

THE 2018-19 ANNUAL REPORT OF GIFTS AND HONOR ROLL OF DONORS

DeMATHA

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RED & BLUE REVIEW

FALL 2019



Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars



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ON THE COVER

In October, the DeMatha community held a Walk-a-Thon and raised over \$2,300 for the Casa Hogar Sonrisa De Angeles (Smiling Angels Children's Home), an orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico, that serves 40-50 children. Read more about the service trip to Tijuana this past summer on Page 21. Also, Bro. Josh professed his Solemn Vows in a special ceremony in September. Read more about that story on Page 20.



DeMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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Red & Blue Review

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PRESIDENT

Dr. Daniel J. McMahon '76
PRINCIPAL

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Alumni and Friends of DeMatha,

Most of us immediately admire a person who demonstrates what it means to believe in someone, in an ideal or a religious point of view. We admire their determination and their decision to make it work and give all of their effort to be the person we believe God is calling us to be. We discover this in all vocations and all professions.

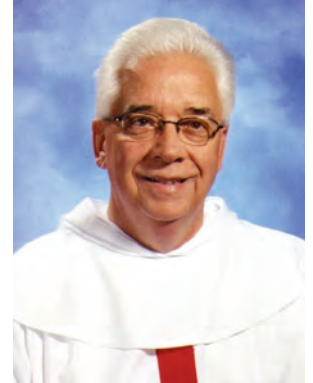
If we are blessed to meet a husband and wife who truly demonstrate the beauty and sanctity of married consecrated love, we know right away that we are in the presence of a great man and woman, who know that every word and every day must be devoted to foster that bond of love publicly proclaimed on their wedding day. It is awesome!

If we are blessed to meet a friend who lives out their profession in education, in medicine, industry or in ministry, we become recipients of their dedication and commitment to ideals which influence us daily. It is refreshing!

Here at DeMatha, I believe we have continued a tradition where we create a setting so that students of various skills, hopes and aspirations can come together, work as brothers, and emerge at the end of four years ready to be that awesome presence in the community, in deep relationship with others, and always willing to serve those who are less fortunate than we are. It is inspiring!

We believe in that unique DeMatha mission. The honored names included in this financial report validate that many, many other people believe in the mission of the school and are willing to support it with their prayers, their enthusiasm, their words and their financial donations.

We are grateful to everyone who has chosen to perpetuate an opportunity where young men can come together, learn together and emerge as brothers who are "Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars."



A handwritten signature of Fr. James R. Day, O.S.S.T. in black ink.

Fr. James R. Day, O.S.S.T.
PRESIDENT



Doug Tschiffelly (49 years)



Peggy Stawinski (32 years)



Janet McGrath (27 years)

A Farewell To Longtime Faculty and Staff

There are always some departures by faculty and staff members at the end of any school year. But in June, we said farewell to several key faculty/staff members who had served DeMatha for a very long time.

They were: Doug Tschiffelly (49 years of service); Peggy Stawinski (32 years), Janet McGrath (27 years), Gwen Marbury (24 years), Ed Potskowski (24 years), and Christine Bertram (21 years).

We wish them all well in their future endeavors and thank them for all they did for DeMatha in their years of service.



Gwen Marbury (24 years)



Ed Potskowski (24 years)



Christine Bertram (21 years)

Zach Misleh's Legacy Endures In Tijuana Service Trip

Sometimes beautiful moments can emerge in the wake of tragedy.

With Director of Campus Ministry Ms. Erin Bright coordinating behind-the-scenes, former and current DeMatha students, Principal Dr. Daniel McMahon '76, faculty member Mr. David Gang '05, and the family of the late Zachary Misleh '16, spent a week in June with Esperanza International in Tijuana, Mexico.

"Zach used to go there when he was a student at DeMatha and in college," Mr. Gang said. "He would bring DeMatha friends, friends outside of DeMatha with him. So his parents wanted to plan this kind of a trip with Zach's classmates in memory of him."

In the blazing Mexican heat, the group worked on a variety of tasks, one of which included building the floor of a house's foundation by filling it in with dirt and then pouring concrete on top. Due to the weight of the concrete, the process took longer than anticipated.

"You had to do it with five gallon buckets," Dr. McMahon said. "And you can't fill the entire bucket with concrete because not everyone could carry that much weight. It requires a lot of goodwill between everyone wanting to get the job done as a team."

The group lived in a nearby compound and were fed traditional Mexican lunches by local families. They made their own dinner in the evenings.

"It forced the kids out of their comfort zones in the amount of work, the kind of work and how they had to live, on top of being in a completely different country," Dr. McMahon said.

In addition to working outside, they visited a men's shelter called Casa de Migrante,



which temporarily houses individuals who were deported from the United States. The DeMatha group also visited an orphanage about an hour outside of Tijuana in a more rural part of the country.

"It's run by a religious Sister who is trying to do everything she can to help the 40 kids there learn and grow. It was a really powerful experience for us and for our students to interact with the kids," Mr. Gang said.

Senior Joseph Gomes added that visiting these places in person was an eye-opening experience that gave him an appreciation for the things he has in his life. Joseph credits DeMatha for allowing him the opportunity to see these kinds of situations up close.

"One of the pillars of DeMatha is Service," Joseph said. "So DeMatha allowing us to go out in the world and to be the first group from the school to go to Tijuana, it sets a precedent of this is what we've started."

Even in the midst of these serious events,

there was also time for fun! The DeMatha group played kickball with the children at the orphanage and sang karaoke with a college group from a parish in Washington State who stayed at the same compound. Gomes and Zeke Fernandez '16 even taught everyone at the compound a DeMatha Choral Prayer one morning before work.

Zachary may be gone, but his spirit and legacy lives on in the Tijuana service trip. Dr. McMahon believed that Zachary was the kind of student who subtly provided lessons for his teachers.

"One of the things I've admired about him was even when he was completely dedicated on an individual task, he always had the bigger picture in mind," Dr. McMahon said. "This trip, in particular, speaks to the heart of the Trinitarian mission of building relationships. The Trinitarians exist at the intersection where freedom and justice are honored. The humanity of working with families who sacrifice to feed you is inspiring. It was a great extension of the Trinitarian mission."

The goal now is to expand the Tijuana Service Trip for years to come and to continue shining the legacy of Zachary Misleh. Joseph said that this trip is a must for any DeMatha student.

"If you have the time and are able to go, do it," Joseph said. "You will not regret it."

Bro. Josh Professes His Solemn

A special celebration was held at DeMatha on September 27 as Campus Minister Bro. Joshua Warshak O.S.S.T., professed his Solemn Vows in front of the entire DeMatha community. This marked an important milestone in Bro. Josh's decade-long journey to become a member of the Trinitarian Order, which will be finalized when he is ordained as a priest in June.

There was a growing sense of excitement flowing through the campus and into the LT (SEAL) Brendan Looney '99 Convocation Center as the building filled with students, faculty and staff, members of the DeMatha Board of Directors, media members, Trinitarians, and Bro. Josh's family who traveled from his home state of Texas.

After the reading of the Gospel, Fr. Albert Anuszewski, O.S.S.T., Minister Provincial, called upon Bro. Josh to declare what it was he asked of God in preparation of his Solemn Vows.

"I ask for the mercy of God, the poverty of the Order, the fellowship of the brothers and perseverance until death in the service of the Lord in this Order, dedicated to the Most Holy Trinity," Bro. Josh replied.



Vows in Special Ceremony

Following the homily and a short period for silent meditation, Fr. Albert questioned Bro. Josh as part of the Official Examination on his readiness to dedicate himself to God and to seek perfect charity, according to the Rule and Constitution of the Trinitarian Order. Once the dialogue had been completed, it was the student body who issued a strong round of applause that made its way into every corner of the Convocation Center. The applause lasted for several minutes as Bro. Josh beamed with pride on the altar and his family from the front row.

It was then time for Bro. Josh to read aloud the solemn profession of vows as a final affirmation to dedicate himself to God:

“With my whole heart I give myself to this religious community, and I promise poverty, chastity and obedience to the Most Holy Trinity until death, and I pledge my service to be done in a spirit of humility.”

Concluding this portion of the ceremony was the Prayer of Solemn Blessing.

“We are all brothers in Christ through the grace of Baptism,” Fr. Albert said. “May God’s goodness, the author and origin of com-

munion and love, unite us one day with the saints of our Order and all the faithful in heaven.”

Fr. Albert and the other Solemn Professed members of the Order gave the sign of peace to the newly professed Bro. Josh, which is custom to the Trinitarian Order. Another round of applause then erupted from the DeMatha community and it was a very fitting moment. Bro. Josh has been serving at DeMatha for three years and has been passionate about working with DeMatha students, through retreats and classroom instruction, to help them become lifelong Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars.

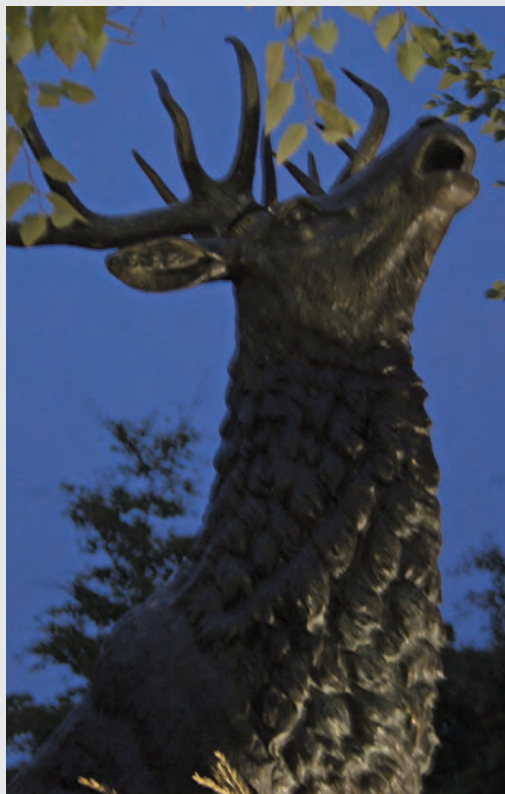
Bro. Josh later sent a message out to the DeMatha community and showed gratitude towards DeMatha Catholic High School.

“It is important to me that each student understands that DeMatha is not only here for you to be educated,” Bro. Josh said. “But where, like me, you receive encouragement from people who have your best interest at heart. I am honored that so many Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars were present to witness this important event in my life.”



STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS

Father James received this letter after graduation last June from the relative of a DeMatha graduate. The writer is a nun and (obviously) part of a religious community, who attended Commencement with her sister, the grandmother of a new alum:



Dear Father James,

I am so late in congratulating you, the faculty, the staff and your graduates on the most impressive and uplifting graduation ceremony that I and my sister have ever attended. Thank you and to the members of your religious community who have formed and provided to the Catholic community and the communities that they will serve, the DeMatha man.

I have shared the Commencement program with the sisters with whom I live and with my friends. I have also told them about your leadership and presentations to the men of the class of 2019. We have read and re-read the words of the Rudyard Kipling poem and the unique, meaningful words of the DeMatha alma mater.

The sisters have given me two instructions (as is our custom!): One, frame those for your nephew to take to college. You can be comfortable that he is ready to be a leader now at his college; and each sister, to a person, has reminded me that I must write and tell you how impressive DeMatha is to us and to them.

May your work, in the words of your alma mater ('steeped in a tradition of a cross red and blue... built on a promise that challenges never') AND never end!!

Like every year, **Bob Wilson '72** was at Stag Night last November with his two sons **Rob '00** and Steven (and son-in-law Lee). Steven attended DeMatha as a student for two years but did not graduate. He was not the first, nor the last, to not finish, and yes, although he was not an official graduate, we know Steven was a Stag at heart. After all, besides his dad and brother, his uncles **Mike '70** and **Joe '72 Lauer**, are also graduates.

Anyway, two weeks after Stag Night, Steven, at the age of 33, was murdered while showing a model home in Anne Arundel County. He left behind his wife, Jessica, and two young daughters, Valerie and Caroline. It turns out that Jessica told Steven just the night before his death that she was pregnant with their third child. Steven was beyond thrilled. Suffice to say, we would like to share with the DeMatha community that Steven Bernard Wilson, Jr. was born on August 3rd. All are healthy and doing well.

In talking recently with Steven's mother, Lisa (Lauer Wilson), the suspect in the case, who was arrested not long after the murder, pleaded guilty on Aug. 22. Sentencing will take place on Oct. 23. As the family has done many times previously, Lisa reiterated their appreciation for the local law enforcement community for solving the crime and the support their family has received. The family has also been overwhelmed by the outpouring of support from the local community. A Go Fund Me page was established months ago to provide private education for Steven's children, something Steven was emphatic about before his death.



Steven Wilson, pictured here with Josh Wilson '03, at last November's Stag Night.

STORIES FROM THE EXPRESS

We all cope in many ways with tragedy, which has a way of coming at us when we least expect. We first heard about the birth of Steven Jr., from **Chris Connolly '70** (longtime friend of the Lauer/Wilson family) who wrote, "Having a 'Junior' just 8.5 months after your murder is a wonderful thing to come out of such a hideous act of violence." We couldn't agree more. Furthermore, who knows, maybe 14 years from now there will be another Wilson/Lauer at DeMatha.

Dr. Kevin Hanley '68 celebrated his birthday earlier this year. Kevin's three sons are DeMatha graduates: **Chris '97**, **Colin '01**, and **Ryan '08**. Kevin and his wife Alice (and the rest of the Hanley family) are great supporters of the school. Kevin has been honored as a Distinguished Alumnus and as a recipient of the St. John de Matha Medal for his support of the school.

Also, he recently was honored at the Ray Smith Golf Classic with the Pete Alafoginis '61 Memorial Award for his support of that event. The Hanley Science Wing at DeMatha was



Kevin Hanley '68, fourth from the left, with his wife Alice at the unveiling of the Hanley Science Wing several years ago.

named in part for the generosity extended to the school by the family.

Anyway, on Facebook, Kevin wrote the following:

"Can't imagine what kind of man I would be today if I had never been a Stag. But I do know one thing, the answer wouldn't be

'better'. My association with DeMatha is now in its second 50 years and it brings me pride, humility, love, knowledge, compassion, joy, and many other emotions every day. The most uplifting, though, is the knowledge that I am part of a brotherhood like no other. One DeMatha! GO STAGS!"



A SPEECH AT A RECENT DEMATHA EVENT:

"Good evening, my name is **Gabriel Franco** and I am part of the most recent graduating class of 2019. In the fall, I will be attending a small school called Georgetown University on a full ride, while majoring in biology for my pre-med track and minoring in finance

I know it's only been two months since I last walked these halls as a student, waiting for the days to count down to my graduation. However, as I come in now it still feels like yesterday that I was saying thank you to the faculty and staff for all they had done for me. Saying goodbye to my good friends in the parking lot too. Reminiscing on those times I think of how grateful I am to have been able to attend DeMatha. It has, without a doubt, shaped me into a faith-filled gentleman and scholar.

There were of course lows, but the highs definitely outweighed them. The support at this school is always available – whether it be in the form of your favorite English teacher or your classmate in 6th period pre-calculus – and that really showed in my senior year.

As you may know, applying for college is such a fun and wonderful activity with all the supplements and having to balance school work in between. But, in all seriousness, the English department helped a lot with pushing us to be on time with college deadlines and checking our papers. I even had the chance to bug Mr. (Paul) Clark multiple times to check each of my essays, and, keep in mind, I applied to 19 schools. Even with all that, he still accepted my request to be among those recommending for school.

The hospitality did not end there because whenever I was stressed out from all of this college drama, I held shelter inside my college counselors' rooms. Even though they were already busy with all the papers packed up in there, they still had time to give me advice and give me peace of mind.

These times definitely were a few highlights of my year, but it does not express the plethora of amazing people and moments this school houses. I'm grateful to have been a part of it and can't wait for what the future holds. Thank you."

DeMATHA REUNIONS

It was great to once again see so many Stags back on campus this fall for our Reunions!
Make sure to follow DeMATHA on social media and check the school website to stay up to date on future reunions!
The 2014 Reunion photo is on page 29 in Alma Matters.



DeMATHA REUNIONS





James Webb '55 flew in from Washington State to come to the Joint Reunion for the Classes of 1949-1968 in May. He won the award for the alum who traveled the furthest to attend the event.

60's

Don Foran '63 shot a hole-in-one at the Glenn Dale Golf Club, on Aug. 31 just one day before the club closed for good.

Tom Taylor '68 ran into **Joe Quinn '58** during a two-week river cruise traveling to Sweden, Russia, Norway and Denmark in September.

80's

Mike Hibbs '80 was named head basketball coach of Canterbury HS in Florida back in August.

Patrick Smith '83 has a new job as a Program Analyst at FEMA.

Andre Jones '87 recently started a new position as a member of the PenFed Credit Union Digital Team.

Jerry Sanford '87 is the new Vice President of Business Development at the Alexandria Economic Development Partnership.

Richard Wiltison '87 is serving as the Deputy Command Historian for the U.S. Army Combat Capabilities Development Command Proving Ground in Aberdeen, MD.

Dave Gvozdaz '88 recently graduated from the U.S. Naval War College with an M.A. in National Security and Strategic Studies and has received a promotion within the Defense Contract Management Agency to start a new position as Deputy Commander for the agency's contract management office in Salt Lake City.

Jason Beaulieu '89 won the Club Championship (1st Flight) at Glenn Dale Golf Club in August.

90's

Bryce Beville '90 is the manager of player engagement with the NY Jets. He joined **Dennard Wilson '00** who is the current Jets' defensive backs coach.

Terry Jacobs '90 was promoted in May to Senior Design Manager at *Game & Fish Magazine*.

Dr. Ray Solano '90 was a guest host on Fox5 DC's show 'Like It Or Not' in September.

Sean Suntum '91 and his company Golden Rule Moving, which he serves as President, celebrated its fifth anniversary in September.

Julian Ayers '92 was selected to serve as Command Sergeant Major of The United States Army Band.

Daniel Cooper '92 is working for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a Project Manager in Sacramento, CA.



Dave Slomkowski '86, the founder of Athletes Serving Athletes (ASA), participated with several of his athletes in the Annapolis 10-Miler Race in August.

Enrique C. Jograj, Jr. '94 recently received his 25-year Length of Service Certificate from his employer, Washington Headquarters Services.

Sean O'Connor '94, former DM varsity baseball head coach, is the new head baseball coach for The Community College of Baltimore County, Essex.

Brian Westbook '97 was featured in a *Philadelphia Business Journal* about becoming a financial investor following his NFL career.

00's

Marco Hardie '00, Head of Industry at Google, gave a talk in September to Google sales leaders in Chicago on leadership. He spoke about how coaching HS football at DeMatha informed how he leads his team at Google.

Cameron Wake '00, linebacker for the Tennessee Titans, has surpassed 100 sacks in his storied NFL career.

Will Welch '00 is an IT Specialist for Support Services at NIH Center for Information Technologies.

Steve Looney '01 joined the Harvard men's lacrosse team as an Operations Assistant.

Matt O'Hare '01, a member of the Grand Knight College Park Knights of Columbus 2809, performed with the Charm City marching band for the .1K fundraiser for the Special Olympics in September.

Justin Loughlin '02 and his wife Katie welcomed their daughter, Everley Kate, on Aug. 8. Justin is the son of DM staff member Lori.

Andrew Walther '03 and his wife Tracey welcomed their daughter, Edie Van, on Aug. 1. Andrew



Freshman **Joel Ayers** and his father **Julian '92** in front of the Stag Statue in August.

is a Research Analyst with Millennium Management as well as serving as a Player Analytics Consultant with the Premier Lacrosse League.

Jimmy Buckley '05, DDS, MD, recently completed Navy Officer Developmental School (ODS) in Newport, RI and was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the US Navy. He will serve in the Dental Corps as a Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeon.

Dustin Hill '05 is an Account Manager for Admiral Security Services. He is the Security Director for Gallery Place-Chinatown.

Hakeem Bilal '06 is officially working as an Assistant Professor of Trombone Performance at the West Virginia University School of Music.

John O'Brien '06 and his wife Jessica welcomed their son, Jack, in September. John's father is **Tim '77**.

Bill Seidleck '06 recently started a judicial clerkship with the Honorable Jay S. Bybee of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Bill had graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in 2017 and then clerked at the U.S. Court of Federal Claims followed by working as an associate in a Washington DC law firm. Prior to law school, Bill was an aide at the U.S. Supreme Court.

Michael Berman '08 is now with the law firm of Alper Schreyer Poe, LLC where he handles personal injury, workers' compensation, and

criminal defense cases. He had previously spent two years as a prosecutor with the Anne Arundel County State's Attorney's Office

Kyle Evans '08 is working as a Records and Registration Compliance Clerk for the U.S. House of Representatives.

Evan Kee '08 accepted a new position with The Apprentice School/Newport News Shipbuilding as the Associate Athletic Director of Finance & Facilities.

Brendan Ponton '08 covered Hurricane Dorian, for Norfolk's WTKR, in Nags Head, NC.

Chris Cook '09 was recently hired as an associate at Miles & Stockbridge to join its Washington, DC office and focus on commercial finance transactions.

Cody Pearson '09 is now Tournament Director/Director of Soccer Development with Elite Tournaments in NY.

10's

Sean Davis, Jr. '10 works as a Policy Advocate at Color of Tech.

Jasim Mobaidin '10 was recently promoted to Senior Global Account Manager for Innovid in London.

Victor Oladipo '10 is rumored to be a potential celebrity contestant on the FOX show 'The Masked Singer' this fall.

Joe Alexander '11 recently accepted a position as Director of Strength and Conditioning at Lycoming College in Williamsport, PA, and will be responsible for all athletic teams.

Michael Fazio '11, a former DM intern, is the new Athletic Director at St. Francis International School in Silver Spring, MD.

Ben Warnquist '11 won the stroke-play portion of the 39th U.S. Mid-Amateur Golf Championship in September.



Dennis Duffy, father of **Matt '97**, standing w Matt's "Open Heart" sculpture across from DM and in at least 10 other cities nationwide.



Duane '92 and his son Darian Simpkins at Freshmen Opening Experience in August.

Paul Bailey '12 and the Paul Bailey Jazz Sextet performed at the Art Blakey Centennial Tribute this past August at Blues Alley in Washington, DC.

Troye Bullock '12 was featured in a *Forbes Magazine* article about him co-founding an organization called 'GOOD Projects' designed to help keep children safe from gun violence.

Jason Dillon '12 has been promoted to Assurance Senior at Ernst and Young (EY).

John Boyd '14 works as a B2B Sales Executive at AT&T.

Sean Doyle '14 joined the men's lacrosse coaching staff at Robert Morris University, his alma mater.

Matt Morton '14 was official recognized as a new Prince George's County Police Officer in a recent ceremony with Police Chief **Hank Stawinski '86**.

Brandon Davis '15 works as a Health Benefits Officer f

the American Foreign Service Protective Association.

Jibril Mitchell '15 has his own clothing line called 'GUILTYUSA.'

Jon Monroe '15 was installed recently as the new Midwestern Regional Assistant Vice President for the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.'s Board of Directors.

Nadir Muhammad '15 recently completed a paid summer internship in NAVAIR's NREIP Program. He's finishing his last year at Morgan State University, majoring in Electrical Engineering.

Robby Napoli '15 participated in the Professional Choir Institute back in August in Aspen, CO. The institute was hosted by the professional choir Seraphic Fire and the Aspen Music Festival.

Christian Golczynski '16 worked this past summer as an Automation Intern with PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC).

Shawn Turonis '16 spent this summer as an intern at GreenSweep Landscaping under the tutelage of **Kyle '03** and **Jeff '99 Narsavage**. Shawn is a Senior at Salisbury University.

Reese Madsen '16, a senior at Clarkson University, participated in a national mathematics conference this summer in Ohio.

Ricky Koehler '16 and **Tommy Kane '17** recently completed an internship with **Frank Smollon '93** and United Energy Product in Crofton this summer. Both worked in the Estimating and Project Management Departments. Ricky attends High Point University and Tommy attends Randolph-Macon College, where Frank graduated in 1997.



Cameron Neely '15 graduated in August (Cum Laude) from Wentworth Institute of Technology in Boston, MA, and has accepted a position as Project Engineer at DPR Construction in Tampa, FL.

Will Pyne '16 spent his second summer interning with the Manhattan Construction Group in Washington, DC.

Nicolas Robinson '16 is working as a Marketing Representative for Nationwide Construction and Energy.

John Freeman '18 announced in August that he was taking a year break from LaSalle University to play soccer in Europe.

Christian Gomez '18 is a Resident Assistant at Northeastern University.

Naim Muhammad '18, cornerback for West Virginia University Football, was named this past spring semester to the Big 12 Commissioner's Honor Roll and the Garrett Ford (DM '64) Academic Honor Roll!

Harrison Sturges '19 toured this summer with the National School of Rock All-Stars. One of the venues he performed at was the legendary Austin City Limits in Austin, TX.



Rob '01 and Melissa Landini welcome their daughter and future Seton Roadrunner Brinley Mary Landini into the world in August.



The summer **Red and Blue Meetup Event** for alumni was held at Blackwall Hitch in Annapolis in August and had a great turnout! Thanks to **Matt Miller '08** and **Andrew Nugent '11** for organizing these Meetups.



Some members of the **Class of 2014** gathered for a 5 year reunion in August.

DeMATHA BUSINESS BOOK

This Business Book was created to provide a platform to further strengthen the connection of our alumni. Terry! Monroe, class of '06, said it best, "There's no reason why a DeMatha graduate should have to go to any other company because everyone here does something that someone can benefit from. We can always keep it in the family." The DeMatha Business Book aims to do just that! This Business Book is strictly for our alumni and is free of charge. However, we are asking for a suggested \$100 donation, which will go towards the Alumni Association Fund, which supports and funds the many alumni activities the school hosts each year. www.alumni.dematha.org

Chris Vadala Remembered Through DeMatha Music

The DeMatha music community mourned in January when Chris Vadala passed away at the age of 70 after a 10-year battle with cancer. Chris was a private saxophone instructor at DeMatha for 30 years and also the Director of Jazz Studies at the University of Maryland for over 25 years.

“He was one of the best teachers I’ve known at any level,” Director of DeMatha Bands Emeritus Mr. John Mitchell said. “He had an infectious positive attitude and always had a big smile on his face.”

Both John and current Director of Bands Jim Roper said that whether it was his instructions during the week or leading students at the Summer Jazz Workshop, which he was a founding member, Chris was always successful at reaching young musicians and keeping them engaged with an interest in music.

“He was comfortable working with young players as he was with professionals,” Jim said. “Different personalities at different levels, but all of the students that he taught were just fascinated by him as a teacher and loved him as a teacher.”

Chris had an impeccable reputation as a performer before he arrived at DeMatha as he graduated from the Eastman School of Music and later received his master’s degree from Connecticut College. He then honed his skills as a jazz musician as a long-time member of the internationally recognized Chuck Mangione Quartet. Throughout his professional music career, Chris performed with musical legends such as B.B. King, Diana Ross, Aretha Franklin and Stevie Wonder, among others. He also contributed music to film and television scores in ‘Criminal Minds,’ ‘Zombieland’ and ‘Life After Beth,’ among others.

“For somebody who had his reputation internationally, he was probably one of the more down to earth people I knew,” Jim said.

John added that he didn’t believe a lot of the students realized the kind of pedigree and stature that Chris had throughout the music world.

“But he (Chris) was able to inspire them (the students) to do great things,” John said.

An internationally recognized musician, but also a dedicated teacher who Jim said always encouraged his students to play to the best of their potential.



“Even kids who weren’t going to make music a career after graduation, they’d work hard for Chris because they didn’t want to disappoint him,” Jim said.

To preserve Chris’ legacy and honor his memory, the DeMatha Instrumental Music Department is raising funds for the naming rights to a practice room in the Brendan McCarthy ’64 Center, the same room he taught private lessons for nine years. (The other practice rooms, which are named, were dedicated through contributions.)

If you are interested in donating, you can write a check to ‘DeMatha Catholic High School’ or head to the ‘Online Giving’ page of the DeMatha website and make an online contribution. Under ‘Donation Designation’ where a field says ‘In Memory Of’, add in the field ‘Chris Vadala.’ Close to half of the \$15K goal has been raised so far and we are looking for another push to reach the goal.

IN MEMORIAM



Victor M. Ayala-Alers, father of faculty member Michael Ayala '04

Lillian Bresnahan, wife of William '61

Vincent Carter, grandfather of Vernon Jones '12 and Brandon Jones '15

Maurice Cote, friend of DeMatha

Gail Eldridge, grandmother of Andrew Lee '12

David Alan Henry '65

Alfredo Hidalgo, father of Ismael '84. Ismael's father was a permanent Deacon for 40 years, at St. Bernard's and St. Camillus.

Carroll Holt, father of Daniel '84, David '88 and grandfather of Ryan '18. Former DM Band Booster President.

Arthur Labinjo '07

Dawn LaChance, wife of William '77, mother of William '12 and John '13. Dawn (with her husband Bill) were Senior Boosters.

Thomas Long, father of Tommy '03

Joseph Maimone '64

John Andrew Matais, father of Brian '83

Kathleen Miller, wife of Andrew '81, sister-in-law of Dr. Warner Miller '77

Terry O'Brien, grandfather of Sean Doyle '15

Bert Thomas Shaffner '57

Peggy Suntum, mother of Jason Bishop '88

Major Charles A. Turpin USMC (ret), grandfather of Chip Turpin '89

Timothy Turner '77

DeMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Red & Blue Review

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2019-20 DeMatha Varsity Basketball Schedule

NOVEMBER

30 Mount St. Joe's @Loyola (MD) 7:30 pm

DECEMBER

3 St. Mary's Ryken @DeMatha 7:30 pm

6 Carroll @Carroll 7:30 pm

7-9 DM Hoops Fest @DeMatha TBD

10 O'Connell @DeMatha 7:30 pm

12 Monteverde (FL) @Monteverde (FL) TBD

17 Eleanor Roosevelt @DeMatha 7:30 pm

27-29 DM Christmas Classic @DeMatha TBD

JANUARY

4 Mater Dei (CA) @Wheeling (WV) TBD

7 Gonzaga @Gonzaga 7:30 pm

9 St. John's @St. John's 7:30 pm

11 McNamara @DeMatha 7:30 pm

14 The Heights @DeMatha 7:30 pm

16 St. Mary's Ryken @St. Mary's Ryken ... 7:30 pm

JANUARY *continued*

18-20 Hoop Hall @Springfield (MA) TBD

22 Carroll @DeMatha 7:30 pm

24 O'Connell @O'Connell 7:30 pm

26 Good Counsel @DeMatha 7:30 pm

28 Paul VI @DeMatha 7:30 pm

FEBRUARY

1 Ireton @Ireton 7:30 pm

4 Good Counsel @Good Counsel 7:30 pm

5 The Heights @The Heights 7:30 pm

7 Gonzaga @DeMatha 7:30 pm

9 Ireton @DeMatha 7:30 pm

11 St. John's @DeMatha 7:30 pm

14 McNamara @McNamara 7:30 pm

16 Paul VI @Paul VI 7:00 pm

23 WCAC Semifinals @TB TBD

24 WCAC Championship @TBD TBD