

Noah Johnson
'Gaming' His Way
To Victory



Showtime
For The
DeMatha Players



Stags Serve
At Special
Needs Prom



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SPRING 2020

God. Family. School. Basketball.

Morgan Wootten, 1931-2020



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DEMATHA'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

These 20 members of the DeMatha Board of Directors will develop, implement and monitor short and long-term plans in keeping with the school's mission in collaboration with the President and, if necessary, the Trinitarian Board of Members. You can see the names making up DeMatha's Board of Directors on Page 3.



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,

All of us are blessed when we can review our life and discover that we have met many wonderful men and women who became models of what it means to be holy, happy and successful. During this personal inventory, if we can name a few who fit this category, we realize very quickly that they were a singular presence in helping us become the person we are today.

Everyone connected with DeMatha has truly been blessed by the life and faith and memory of Morgan Wootten!

During the recent weekend services surrounding the death and burial of Morgan, it would be safe to say that thousands of individuals came to not only pay their respects to Kathy and the family, but also to stop and share "Morgan stories" about how he made a difference in their lives. While the name of Morgan Wootten was connected with being a renowned high school basketball coach, the majority of conversations that I shared or witnessed were not centered on his coaching skills; rather the stories centered on Morgan, the Family Man. Morgan, the Teacher. Morgan, the Faith-Filled Man. And Morgan always had time for anyone...no matter who they were.

We only had to have a brief conversation with Morgan to realize that God, faith and family were more than words in a sentence or a conversation. They were guiding principles that directed his life, and from observing all of the people who took the time to visit, to pray with us and to comfort each other and the family, no doubt his personal creed in life touched us all.

God bless the memory of Morgan and the values that he advocated and demonstrated. God bless his family who mourns this loss, and God bless the DeMatha Catholic High School community who will continue to let his legacy endure every day within our mission to form Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars.



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



Thousands paid their respects to the late Morgan Wootten at the Viewings and Memorial Service in January.



Faculty member **Mike Curran '99**, pictured here with several other faculty members, received the Fr. James R. Day Award for Teaching Excellence at the NHS Induction Ceremony in January.

The Valois Chapter of the National Honor Society welcomed 41 new members at this year's Induction Ceremony on January 22nd. The evening also included the induction of the 2020-2021 officers and the presentation of the Fr. James R. Day, O.S.S.T. Award. Students apply for membership based on the qualities of character, scholarship, leadership and service. This year, DeMatha now has a total of 89 members who meet the high standards required. Students must continue to maintain their academic standing and perform service, including peer tutoring and volunteering at DeMatha and in their community. The new officer for the 2020-2021 school year are President **Connor Eady**, Vice President **Matthew Davis**, Secretary **Ryan Smolen**, and Treasurer **Daniel Budowski**.

Faculty member **Mike Curran '99** received this year's Fr. James R. Day, O.S.S.T. Award, given to a

faculty member who exemplifies the four distinguished qualities of the Society. He spoke of the successes and obstacles he faced academically during his time at DeMatha. He also advised the inductees on three requests: Take chances, get to know their fellow NHS brothers, and to give their mothers a hug for the care

and patience they provided them throughout their lives.

"You don't have to carry your failures with you in life," Mr. Curran said. "You guys are quite the opposite. You're ahead of us, but that means the bar and standard is now that much higher."

Faculty members **Paul Davies**

and **Patricia Galan** are club advisors and are assisted by Faculty Council members **Virginia Mentz**, **Paul Clark '01**, **Tom Krawczewicz '81**, **Michael Ayala '04**, and **James Roper**.

New senior members are **Mark Baker**, **Bryan Coley**, **Nigel Newby**, and **Benjamin Taylor**. Newly inducted juniors are **Thomas Burkhardt**, **Braeden Degnon**, **Keith DeVaux**, **Ethan Gough**, **Herbert Lacy**, **William Lawrence**, **Colin Licavoli**, **Anders Murphy**, **Daniel Patino**, **Vincent Snearly**, **Kai Stammnitz**, **Lincoln Teti**, **Callum Wainwright**, and **Adam Zgol**. New sophomore members are **Worthy Beilman**, **Cyrus Carey**, **George Currie**, **Nick Doyle**, **Therman Hawkins III**, **Jay Jacobs**, **Luke Kelly**, **Evan Knott**, **Thomas Krukar**, **Ian Lathrop**, **Keaton Lovely**, **Dylan McKelvy**, **Sean Morgenstern**, **Joe Morley**, **Justin Muraya**, **Owen O'Connor**, **Talib Reddick**, **Louis Sarwal**, **Keyvar Smith-Herold**, **Langston Stovall**, **Preston Valentine**, **Gavin Weddington**, and **Joshua Young**.



Senior **Oslyn Mejia**, pictured here with former DeMatha Registrar **Mrs. Carol McKee** and **Fr. James**, received this year's **Johnny McKee '67 Memorial Scholarship**. The award is given to a student who demonstrated integrity, dependability, responsibility, and a strong work ethic. Johnny McKee was a wonderful volunteer at DeMatha for several years.

“Whether it was history or football or basketball or speaking at retreat or dealing with illness; Morgan was always teaching.”

When Morgan Wootten passed away last month, I was, like numerous others, overwhelmed with memories of my time spent with him. Even though I coached in the program for five years and attended many games, it wasn't the basketball that I remembered -- it was countless acts of decency, kindness, curiosity, and thoughtfulness that came rushing back. And, in the course of the viewings and in seeing people from seven different decades of DeMatha, I don't think a single conversation was about a particular game or play in a game.

Morgan was a great teacher--right up through the end. Whether it was history or football or basketball or speaking at retreat or dealing with illness, he was always teaching. I don't remember games but I remember detailed practice plans with quotations, prayers, instruction, review, and camaraderie. I remember that when I was teaching his sons or grandsons that he always had questions for me about their work in class that demonstrated how he talked deeply with each of them about their work in the class.

I had two brothers play basketball for Gonzaga and they were the starting point guards for the 1980 and 1984 Gonzaga teams. The 1980 team came to DeMatha and behind Tom Sluby (my brother Chris always says that he and Sluby teamed up for 31 points--and Sluby got 27 of them) beat DeMatha in our gym for the first time since the 1950s. What my brother most remembers about that game is that Morgan came to their locker room just moments after it was over, congratulated them, told them they had played wonderfully, and that it was a pleasure to have his team on the court with them.

When we were trying to create our first “teaching chair” at DeMatha, Tom Ponton and I approached Billy Collins and his wife Kerry and they generously agreed to fund the project -- on the condition that it be named after Morgan as a teacher. We are fortunate to have five “teaching chairs” now (and Tom Ponton will be glad to explain how you can establish or contribute to one), but the Collins-Wootten Chair of Teaching Excellence was first.

Morgan was the best evangelist for faith, family, education, and basketball -- in that order -- I ever met. It is no accident that his mantra -- God, Family, Education, Basketball -- gets endlessly repeated. He believed it and he lived it. I am fortunate to still be learning from him.



Daniel J. McMahon, Ph.D. '76
PRINCIPAL



Several Science students visited the USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service in December where they met with the agency's top administrator, **Kevin Shea '72**, father of **Brendan '00**. Kevin told the students that the faculty of DeMatha are committed to the individual and that they need to take advantage of their DeMatha experience as much as they can.

Sophomore **Cameron King** placed third in the Fairfax Challenge Fencing Tournament during the Christmas break.

Junior **Andy Brown** was named a finalist in the High School Orga Competition sponsored by The University of North Carolina-School of the Arts and performed at the Finals on the UNC-School of the Arts campus in Winston-Salem, NC, in January.

DeMatha's Student

Government Association raised over \$1,800 during 'No Shave November' late last year. All of the funds were sent to the non-profit organization 'He o Dogs', a non-profit organization that places service dogs with veterans and first responders in the Greater Washington area.

Seniors **Connor Feeley** and **Nigel Newby** were named Commended Students in the 2020 National Merit Scholarship Program!

Senior **Anthony Kazzi** had his Eagle Court of Honor last October to celebrate his earning the rank of Eagle Scout, with members of the DeMatha community also present. Anthony and his brother **Dominic**, a sophomore at DM, are members of BSA Troop 2016. Anthony is the grandson of **Tony Fotos**, longtime former faculty member.

Freshman **Adam Dennin** was selected as a recipient for the Fr.

James S. Betz Scholarship Fund for Catholic Education.

A contingent of DeMatha students and faculty/staff members attended the March for Life in Washington DC in January.

The Academic Challenge was held at DeMatha in January compiling of representatives from each of the 14 Catholic Elementary School quiz bowl teams. Congrats to all of the participants!



Jarrod Ghatt (1st place-center), **Daman Decker** (2nd place-left) and **Michael Metz** (3rd place-right) finished as the top three poets in the Freshmen Poet y Throwdown last October.



Faculty member **Joseph Gazaille**, sophomore **Nick Weiler** and freshman **Duncan Auchter** represented DeMatha in January at the St. Thomas Aquinas Mass at Catholic University in celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE NEWS

DeMatha's Campus Ministry Organization (CMO) had another strong fall and winter, under the direction of **Ms. Erin Bright** and **Br. Josh Warshak**, with several drives and events that showcased our student Stags engaging in service and making a direct impact into the local community and the Greater Washington region.

The annual Walk-a-Thon held in October was another success this year as the school community raised over \$2,300 for Smiling Houses Children's Home in Tijuana, an orphanage that houses around 50 kids and that DeMatha students served at last summer.

The Food Drive in November allowed the school community to participate in the act of giving, leading up to the Thanksgiving holiday, and our Stags did not disappoint! The Drive collected over 12,500 canned food items, which will support St. Jerome's and St. Mark's in Hyattsville, St. Augustine's Catholic Church and Holy Redeemer in DC, Mary



DeMatha students helped transport items from our annual Food Drive to the Little Sisters of the Poor in DC in November.

House, Templeton Elementary School, and the Little Sisters of the Poor. These charities allowed us to feed over 4,000 people this past holiday season.

The Toy Drive in December collected over 170 toys which benefited the St. Augustine's Toy Drive and the City of Hyattsville's Sonny Frazier Toy Drive. These two charities were able to distribute these toys and donations to families in need for the Christmas holiday.



DeMatha Way partnered with Catholic Charities in December by packing 2,000 breakfast bags for the Catholic Charities' Cup of Joe Project. These bags were given out to various homeless shelters in the Greater Washington region.



Members of the lacrosse team volunteered just before the Christmas holiday for Toys for Tots in Prince George's County.

Several other service related activities that took place included students **Jayden Bradley**, **Gregory Penn** and **Colin Mobley** running a drive to collect winter survival items to benefit the homeless population in Washington DC and Baltimore. In addition, DeMatha students served at a variety of places in DC

throughout the first semester including Food and Friends, St. Maria's Meals, Central Mission, and SOME.

The Campus Ministry Office also hosted a Fair Trade Christmas Sale in December that included Christmas ornaments, jewelry, chocolate, and other gifts made from artists around the world.



Members of the varsity basketball team prepared Thanksgiving baskets for needy families last November in coordination with Jerami Grant '12 Foundation.



Faculty members gathered right before Christmas Break for the annual 'Hills Like White Elephants Book Exchange'. There was great conversation and interesting picks with everyone going home with a colleague-approved book.

Principal **Dr. Daniel McMahon '76** will present on two topics at the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) Conference in Baltimore from April 13-16. The topics are 'Administrative Team Retreats' and 'Is there a Catholic Way to Play Sports?' He will be presenting these topics with Anne Stricherz of St. Francis HS (CA). In addition, Dan gave the 'Ducharme Veritas Lecture' at Mount St. Mary's University earlier in March.

Brendan Shea '00 was hired

earlier this year as the school's new Director of Major Gifts and Planned Giving and will assume this role starting July 1. Brendan, a former faculty member, is the son of Kevin '72.

Chris Keplinger and his wife Elizabeth celebrated the birth of their son Jacob Bernard in December.

Campus Minister **Bro. Josh Warshak** was ordained as a Deacon in January. He is scheduled to be ordained a Priest in June. His journey in becoming an ordained

priest of the Trinitarian Order was covered by *The Catholic Standard* last fall.

DeMatha's Director of Library and Media Services, **Damon Austin**, hosted an 'Evenings With an Author' event at The American Library in Paris (ALP) last November with featured author Beowulf Sheehan, a photographer of portraiture and performance in the arts. Mr. Sheehan's work has been commissioned for publications such as *Esquire*, *The New Yorker*, *Time*, and *Vanity Fair*, and have

been exhibited in venues such as The Dostoevsky Museum and the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History.

Christopher Hurst had his paper on 'Patterns in Critical Incidents' accepted for the American Educational Research Association (AERA) conference, which will be held in San Francisco from April 16-17.

David Gang '05 ran the Marine Corps Marathon in October, in a driving rainstorm, with a time of four hours and five minutes



In October, the Archdiocese of Washington honored **Rich Blorstad '10** (left) and **James Roper** (right) as DeMatha's Novice and Veteran Teachers-of-the-Year, respectively.



Rob Landini '01 and his wife Melissa (Seton '99) celebrated their daughter Brinley Mary's baptism in January at the DeMatha Chapel with **Fr. Damian** presiding.

Noah Johnson 'Gaming' His Way To Victory

Back in February during Super Bowl weekend, a Stag made history in the computerized version of the game of football. Senior Noah Johnson, at age 17, became the youngest winner in the history of the EA Madden Challenge. Based off of the popular video game series, Noah defeated some of the best Madden players in the country to claim the victory belt and a monetary prize of \$35,000.

"I was super excited," Noah said. "My friends were really excited too. They kept texting me and letting me know they were watching the EA Madden Challenge themselves."

After playing the game several years for fun, Noah knew that he had an exceptional talent. He made it to the Top-96 to qualify for the EA Madden Challenge on EA's Online Leaderboard and then advanced through eliminations before traveling to EA's Headquarters in Redwood City, CA, and ultimately leaving victorious.

"I really liked Madden because I would see something going on in the NFL when watching on Sundays and then I'd try and recreate that scenario in the game. Nothing serious, but just playing with my friends or with my dad," Noah said.

Noah, a self-proclaimed Philadelphia Eagles fan, will look to defend his top ranking in the EA Madden Bowl this April. This tournament will consist of the Top 16 Madden players from the past year with a grand prize total of \$65,000. Instead of playing as just one team, this event will require players to construct a team using a salary cap embedded into the game. For instance, Tom Brady will cost more money into the player's salary cap space than a backup quarterback, which means overall roster construction will be key. For a student like Noah who currently takes several AP Classes and plays on the varsity baseball team, he'll plan accordingly for this next big event.

"I'll watch a lot of my competitors' games and see how they're playing," Noah said. "But I'm not going to have a strict regimented program or anything like that. In between when I just have some



downtime from school and baseball is when I'll find time to play Madden. I'll play some matches online and with my friends."

A positive thing for Noah has been the support of his parents allowing his video game talent to continue growing into something that can now be

viewed as more than just a hobby.

"From when I was younger, my parents would tell me I shouldn't play Madden until two in the morning. Like most parents would," Noah said. "But they've definitely learned to understand the game more, especially when they found out you could make money playing it. A lot of parents don't really understand professional gaming, but if they look into it more, they realize that there is a lot of growth right now in the industry."

On top of the Madden success, Noah also recently received great news that he was accepted into the University of Maryland and will study business and finance this fall. But before graduation and the beginning of a new chapter, the EA Madden Bowl remains an important objective.

"I'm of course trying to get first place from the Madden Bowl and to get another belt," Noah said. "That's what I'm playing for."

The DeMatha instrumental and choral music programs had another busy fall and winter season to kick off the 2019-2020 school year. A total of 14 student musicians were selected for the prestigious Maryland All-State Ensembles this year. Auditions were held in the fall and the students performed earlier in March on the campus of Morgan State University. Senior **Nick Taylor** (Tuba), junior **Zachary Cheng** (Clarinet) and sophomore **Jared Jefferson** (Trombone) were selected for the All-State Band. Senior Chorus included seniors **David Adeleye** (Bass), **Lucas Arzayus** (Alto) and **James Pike** (Bass), juniors **Nathan Bress** (Tenor), **Gabriel Diaz** (Bass), **Daniel Patino** (Bass), and **Lincoln Teti** (Tenor), and sophomores **Evan Knott** (Tenor), **Efrain Enriquez** (Bass) and **Worthy Beilman** (Bass). Sophomore **Peter Macyko** (Bass) was named to the All-State Junior Chorus.

Three DeMatha student vocal musicians were also selected to the Prince George's County



DeMatha All-State choral musicians are, from left to right, Lincoln Teti '21, Evan Knott '22, Lucas Arzayus '20, Nahan Bress '21, Peter Macyko '23, James Pike '20, Daniel Patino '21, Efrain Enriquez '22, Gabriel Diaz '21, David Adeleye '20, and John Worthy Beilman '22. Peter was selected to the All-State Junior Chorus.

Honors Chorus. The selected members were Adeleye and Bress along with junior **Reggie Bailey**. They performed as part of a concert last year on the University of Maryland College Park campus.

The WAMTC Band Festival was held in December and several DeMatha instrumental music

ensembles performed with great success. The Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band and Concert Band all received unanimous ratings of 'Superior' by the four judges of the WAMTC panel.

The 8th annual Kaleidoscope Concert was held last October and was another great success for the instrumental music

department. Across three separate stages in the LT (SEAL) Brendan Looney '99 Convocation Center, four music directors and over 200 student musicians came together to perform a range of songs ranging from classic compositions to contemporary hits. The evening helped raise funds for DeMatha's instrumental



The DeMatha Wind Ensemble performing at the WAMTC Band Festival in December.



The DeMatha Champion Chorus performing at the Winter Concert in December.

music program and annually provides a unique platform to showcase all of the school's musical ensembles and their talents in composing and performing.

The DeMatha instrumental music program will travel to Virginia Beach for this year's Music Festival from April 16-18.



Sophomore Keyvar Smith-Herold (Clarinet) and junior Adam Zgol (Bassoon) performed last December at the prestigious Carnegie Hall with the Chesapeake Youth Symphony Orchestra.



DeMatha All-State instrumental musicians are, from left to right, Jared Jefferson '22 (trombone), Nick Taylor '20 (tuba) and Zachary Cheng '21 (clarinet).

2020 DeMatha Concerts

Thursday, April 30

Concert Band I, Concert Band II,
Percussion Ensemble I
Bladensburg HS
7:30pm

Sunday, May 3

Studio Vocal Recital
Room 7302, Convocation Center
6pm

Monday, May 4

Percussion Ensemble II,
Advanced Percussion
Ensemble, Sinfonia
Bladensburg HS
7pm

Tuesday, May 5

Concert Band, Symphonic Band
Bladensburg HS
7:30pm

Wednesday, May 6

Spring Sing!
Convocation Center
7pm

Monday, May 11

Wind Ensemble
7:30pm

Saturday, May 16

Instrumental Music Awards
Ceremony
Convocation Center
6:30pm

Friday, June 5

Graduation at the Basilica of
the National Shrine
Symphonic Band, Voices of
DeMatha perform
9am

God, Family, Scho

By Lynnea Pruzinsky Mumola, Special to the Standard

Morgan Wootten passed away on January 21. The following weekend, several viewing services for Morgan occurred in the LT (SEAL) Brendan Looney '99 Convocation Center with thousands coming by to pay their final respects. The funeral was held on Jan. 27 and was covered by The Catholic Standard which did a wonderful job of covering the event and speaking to a variety of key DeMatha people. We decided to include the story here:

Legendary DeMatha Catholic High School Basketball Coach Morgan Wootten was remembered not only as a dedicated family man devoted to his Catholic faith, but also as a teacher, mentor and coach whose life – rooted in God, family, education and basketball in that order – influenced the lives of countless young men on and off the court. Wootten died on Jan. 21 at the age of 88.

For the Jan. 27 funeral Mass, 1,500 mourners – many former players, coaching and teaching colleagues, family and friends – filled the Morgan and Kathy Wootten Gymnasium on the campus of DeMatha, where from 1956 to 2002, Wootten served as the head basketball coach and was a world history teacher at the all-boys school in Hyattsville, Maryland.

“We give thanks today for the legacy of Morgan Wootten and



his impact on the lives of thousands and thousands of people,” said Trinitarian Father Damian Anuszewski, a longtime member of DeMatha’s faculty.

At Coach Morgan Wootten’s Jan. 27 Funeral Mass at DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, Maryland, Trinitarian Father Damian Anuszewski, the main celebrant and homilist, received offertory gifts from members of the coach’s family. At left is Deacon Curtis Turner, a DeMatha graduate who serves as principal of St. Frances Academy in Baltimore.



Football and Basketball



All of Morgan's former players in attendance served as the Honor Guard for the Wootten family at the end of the funeral service. (Photo by Bob Spalding '80)

Throughout Coach Wootten's 46-year career, he became famous for many extraordinary basketball accomplishments, among them were 1,274 victories, his induction as the first high school coach into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000, sending a dozen former players to the NBA and many more to the college ranks. His teams won five national high school championships, 22 city titles and 33 Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championships. In 1965, Wootten coached DeMatha to national prominence following an historic and improbable win over New York City's Power Memorial led by star player Lew

Alcindor, who later became Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, breaking their 71-game winning streak.

But he always remained foremost a man of humility, who never wavered in emphasizing the strict order of his life's oft-repeated priorities - God, family, school and basketball, said the priest.

"Whenever Morgan was honored in any venue, in his remarks he always thanked God, his family, the coaches and players who made possible the many recognitions he received. He would always share the honors," he said. "He stressed year after year after year the importance of those priorities."

Before Coach Morgan Wootten's Funeral Mass at DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, Maryland, his grandchildren placed mementos of his life as a coach and teacher there, including a basketball and a world history book.

The values that shaped and guided Coach Wootten's entire life, Father Anuszewski said, were instilled early on by his parents' example of faith and hard work. As a youngster, Coach Wootten moved in 1940 from Durham, North Carolina, to Hyattsville, where he became an altar server at the St. John de Matha Monastery. He began his coaching career at St. Joseph's Home and School for Boys, an orphanage in Northeast Washington. While working toward his degree from the University of Maryland, he coached junior varsity basketball at St. John's College High School until 1956,



The congregation of 1,500 at the Morgan and Kathy Wootten Gymnasium in DeMatha's Lt. Brendan Looney Convocation Center included current and former students, the coach's past players and assistants, and family members and friends.

when he left to coach football and basketball at DeMatha Catholic High School.

“At the moment of his Baptism, he was a child of God and began his journey of faith. On Tuesday, Jan. 21 that journey of 88 years reached its glorious end and the Lord called Morgan to his heavenly reward,” said the priest.

He said Coach Wootten and his wife, Kathy, were generous to all and relied on their shared, steadfast Catholic faith throughout their 55-year marriage, especially during the challenging times as when the coach endured a life-saving liver transplant in 1996 and 10 years later a kidney transplant from his youngest son, Joe. “Morgan and Kathy showed us what it means to trust in God,” he said.

The congregation of 1,500 at the Morgan and Kathy Wootten Gymnasium in DeMatha’s Lt. Brendan Looney Convocation Center included current and former students, the coach’s past players and assistants, and family members and friends.

In the summer of 1996, Coach Wootten collapsed at his summer youth basketball camp and almost died before undergoing emergency surgery after his liver failed due to an autoimmune disease. Only a few months later, in November of that same year, he was back on the court coaching, having achieved his greatest victory of all.

Following his health ordeal, Wootten said the principles that defined his life were not only reaffirmed, but he gained a greater appreciation of his blessings. “To me, the big thing is I think I understand more fully God’s gifts to us – the gift of life, the gift of a beautiful sunset, the most simplest of things,” he said in a 1996 Catholic Standard interview when he returned to DeMatha. “Everything has taken on a deeper meaning of how thankful we should be for each and every little thing.” He would go on to coach until 2002, and thanks to his organ donors, he lived for another 23 years.

During the coach’s retirement years, the Woottens attended daily Mass together at St. Mark Parish, Hyattsville, followed by breakfast, and then a visit to DeMatha where they would walk the indoor track for their exercise. “Every day they refreshed their souls and bodies, and refreshed us as well by their presence on campus,” the priest said.

In closing his homily, Father Anuszewski asked funeral-goers to join him in reciting the Memorare prayer: “Remember, O Most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.”

Before every single basketball game and at every game’s halftime, Coach Wootten led his players in the same Memorare prayer. The priest noted, “I once asked him, ‘Why have you chosen that prayer?’ He said, ‘It’s very simple. The words. What are the words saying to us?’”

Coach Morgan Wootten’s grandchildren each placed a white rose in a vase before the altar as the Funeral Mass began.



At Morgan Wootten’s Funeral Mass, Trinitarian Father Damian Anuszewski, the main celebrant and homilist, receives offertory gifts from members of the coach’s family. At left is Deacon Curtis Turner ‘86, who now serves as principal of St. Frances Academy in Baltimore. (CS photos/Andrew Biraj)

CBS Sports Anchor James Brown ‘69, who played under Morgan during his time at DeMatha, delivered the eulogy at the funeral service on Jan. 27. (Photo by Bob Spalding ‘80)



According to the coach’s final wishes, Wootten’s 15 grandchildren served as lectors and honorary pall bearers during the funeral Mass. They lovingly adorned the altar before the liturgy began with memorabilia of their beloved grandfather, such as the Holy Bible, a basketball, a world history book, a photo of Kathy and Morgan Wootten, and his basketball Hall of Fame hat.

Washington Auxiliary Bishop Michael W. Fisher and more than a dozen priests concelebrated the Mass. The chorus of DeMatha led the congregation in hymns, “How Great Thou Art,” “Be Not Afraid,” and “Amazing Grace.”

Members of the school’s choral group, the Voices of DeMatha, lead the congregation in singing at the Funeral Mass for Coach Morgan Wootten.

Also among the attendees were Maryland Gov. Larry Hogan, who attended DeMatha for two years and was a student basketball manager; House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer (D-Md.); and Virginia Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax, DeMatha class of ‘96.

In a eulogy, CBS Sports NFL broadcaster James Brown, a DeMatha graduate and standout basketball player under Wootten, praised his former coach as a man of great faith and character who imparted



CS photos/Andrew Biraj

Large photos showing Morgan Wootten as a basketball coach and a world history teacher at DeMatha Catholic High School were displayed in the gymnasium that bears his and his wife's name.



Voices of DeMatha with faculty member Andrew Eck '11 performed at the Funeral Mass. (Photo by Bob Spalding '80)

fundamental life lessons through the game of basketball. "Morgan taught that the fundamentals are timeless. They're tried, they're true and they are proven," he said. "If you want to enjoy sustained success, what's important is to do the ordinary things extraordinarily well."

He said Coach Wootten never became anxious about winning a game, but rather he always stressed to his players, "It was about maximizing the gifts and talents with which the Lord blessed us to become the best player, to become the best teammate, to become the best person that we could."

Local sports broadcaster Johnny Holliday, said of his longtime friend, "There aren't almost any words that can adequately describe him by anybody who he came in touch with... He was known for his coaching, but as far as a human being he had this aura and wonderful charisma. He really did things the right way."

Holliday also recalled asking Coach Wootten four years ago if he would accept a recognition at a charity golf tournament. He said the coach seemed genuinely surprised and humbly replied, "I don't know why you want to honor me, but I'm glad to help anyway I can, and he did."

Maryland Gov. Hogan shared fond memories serving as a DeMatha

basketball manager during his freshman year and getting to know Coach Wootten as both a teacher and a coach. "He was an incredible man. He really touched my life. He was my history teacher and had such an influence on me. At the time, I wanted to grow up and be a coach," he told the Catholic Standard. "He molded the lives of so many young men."

On the day of his Funeral Mass, large photos showing Morgan Wootten as a basketball coach and a world history teacher at DeMatha Catholic High School were displayed in the gymnasium that bears his and his wife's name.

Pat Smith, DeMatha Class of '82, is a former player and assistant coach for Morgan Wootten, who has taught English at the school for 30 years. He describes his former coach and boss as a true leader and mentor who was always prepared, unflappable and an inspiration to all those around him.

"My biggest thought is the impact he had on so many lives...He was constantly telling us how to be an example of a good player and a good person. We are seeing the truth of this coming to fruition," said Smith, looking around and pointing to the gym filled with generations of Wootten's former players and coaches.

Members of the 2020 DeMatha basketball team, who handed out programs prior to the funeral, prayed for the former coach in his final days. Hunter Dickinson, a senior basketball player, said although he never played for Coach Wootten, he was honored to meet him on a few occasions. He spoke of the late coach's impact and lasting legacy on the team today.

"He was such a great guy of high character. Our coach (current DeMatha basketball coach Mike Jones) talked about him, and told us, 'You can't go to DeMatha and not know about Coach Wootten.' How we practice, our plays, when you think about DeMatha basketball, you think first of Morgan Wootten," said Dickinson, who will play basketball next year for the University of Michigan.

During wake services held over two days on the weekend before Monday's funeral, 2,000 well-wishers came to DeMatha to honor Coach Wootten and pay their respects to his family.

In a final moving tribute to Coach Wootten, at the conclusion of the Mass, more than 100 of his former players and coaching colleagues in attendance lined both sides of the gym's center aisle, forming an honor guard as the coach's remains were processed out of the gymnasium.

Coach Wootten is survived by his wife, Kathy; their five children and their spouses -- Cathy (Mike) Stamper, Carol (Steve) Paul, Trish Wootten, Brendan (Elizabeth) Wootten and Joe (Terri Lynn) Wootten; their 15 grandchildren -- Stephen (Cameryn) Paul, Bucky Paul, Kiersten Paul, Nick Stamper, Ryan Stamper, Charlie Paul, Greg Stamper, Megan Wootten, Kevin Stamper, Micky Wootten, Ally Wootten, Caitlin Stamper, Alexa Wootten, Reese Wootten and Jackson Wootten; his brother Angus (Batya) Wootten; his sisters Clare (Bob) Crawford-Mason, and Lee Wootten; and his extended family at DeMatha. Interment was in Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Silver Spring.

Showtime for The DeMatha Players



DeMatha has many different outlets for students to express their creativity and one that's been gaining steam in recent years is the drama group known as 'The DeMatha Players.' Under the direction of faculty member and club advisor Mr. Keith Rafferty, they have performed a variety of plays and musicals, ranging from the dark 'Lord of the Flies' to most recently the patriotic '1776.' In his three years at the helm, Mr. Rafferty has strived to make the shows a great experience for all.

"One of the guiding principles in doing theatre is that it should be fun, both for the people doing it and for the audience," Mr. Rafferty said. "Gradually, I've been doing more shows that are entertaining and make people laugh and enjoy their time."

Mr. Rafferty, who teaches Theology and Spanish at DeMatha, took over as Director for The DeMatha Players in 2017 following the departure of former faculty member Luke Durney '00. In addition to directing, casting and rehearsing with students three times a week, he also serves as Producer handling the behind-the-scenes financial work.

Senior Bodior Elliott has been involved with the group throughout his time at DeMatha and credits Mr. Rafferty for providing a calm atmosphere to allow the students to grow as actors.

"It feels relaxed," Bodior said. "He gives us the confidence to learn our characters, but that you don't have to necessarily panic if you forget a line or two."

Sophomore Keaton Lovely agreed and said he's enjoyed the camaraderie of the group as much as the actual performances.

"Going up on stage is fun," Keaton said. "But it's really being able to hang out with your friends that ends up being the most fun."

This April, The DeMatha Players will perform Stephen Sondheim's

Ancient Greek comedy-musical 'The Frogs.' Mr. Rafferty said this might be their largest show yet as it'll have over 20 cast members, massive chorus numbers and elaborate set pieces. Auditions for the show were held in early January and rehearsals are currently taking place three times a week in Mr. Rafferty's classroom. The students grow in confidence from those initial rehearsals to Opening Night and Mr. Rafferty said this overall process makes any levels of stress worth it.

"There's always been the stress of if the show will be ready and then it all turns out well," Mr. Rafferty said. "That seems to be the arc that most shows go through. That's just the nature of theatre."

'The Frogs' will feature cast members who are part of various musical ensembles and athletic teams on campus as well as several students who will assist in technical crew duties.

"I feel like this show is going to be a lot of fun," Keaton said. "We have a lot more people even compared to last year. The program is growing and it's great to see."

Mr. Rafferty hopes to teach a Theatre Arts class at DeMatha next school year provided enough students sign up. Until then, he and The DeMatha Players are ready to put on their best show yet for the DeMatha community.

"These guys are investing a lot of effort into this and it'd be great to see that effort rewarded by their peers and the DeMatha community as a whole."

**The DeMatha Players' production of 'The Frogs' will be performed in the Original Gym on Friday, April 24 and Saturday, April 25 at 7:30pm and on Sunday, April 26 at 2pm. Be on the lookout for ticket info throughout DeMatha social media and in 'The DeMatha Express'.*

2019 DeMATHA HALL OF FAME

Since 1991, DeMatha's Hall of Fame honors our talented alumni athletes; distinguished alumni outside of the world of athletics; teachers, staff, coaches and boosters who have played an important role in the achievements of our students; and more recently alumni who have given exceptional service to both DeMatha and their communities.

The 2019 DeMatha Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony was held on October 27 in the Original Wootten Gym. The school honored the following individuals and teams that distinguished themselves athletically at DeMatha and beyond:

- Robert Alexander '96 (Wrestling, US Naval Academy)
- Dominic Berger '04 (Track and Field, Maryland/US National Team)
- Kenny Blakeney '90 (Basketball, Head Coach at Howard University)
- Scott Fulton '96 (Football/Lacrosse, Richmond University)
- Vaughn Jones '92 (Basketball, Former Head Coach at Coolidge HS)
- The 1981 Baseball Team (16-2 record, won 4th straight WCAC title)
- The 1998 Basketball Team (34-1 record, WCAC Champs, No. 3 US ranking)

In addition, faculty member Patrick Smith '82 and Director of Advancement Thomas Ponton '78 were honored as two longtime DeMatha faculty/staff members. President of the University of Dallas Dr. Thomas Hibbs '78 was inducted as the Distinguished Alumnus.

Also, three members were inducted for their contributions in service to the school as William Fahey '65 and Andre Jones '87 both received the Lou Amico Service Award, named after DeMatha's former principal and longtime supporter, and David DiLuigi '88 received the St. Simon De Rojas Award, named after the 16th century Trinitarian priest who spent his life working with the poor. Memorable speeches were shared by all of the inductees over the importance and impact that DeMatha had left with them. It was a great day surrounded by family and friends. Congratulations again to all of the 2019 honorees and we look forward to the next ceremony in the fall of 2021.



Individual inductees of the 2019 class into the DeMatha Hall of Fame, from Left to Right: Mr. Scott Fulton '96, Mr. Dominic Berger '04, Mr. David DiLuigi '88, Mr. Thomas Ponton '78, Mr. Vaughn Jones '92, Mr. Robert Alexander '96, Dr. Thomas Hibbs '78, Mr. Kenny Blakeney '90, Mr. William Fahey '65, Mr. Andre Jones '87, and Mr. Patrick Smith '82.



Members of the honored 1981 Baseball Team.



Members of the honored 1998 Basketball Team.

MCGREGOR MAKES SUCESSFUL FOOTBALL RETURN

The 2019 season marked the return of **Bill McGregor** as head coach for the Stags after he had previously served in that position for 29 years and served as a coach for DeMatha for 39 years. This past season re-established a strong foundation for the program that included a big 42-0 win over nationally ranked St. Ignatius (OH) in September. Ultimately, the Stags finished the year with a 7-4 record after falling to St. John's in the WCAC Semifinals in November.

This year's crop of Stags had explosive talent on both sides of the ball. Senior **Coziah Izzard** (DL) and former Stag MarShawn Lloyd were named Second Team All-Met by *The Washington Post* while senior **Jordan White** (OL) and juniors **Greg Penn** (LB) and **Antoine Booth** (DB) were named Honorable Mentions. Izzard, White, Penn, Booth, and Lloyd were all also named First Team All-WCAC, in addition to senior **Saieed Myers** (DB) and former Stag Jaishawn Barham (LB).

Stags who were named Second Team All-WCAC included seniors **Golden Achumba** (OL), **Dwayne Allick** (OL), **Josh Dodd** (WR), **Hezekiah Faison III** (LB), and **Harold Peters** (DB), junior **Ethan Gough** (Specialist), and sophomore **Daniel Holbrook** (K). Honorable Mentions for the All-Conference team included seniors **Malakai Anthony** (QB), **Melteen Davis** (DL) and **Dylan Foster** (OL), junior **Sieh Bangura** (RB), and sophomore **Kevin Winston** (DB). With a solid first season back from Coach McGregor, look for even more improvements in 2020.



TOUGH BATTLES THIS SEASON FOR SOCCER

The varsity soccer team pushed themselves to the limit last fall by challenging themselves with early matchups against top programs like Whitman, Churchill and South Kent Prep (CT). This early gauntlet prepared the Stags for conference play, which they ended with a blistering five game winning streak heading into the postseason. Unfortunately, the season came to a premature end as DeMatha lost to Good Counsel 3-1 in penalty kicks in the WCAC Quarterfinals. With a young roster, the Stags under head coach **Andrew Quinn '05**

have a strong foundation to build upon and a bright future on the horizon.

Junior **Diego Gomez** was named to a Second Team All-Met by *The Washington Post* as well as a First Team All-WCAC, along with senior **Ben Boucher**. Senior **Edson DeMata** and junior **Jeremy Kerr** were named Second Team All-WCAC while seniors **Zach Galster**, **Ian Strehl** and **Tiago Palin** were all named All-WCAC Honorable Mentions.



YOUTH LEADS THE WAY FOR CROSS COUNTRY

The cross country team raced in the WCAC Championships last October and finished fourth overall in the Varsity A race. After a hard fought season across a variety of different race courses, youth was the key for the Stags as underclassmen led the way during the race. Freshman **Jayden Keels** finished 17th overall with a time of 17 minutes and 57 seconds while sophomore **Dawson Grogan** placed 23rd at 18:16 and then sophomore **Langston Stovall** and junior **James Hudson** tied 24th overall at 18:18. This youth and depth will allow head coach **Cory Puffett '10** to coach this team to even greater heights in 2020.

BASKETBALL AND HOCKEY WIN WCAC TITLES

Congrats to the Varsity Basketball and Prep Hockey teams on winning WCAC Championships and to the Swimming, Wrestling and Track teams for successful seasons! Complete coverage of the winter and spring sports will be shared in the summer edition of the *Red and Blue Review*.



CLASS OF 2020 ATHLETIC SIGNINGS

The time that it takes for an athlete to sign their National Letter of Intent can be a years-long process. But when that day comes, it's a celebration to see how far that athlete has come with his parents, coaches and teammates as support and guidance. The Football ceremony was held in the lobby of the LT. (SEAL) Brendan Looney '99 Convocation Center in February while the Soccer, Baseball and Lacrosse ceremonies were held that month in the Kilby Alumni Lounge.



FOOTBALL: Head Coach Bill McGregor and members of his coaching staff here with the 2020 football signees. From left: Golden Achumba (Penn State), Dwayne Allick (Boston College), Malakai Anthony (Merrimack College), Melteon Davis (Merrimack College), Josh Dodd (Lackawana College), Dylan Foster (Lenoir-Rhyne University), Xavier Gary (East Stroudsburg), Coziah Izzard (Penn State), Wesley Matthews (Merrimack College), Saieed Myers (Stony Brook), Harold Peters (Frostburg), and Jordan White (West Virginia).



SOCCER: Head Coach Andrew Quinn '05 and Assistant Coach Ben Fleri '11 with the 2020 soccer signees Ben Boucher (Stevenson) and Zach Galster (Dickinson).



BASEBALL: Head Coach Steve Miller '81 in November with the 2020 baseball signees: Blake Badman (Virginia), Jack Bulger (Vanderbilt), Alex Greene (Virginia), and Jake Maske (Mount St. Mary's). A second ceremony was held in February for James Holladay (Barton College) and Donovan Teel (South Carolina Aiken).



LACROSSE: Head Coach Scott Morrison with his 2020 lacrosse signees. From Left: Sam Harris (Stevenson), Jack McGuire (Randolph Macon), Pat Moyer (Randolph Macon), Dom Procopio (Wingate University), Ryan Pritchard (Randolph Macon), Sam Riley (Christopher Newport University), Jack Smith (Randolph Macon), and Aidan Tolen (Air Force).

ALMA MATTERS



Rev. Wendell Gibbs '72, a bishop in the Episcopal Church, retired late last year after serving for 19 years as the Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan and serving in ministry for 32 years. Bishop Gibbs was the first African American bishop in the history of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan.

60's

The latest book from author **Mike Mewshaw '61**, "The Lost Prince", made the list for the PEN International Biography Award late last year.

James Brown '69 was interviewed in December by *Bethesda Magazine* about his life growing up and his career as a broadcaster.

70's

Peter Bay '74 was honored last December on becoming the longest tenured music director in the 108-year history of the Austin (TX) Symphony.

Tim O'Brien '77, past Chair for the DeMatha Board of Directors and current Board Member, lectured at the Prince George's County Bar Association Probate, Estates, Trusts and Elder Law Seminar in January.

80's

Tony Sarro '80 recently became a partner at Chromagraphics, Inc., a printing, mailing and global shipping company in Upper Marlboro, MD.

Deno Campbell '81, who returned to DeMatha Football as the Stags' Defensive Coordinator, will be inducted

into the Maryland Football Coaches Association Hall of Fame this April.

Ambrose Phillips III '82 is working as the Treasury Director at Versant Health.

John Bielec '84 was recently appointed by Maryland Governor, and former DeMatha student, Larry Hogan to the District Court for Prince George's County.

Mark Maske '86, sports reporter for *The Washington Post*, covered his 21st Super Bowl, Super Bowl 54, in February. His son Jake is a senior at DeMatha.

Kevin Davis '87 wrote an essay in *USA Today* in November on how the game of baseball has lessons that

could positively impact the criminal justice system.

Mark Jefferson '87 is the Assistant Dean for Community Engagement and Equity at Harvard Law School.

Eric Bickel '88 and **Jason Bishop '88**, two hosts of the longtime popular morning radio show 'The Sports Junkies', were interviewed in February by WUSA9 about the success of their show over the last 20+ years.

Melvin Hines '89 is the owner of DCity Smokehouse, which was ranked No. 4 by *The Washington Post* in their annual 'Best Barbecue Joints in the DC area' rankings last November.



Dr. Thomas Hibbs '78 was officially installed as President of the University of Dallas in early November. He was the guest speaker at DeMatha's Faculty & Staff Retreat in January.



Paul Stearns '84 was named last August as the Assistant Dean and Chief of Staff at the Erickson School of Aging Studies at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

90's

Todd Sanzone '90 is working as a Sales Executive for Windows Catering Company in Alexandria, VA.

David DeArmas '91 is the Director of Instructional Technology/Assistant Athletic Director at Fredericksburg Christian Schools.

Joe Petriccione '91 is the Senior Relationship Manager/ Senior Vice President for PNC Bank's Investing, Retirement and Wealth Management Division in Atlanta.

Mynor Herrera '92 was interviewed last November by 'DC Metro Real Producers' where he spoke about his time at DeMatha and as CEO of Mynor & Associates, Keller Williams Capital Properties.

Bill Rhodes '93 was inducted in January into the Washington Building Congress Craftsman Hall of Fame. This honor was given after Bill won his 10th Craftsmanship Award as an electrician for Power



Greg Steed '86 served as the Back Judge for Super Bowl 54 in Miami in February. This was Greg's second career Super Bowl assignment.

Solutions and a member of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 26. In his acceptance to the HOF, he credited DeMatha as a springboard to a successful career.

Jonathan Lappin '04 and his wife Allyson (Good Counsel alum '04) celebrated their son Nathaniel's baptism in November at the DeMatha Chapel with Fr. Damian presiding. Nathaniel's father **John '67**, brother **Brian '95**, and friend **Martin Schols '03** were also in attendance.

Steven Williams '94, chief photographer at FOX5 in DC, covered the Washington Nationals winning the World Series last fall.

Dave Kolesar '95, an engineer at WTOP, will soon receive the Radio World Excellence in Engineering Award.

TJ Windsor '96 married Joran Alexandra Hedding in September in Annapolis.

Edward Underwood '96 was their wedding photographer.

James Hale '98 ran the JFK 50 Miler last November with a time of 10 hours, 37 minutes and 49 seconds. It is the oldest ultra-marathon in the US.

Nicholas Stefanelli '98, chef and owner of Washington DC's Masseria and Officina restaurants, was featured about his culinary successes on 'CBS This Morning' in November.

Matt Swope '98, assistant baseball coach for the University of Maryland, was named last November as one of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation's inaugural Baseball Vs. Cancer Ambassadors.

Patrick Benko '99 and his

wife Jacqueline celebrated their son Aiden William's baptism in October in the DeMatha Chapel with Fr. James presiding.

Keith Bogans '99 was promoted by the New York Knicks in December from their G-League coaching staff to the Knicks' coaching staff.

00's

Seamus Hughes '02, Director of George Washington University's Program on Extremism, was part of a panel discussing the topic of 'Prosecuting Domestic Terrorists' at the 9/11 Memorial Museum in NYC in February.

Michael King '02 married Ashley Elwood in November in Dallas. A number of DeMatha



Geoff Bailey '89, was installed as the President of the National College Learning Center Association at the organization's annual conference in early October.

alumni/staff were in attendance including Michael's father and DM Athletic Director Ed King, **Chris Connolly '70**, **Jimmy Connolly '00**, **Andy Walther '02**, **Danny Nicol '02**, and faculty member **Joe Raymond '02**.

Dr. Stephen Danley '03 gave a talk at the Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum in February on his book 'A Neighborhood Politics of Last Resort' that tells the complicated stories of neighborhood activists rallying to rebuild their communities in post-Katrina New Orleans.

Brian Garrett '03 was recently promoted to the position of Managing Director at Goldman Sachs in New York City.

Joseph Lavela '04 is working as a Clinical Protocol Coordinator at the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases (NIDDK).



Victor Oladipo '10 returned to the basketball court for the Indiana Pacers in January after being sidelined last year with a knee injury. While rehabbing, he played the role of 'Thingamajig' in the FOX television show 'The Masked Singer' where he finished in fifth place.



Ryan Gough '13 graduated in January to officially become a Calvert Count Sheriff. Ryan is the son of **Craig '85** and had his badge pinned by Retired Arlington Country Police, and his uncle, **Brian '81**.

Kyle Loughlin '05, son of staff member Lori, married Elisa Linares in Beltsville, MD, in January. **Justin Loughlin '02** served as best man and **Drew Loughlin '09** as a groomsman.

Daniel McMahon '05, son of current longtime principal **Dan '76**, married Taylor Baker (Seton '09) in November with a number of Stags in attendance.

Fr. Chris Seith '06 spoke in January at the Mass for the March for Life Rally in Washington, DC.

Brendon Gregoire '07, head varsity soccer coach at Elizabeth Seton HS, was named in November as the WCAC Women's Soccer Co-Coach of the Year.

Joey Hager '07 married Sarah Fischera in Charleston, SC in January. The wedding party included **Michael '11** as best man and **Jonathan '05** as a groomsman. Their father **Marty**

'73 is a faculty member at DeMatha.

Tyler Ross '07 is the Director of Supply Chain for Novant Health in Charlotte, NC. Tyler previously graduated from the Naval Academy in 2011 and served for five years in the Marine Corps as a Logistics Officer. He received his Masters degree in Logistics from the University of Southern Mississippi while on active duty and was honorably discharged as a Captain in 2016.

Brian Smith '07 married Courtney Feeley in Pasadena, MD, in September. Several other Stags attended the wedding including best man **Brendan Lozupone '08**, brother-in-law **Scott Arruda '97**, **Brian Dearstine '08**, **James Turcotte '10**, **Patrick McGroarty '06**, **Kevin Iredell '09**, and

Thad Patrice '98, who served as deejay for the day. Brian's sister Caroline Smith (Seton '08) was also in the wedding party.

Joe Smith '07 and his wife Kasey celebrated the birth of their son Jordan Keen in November. **Pat '82** is the proud grandfather.

Aaron Brooks '08 was featured in February in *The Baltimore Business Journal* about his free coding program 'MASTERMIND Academy' now becoming a full-time business.

Rodney McLeod '08, safety for the Philadelphia Eagles, promoted a digital education program he is partially funding called 'Play Makers' at his former middle school, Walker Mill, in Capitol Heights last November. 'Play Makers' teaches Prince George's County students entrepreneurship and STEM skills.



Anthony Bagley '13, son of **L. Anthony Bagley '89**, graduated from Howard University's Doctor of Physical Therapy School in December.



Brian Charles '13 of the Baltimore City Police Department was recognized in February by the Police Commissioner for being involved in the arrests of four felony suspects who ran a complex drug organization within the southwest district of the city.

Mike Thomas '08, meteorologist at FOX5 in DC and son of staff member Christine, moderated a panel in February on how e-sports (professional video gaming) has taken over the DC region with the new professional team, the Washington Justice.

Ryan Keehn '09 and his wife Clara Bannigan (Seton '09) welcomed their son James Patrick in October. **Sean Keehn '83** is James' proud grandfather.

Chris Miller '09 and his wife Erica, daughter of DM Principal **Dan McMahon '76**, celebrated the birth of their son Wesley Daniel in November.

10's

Jerian Grant '10 was claimed by the Capitol City Go-Go, the G-League affiliate of the Washington Wizards, in November.

Mark Diemer '11 married Katherine Evans in December at Mount St. Mary's, where they had previously met. In addition to Mark's father **Craig '79**, other Stags in attendance included **Vince Jarvie '79**, **Tom Bailey '82** and **Eric Price '79**.

Mike Flint '11 is the Executive Kitchen Manager of Walk-On's Bistreaux & Bar in Montgomery, AL,

which recently opened in October. New Orleans Saints Quarterback Drew Brees is a part owner of the restaurant chain, which was previously voted the No. 1 Sports Bar in America by ESPN.

Adrian Boafu '12 was elected in November to the Bowie City Council as its youngest member and joined **Michael Esteve '08** on the council. Bowie's new mayor is Tim Adams, whose son attended DeMatha for his freshmen and sophomore years.

Matt Justice '12 was named in January as the new head men's lacrosse coach at Immaculata University.

Adam Welzant '12 married his wife Brittany Whitley in

November. Fellow Stags in attendance included **Andrew Hamel '12**, **Ian Smith '12**, and **Peter Carrera '12**.

Darius Brown '13 interned earlier this year with the United States Attorney Office's Fraud and Public Corruption Unit in Washington, DC.

Patrick Danahy '13 was honored in November at an awards gala in New York City with the UPenn Kanter Tritsch Prize for Excellence in Architecture. This prize is awarded to a graduate student who demonstrates transformational thinking in the built, environment, and innovation in the approach to energy, ecology, and social equity.



John Lovett '14, tight end for the Kansas City Chiefs who was placed on Injured Reserve this season, celebrated his team's 31-20 win over the San Francisco 49ers in February's Super Bowl. This was the third straight year that a Stag won a Super Bowl with Philadelphia Eagles safety **Rodney McLeod '08** in 2018 and New England Patriots linebacker **Ja'Whaun Bentley '14** in 2019.



Cameron Bailey '14 graduated in December with a Bachelor's Degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Maryland's A. James Clark School of Engineering.

Chris Ordoobadi '13 signed a hockey contract last fall to play for the Olofstrom Steelers in Sweden.

Cam Phillips '14, a wide receiver for the XFL's Houston Roughnecks has emerged as one of the league's top playmakers, being named twice this season as the XFL Star-of-the-Week.

Bain Schroeder '14 was promoted in January to Senior Solutions Advisor at SmartBear, an information technology company.

Terrell Allen '15, a guard for the Georgetown men's basketball team, was named to the Big East Weekly Honor Roll for scoring a career high 22 points in the Hoyas' 73-66 road win over nationally ranked Butler in February.

Braden Froble '15 graduated from UNC Wilmington last year with a degree in Oceanography & Geology and is now working as a Coastal Scientist at GHD Engineering in San Diego.

Gavin Lavat '15, running back for Frostburg University, was named to the 2019 All-MEC Second Team.

Ryan McFadden '15 covered

the Super Bowl in February for the Capital News Service. Ryan is in his first year of graduate school at the University of Maryland and works part-time for *The Washington Post*, covering high school sports.

Kevin McGuire '15 was promoted in November to Head of IT Inventory for Prince George's County at the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

Jon Monroe '15 accepted a full-time offer, after he graduates from West Virginia University in May, at Microsoft in Seattle as a Talent Sourcer on the Global Talent Acquisition Team.

Justin Smith '15 recently interned as the Webmaster at St. Francis Xavier Catholic Academy in Washington, DC.

Tim Figueroa '16, a member of the Catholic University men's soccer team, was selected to the A3 Soccer Ring of Honor's Class of 2020. Tim is the son of **Tim '94**.

Anthony McFarland '17, running back for Maryland, declared last December for April's NFL Draft.



Grant Donaldson '17, linebacker for Air Force, was named Defensive MVP in the Falcons' 31-21 win over Washington State in the Cheez-It Bowl in December.



Chase Young '17, defensive end for Ohio State, declared in January for April's NFL Draft. Most experts currently have Chase as a top-five overall selection, which would be the first time in DeMatha history that a Stag would be drafted in the first round.

Stags Serve at Special Needs Prom



"It gave them a sense of almost, normality. There's time where they might not get this opportunity to just go and have fun like this."

– Mac Budowski

One of the six pillars of DeMatha is 'Service'. There are many events throughout the school year, both on and off campus, that demonstrate our students' willingness and desire to give back and make a difference in their local communities. One event on February 7th that showcased this was the 'Night to Shine', a prom held exclusively for special needs guests.

"The guests all have varying special needs, physical and mental disabilities," Megan McKelvy, mother of Ben '21 and Dylan '22, said. "The event itself is for special needs guests 14 and up. There's a cheering squad to welcome them in. Makeup services, shoe shines, posed and photo booth photography, karaoke, a deejay, and limo rides."

The Night to Shine is an event co-sponsored by the Tim Tebow Foundation, which looks for various churches throughout the world to host the Night to Shine every year. In 2020, 721 churches from across 34 different countries held a Night to Shine prom on the exact same night and same time (local time).

Ms. McKelvy is a member of the Night to Shine Board at her family's local parish, St. Christopher's Church in Chester, MD. Ben was one of two local students to serve on the board and gained experience in planning and fundraising for this year's Night to Shine prom. He and his brother Dylan reached out to several of their friends at DeMatha and the prom had Stags out in full force.

The DeMatha students served as an assigned volunteer 'buddy' for their special needs guests and were responsible for making sure the guests enjoyed themselves.

"Honestly, the (DeMatha) kids were phenomenal," Ms. McKelvy said. "There were a few kids who were hesitant on participating in

an event like this, but they came up to me afterwards and said, 'I am so glad I was a part of this.' It's as impactful on the special needs guests as it on our boys or the other volunteers who were asked to step out of their comfort zone."

That's how junior Mac Budowski and sophomore Devin Neptune felt volunteering at the event, for the second and first time respectively. Hanging out and seeing the smiles on their guests' faces left positive impact on their lives.

"To make them smile was so rewarding for me," Devin said. "Normally on a Friday night, I'd be hanging out with my friends. But these kinds of events are what I will continue to do for the rest of my life. I will go to every Night to Shine that I can. It was life changing."

"It gave them a sense of almost, normality," Mac said. "There's time where they might not get this opportunity to just go and have fun like this."

The 2021 Night to Shine prom will occur on February 12th and all DeMatha students are strongly encouraged to volunteer for this event. In addition to serving as 'volunteer buddies', there are also other opportunities available including photography, security, food service, clean up, and more. The St. Christopher's Church board cannot do this event without financial support from the community. If anyone would like to contribute, donations can be made out to St. Christopher's Church with 'Night to Shine 2021' in the memo. Checks can be mailed to DeMatha 'Attention: Ben McKelvy'. You can also learn more about 'Night to Shine' at www.nighttoshine.org.

"I couldn't think of a better event for our boys at DeMatha to participate in," Ms. McKelvy said.

IN MEMORIAM



Rogers Alexander, father of Rogers '82
Vern Allen '74
Patrick Basler, father of faculty member Sarah Stockton
Tom Bass, former longtime mayor of Hyattsville
Roland K. Beard, father-in-law of faculty member Jim Roper and grandfather of Christian Roper '08
Juliana Dereglia, grandmother to Fitzgerald '98 & John '00
Edward Dimler '62
Donna Dudzik, mother of Michael '78
Walton Egelanian, father of Walton '85
Hezekiah Faison Sr., father of Hezekiah '93 and grandfather of current senior Hezekiah
Dr. Andrew G. Favret, former Dean of Engineering & Architecture at Catholic University, father-in-law of staff member Mary Favret Kerley, grandfather of Jim Favret '98, Chris '01, Danny '04, and Stephen '07
Catherine Flanagan, mother of Joseph '77 and mother-in-law of Joseph Linehan '79
Charles Gary, grandfather of Xavier '20
Erin Flanagan Hayden, former librarian and staff member at DeMatha in the 1970s
Devin Heatley '99, brother of Thomas '97
Kevin Huffman '71, brother of David '69 (dec.)
Joanne Inglis, mother of Michael '81, Paul '84, John '85, and Joseph (who attended DM for two years before transferring). Joanne was also a longtime former staff member
Harold Jackson Isbell, Jr. '79
John Kefalas '62
Elwood Keplinger, father of faculty member Chris
Richard F. Kott, grandfather of James '08, Brad '14, and Wes '21 Peters
Dave Lakomyj '93, brother of Michael '96 and Jonathan '98
Kyle Lallis '87, brother of Brandon '93 and Jason '00
Mary E. Locker, mother of Glenn Locker '81 and aunt of William Rogers '77
Levita Mair, mother of Jeff '76
Emily McArdle, wife of Terry '94
John (Jack) McAuliffe, father of Sean '79, father-in-law of Sean Curran '77, grandfather of Sean Curran '03



Several Stags gathered at the funeral for Vern Allen '74 in October.

Catherine McQuillan, mother of Robert '77, John '82, and Michael '84
Travis Miller, former student
Robert J. "Bobby" Morrissey, Esq., brother of Judge John P. Morrissey '82
Tanya A. Morton, mother of Delonte '11
Mary Agnes Mudd, grandmother of Steven '01 and Nicholas '05
Agnes Padden, mother of Robert. Robert is a friend and supporter of DeMatha
Hubie Pearson, father of Blake '99 and father-in-law of Shauna, former DM trainer
Nathan Cortes Peck '07
Elizabeth Perkins, wife of Paul '55
Darlene Baker Pugh, sister of Paul '80, other DeMatha ties as well
William Rust, father of Michael '76, Kevin '77 and Gregory '81
Doris Sasko, father of Robert and Mike, former DM students (other DM connections as well)
Gloria Smith, grandmother of Mike Cefaratti '97
John P. "Jack" Spicer, godfather of Brian Sheehan '80, cousin of Dr. Tim Sheehan '82, and uncle of James Spicer '65 (dec.)
Margaret Stehle, mother of Bernie '78, also related to former staff member Chris Bertram and current faculty member Andrew Eck '11
William Stephens '64
Kiya Marcus Stewart '88
Grace Vicino, mother of Joe '67, relation to Larry '63 and Paul '70
John Wang, father-in-law to John Dereglia '00
Morgan Wootten, longtime coach and teacher at DeMatha. Father of Brendan '88 and Joseph '91. Grandfather of Stephen '05, Brendan (Bucky) '08, Charles '14 Paul and grandfather of Nicholas '11, Brian '14, Gregory '16, and Kevin '19 Stamper
Austin Yates '14
Kevin Zell, son of Frank '64
Jeffrey Zucconi, brother of Richard '78



A group of Stags gathered at the funeral for Kyle Lallis '87 in October.

DeMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL
Red & Blue Review

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*Taken early in the morning of Morgan's funeral on
January 27th. A Red and Blue sky at DeMatha.*