to play us because we weren't in a league or sanctioned by the state. We only averaged 15 games a year. ...

Mickey "Hooks" Homa (Ludlowe High, Kentucky) was a few years older than us and was playing with the professional Newfield Steelers at the time. He was well-known for his patented hook shot and tried teaching it to me a few times at the Armory, but I could never master it enough to try it in a game. I was a terrible foul shooter and

could have averaged several more points a game if I had been able to make a decent percentage. Unfortunately, I didn't improve until much later. Even Jackie (O'Connell), who was such a great shooter, couldn't help me."

### Ron Liptak '55

A three-year letterman as a forward in basketball and all four years in baseball as a shortstop, Ron Liptak co-captained the 1954-55 basketball team along with guard Lou Viglione. He broke the single-game scoring record four times his senior year, eventually setting the mark of 32 points in the season-ending consolation game of the Eastern States Catholic Invitational in Newport, R.I., where he was named to the all-tournament team.

Liptak was a product of Bridgeport's South End "Hunk Town." He got his start in basketball



under Jim Kish at Middle Street Boys Club, winning the 1953 State League title, and in baseball as he captained the Bridgeport Original Little League All-Stars as they advanced to the Little League World Series in Williamsport, Pa., finishing third in 1949 and second in 1950 with future Prep teammates Lou Viglione and Ken Samu on the squad.

Liptak quickly earned the reputation as one of Bridgeport's finest shortstops and later received a baseball/basketball scholarship to Holy Cross, where he averaged 21 ppg on the freshman team and then starred for three years in baseball for legendary coach Jack Berry. The Crusaders finished third in the 1958 College World Series in Omaha, Neb., after beating UConn 2-1 on fellow Prep alum Jack Ringel's RBI double in extra innings before losing to eventual champ USC.

Liptak was signed by the Milwaukee Braves in 1958 and played minor league ball before his pro career was interrupted when his U.S. Army Reserve unit was activated during the Berlin Crisis in 1961. After retiring from professional baseball in 1963, he spent over 30 years with the Travelers Insurance Company in Grand Rapids, Mich. He remained vitally active in the community, especially with the Special Education Department where he assisted high school special needs students in adjusting to work-related environments. Liptak volunteered as a driver for Michigan Blood Inc., and donated over 16 gallons of blood.

Liptak's older brother, John, quarterbacked the 1948 football team and also starred in baseball at Prep, earning a spot on the 1942-51 All-Decade Baseball team as a third baseman before graduating in 1949. John went on to play baseball at Wake Forest as a catcher and signed with the New York Yankees.

**RON LIPTAK RECALLS:** "Coach Bisacca brought Prep basketball up a few notches and wasn't just a great coach, but a wonderful person. My senior year was the first year we practiced and played home games at the North End Boys Club in Bridgeport. Because of the unavailability of the gym, practices would not get over until after 7 p.m., but he used to spend added time by driving all over the city making sure his players got home safely. My father, John, grew up in the Depression and was a toolmaker by trade and always worked his tail off with second or third jobs just so my brother and I could go to Prep."

### Jim Keane '56

Jim Keane, a 6-foot-4 forward, and Henry Rojas, a 6-foot-5 center, were two experienced lettermen as juniors before they were elected co-captains of the 1955-56 team that earned a spot in school



history by becoming the first team to compete in the CIAC basketball tournament. Prep was 8th-seeded in the 16-team field, opening with wins over Torrington and 4th-seeded Norwalk 60-57 before losing to eventual champion Hartford Weaver 75-58 in the semifinals to finish 15-7. All tournament games were played at the New Haven Arena.



**KEANE RECALLS:** "I grew up in the Riverside section of Greenwich, where I attended St. Catherine Parochial School. When it came time to decide where I was going to high school I really did not

have much choice. A Catholic education was very important for my parents and my brothers Tom '48, and Charlie '53, had already graduated from Prep. It could have been either Iona Prep or Archbishop Stepinac in New York but I decided to follow my brothers, and older cousins (Gilhulys and Bakers), who all went to Fairfield Prep. I took the train in from Riverside and met Frank Robotti, Henry Rojas and his brother Al in Stamford. We did that until our senior year when our team manager, Joe Leonetti of Stamford, was able to drive us to and from school. By then we were playing and practicing at the North End Boys Club but we didn't think the commute was much of an inconvenience.

Joe Sikorski was the other forward while Charlie Casano and Ken Lisi were the guards. Coach Bisacca had us run a pro offense with constant movement. The only one that didn't do much ball-handling was Henry (Rojas), but he had a deadly hook shot and led us in scoring. Former Central High all-stater Ron DelBianco was the physical education director and I became a pretty good rebounder because of the pointers he gave me on the proper techniques. He was a great mentor and I always appreciated how he helped me out, but I'm sure he rooted for Central when we played them. When we played Notre Dame of West Haven, Robotti and Nick Pietrosante would do a lot of chest bumping. If another team had a few football players and thought they could outmuscle us down low, Robotti would come in and give us the edge."

**James P. Lyddy, Ph.D. '63**

Gentile's High School Basketball annual pre-season publication was considered the sports's go-to source and its December 1962 edition featured Prep's Jim Lyddy on the front cover, signifying that the 6-foot senior guard was the



Fairfield Prep 1959 Basketball Team



First Row: L. Falango, E. Heffern, A. See, J. Lyddy, J. Barney, P. Murphy. Second Row: Coach Sylvester, W. Lavin, R. Wyatt,

H. Benedict, E. Matulionis, J. Collins, L. Carroll, S. Sulzycki, V. O'Connor.

Fairfield Prep 1962-63 Basketball Team

top-rated player in the state according to John Gentile, the editor. Lyddy was the top vote-getter on the 1963 New Haven Register's six-man All-State Basketball Team, becoming Prep's first all-stater in the sport and its all-time scoring leader at that time with 1,308 points over a four-year career. It should be noted again that Prep teams in all sports were not eligible for state tournament consideration nor its players considered for all-state honors until the fall of 1955. Certainly players from earlier teams, but not limited to Babe Risley '50, Jack O'Connell and Bob Gerwien '51, and Ron Liptak '55 would have drawn consideration for all-state honors.

Lyddy's early credentials were impressive, earning Mr. Biddy Basketball honors in leading the Bridgeport All-Stars to the 1957 World Biddy Basketball Championship in Scranton, Pa., after helping the North End Little League to a third place finish as a pitcher/catcher in the 1956 Little World Series in Williamsport, Pa. He also starred as St. Patrick's dominated the Parochial League and for the North End Boys Club in State League play. Jim's late brother Tom earned all-MBIAC, all-state and Catholic All-American honors as a tackle on coach Earl Lavery's 10-0 team in 1967.

Recently Jim has served as the principal at James P. Lyddy LLC, Philanthropic Consultant out of Spring Lake Heights, N.J. He has also served as the Chairman of Development at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn. He is also a Senior VP at Grisham-Pelton in Summit, N.J. He earned his Ph.D in Higher Education Administration.



# 1969: Fitz, Smitty and The Bird

Any discussion of Prep's basketball history would not be complete without acknowledging the 1968-69 team, regarded as Prep's premier squad as well as one of Connecticut's best. Under Coach Bob (The Bird) Sylvester, the team featured the school's only All-American in senior forward Jim Fitzsimmons, all-MBIAC forward Hal Smith and standout point guard Wally Halas. That season, Fitzsimmons averaged 32.5 points per game and set the school and state single game scoring record, while Smith (who passed away in 2016) averaged 22 points per game. They were perhaps an unparalleled 1-2 scoring punch at Prep.

The rest of the starting five consisted of late senior guard Jim Naveken and center Jim (Weed) Kroesser, who stood 6-foot-2, weighed only 160 pounds and often played against players 4-5 inches taller and many pounds heavier than he was. Senior Jim Connolly was first man off the bench. Other key contributors were seniors Scott Butterworth, Dom Serino, and Mike D'Andrea, and junior Nick Tarasovic.

The Jesuits played to a packed Alumni Hall during a special three-year run in which they made three consecutive CIAC Class L finals, finally winning it all against East Catholic of Manchester at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain.

"The '69 team was no fluke, that's for certain," said Sylvester, who won more than 250 games during his 17-year stint on the Prep bench. "[It] built on the great successes of '66, '67 and '68. During those four years we won three league titles, holiday tournaments, and logged an overall record of 80-15. [Our] records were 15-10, 20-3, 21-2 and 23-1."



Fairfield Prep 1968-69 Basketball Team



Coach Bob Sylvester in 1969

During the championship season, streamers would rain down from the stands when the starting five was introduced and it was a decisive home-court advantage.

"We packed [Alumni Hall] every night we played for three years in a row," Sylvester said in a *Bridgeport Post* feature in 1989 on the 20-year anniversary of the state championship. "There'll never be a bunch of kids with that much chemistry. There was no animosity, no jealousies. It was one of the greatest experiences of my life."

Fitzsimmons, who earned a scholarship to Duke but finished his career at Harvard, was the only returning starter when the team convened in the winter of 1968.

"We were hungry after losing [in '68]. Certainly I was," Fitzsimmons said. "But the team came together over the summer. I would go to Kutsher's [Resort in upstate New York, home of the Kutsher Sports Academy, which closed in 2013], and when I got back we would play in Milford on the outdoor courts against some of the Milford High School

guys and some Southern Connecticut guys who might be there. We played from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and there were some good 5-on-5 games. We really jelled as a team.

"We lost four starters from the '68 team," Fitzsimmons added. "That team had the same starting five that went to the finals two years in a row, so we had four new starters coming in, and the only one that played a lot [in '68] was Hal Smith, who was the sixth man. So 'Bird' turned me loose in senior year. I had more scoring responsibilities in '69."

"Having lost in the previous two state championship games, the 1969 squad was a determined group," said Halas, who went on to play and coach at Clark University. "The team was not even predicted to win the MBIAC, but winning a state championship was the singular mission of the members."

The team started 6-0 before being upset by Harding at home, 57-55. Following that defeat, Sylvester switched from a methodical offense to an up-tempo model, and the immediate result was a five-game stretch in which the team averaged 103 points per game.

The Jesuits met finals opponent East Catholic midway through the regular season and won by 20 points. Fitzsimmons had a triple-double in that game, setting a school record with 41 points, grabbing 19 rebounds and handing out 10 assists. But the Milford native's tour de force came in the penultimate game of the regular season against Law in Fairfield. The Jesuits, needing a victory to nail down the top seed in the CIAC tournament, demolished the Lawmen 138-67 as Fitzsimmons



## 1969

### STATE CHAMPS: (23-1)

Regular season results (15-1 MBIAC, 19-1 overall)

Northwest Catholic*	96-69	Bassick	94-50
Milford	74-73	Stratford	90-63
Stratford	78-43	East Catholic*	82-62
Central	102-74	Central	85-53
Staples**	94-70	Milford	84-61
Lee**	97-87	Harding	92-68
Harding	55-57	Bunnell	106-59
Bunnell	116-69	Notre Dame (Bpt.)	79-65
Law	123-76	Law	138-67
Notre Dame (Bpt.)	92-65	Bassick	116-79

\* non-conference game;

\*\* Staples Christmas tournament games (non-conference)  
CIAC tournament results (4-0): Beat Southington 102-64; beat Harding 84-58; beat South Catholic 60-53; beat East Catholic 61-51



broke ex-Norwalk High and NBA Hall of Famer Calvin Murphy's single game scoring record with 64 points (NOTE: The 3-point goal was not in existence during that era).

"I had 25 points at halftime and 'Bird' decided to keep me in for the second half," he said. "I came out with three or four minutes left."

Prep finished the season 19-1 and then won four games in the playoffs to be crowned champions. However, Fitzsimmons acknowledged that the semifinal against now-defunct South Catholic of Hartford was the most stressful game of the season.

"[South Catholic was] up on us by 10 at the half and we actually thought we might lose," he said. "They played slowdown and had a box-and-1 defense on me. But 'Bird' gave probably his most inspirational halftime talk, and we came out and took the lead. I think I scored the next 12 points in the third quarter and we took it up-tempo [to win 60-53]. It was definitely the scariest moment of the year."

In the finals against East Catholic, Prep never trailed but nonetheless had a difficult time putting away the Eagles.

"We only won by 10 points because [East Catholic] slowed down the tempo," said Fitzsimmons, who scored 20 points and was named finals MVP. "We jumped on them right away, but they wouldn't go up-tempo on us. They didn't want to get blown out. We were up the whole way. It was great to finally get it over with. It was very gratifying."

"Halas was the general out there," Sylvester said after that game. "With so many teams devising special defenses for Fitz and Smitty, we expected more of the same from East Catholic. I told Wally he would probably have to do some shooting for us early to keep [East Catholic] honest and take some of the pressure off the other two." Halas had 17 points in that game and Smith 10.

"It was a great team. We all blended well," Naveken was quoted as saying in the 1989 *Post* feature. "The nice thing was we all got along well. We were in each other's wedding party. The closeness we had on that team carried over into our later years. By winning that state championship, we learned how to win later in life."

"Anybody who saw us would have to agree that we would be highly competitive today," Smith was also quoted as saying in the article. "We felt it was our destiny to win."

"The true challenge was working with young men from area/regional towns who played together as grammar school kids and met for the first time at Prep," Sylvester said. "Their intelligence and passion for excellence made coaching them a distinct privilege."

**Jim Fitzsimmons '69** is the only player in Prep history to be named high school All-American. He holds the school record for career points with 1,732. He set the school and since surpassed the state single game scoring record with 64 points vs. Law. Averaging 32.5 ppg., he was named New England Player of the Year. Jim made third straight all-MBIAC first team and second consecutive all-state first team while playing in Dapper Dan Roundball Classic for high school All-Americans. He received a scholarship to Duke and was the leading scorer for the freshman team (20 ppg.) while battling a sore back (freshmen were not allowed to play on varsity then). Fitzsimmons transferred to Harvard, where he played two seasons and made all-Ivy his sophomore year. ... Is still the school's single season scoring leader (24.2 ppg. in 1971-72) and career leader in points per game (18.5 from 1971-73). He was inducted into New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006 and now resides in Charlotte, N.C., with his wife and two children. Fitzsimmons works as the Carolinas' Regional Developer for Massage Envy.



**FITZSIMMONS:** "We had a lot of unknowns for '69. 'Weed' [Jim Kroesser, the center at 6-foot-2, 160 pounds] had raw talent, but we were sort of short up front at the time. We started off playing Prep basketball, very methodical. We were 6-0, but the big turning point was the [first] Harding game (played at home). We lost by two; Harding's center was basket-hanging and he made a shot with two seconds left. We went ballistic after that, going from a methodical team to an up-tempo one. We scored a lot of points [averaging 103 points the next five games] and the starters were playing half a game at that point."

On his 64-point game: "We needed that game to get the top seed in the [CIAC] tournament. [Law] didn't want to play, figuring [it was] going to lose anyway, but we insisted they come and

play. I had 25 points at halftime and [coach Sylvester] decided to keep me in for the second half. I came out with three or four minutes left. That was funny. They were trying to get me the [Prep] record and I was telling Hal to give me the ball and he said, "The heck with you, I'm trying to break my own record." [Smith finished with a personal high of 41]. So as soon as I [got] to 64, they took me out, so it was somewhat intentional, I guess. We beat everyone by so much, most of the time we only played a half."

**Wally Halas '69** was the starting guard and was selected to second team all-MBIAC. He received scholarship offers from several schools but selected Whitman scholarship from Clark University. Halas played and started for four years, earning All-New England honors and winning Bob Cousy Award as a senior. He works as Vice President for University Advancement at Fairfield University, responsible for all of alumni and fundraising activities. (See photo page 44.) He and his wife Patrice reside in White Plains, N.Y., and have four children, Mike, John, Jaclyn and Matthew, and one granddaughter, Monroe.



**HALAS:** "Under the brilliant guidance of coach Bob Sylvester, the team leveraged [its] collective determination and underdog status. He recognized the team's talents, which were a blend of quickness, toughness and self-confidence. The team scoring records were not solely the products of the phenomenal scoring abilities of Fitzsimmons and Smith. Coach Sylvester developed and deployed a variety of full court presses that resulted in many steals and conversion to easy baskets. Prep's pressing defense, team rebounding and smart floor play were the extra ingredients needed to complement Fitz and Smitty. It mattered not who was scoring points; scoring margin (an incredible 29 ppg.) was the only statistic that the team valued.

**NOTABLE:** State champion, ranking No. 1 in New England, and averaging 95 points per game, Jim Fitzsimmons was a national All-American. He won a third straight MBIAC title, started 6-0 before suffering the only loss, 57-55 to Harding, after which the team went on a five-game scoring spree in which it averaged 103 ppg and avenged the loss with a 92-68 victory at Harding as Fitzsimmons scored 33 and Smith 29. Fitzsimmons set school and then-state record with 64 points in 138-67 rout of Law, breaking ex-Norwalk High All-American Calvin Murphy's mark of 62. Hal Smith added 41 in that game as they finished the season 19-1, then beat Southington (102-64) and Harding (84-58, as Fitzsimmons had 43) before defeating South Catholic in the semifinals, coming from behind for a 60-53 win. They beat defending champion East Catholic 61-51 in Class L title game. It was Prep's third straight appearance in finals; it lost to East Catholic in 1968 and Sacred Heart (Waterbury) in 1967. Fitzsimmons was named MVP with 20-point performance in finals. Fellow co-captain and all-MBIAC choice Smith had 10 points and 10 rebounds in the title game, while point guard Wally Halas had 17 points, 10 in the third quarter. Fitzsimmons also scored 10 points in the third quarter as Prep stretched its lead from 27-21 at halftime to 47-37 after three. Prep led by six with 46 seconds left, but Jim Connolly scored on a layup and Halas added two free throws to seal it. Sylvester took over the coaching duties for the '61-'62 season and won more than 250 games in 17 seasons. He was inducted to New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006.



# 1997: The Improbable Dream

If the 1969 team had an air of invincibility about it (as well as unparalleled talent), the 1997 squad was diametrically opposite in that there were no expectations of a league championship, much less a state title. Rather, the team was one of grit and perseverance which combined with a confluence of events resulted in a most improbable victory in the Class LL final.

"In the '90s, Prep was not the basketball powerhouse it is today," said 6-foot-6 tri-captain and all-state senior center Dan Flaherty, who scored 27 points with 12 rebounds and was named Finals MVP. "We were known for hockey state championships and a strong football team. There were no expectations for our team that year and we remained largely unknown as the season began. The SCC was newly formed and the FCIAC was considered the premier basketball league in the state. We were a strong group of seniors and juniors that had been playing together for a long time since we were all from Fairfield."

But a key component of the team was a seasoned 6-foot-2 sharpshooter who transferred in from the Philadelphia area in junior Dan Pangrazio. Pangrazio had been teammates with a prodigy named Kobe Bryant, but he brought a quiet confidence to an experienced core group.

Coach Tim Owen said he knew right away that he had a special group of players and the talent began to evolve as the season progressed. "We were getting a lot of contributions from different kids," Owen said. "Our skill level was excellent. Our passing, ball handling and shooting ability were real strengths. Pretty quickly we established an identity of a team that was very tough to play in the half court. We really executed our offensive sets, including hard screens and precise cuts



Fairfield Prep 1997 Basketball Team

and we always found the open man. Our primary defense was a tough half-court man-to-man. We neutralized more athletic teams with this focus on half-court play."

"As the year went on, we all started to jell and bought in to coach's motto that the whole is greater than the sum of the parts (I think he termed it "the fist was stronger than the five fingers")," Ian Walsh added. "He was a great coach, tough at times when he needed to be, but aside from Xs and Os taught us that talent is only half the game; if you do your job, check your ego at the door, and outwork the opponent, it can overcome any talent mismatch. That rang true the whole year -- we played unselfish, disciplined basketball, where everyone knew their roles and stuck to them: Dan Flaherty and Dan Pangrazio were the scorers, Bob Mpuku the distributor and guys like myself, Nick Bilotta and the bench players were the 'glue guys' and would do the dirty work (rebounds, screens, tip-ins, etc.). We didn't stray from that too often."


Prep finished the regular season 17-3 and earned the No. 2 seed for the SCC tournament. "Everyone knew and understood their role on the team," Bilotta said. "There were no egos, no drama, just work. We pushed each other. We took care of one another. We were a team." However, Amity threw an unexpected haymaker in the SCC tournament by upsetting the Jesuits in overtime in the first round. "We took a few days off to clear our heads and lick our wounds before getting back in the gym," Owen recalled. "As I look back on it, maybe [that] loss awakened us from a little slumber and refocused us."

The quarterfinal game against Windsor might have been the most inspiring victory in that the Jesuits rallied from 18 points down to earn the win. "[It was a] rainy, sleeting night at a neutral

court in Meriden. Very few fans [came] due to the distance and the weather," Owen said. "Windsor was a tough athletic opponent with a lot of state tourney experience. Things looked bleak as we [got] down 18 in the first half. We chipped away at their lead with great offensive execution and shooting. We tied it at halftime in an incredible second-quarter shooting display. We continued our great offensive play in the second half and won going away. It was just incredible. It was after [that] game that I believed it really set in for all of us -- we had a fighting chance to win the [Class] LL tourney!"

"[Windsor] had a much more talented team on paper," Walsh said. "They had a guy, Keyon Smith, [who] ended up playing at Hartford who was dominating us out of the gate. I think we were down 25-7 or something. We called a timeout and we had the classic "deer in the headlights" look like, 'It's been a good run, but we may be in over our heads here.' Coach just laughed and said, "Where else would you rather be right now? This is fun! Let's get back to basics and take it one basket at a time." And the game just turned on a dime and we just started getting in our groove -- executing, hustling, and chipping away. We ended up tied at halftime and actually won going away.

"Winning the 1997 Class LL basketball state championship was a tremendous accomplishment for this great group of kids," Owen said. "We rarely were the most athletic team on the court. We didn't have the winning pedigree of many of our opponents. Heck, we didn't have a player who could dunk! However, what we did have was ultimately more important. We had a lot of determination and grit. We had a commitment to playing the game the 'right' way. We defended, executed and shared the ball. Together, we were greater than the sum of our parts."

 **1997**

**STATE CHAMPS: (22-4)**

Regular season results (14-2 SCC, 17-3 overall)

Notre Dame-Fairfield* 85-38	Hand	48-36
Stratford* 46-48	Notre Dame-WH	77-46
Trumbull** 68-66	Xavier	79-69 (2 OT)
Fairfield** 68-58	North Haven	79-64
Wilbur Cross 59-39	West Haven	67-60
Xavier 60-81	Branford	65-47
West Haven 52-50	Hamden	73-66
East Haven 87-65	Wilbur Cross	77-60
Shelton 75-56	Notre Dame-WH	65-66
Hamden 70-54	Cheshire	54-49

\* non-conference game  
 \*\* Christmas Classic tournament games (non-conference)  
 SCC tournament results (0-1): Lost to Amity 65-63 (OT)  
 CIAC tournament results (5-0):  
 Beat Hamden 61-53; beat Southington 53-35; beat Windsor 71-52;  
 beat Hartford Public 59-53; beat Norwalk 66-60



**Coach Tim Owen**

**OWEN:** "Our starting five were able to play at their natural positions and we had enough depth and versatility to offset foul trouble. Senior point guard Bob Mpuku was an excellent and classy pass-first point guard who initiated our offense, always found the open man and scored when needed. His ball handling was outstanding, which contributed to our opponent's inability to press us. ... Pangrazio was a catch-and-shoot guard with great distance on his jump shot ... Lefty senior guard Nick Bilotta would hit a big shot, shut you down on defense or run the offense. ... Junior power forward Ian Walsh won the starting job in the preseason and provided valuable defense and rebounding to the team. ... Flaherty, a very skilled big man at 6'6", could really score around the rim but he would also step out and shoot threes, which made him incredibly difficult to defend. His stats in the state championship game speak volumes -- 27 points and 12 rebounds. ... Juniors Todd Maloney and Dennis Kokenos and senior Mike Brennan played prominent roles off the bench. Todd was a versatile guard who could play several positions. Mike and Dennis were big men who made significant contributions at the forward and center positions. Speedy senior Evan Caliento and junior Brian Schnurr made contributions off the bench as well. ... Not only was this group talented on the basketball court, but they were well rounded in many different ways and all of them were good students. Many played multiple sports at Prep. Incredibly, I believe eight players from the team went on to play a sport in college -- a couple at the Division I level."



**Dan Flaherty '97**, tri-captain,

was SCC MVP, Class LL Final MVP and first team Class LL all-state. He played four seasons at Tufts with Bob Mpuku and they were co-captains junior and senior seasons. Flaherty won the Northeast ECAC championship junior year and is now living in Atlanta with his wife and three children. He works for FIG Partners, a national investment banking firm, along with his brother (and fellow Prep alum) Brian.



**FLAHERTY:** "We brought the best out in each other. None of us were outstanding players on our own but together we took down some very strong state programs that were stacked with D1 players. Without a doubt, winning the state championship was the highlight of my athletic career and a moment that will forever define my adolescence. On the eve of our state semifinal game, Coach Owen wrote "Fairfield Prep -- 1997 Class LL State Champs!" on our locker room chalkboard. It should still be there."

**Bob Mpuku '97**, tri-captain,

was second team all-SCC and played four seasons at Tufts University and was a co-captain with Flaherty his junior and senior years. He now works in finance for a money manager and is married with three boys: Mason, Ben and Will. They reside in Fairfield.



Bob Mpuku '97

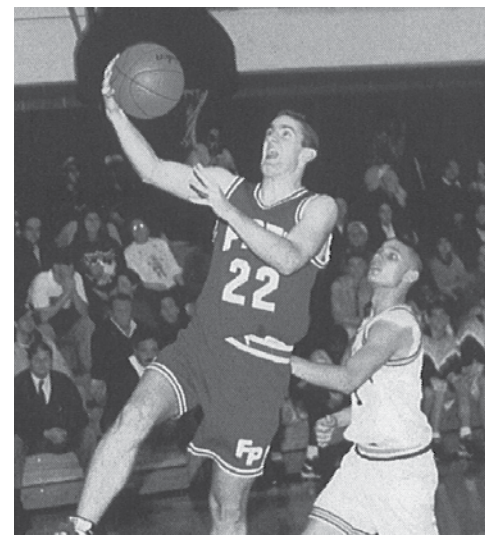
**MPUKU:** "Being part of the '97 state championship team was truly a special experience. Of course, we worked hard and at times we got tired of hearing it from the coaches, but what I will always remember from that time is how much fun we had. I wouldn't trade that time for anything. It was a really good group of kids who were dedicated, hard-working and looked out for one another. Together we were able to accomplish more than anyone could have reasonably thought. I have remained close friends with Dan Flaherty, but most of the other guys I've only seen sporadically through the years. The number of those encounters continually diminished, and now mainly it is only through a Facebook update post do we have any contact. That said, I will always have a place in my heart for those guys and that team."

**Nick Bilotta '97**, tri-captain,

attended the United States Military academy at West Point, where he played lacrosse and was team captain in 2002. He graduated in 2002 and served as a Major in the Infantry at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., where he worked for the Mission Command Training Program. Bilotta and his wife Sarah have three children.



**BILOTTA:** "Up front, this is one of my fondest sports memories: winning the state championship -- especially being a significant underdog all season long. But the best part was that our institution, the Prep community (staff/faculty/administration/student body) never doubted us. I distinctly remember the Prep "Bomb Squad" having a significant presence at every home hockey game; a sport that we experienced continued success in year after year. We lined up against opponents that were bigger and more talented and were easy bets at many corner stores offering friendly wagers. My teammates were like brothers -- period. Prep teaches us to be "Men for Others". The unselfishness, camaraderie, and support we gave each other enabled us to find a way to win -- a lot. Twenty-two times, enough times to take home the Class LL state championship. I will never forget it."



Dan Pangrazio '98

**Dan Pangrazio '98** attended

St. Mary's (Calif.) on a basketball scholarship. He played freshman year and sustained a ruptured disk in his back which essentially ended his career. He completed his undergraduate work in education and remained in California where he earned his Masters Degrees in Education and Educational Leadership. Pangrazio served as a high school principal and is the Assistant Superintendent of Business Services in the Ceres (Calif.) Unified School District. He resides in Turlock, Calif., with wife Kelly and children Caden, Sofia, and Eli.



**PANGRAZIO:** "The '97 Prep state championship team was just that, a TEAM. I've been on many teams now in my life in and outside of sports, and that group of young men and our coaches were part of something very special. Other teams might have had more talent, but none had so many parts that fit well together, and none had so much heart. We believed we could win if we truly utilized team play so our opponents could not key in on stopping any one player or strategy. It taught us all what can be accomplished, as the saying goes, when no one cares who gets the credit."

**Ian Walsh '98** went to the

University of Scranton and was a reserve forward on the basketball team for four years. He works as Director of Sponsor Finance at Ally Financial, Inc. in San Francisco, where he lives with his wife and son.



**WALSH:** "In 1997, Prep basketball was way down in the pecking order of sports (unlike today, where they seem to churn out [Division I] 1 players and state title appearances, which still amazes me). We just kept playing the same disciplined style each game, out-executed, out-hustled, and played unselfish ball, and we ended up as state champs. ... The game is so much more enjoyable when you have five guys on the same page playing unselfishly and trusting each other."



# 2015: Third Time's the Charm



The 2015 team

**2015**

**STATE CHAMPS: (25-2)**

Regular season results (7-1 SCC Quinnipiac, 19-1 overall)

Hand*	86-64	Hand	77-68
Shelton*	73-71	Cheshire	82-45
Fairfield Ludlowe**	71-63	Hillhouse	62-52
Notre Dame-Fairfield*	79-69	Shelton	95-79
Hillhouse	80-70	Hamden	68-72
Notre Dame-WH	59-56	West Haven	71-53
Hamden	70-62	Notre Dame-WH	69-45
Career	63-56	Xavier	78-62
West Haven	61-44	Career	84-71
Xavier	66-54	Cheshire	82-79

\* non-conference game  
 \*\* Holiday Festival tournament games (non conference)  
 SCC tournament results (2-1): Beat Notre Dame-West Haven 71-56; beat Hamden 68-51; lost to Career 81-59 (SCC final)  
 CIAC tournament results (4-0): Beat Newtown 80-49; beat Fairfield Ludlowe 70-48; beat Hillhouse 59-57 (OT); beat Westhill 51-50.

Given the circumstances and recent history of success, it wasn't a surprise that the 2014-15 Prep team won the state championship. Rather, it was more a sense of vindication and relief.

After all, the 2013-14 squad had been poised to wrap up the school's first undefeated season in the Class LL final against Bridgeport Central, but after holding an 18-point lead at the half, it couldn't finish the job as Central prevailed 76-73.

So the players who returned for coach Leo Redgate in the winter of 2014 arrived with a chip on their collective shoulders. All-Stater Tom Nolan, all-SCC guard Ryan Foley, guard Rich Kelly, and forwards Patrick Harding and Joe DiGennaro comprised the starting five, with Matt Gerics first off the bench.

"We pushed the ball up the floor and averaged 75 points per game," Redgate said. "Our defense was stifling and we created a lot of opportunities

off our aggressive style of play. [We] played together and with confidence.

"[We had] great guard play and great sharing of the basketball," he added. "All the guys were very focused and worked so hard. Each player had a role and each embraced it for the betterment of the team."

"When we started the season we weren't even ranked in the top 10 of the state, but by the end of the year we were state champions, and I think that says everything about our team," Kelly said.

Prep won its first 14 games before suffering a close loss to Hamden. It followed with five more victories to end a 19-1 regular season, then won two games in the SCC playoffs before being blown out by Career of New Haven in the league final.

With a clean slate for the CIAC tournament, the Jesuits posted a pair of lopsided wins over Newtown and Ludlowe, respectively. In the



semifinals, they survived a tough battle against SCC rival Hillhouse, prevailing 59-57 in overtime.

"It came down to the second half and we were in the locker room down by 13 points," co-captain Foley recalled. "There were a lot of pale faces staring blankly at one another and me and [fellow] co-captain Thomas Nolan knew exactly what we had to do. We came out with this new-found motivation to let out any effort we had left.

"We [went to] overtime and that's when I knew we had the game," Foley added. "All we needed was momentum. And that is exactly what we got and we won that game in the best fashion possible. Then it was on to Mohegan Sun for the third time in the last three years. We were on a mission."

The Hillhouse game may have indeed been the tonic for getting over the hump as the final against Westhill was another tight contest. This time, however, the outcome was a positive one as Prep held on for a 51-50 triumph.

The Jesuits rallied from a nine-point deficit at the end of three quarters, outscoring the Vikings 16-6 over the final eight minutes. Harding led the way with 13 points, followed by Kelly with 12. Nolan also scored 12 points and pulled down nine rebounds.

"It was a close championship game leading to a final shot by Westhill at the buzzer that would've decided that game," Foley said. "When that shot bounced off the rim and I knew we had won and it was over, I truly didn't know how to feel. I remember being in absolute shock. I didn't know whether to cry or scream with joy. I just remember looking at all of my teammates and hugging each and every one of them."

Redgate best described Prep's accomplishment moments after that victory.

"These kids [had] been fighting all year," he said. "[The 2013-14 season] left a tough taste in our mouths but they really stuck together. But it [was] a fitting end for a team that has had a terrific record the last five years. They deserved it."

**Ryan Foley '15** graduated with a Mechanical Engineering degree and played basketball at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts. Ryan is a Mechanical Product Support Engineer at Ashcroft Inc. in Stratford, CT.



**FOLEY:** "The 2014-2015 basketball season was easily the most amazing team I have ever been a part of. It was a season trumped by injury and adversity. But this didn't stop our team from succeeding. Going into the year everyone in the state thought that we would barely go .500 after losing a big time player in our 7-footer Paschal Chukwu [a two-time All-State performer who

committed to Providence]. But what people underestimated was the chemistry that our team had. I had been playing with and against some of the other players on the team for a good majority of my life and we all knew each other and all of our tendencies. There have been a lot of great teams in Prep history, but I don't think there were any as close-knit as this group. There was no losing in mind for us seniors. It was the last chance we had to win it all and we weren't letting anything stop us. Although we lost in the championship of the SCC tournament, it was a good lesson for the team that we didn't want to feel that way again after a loss. [In the finals] we were on a mission. This game had been the only thing on my mind for the past year after coming up short the two previous trips. There was no stopping me and my teammates from taking the hardware home. And that's exactly what we did. There was no other team that I would have rather won a state championship with. I was with my brothers at that point in time and will forever remember the moments that I had with them. It wasn't just about being a team and playing basketball. It was about being a family. I can easily say that I love each and every one of those kids to this day and I know that everyone on the team feels the same way. Nothing will ever relate to that season. It was one for the ages and was the ride of a lifetime. I couldn't thank my coaches and teammates more for letting me graduate in a better way."

**Thomas Nolan '15** graduated from Fairfield University and played for the Stags' basketball team. He also played for a graduate year at Nyack College.

**NOTABLE:** The team finally won after appearing in four of the last five Class LL title games and had lost to St. Joseph in 2011, Hillhouse in 2013, and Bpt. Central in 2014 (lost in Class LL semis to Hillhouse in 2012). They beat Westhill 51-50 in Class LL championship one year after blowing 18-point second half lead and bowing to Central 76-73 in 2014, lone loss in 27-1 season. Prior to the 2015-16 season, Coach Leo Redgate's teams had gone to four of the last six Class LL finals; the other two seasons his teams were eliminated in the semifinals.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** In addition to Chukwu, who was the state MVP in 2014, other all-state players for Prep in recent years were two-time selection Terry Tarpey (2011, 2012), Tom Nolan (2015) and Chris Cummings (1980). Michael Myers Keitt (2006, 2007), Tavonne Reid (2007, 2008) and Tim Butala (2012, 2013) were two-time All-SCC honorees.

**NOLAN:** "My four-year run as a Prep basketball player was such an incredible journey. I was part of four exceptional teams and played alongside phenomenal players. The devastating loses in '13 and '14 fueled my determination to bring a state championship back to Fairfield Prep. In 2015, [we] battled our way back to the championship game. As we celebrated on the court with our incredible student body, from the crowd emerged many of my teammates from 2013 and 2014. This was a victory for Prep."



**Rich Kelly '15** graduated from Quinnipiac University in 2020. The basketball standout averaged 16.7 points and 4.5 assists per game his last season, and was named to the All-MAAC Second Team for the second season in a row. He made the league's All-Rookie Team as a freshman. Rich has committed to play for Boston College for a graduate year.



**KELLY:** "Our team consistently proved people wrong night in and night out and we did it with toughness and intellect. We weren't the biggest, and we weren't the fastest, but we knew how to win games, and that's what matters. I'll never forget the memories I made during the season, especially the moment that the final buzzer sounded and I realized that we had done it. It was the greatest feeling I had ever had, and when I look back on it, it feels like a dream."



**Rich Kelly '15** in the State Championship.



## 1942-1968

# Records, Rosters and Highlights

Written by Sandy Sulzycki, '64

### 1942-43 / Record: 6-10

**Coach:** Tom Murphy.

**Roster:** Ed Tickey, McDonough, Steve Moran, Russell Ayers, Bill Madden, Emil Garofalo, Tom Quinn, Frank Kennelly, Frank "Stumpy" Falanga, Tucky Fenton, Lou Pak, Lawrence McMahon, McDoniough, and John "Mickey" McBride.

**Noteworthy:** Sketchy records indicate that the bright spot on "a small but scrappy squad in Prep's first season was the play of sophomore Ed Tickey. The season concluded with a pair of wins over CYO teams. By the spring of 1943 Ayers and Moran were among a group of members of the Prep student body that were serving in the U.S. military during World War II.

### 1943-44 / Record: 7-6

**Coach:** Tom Murphy.

**Roster:** Captain Emil Garofalo, George Bisacca, Leo Broadbin, Ed Dailey, J. Duggan, Matt Forman, Bob Kravutske, Dave Murphy, J.E. Skarupa, Dick Shea, Marty Zdravec, Dick Greenwood, John Connolly, Fred Horvath, John Mozier, D.W. Murphy. **Noteworthy:** Prep defeated St. Basil's 32-25 in the fifth game of the season as "students, friends and parents thronged the stands," according to the *Heartstone*. It was the first game played at Prep's home court at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Bridgeport. In only its second season, Prep was invited to represent Connecticut in the highly regarded, eight-team Eastern States Catholic Invitational (ECI) in Newport, R.I., but lost in the first round. A total of 512 students, educated by a staff of 31 Jesuits, were squeezed into McCauliffe Hall, including a whopping 202 freshmen. Talented Ed Tickey, who starred as a sophomore, left midway through the football season for the Marine Corps. Tickey would later play for the famous ASA powerhouse Raybestos Cardinals and would marry Raybestos Brakettes Hall of Fame pitcher Bertha Ragan. ... Garofalo would also play for and then manage the Cardinals, and is a member of the Connecticut ASA Softball Hall of Fame and Prep's Hall of Fame (1980) and Athletic Hall of Fame (2019).

### 1944-45 / Record: 11-7

**Coach:** Tom Murphy.

**Roster:** Captain Emil Garofalo, George Bisacca, Leo Broadbin, John Connelly, Ed Dailey, Matt Forman, Fred Horvath, John "Mickey" McBride, Dick Shea, Walter Sullivan and manager Leo Gallagher. **Noteworthy:** Prep was again invited to the ECI in Newport, R.I., but suffered a first-round loss for the second straight year. The Jesuits sported the school's first "official" uniforms for the tournament thanks to Athletic Director Father John Barry. Highlighting the season was a decisive 47-25 win over district and state

powerhouse Central High of Bridgeport with the play of Garofalo, Dailey, McBride, Shea and Forman earning much of the credit. Garofalo, Forman, Shea, McBride and Dailey would be selected to Prep's All-Decade Basketball Team (1942-51).

### 1945-46 / Record: 16-8

**Coach:** Tom Murphy.

**Roster:** W. Bahner, George Bisacca, Leo Broadbin, Earl Cote, Ed Dailey, Matt Forman, E. Jurgielewicz, Tom Keeley, Fred Horvath, John "Mickey" McBride, Dick Shea, and R. Wright. Managers W. Spodnick and R. Steele. **Noteworthy:** This was Murphy's fourth and final season at the helm, finishing with an overall record of 39-31 (.557). Prep beat host De La Salle Academy 44-32 in the opening round of the ESCI in Newport, R.I. Prep lost its next two games to a pair of New York teams (Regis 37-27 and La Salle 42-30).

### 1946-47 / Record: 8-8

**Coach:** Fella Gintoff (1st year).

**Roster:** Captain Dave Roach, Piro, John Ryan, Maurice "Mousy" Fenton, Tom Keeley, Krussak, Jimmy Homa, Gaynor Brennan, Kendall Murphy and managers W. Spodnick and Schaefer. **Noteworthy:** Keeley, a smooth-handling guard, was the only returning letterman. The season's highlights included a 32-22 win over Stratford, which was Prep's first victory over the Scarlet and Gold in any sport, and a 47-43 decision over highly-rated Stamford.

### 1947-48 / Record: 6-7

**Coach:** Fella Gintoff.

**Roster:** Captain Kendall Murphy, George "Babe" Risley, Gaynor Brennan, Donald "Duck" Incerto, Joe Kraynick, Tom Keeley, John Maiocco, Paul "Bonesy" Connelly, Ed Zysk, Gene DeMalt, Pat Ryan and Billy Smith.

### 1948-49 / Record: 11-7

**Coach:** Fella Gintoff.

**Starters:** Captain John Maiocco, George "Babe" Risley, Ed Zysk, Jack O'Connell, and Art Dailey. Off the bench: R. Zanesky, D. Phelan, Fred Lane, Billy Smith, Bob Gerwien. **Noteworthy:** Prep beat defending CIAC champion Hillhouse 37-24 in a Fairfield University prelim game at the Armory (Bridgeport Brass Center) on Main Street. Future standouts O'Connell and Gerwien played key roles as sophomores.

### 1949-50 / Record: 12-2

**Coach:** Fella Gintoff.

**Starters:** Captain John Maiocco and Ed Dardani at guard, juniors Jack O'Connell and Bob Gerwien at forwards; and 6-foot-1 center George "Babe Risley". Off the bench:

Jim Stapleton, John Phelan, Billy Smith, Charlie LaChioma, Bob Toth and Gene DeMalt. **Noteworthy:** Risley, Maiocco, O'Connell and Gerwien were eventually named to Prep's All-Decade Basketball team (1942-51) while Risley was the only one to make the All-Decade teams in all three sports. A life-long resident of Fairfield, he was considered to be one of the finest all-around athletes, not only at Prep, but also from the Greater Bridgeport area. Risley would play one year of baseball at Holy Cross before signing a \$10,000 bonus contract with Detroit in 1952, spending most of his 14 years of pro ball as a third baseman in Triple A leagues. He died suddenly at the age of 63 in December of 1995 in Pompano Beach, Fla., according to the Florida Sun-Sentinel. The Jesuits edged Harding 62-61 in OT before a capacity crowd at the Presidents' gym for the school's first varsity basketball win over the East Siders.

### 1950-51 / Record: 11-4

**Coach:** Fella Gintoff.

**Starters:** Captain Jack O'Connell, Bob Gerwien at forward, center Dick Ramik and guards Ted Lovely, Fred Lane and Anthony "Swing" Incerto. Off the bench: Joe Fida, George McGoldrick, Shanley, Rohner and Gillis. **Noteworthy:** Practices and home games were now being conducted at the Armory on Main Street in Bridgeport. O'Connell finished third among district scorers (Bridgeport, Stratford, Fairfield) with 15 ppg and Gerwien sixth at 14.2. Both were All-District selections. Gerwien (1,062 points) and O'Connell (1,016) stayed together and continued their careers across campus at Fairfield University where they were among the first inductees into its Athletic Hall of Fame in 1982.

### 1951-52 / Record: 7-8

**Coaches:** Fella Gintoff, assistant George Bisacca.

**Roster:** Captain Dick Ramik, Joe Feda, Ed Brennan, Dick Noble, Joe Samsel, Dan Miko, Don Sullivan, George McGoldrick, Art Pavlucik, Bill Gilhuly, Copertino, Allan Thomson. **Noteworthy:** Ramik was the lone returning starter from a year ago. Bisacca joined the staff as Gintoff's assistant after the former Prep player graduated from Georgetown in only three years.

### 1952-53 / Record: 8-8

**Coach:** George Bisacca.

**Starters:** Captain Art Pavlucik, Joe Samsel, Bob Brennan, Dick Noble, Dan Miko. Off the bench: Vin Martin, Bill Gilhuly, Ron Liptak. **Noteworthy:** Bisacca was described in the *Hearthstone* as Prep's "new and zealous coach," managing to put together a .500 season despite losing Miko for five weeks

with an ankle injury in the opener. Martin was then lost for most of the season with a broken hand the second game. A team scoring record was set in a 71-36 win over Milford Prep as the ambidextrous Brennan and Pavlucik combined for 30 points. Liptak, a sophomore standout, made his presence felt with 18 points in a 61-48 loss to Stamford.

### 1953-54 / Record: 13-5

**Coach:** George Bisacca.

**Starters:** Co-captains Bill Gilhuly and Vin Martin, Ken Samu, Lou Viglione, Dolph D'Aulisa, Ron Liptak, John Bruzas. Off the bench: Tibor Guthin, George Bodie, Ron Grudzinski. D'Aulisa, who quarterbacked Prep's first undefeated and untied football team at 8-0 in the fall of 1953, equaled the school scoring record with 24 points in a season-ending 59-57 win over Stamford. ... A team scoring record was set for the second straight year in a 73-43 win against Bullard-Havens as Gilhuly led the way with 15 points.

### 1954-55 / Record: 14-6

**Coach:** George Bisacca.

**Starters:** Co-captains Ron Liptak and Lou Viglione, Mickey Buckmir, Ken Samu, Henry Rojas, Dolph D'Aulisa. Off the bench: Bob Ivanko, Ron Grudzinski, Charlie Cassano, Jim Keane, Rich Keane, Bob Valus, R. Liskoski, Ken Lisi. **Noteworthy:** Since Prep would still not be eligible for CIAC state tournament consideration until next season, it participated in the Eastern States Catholic Invitational in Newport, R.I., where Liptak made the All-Tournament team after leading the tourney in scoring. Liptak, who led the team in scoring and rebounding, broke the single-game scoring record four times during the course of the season (25 in a 57-53 loss to Stepinac, 27 in a 70-58 win over Harding, 30 in a 57-53 loss to CIAC tournament-bound Naugatuck and a 32 in the consolation game of the ESCI in Newport, R.I. Ron's older brother, John, '49, quarterbacked the 1948 football team and made the 1942-51 All-Decade Baseball team as a third baseman.

### 1955-56 / Record: 15-7

**Coach:** George Bisacca.

**Starters:** Co-captains Henry Rojas and Jim Keane, Rich Keane, Charlie Casano, Ken Lisi, Joe Sikorski. Off the bench: Jim "Red" Moran, Joe Dunn, Paul Mayers, Frank Robotti, Bob Valus. **Noteworthy:** This was the first time that Prep was eligible to participate in the CIAC tournament and the eighth-seeded Jesuits responded by winning their first two tourney games against Torrington and fourth-seed Norwalk 60-57 before losing in the semifinals to eventual champ Hartford Weaver 75-58 and future Providence and NBA standout (11 years) John Egan at the New Haven Arena where all tournament games were played. Under new qualifying rules the tournament field in all three classes was restructured to the top 16 schools on the basis of a point percentage system. Home games and practices were now conducted at the North End Boys Club on Madison Avenue in Bridgeport.





*Alumni Hall, a 2,479 seat multi-purpose facility on the campus of Fairfield University and Fairfield Prep, opened on Dec. 5, 1959, and became well-known for its raucous atmosphere. It's one of the earliest pre-stressed concrete structures of its kind ever attempted. Engineering magazines from the time noted that the eleven 160-foot pre-cast arches used in the building's construction were a record-breaking span for pre-cast arch ribs used in the United States.*

**1956-57 / Record:16-5**

**Coach:** George Bisacca.  
**Starters:** Co-captains Joe Sikorski and Joe Dunn, Dan Coombs, Jim "Red" Moran, Bob Valus, Steve Csontos. Off the bench: Paul Mayers, R. Zalman, Dick Lund, Len "Butch" Benedetto, R. Baker, Bill Mullaney. **Noteworthy:** Seventh-seeded Prep had its school record 12-game win streak snapped when it lost to 11th seed Sacred Heart of Waterbury 55-53 in the opening round of the CIAC tournament before a New Haven Arena crowd of 4,500. The Jesuits led by 12-at the half and by eight entering the fourth quarter. ... Dunn set a school record with 33 points in an impressive 72-54 victory over state powerhouse Wilbur Cross of New Haven in the final regular season game at the North End Boys Club. Dunn eclipsed the previous high of 32 set by Ron Liptak in the 1954-55 season. The 16 wins matched the record of coach Tom Murphy in 1945-46.

**1957-58 / Record: 9-14**

**Coach:** George Bisacca.  
**Roster:** Co-captains Steve Csontos, Bill Mullaney, J. Cambell, T. Green, Dean Kramer, Tony Barletto, T. Ryan, S. "Gunner" Leskovsky, Joe Troiano, R. Murphy, Tony Gorman, Pat Jordan, W. French. **Noteworthy:** Coach Bisacca, who would come to be affectionately known as the "Father of Fairfield Prep and University Basketball" concluded his six-years at the helm with a 75-45 overall record (.625) as he moved across campus to take over the basketball fortunes at Fairfield University.

**1958-59 / Record: 8-10**

**Coach:** Vin Burns.  
**Roster:** Captain Joe Troiano, Dean Kramer, Ed Rowe, Ray "Sparky" Ulatowski, S. "Gunner" Leskovsky, Rocky Inglis, R. Cleary, Tony Barletto, J. "Doc" Noonan, Larry O'Toole, Frank Giordano, Dick Robinson. **Noteworthy:** Vin Burns took over as head coach with Tom Roach assisting. While Troiano earned All-District honors, the Jesuits were hurt by the absence of husky center "Doc" Noonan. Alumni Hall was dedicated on Dec. 5, 1959, enabling Fairfield Prep and Fairfield University to practice and play their games on campus for the first time. The opening of Interstate-95 south of the campus greatly enhanced the students' commute.

**1959-60 / Record:10-11**

**Coaches:** Vin Burns; assistant and junior varsity coach, Bob Sylvester.  
**Roster:** Captain Rocco "Rocky" Inglis, Pete Frigon, Donald "Ducky" Moran, Gerry Habansky, Ed McCarthy, Frank Grywalski, Frank Giordano, Dick Robinson, and freshman Jim Lyddy.

**1960-61 / Record:15-7**

**Coaches:** Vin Burns; assistant and junior varsity coach, Bob Sylvester  
**Roster:** Captain Frank Grywalski, Pete Frigon, Jim Lyddy, Brian Murphy, Donald "Ducky" Moran, Ed McCarthy, George Pond, Ray "Sparky" Ulatowski, Neal Rist, Sean Lavin, Ray Mosko. **Noteworthy:** Prep tied Bassick for the Metropolitan Bridgeport Interscholastic Athletic Conference (MBIAC) title and defeated Bassick and Andrew Warde in the early rounds of the CIAC Class LL tournament before losing to talented Wilbur Cross. Murphy, who would become a long-time member of the Pittsburgh Pirates organization as an infielder and scout, led the team in scoring at 18 ppg and was a first team Bridgeport Herald All-District team as was Grywalski, joining top vote-getter Bob Kinney, ND-Bridgeport; Ricky Grich, Milford; and Ed Lomax, Bassick. Ulatowski, a senior, and Lyddy, a sophomore, were second team selections. Grywalski, McCarthy, Frigon, Moran and Mosko were members of the 1960-61 state championship 10-0 football team. Moran, a versatile three-sport athlete, also held down the centerfield spot while batting cleanup for Coach Joe Brosley. Riordan, a pitcher; Pond, a catcher, also played three-sports. This was Burns' third and final season as head coach with a 32-29 overall record (.524).

**1961-62-- Record:18-5**

**Coaches:** Bob Sylvester; assistant and junior varsity coach, Harry Hyra.  
**Starters:** Guards Jim Lyddy and Shaun Lavin, forwards Neal Rist and Fred Luminoso and center Bill Lavin. Off the bench: Frank Donnarummo, Ray Mahon, Kevin McCarthy, Sandy Sulzycy, George Pond, Larry Carroll, Ray Mosko, Allan Reed, Bob Riordan. **Noteworthy:** Sylvester began his illustrious 17-year tenure with

a school-record 18 wins, another co-MBIAC championship, this time with Harding, and a stunning 57-54 upset of top-rated Bristol Eastern in the opening round of the CIAC Class LL tournament, rallying from a 12-point deficit entering the fourth quarter before losing to Notre Dame-West Haven 63-60 at the UConn Field House. Lyddy was selected first team All-District while Lavin was a second team selection, both as juniors. Former Ludlowe High and Fairfield University standout Harry Hyra's junior varsity team compiled an 18-2 record with Ed Matulionis and Bob Wyatt leading the way in the frontcourt and John Barney and Stan Czulewicz in the backcourt.

**1962-63 / Record: 18-6**

**Coach:** Bob Sylvester.  
**Starters:** Co-captains Jim Lyddy and Bill Lavin, Larry Carroll, John Barney, Sandy Sulzycy. Off the bench: Sandy See, Lou Falango, Jim Collins, Stan Czulewicz, Phil Murphy, Bob Wyatt, Howie Benedict, Ed Matulionis, Ed Heffern, Bob Curley. **Noteworthy:** The Jesuits were the last remaining team from the region in the CIAC state tournament as they became only the second in school history to reach the Class A CIAC semifinals with wins over Croft of Waterbury 79-63, Notre Dame-West Haven 82-72, and fourth-ranked Staples 63-59 before losing to second seed and eventual champion Hillhouse 89-69 at the UConn Field House as the New Haven powerhouse broke open a close game with a 16-2 spurt to open the final quarter. Prep was eighth-seeded while MBIAC rival Notre Dame of Bridgeport was the No. 1 tourney seed with an 18-1 record. Lyddy averaged nearly 20 ppg and became the school's first All-State basketball player, closing out his stellar four-year career with 1,308 points while Lavin set a school rebounding record, averaging 18 ppg.

**1963-64 / Record:10-10**

**Coaches:** Bob Sylvester, assistant Joe Siskorski.  
**Roster:** Captain Sandy Sulzycy, John Barney, Stan and Drew Czulewicz, Jim Collins, Bob Curley, Ed Heffern, Bill Turey, Mark Valentine, Bob Wyatt, Frank Yahner, Lou Falango and freshman Tom Lyddy. **Noteworthy:** Highlighting a disappointing .500 season were impressive upsets on the road over Notre Dame-Bridgeport 71-70 in OT and Harding 73-63. The Presidents were ranked fifth in state at the time. Prep was seeded 31st and last in the CIAC Class A tourney pairings, but upset 16th seed Enfield 68-48 in the preliminary round before losing to Bristol Eastern.

**1964-65 / Record: 14-5**

**Coaches:** Bob Sylvester, assistant Joe Sikorski.  
**Roster:** Co-captains Jim Collins and Stan Czulewicz, Ed Wargo, Bob Curley, Ed Heffern, Tom Lyddy, Drew Czulewicz, Bill Turey, Mark Valentine, Ralph Doerr, Bill Kosturko, Julie Triber, Bill McCarthy. **Noteworthy:** Prep finished second in the MBIAC behind Notre Dame-Bridgeport (a perfect 18-0 league

record). Lanky center Jim Collins finished second in MBIAC scoring and was a defensive standout in earning first team All-District honors along with Stan Czulewicz, who was one of the more consistent scorers despite facing much taller opponents from his forward position.

**1965-66 / Record: 10-8**

**Coaches:** Bob Sylvester; Joe Sikorski assistant.  
**Roster:** Co-captains Mark Valentine and Drew Czulewicz, Ed Wargo, Pat Foley, Ralph Doerr, Bill Kosturko, Joe Nagy, Hal Lonergan, Bill McCarthy, Bob Cholko, Tom Bukowski, John Sulzycy. **Noteworthy:** Despite the loss of Czulewicz to a football injury and injuries to Doerr and McCarthy, the highlight of the season was an upset of previously undefeated Notre Dame-Bridgeport. Prep lost in the first round of the CIAC tournament to a talented Darien team that was led by future UConn standout Bob Staack, who also became a successful college coach, mainly at Xavier and Wake Forest. Valentine earned first team All-MBIAC honors and went on to play three years at Clark.

**1966-67 / Record: 17-1 regular season, 21-2 overall**

**Coach:** Bob Sylvester  
**Starters:** Junior co-captains Pat Foley and Bob Cholko, Jim Fitzsimmons, Tom Bukowski, Tom Lyddy. Off the bench: Hal Smith, J. Kohut, T. Hamilton, John Yahner, Jim Naveken, John Sulzycy, C. Anderson. **Noteworthy:** The Jesuits set a record for most wins (21) and earned the school's first outright MBIAC title. The lone regular-season loss came against Harding 54-53 at Alumni Hall before the Jesuits prevailed in the rematch in overtime while a pair of wins were posted over Notre Dame-Bridgeport. The Jesuits earned a No.1 seed in the CIAC Class L tournament, advancing to the finals before losing to Sacred Heart of Waterbury 70-57. It was the first of three straight appearances in the Class L championship game.

**1967-68 / Record: 21-2**

**Coach:** Bob Sylvester.  
**Roster:** Co-Captains Pat Foley and Bob Cholko, John Sulzycy, Wally Halas, Jim Naveken, Jim Fitzsimmons, Hal Smith, Tom Bukowski. **Noteworthy:** Prep defended its MBIAC title and defeated Bassick, Harding 96-62, and Waterford in the semis before losing to East Catholic 75-69 in the CIAC Class L championship game. Fitzsimmons, a junior, earned the first of his two Class L All-State honors. Fitzsimmons (17.8 ppg), Foley (14.2), Bukowski (12.9) and Cholko (12.2) averaged double figures while Butkowski (230) and Fitzsimmons (209) were the leading rebounders. Smith was the "sixth-man" and was compared to John "Hondo" Havlicek of the Boston Celtics. Sylvester reached the 100-win plateau, improving to 111-39 (.740) in his first seven seasons.





## Last Call for Alumni Hall

On Feb. 20, two dozen former Fairfield Prep basketball players were welcomed back to Alumni Hall for the Jesuits final regular season home game in the facility. The alumni in attendance came from classes as recent as 2015 and as far back as 1945 (**Emil Garofalo '45** and **Jack O'Connell '51** are pictured bottom center). During half time, Principal Dr. Tommy de Quesada greeted each alumnus on the George Bisacca Court, accompanied by cheers from the students, parents, family and friends gathered in the stands.

Additionally, a "Last Call at Alumni Hall" farewell reception hosted by Fairfield University in conjunction with Fairfield Prep took place on March 7 in Alumni Hall. Remarks were given by Fairfield University President, Mark R. Nemec, PhD, and Rev. Charles H. Allen, S.J., Fairfield U. chaplain and special assistant to the President, who also led a special prayer. New construction of Alumni Hall will begin in the coming year.

**Wally Halas '69**, VP for Fairfield University Advancement and member of Prep's State Championship '68-'69 Basketball Team







Teacher and Coach Matt Sather '93 delivers passionate speech at Winter Pep Rally

## Tapping into Prep Spirit

Let's talk about why we're here. My favorite spot at Fairfield Prep is the first floor of Xavier Hall, walking by the trophy cases, seeing all the artifacts of the great championship seasons, the legends of Prep sports. I love to look at them. But there's a truth that we've got to wrap our minds around, there's a reason those artifacts are behind glass. And when you go in the gym and look up, there's a reason those banners with digits on them are just out of reach.

The reason is those memories don't belong to us. They belong to the people who lived them, the players who won those

*"There's something that you're not going to find behind glass or hanging up on a wall. It's the spirit that was behind those championships that's not in our memory – that's here in this gym right now."*



championships, the coaches who coached those games, and the fans who cheered them on.

Which brings us back to why we're here today. Those great memories are in the past. They're part of Prep's great tradition. But there's something that's not in the past. There's something that you're not going to find behind glass or hanging up on a wall. It's the spirit that was behind those championships that's not in our memory – that's here in this gym right now.

Gentlemen that spirit doesn't go behind glass. It doesn't end when the games end. It started in 1942, and it's passed down class after class after class. An energy that will never say

die! So what are we doing here today? It's a pep rally. An opportunity for us as a school, man to man, every single one of you, to tap into that spirit. To remind ourselves how important it is. I can guarantee a couple of things. Every single one of our sports athletes is working every single day to fill that class trophy case and hang four more digits on those banners, guaranteed. But here's the thing. It's only going to happen if we call down the ghosts of spirit to fill up our hearts, to fill up our throats, to show up, to inspire those athletes on.

There's only one way to call those ghosts. You gotta get LOUD!





# FAREWELL TO A LEGEND

By Gregory H. Marshall '73, Special Assistant to the President

*The caravan slowly made its meandering way through campus, as the parked cars were waved into forward motion by Department of Public Safety officers. The sheer number of cars made a constant flow impossible, despite officers' best efforts to keep the bumper-to-bumper mass of automobiles moving. Beyond the sheer volume of traffic, the main reason for the bottlenecks was what lay at the heart of the project: The Fairfield University and Fairfield Prep Community's send-off to Rev. Charles H. Allen, S.J., who after decades of service to the Church, to the Society of Jesus, and to the University and the Prep, was heading off to his well-deserved retirement.*



*It was a beautiful spring day in early May, and the countless well-wishers had come to campus to say farewell to their beloved Father Charlie. It was not supposed to be done this way: A traditional testimonial dinner befitting one of Father Allen's stature and length of service had been planned for months, but due to the COVID-19 pandemic this event was postponed indefinitely, with the hope of rescheduling it at a hoped-and-prayed-for future date when the coronavirus crisis would be behind us.*

I first met Father Charles Allen, S.J. on February 5, 1979, when I was an applicant for a position as a Spanish teacher at Fairfield Prep. (He and then-principal Father Jim Bowler, S.J. interviewed me that day.) At the end of the interview Father Allen explained, in his characteristically blunt style, that one of his main tasks in the interview was to assess the degree to which I could project my voice in a loud and commanding tone, or else I would never make it as a classroom teacher. I'm happy to say that I passed his test, and to this day I continue to feel relieved that Father Allen did not measure my skills as a public speaker that day by using his own formidable abilities as his standard for judging me.

Like many other Jesuit priests of his generation, Father Allen entered the Society of Jesus at the age of seventeen. He seems born to the role of Jesuit priest: confident, eloquent, articulate, blessed with an intelligence that allows him to speak at length and in depth on just about any subject imaginable, Father Allen has borne the reputation of homilist and speaker par excellence. And, of course, we are all quite familiar with his prime rules of public speaking: whatever it is you're speaking on, keep it brief and limit it to three points!

*But we could not let Father Allen go without a send-off of some sort, could we? Think of all the lives he's touched through the years throughout Fairfield County and beyond. The countless engaging homilies, speeches, lessons and talks. The way in which the public face of Fairfield Prep and Fairfield University has been blessed and enhanced by his presentation of it to all. We could not just let Charlie go.*





Is it really possible to give a complete or even adequate accounting of Father Allen's contributions to the Prep and University community during his more than four decades of dedicated service? Officially, the record shows that he served as an administrator at Prep in the late 1970s and early 1980s, charged with, among other things, admissions. He also served as Prep's head of school for four years (1985-1989) under the title of headmaster. In the latter stages of his career he served as the University president's executive assistant.



How to quantify the positive impact of his decades of speaking engagements, liturgical celebrations, and informal get-togethers? Truly he has been an ambassador for Prep, for the University, for the Jesuit Order and for the grace of Our Lord and his works in the world.

*When each vehicle finally arrived at the focal point, drivers and passengers slowed to shout to Father Allen their love for him; many had prepared signs conveying the same sentiment. Instead of sitting at the honoree's table in the planned lavish setting, he sat in a golf cart at the side of the road. Wearing a jacket bearing emblems of his position as Chaplain to the Fairfield Fire Department, Father Allen beamed and waved as car after car came by, and its passengers paused, shouted their love, and then went on their way.*

*Closed since the nationwide shutdown had commenced in mid-March, campus was temporarily reopened for a brief time on May 5, 2020, so that a small-scale drive-by parade, now a staple mode of celebration in the pandemic world, could be held to honor Father Allen. However, due to social media, the word had spread, and nearly six hundred vehicles showed up, clogging major access routes to campus as well as the campus itself!*

His numerous titles do little to convey the full measure of Father's contributions, however. On a personal note and as he has done for countless Prep and University alumni, Father Allen presided at my wedding, held in 1987 at the old Loyola Chapel before the construction of Egan Chapel. Thirty-two years later, Father Allen presided at my daughter's wedding; he was so thrilled to once again do the honors at a Marshall wedding! Father Allen's willingness to celebrate Mass commemorating milestones in the lives of members of the Prep and University, and to do so with his characteristic verve and eloquence, is an example of what is meant by "the full measure" of his contributions.

Fairfield Prep will go on now, strong and vibrant, into a future made all the more secure for the institution in no small part as a result of the energy and love expended through more than forty years by Rev. Charles Allen, S.J. We will miss him indeed, and we will always love and admire him.

*We will bring this brief tribute to a close by engaging in an exercise of which Father Allen is himself fond of doing in so many of his homilies and speeches: word etymology, in this case of the word 'legend,' aptly applied to Father Allen, and ultimately derived from the Latin gerundive of the verb lego, 'I read.' Thus, a legend, roughly translated, is ultimately something or someone 'that must be read about.' Yes, Father Allen, as future generations read about Fairfield Prep, they will be reading of your legacy, and thus will be reading about you, a true legend of Fairfield Prep's illustrious history. Ite incendite, Father Allen! Ad majorem Dei gloriam!*



# PREP ALUMNI

Submit your news and photos easily online at [www.FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG/ALUMNIUPDATE](http://www.FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG/ALUMNIUPDATE).

Email us at [development@fairfieldprep.org](mailto:development@fairfieldprep.org) or mail to Fairfield Prep Alumni Office, 1073 North Benson Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824.

## JOSEPH FIORE '78 LEADS SCIENCE TEAM AT NOAA



**Joseph V. Fiore Jr. '78** has accepted a new position at NOAA - National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NESDIS - National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service, OSPO - Office of Satellite Products and Operations, SPSD - Satellite Products and

Services Division as the GOES-R (Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite-R series) User Services Coordinator/Lead at NOAA Center for Weather and Climate Prediction (NCWCP) in College Park, MD and NASA Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, MD. Joe will lead the GOES-R User Services team in coordinating user services and data usage for the very large variety of GOES-R users from federal and international governments, to state and local governments, universities, and private industry customers in all aspects of the use of GOES data and services (current (GOES-16 GOES-17 and future GOES-T, GEO-XO).



## SATHER '88 NAMED CT HOCKEY HERO

"Gotta Love CT Hockey" named **Dr. John Sather '88, P'22** a CT Hockey Hero. Dr. Sather is an Assistant Professor of Emergency Medicine at the Yale School of Medicine and works in the Emergency Department at Yale New Haven Hospital. He serves on the front lines, taking care of COVID-19 patients and setting up critical care pathways for patients in the Emergency Department.

Dr. Sather played hockey at Fairfield Prep, Yale University, and professionally in Europe prior to his career in medicine. He has coached at all levels in the Yale Youth Hockey program and enjoys following his children and nieces around the rinks.

## O'CONNOR '88 NAMED PRESIDENT OF YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH

**Christopher O'Connor '88** will become the new president of Yale New Haven Health effective October 5, 2020. Chris, who has been the executive vice president and chief operating officer for YNHHS since 2012, served as the president and CEO of the Hospital of Saint Raphael prior to its integration with Yale New Haven Hospital that year.



## DR. YOHURU WILLIAMS NAMED FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF THE RACIAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE

**Dr. Yohuru Williams '89**, former dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at University of St. Thomas (Minnesota), accepted the position of Distinguished University Chair, Professor and Founding Director of the Racial Justice Initiative effective July 1. Dr. Williams will have a joint appointment in the Department of History and the School of Law. A noted scholar of the civil rights and black power movement, an education activist and frequent national commentator, Dr. Williams is an important voice on the topics of race and social justice. This new initiative creates a platform for him to accelerate that work with the full support of the university.



## STANKYE '12 COMMISSIONED

After graduating from George Washington University, **Tyler D. Stankye '12** was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Tyler was assigned to the prestigious 1st Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood, TX, and completed deployments to Kuwait and South Korea. After returning from South Korea earlier this year, he returned to Fort Hood, where he was promoted to Captain. Tyler is now attending advanced schooling at Fort Benning, GA. Following training, he will return to his command in Texas.



## COTTO FEATURED AS ALBERTUS "FEARLESS FALCON"

Albertus Magnus Athletics featured **Matt Cotto '16** as a "Fearless Falcon." As a 4-year soccer player, Matt earned Academic All-Conference and the Falcon Pride Award. On campus, Matt got involved in multiple activities, including head of Albertus Magnus student section (The Nest), announcer and social media manager of Men's Baseball, and participation with Unified Sports and Intramural Sports. The history major said he chose Albertus because of the small community environment and the opportunity to further his athletic career on the field.



## CRIST '16 GRADUATES FROM AIR FORCE ACADEMY



**George Crist '16** graduated from the United States Air Force Academy in April and is now a commissioned 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force. Congratulations!



# United4PREP

## Campaign raises \$585,000 to help Prep families

### We're speechless!

Your generosity in supporting the **United 4 PREP campaign** was extraordinary, and we extend our **deepest, heartfelt gratitude** to the Fairfield Prep Community. In sixty days from May 1 to June 30, alumni, families and friends exhibited an unprecedented response, contributing **\$585,000** of support through the Fairfield Prep Fund, COVID-19 relief to families, as well as other Restricted Gifts that support Prep's mission of Jesuit education. The focus of the campaign was to support increases in financial aid to help existing students

continue their Prep education and help our incoming Prep students.

"During these uncertain times, the Prep community astoundingly stepped up to propel us to one of our most successful overall fundraising years," said Rob Cottle, VP for Advancement. "I am grateful for their support of our young men and for Prep's future!"

The Prep Community has shown once again its amazing generosity — even in the face of a global pandemic.

**Thank you for your care and support. Go Prep!**

### In Memoriam

Carole Acampora on March 31, 2020. She was the grandmother of **William McCormack '23**.

John L. Altieri Sr. on April 8, 2020. He was the father of **John L. Altieri Jr. '64** and **Peter L. Altieri '73**. He was the grandfather of **Christopher R. Altieri '95**, **Kieran G. Altieri '98**, **Kevin J. Altieri '00**, **Matthew O. Altieri '01**, and **John S. Altieri '10**. He was the great grandfather of **Caylb E. Reeves '19** and **Joseph M. Altieri '22**.

Gail Baptist on March 9, 2020. She was the mother of **Robert Baptist '82**.

**Stephen J. Balint '56** on May 16, 2020.

John Barston on April 8, 2020. He was the father of **Mike Barston (Admissions Counselor)** and the grandfather of **Peter J. Barston '12**.

**Robert J. Berta '57** on July 8, 2020.

**Vincent J. Bitel Jr. '65** on August 4, 2020.

**Joseph M. Bochniak '50** on May 19, 2020. He was the father of **David J. Bocniak '84**.

**Timothy M. Burns '70** on August 4, 2020.

Pat Callies on April 26, 2020. She was the mother of **Ryan Callies '08**.

**Joseph A. Chrzanowski '59** on June 8, 2019.

Philip Coffey on April 10, 2020. He was the grandfather of **Kevin P. Gallagher '17** and **Philip J. Gallagher '21**.

Margaret Confoy. She was the mother in law of **Peter M. Harding '87** and the grandmother of **Peter G. Harding '22**.

**John R. Considine '68** on June 24, 2020.

**John P. Coughlin '63** on April 21, 2020.

**Thomas J. Cummings '60** on June 16, 2020. He was the father of **Thomas M. Cummings '84**.

**Joseph D'Apice '57** on May 6, 2020. He was the father of **Anthony J. D'Apice '87**.

**Anthony S. Esposito '63** on March 8, 2020.

**John T. Fallet '70** on January 29, 2020.

**Ronald P. Fattibene '49** on April 26, 2020. He was the brother of the late **Anthony J. Fattibene '47**.

Veronica J. Gannon on April 8, 2020. She was the grandmother of **Ryan Gannon '15**, **Owen Gannon '19** and **Liam Tierney '22**.

Eileen Gremse on April 4, 2020. She was the grandmother of **Jack Gremse '21**.

**Frederick T. Farrace '59** on April 24, 2020.

Phyllis Farace on May 21, 2020. She was the mother of **David J. Farace '78** and **Richard Farace '80**.

Margaret Jones on August 8, 2020. She was the mother in law of **Robert G. Ford Jr. (Science Department)** and the grandmother of **Daniel T. Ford '03** and **Andrew R. Ford '05**.

Thomas P. Griffen on July 30, 2020. He was the father of **Geoffrey T. Griffen '10**.

**Philip June '72** on August 15, 2020. He was the uncle of **Joseph P. Auger '05**.

**Joseph Q. Koletsky '55** on August 8, 2020.

Christa Landini on May 28, 2020. She was the mother of **Joseph A. Landini '07**, the sister of **Carl A. Massaro Jr. '73**, **Craig A. Massaro '78**, **Christopher A. Massaro '82**, and **Cal A. Massaro '84**. She was the aunt of **Brandon Massaro '09**, **Christopher Massaro Jr '18**, **Daniel Massaro '19**, and **Matthew Massaro '19**.

**J. Norman LeBlanc Sr. '51** on March 6, 2020. He was the father of **J. Norman LeBlanc '76** and **A. Lawrence LeBlanc '78**.

Lawrence G. Leyden on April 20, 2020. He was the father of **Lawrence G. Leyden '83** and **Francis B. Leyden '84**. He was the grandfather of **Samuel W. Britt '16**.

Thomas Marron on June 16, 2020. He was the father of **Thomas W. Marron '84**, **David T. Marron '86** and the uncle of **Jeremiah P. Marron '91**.

Lyn Marshall on April 23, 2020. He was the father-in-law of **A. John P. Mancini '82**. He was the grandfather of **John P.**

**Mancini '18**, **Christopher T. Mancini '20**, and **Matthew M. Mancini '23**.

Vincent Massey Sr. on February 23, 2020. He was the father in law of **Joseph Homza '77** and grandfather of **Joseph Homza '07**, **Vincent Massey '96**, **Peter Massey '99**, and **Patrick Massey '05**

Patricia Migliore on May 29, 2020. She was the mother of **Patrick T. Migliore '12**.

Jemele Nader Mitrano on April 12, 2020. She was the grandmother of **James D. Shannon '16** and **Aidan W. Shannon '21**.

**Frank J. Mizak Jr. '55** on May 17, 2020.

**Brian J. Newall '83** on August 19, 2020. He was the brother of **Kevin T. Newall '80** and **Terrence P. Newall '87**. He was the nephew of **Rev. Walter R. Pelletier, S.J. '47** (Retired Prep Teacher).

**Joseph P. Nucera '48** on August 8, 2020. He was the brother of **Philip S. Nucera '52**.

Jewell Palcak on May 26, 2020. She was the wife of **Edward A. Palcak Sr. '52**.

**Nicholas J. Panaro '69** on June 19, 2020.

**Richard W. Papp '51** on May 27, 2020.

William P. Petrino Sr. on March 13, 2020. He was the father of **William P. Petrino Jr. '84** and the grandfather of **Jake W. Petrino '20**, **Tyler W. Petrino '20** and **Christopher J. Hill '21**.

**John F. Piro '48** on April 17, 2020. He was the father of **John F. Piro Jr. '76**. He was the grandfather of **Frank J. Piro '08** and **Nicholas T. Piro '11**.

**William E. Prendergast '50** on April 21, 2019.

Gail Ratchford on July 27, 2020. She was the wife of **Roger L. Ratchford '51** (Retired teacher and Prep Golf coach).

**Anthony L. Reda '69** on February 11, 2020.

**John H. Redgate '54** on August 12, 2020. He was the brother of the late **William T. Redgate '59** and **Thomas J. Redgate '62**; and relative to many Prep alumni.

**William T. Redgate II '59** on June 14, 2020. He was the brother of **John H. Redgate '54** and **Thomas J. Redgate '62**. He was the

father of **Philip W. Redgate '84**, **Timothy J. Redgate '86**, **William T. Redgate III '88**, and **Daniel P. Redgate '96**.

Elizabeth (Betty) Sulzycki Renzulli on September 17, 2020. She was the wife of the late **Dr. Joseph R. Renzulli '50** and the mother of **Jeffrey J. Renzulli '84** and **David M. Renzulli '86**, the sister of **Alexander A. (Sandy) Sulzycki '64**, aunt to **Marc A. Sulzycki '93**, and cousin of **Michael M. Sulzycki '63**, **John B. Sulzycki '68** and the late **Mark W. Sulzycki '69**.

**Andrew J. Rusnak '59** on March 31, 2020. **William C. Ryan '47** on May 8, 2020.

**Walter T. Shanley '53** on May 8, 2020. He was the father of **Walter T. Shanley Jr. '81** and the uncle of **David B. Evans '14**.

**Thomas M. Sheehan '89** on July 21, 2020. He was the brother of **James M. Sheehan '89**.

**Robert R. Stonoha '65** on July 12, 2019.

**Jay Sutay '81** on July 22, 2020.

Madeline Swanson on August 21, 2020. She was the mother-in-law of **David J. Simonetti '82** and the grandmother of **Zachary D. Simonetti '20**.

**Michael Sweeney '75** on March 28, 2020.

**Stephen J. Takach '64** on March 26, 2020. He was the father of **Jeffrey S. Takach '02**.

**David W. Tschanz '70** on August 23, 2020.

Judith Velky on June 6, 2020. She was the mother of **Joseph Velky Jr. '80**.

John Verel on April 2, 2020. He was the father of **Patrick J. Verel '92**.

**William F. Verrilli '69** on July 25, 2020.

Mark Vuono on March 28, 2020. He was the father of **Andrew M. Vuono '99**.

**Donald L. Watterworth '50** on June 9, 2020.

Robert Weinzimmer on April 11, 2020. He was the father of **Daniel R. Weinzimmer '00** and **Jesse A. Weinzimmer '04**.

**John "Jack" C. Welch '50** on March 14, 2020. He was the brother of the late **Robert C. Welch '48**.

### In Memoriam



# Weddings



## Eason Wedding

**Peter Eason '08** married Hailey Murray on October 19, 2019 in Sonoma, CA. Prep alumni in attendance pictured left to right included: **Andrew Davenport '08** (Groomsman), **Pat Fortunato '08**, **Connor Murray '19** (Groomsman), **Peter Eason '08** (Groom), **Brandon Weir '08**, **Adam Bruton '08** (Best Man); and **Mike Lacerenza '08** (Groomsman).



## Faustini Wedding

**Sante Faustini III '04** married **Tara Leotti** on November 16, 2019, at St. Peter's Roman Catholic Church in the financial district of Manhattan, New York City. The reception was held at the Four Seasons Hotel Downtown New York. Pictured standing from left to right **Michael LaPerch '04**, **Ross Nazzaro '04**, **Kevin Russell '04**, **Brandon Ukehaxhaj '24**, **Michael Ripley '04**, **Ryan Perone '04**, **John Leahy '04**, **Sante Faustini III '04**, **Tara (Leotti) Faustini**, **Michael Csontos '84**, **Ben Ukehaxhaj '21**, **Brian Cullinane '04**. (kneeling) **Andrew Urquhart '04**, and **Christopher Nazaruk '04**.



## Olson Wedding

**Zachary Olson '08** married Sarah Crum on June 15, 2019 at Dahlgren Chapel at Georgetown University, where the couple met. After the wedding, the two honeymooned in Croatia and currently live in CT. Pictured from left to right are: **Matthew Marshall '08**, **Matthew Wendin '09**, **Sarah Crum**, **Zachary Olson '08** and **Robert DiCostanzo '08**.

# Births



**Justin E. Adams '08** and his wife Pamela welcomed their first child, baby boy Tomás Edward Adams on May 17, 2020.



**Vincent S. Cotto '10** and his wife Susana welcomed their first child, baby boy Lorenzo Santino Cotto on March 31st, 2020 Prep Class of 2038!



**Joseph Bogardus '05** (left) and **Stephen Giambalvo '02** (right) introduce their sons, and future Prepsters, Wyatt Bogardus '38 and Keller Giambalvo '38 at a safe social distance.

# Faculty/Staff

## In Memoriam

John L. Altieri Sr. on April 8, 2020. He was the father of **John L. Altieri Jr. '64** and **Peter L. Altieri '73**. He was the grandfather of **Christopher R. Aliteri '95**, **Kevin J. Altieri '00** (Director of Admissions), **Matthew O. Altieri '01**, and **John S. Altieri '10**. He was the great grandfather of **Calyb E. Reeves '19** and **Joseph M. Altieri '22**.

John Barston on April 8, 2020. He was the father of **Mike Barston** (Admissions Counselor) and the grandfather of **Peter J. Barston '12**.

Margaret Jones on August 8, 2020. She was the mother in law of **Robert G. Ford Jr. (Science Department)** and the grandmother of **Daniel T. Ford '03** and **Andrew R. Ford '05**.

Emery Kelemen on April 2, 2020. He was the grandfather of **Amy Ardito** (Mathematics Department).

Elizabeth Lombardi on April 8, 2020. She was the mother-in-law of **Jessica Lombardi** (English Department).

**Elizabeth (Betty) Renzulli** on September 17, 2020. Betty worked in the Development Office for 21 years. She was the wife of the late **Dr. Joseph R. Renzulli '50** and the mother of **Jeffrey J. Renzulli '84** and **David M. Renzulli '86**.

## Births

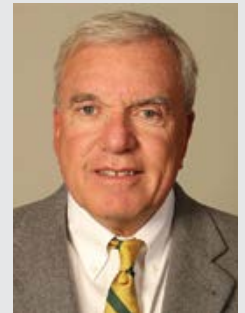
**Colleen Adams, P'08, '11** (Director of Communications) and her husband Dave welcomed first grandson Tomás Edward Adams on May 17, 2020 (photo bottom left).



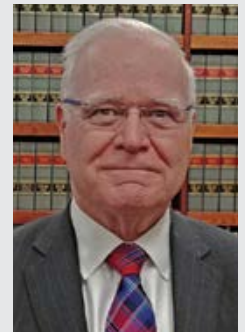
**Colleen Keltos** (Dean of Operations) and her husband Jim welcomed second grandson Liam Patrick Kehoe on May 28, 2020.

## George DeLeone and Arthur Hadden Earn National Football Foundation Honors

**George DeLeone '66** was honored with the New Haven Chapter of the National Football Foundation *Distinguished American Award*, recognizing his remarkable career coaching college and professional football for over a half century. George shared his passion for football with young men, helping form top athletes of integrity. His life-long dedication and service above self is exemplary.



Superior Court Judge **Arthur Hadden '69** received the New Haven Chapter of the National Football Foundation *Official Recognition Award* for his 30 years as an active member of the New Haven Football Foundation Officials Association. His service as a Superior Court Judge, as well as his tremendous civic participation and volunteerism in the community, demonstrate he is a true "Man for Others."





## KALLAUGHER NAMED A FINALIST FOR 2020 PULITZER PRIZE AWARD

### Kevin "Kal" Kallaugher '73

was one of three finalists for a Journalism Pulitzer Prize in Editorial Cartooning. This is the second time he was named a finalist, the first being in 2015. Kallaugher is the editorial cartoonist for The Economist magazine of London, The Baltimore Sun and the online newsletter Counterpoint. He has published more than 8,000 cartoons and his work has appeared in more than 100 publications worldwide. In 2013, Kal returned to Prep for a live cartooning demonstration



before the Prep students, faculty and staff. In September 2020, he led a fascinating Zoom webinar for the entire student body where he demonstrated his talent and related how Fairfield Prep impacted his life. Learn more: [kaltoons.com](http://kaltoons.com).



## FORMER PREP TEACHER GIVES LECTURE ON THE HISTORY OF THE JESUITS AND SLAVERY

**Andrew Davenport '08** delivered a series of talks to Fairfield Prep students on the Jesuits and their history with slavery in February. A former social studies teacher at Prep and current Ph.D. student at Georgetown University, Mr. Davenport spoke about how Jesuits in the 19th century in Maryland and Louisiana were slave owners.

This history is part of Georgetown's "Slavery, History, Memory, and Reconciliation Project," which began in 2016 as a joint endeavor between the Jesuits of the USA Central and Southern Province and St. Louis University.

While on campus, Mr. Davenport took part in an Open Visions Forum at the Quick Center alongside Gayle Jessup White, Community Relations Director at Monticello in Virginia. Mr. Davenport and Ms. Jessup White are both distant cousins and descendants of Thomas Jefferson's enslaved families.

## STEPHEN KELLOGG '94 DELIVERS VIDEO MESSAGE TO CLASS OF 2020



On May 5, professional musician **Stephen Kellogg '94** performed a rendition of his song "Last Man Standing," which he personalized for the Class of 2020.

During the Prep Community Day, the senior class was treated to a surprise video greeting from Kellogg, a Grammy-nominated singer and songwriter. Kellogg said. "...I believe that you will have deeper and more profound character because of what you're going through."

*Stephen Kellogg is an American singer and songwriter who has released 17 albums and performed more than 2,000 concerts in 21 countries.*

# PREP TODAY

The Magazine for  
Fairfield College Preparatory School

## DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI OFFICE

**Robert Cottle**  
Vice President for  
Advancement

**Colleen Adams, P'08, '11**  
Director of Communications  
Editor, "Prep Today"

**Kathy Norell**  
Director of Alumni Relations  
& Events

**Ronald DeRosa**  
Digital Communications  
Manager

**Michael Connelly '83**  
Leadership Gifts Officer

**Maura Carey**  
Coordinator - Data &  
Gift Processing

**Stacie D'Eramo, P'13**  
Gift Officer, Fairfield Prep  
Fund

**Shannon Ralbovsky**  
Operations Assistant

**Julie Pollard, P'15**  
Prep Parents Fund Director

## SUBMIT INFORMATION AND PHOTOS

[www.fairfieldprep.org/alumniupdate](http://www.fairfieldprep.org/alumniupdate)  
or email [cadams@fairfieldprep.org](mailto:cadams@fairfieldprep.org)

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Fairfield College Preparatory School, and is available  
on our website: [www.fairfieldprep.org](http://www.fairfieldprep.org).

## DESIGN

Margaret Galeano

## PHOTOGRAPHY & IMAGES

Colleen Adams, P'08, '11	Harbor Oak Media
Michael Budny Photography	John Hanrahan, P'98
Michael Connelly '83	Kathy Norell
Tom Curran '05	Julie Pollard, P'15
Bob Ford Jr., P'03, '05	Laura St. John Photography
Tommy de Quesada	Seidler Photography
Ronald DeRosa	Robert Taylor Photography
Anthony Dotolo	Sean Whalen
Elliott Gualtiere, P'21, '24	Ashley Woodworth
Hearst Media	Plus contributed photos

# PREP ONLINE

For more detail visit our websites:



The official Fairfield Prep website  
**FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG**



The latest on Prep athletics  
**JESUITPRIDE.COM**

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Fairfield Prep Alumni Network  
Fairfield Prep Parent Network

## ADDITIONS TO OUR SERVICE ACADEMY GRADUATES

'62 Walter Skowronski USMA  
'72 John Cal USMA  
'73 Gerard Scholz USMA



# JAFFE'S LEGACY AT PREP: History and Swimming

By DON HARRISON

Reprinted in cooperation with the *Fairfield County Catholic*

When Bruce Jaffe was a senior at a new Connecticut high school, Joel Barlow of Redding, he was voted Most Likely to Succeed. The year was 1962.

That award would come as no surprise to generations of young men who came under Jaffe's tutelage at Fairfield Prep, where he taught history for 50 years and coached the Jesuits' swimming and diving team for 46 seasons. He also coached Prep's soccer team for 33 seasons.

Jaffe, who bravely endured Crohn's disease for much of his adult life, died at age 76 on Sept. 13, 2020, and an untold number of former students, friends and admirers are mourning his passing.

"He was larger than life," said **Rick Hutchinson '87, P'22**, who swam for Prep in the mid-1980s and succeeded his mentor as head coach in 2013. "Bruce taught us that team success was more important than individual glory. In a sport that many on the outside view as an individual pursuit, Bruce Jaffe proved that high school swimming and diving provided the ultimate opportunity for teamwork."

There was no better example of that philosophy than Jaffe's final season, 2011-12, when Fairfield Prep swept all 12 of its individual meets and captured the Southern Connecticut

Conference regular-season title, CIAC Class LL championship and the State Open. All three of the Jesuits' state titles and two State Open victories were achieved under Jaffe.

**Chuck Berke '70**, who became the first of more than four dozen Prep swimmers to earn All-American recognition under Jaffe, had this to say about his late coach:

"He was a most wonderfully talented guy with a great sense of humor. He always kept us focused on being gentlemen. He took an interest in us as young men. Some of the things he taught me took a long time to settle in... but they did."

Berke, who was undefeated in the 100-yard butterfly at Prep, was inducted into the



“Bruce taught us that team success was more important than individual glory. In a sport that many on the outside view as an individual pursuit, Bruce Jaffe proved that high school swimming and diving provided the ultimate opportunity for teamwork.”

— **Rick Hutchinson '87, P'22**, Guidance Counselor and Head Swimming Coach

school's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2019. He also distinguished himself at the University of Maryland, where he won the Atlantic Coast Conference championship and set a school record in the 200-yard butterfly. "I swam against Mark Spitz in the 1971 (NCAA) nationals, but he won going away," he chuckled.

Bruce Norman Jaffe majored in history and chemistry at Yale (Class of 1966) and underwent training there in the ROTC. After obtaining a medical discharge, he joined the Fairfield College Preparatory School faculty that fall.

When he succeeded Dave Speno as head coach in 1967, the Jesuits' modest swimming and diving program was just seven years old. Home meets were held in Bridgeport at the

Cardinal Shehan Center's four-lane, 20-yard pool. (Prep swimmers and divers now utilize Fairfield University's recently renovated Leslie C. Quick RecPlex's eight-lane, 25-meter pool, which opened in 1979.) Nobody could have envisioned the young history teacher in the suspenders becoming a living legend in Connecticut high school aquatics.

Indeed, Jaffe was the driving force behind Prep's climb to swimming supremacy in the Nutmeg State – in the beginning, quite literally. He often piloted the "Red Rocket" school bus to the team's meets, practice sites, railroad station or wherever else the team needed to be.

Hutchinson, who also serves as a guidance counselor at his alma mater, speaks of Jaffe's



# A LOOK BACK



1960s



1970s



1980s



1990s



2000s



2010s

desire to make swimming fun for team members. "In a sport where you basically go back and forth and back and forth; endlessly, Bruce always had time for levity," he explained. "No practice would be complete without the playful banter between grueling sets."

One of Jaffe's most recent Prep All-Americans, 2010 freestyler **Ed Becker**, admittedly "came to Prep to be on the swim team."

"He was the best motivator I had during my swim career, from youth competition through college," stated Becker, who went on to captain the Yale swimmers and earn a degree from the prestigious Ivy League institution.

Away from the pool and the classroom, Jaffe was a visible presence. He served as Protestant chaplain at Prep, and cooked and served the annual Christmas dinner and Martin Luther King Jr. supper at the Thomas Merton House of Hospitality in Bridgeport. Until the onset of his recent illness a few years ago, he was an active member of the Jesse Lee Methodist Church in Easton, where he served as lay leader, sang in the choir and frequently preached when the pastor was on leave.

He was a lifelong bachelor until age 58, when he met and wed his wife Carla; also acquiring a daughter, Romy, whom he cherished.

*Donations may be made in Jaffe's name to the National Kidney Foundation or the Bruce Jaffe Scholarship Fund online at [www.fairfieldprep.org/give](http://www.fairfieldprep.org/give) or by mail to Fairfield College Preparatory School, 1073 North Benson Rd Fairfield, CT 06824. For assistance in making a donation please contact [development@fairfieldprep.org](mailto:development@fairfieldprep.org) or call 203-254-4237 (Please reference in memory of Bruce N. Jaffe in the notes when making your donation).*





Fairfield College  
Preparatory School

**A Jesuit, Catholic School of Excellence**

1073 North Benson Road  
Fairfield, CT 06824-5157

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**Login to our Online Alumni Community**

**www.FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG/ALUMNI**

Your username is your first initial last name grad year.

(For example, John Doe Class of 1991 is **jd91**)

Your password is the code printed above your name.

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# AMDG



## Awareness

Awareness of your own health, symptoms, and hand hygiene



## Masks

Masks are required on campus



## Distance

Distancing is required to the extent that campus spaces allow



## Greater Good

Focus on the greater good by protecting the most medically fragile in our community

## LET'S TRY AGAIN!

**SAT., OCTOBER 24, 2020**

**VIRTUAL AUCTION**

Student Life Center

**www.FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG/AUCTION**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021**

**GOLF OUTING**

**www.FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG/GOLFOUTING**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 2021**

**ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME**

**www.FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG/AHOF**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 5, 2021**

**CLASS REUNIONS**

'45, '46, '50, '51, '55, '56, '60, '61, '65, '66, '75, '76, '80, '81, '85, '86, '90, '91, '95, '96, '00, '01, '05, '06, '10, '11, '15 '16

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