

WINTON ORACLE

INTERVIEWS

De La Salle's MVP: An Interview with Valedictorian Charlie Kratus

By Noah Wilson and Ian Moore



Charlie Kratus
University of California,
Los Angeles (UCLA)

What has been the most important lesson you have learned at De La Salle over the last 4 years?

Work Ethic and how important it is to put your best foot forward. In everything that you do. There are so many opportunities at DLS that you can take advantage of but you have to constantly apply yourself, work really hard, and work with other people because you can't do it by yourself. And to always keep God by your side.

What is your favorite DLS memory?

State championship for football because I am obviously not the biggest football player ever and I was able to do something really cool with all my best friends. It was an awesome experience to go to state and start, I thought we had a great time too. Also just being at school every day and making so many memories with my friends and teachers. It has been an awesome experience from top to bottom.

What has kept you busiest?

I would say it's a combination of everything on campus. From Football to school, to work, to NHS work I got to do with Mr. Norfolk (and he's the best), Lacrosse, Onboard, AP classes; it's everything all together- But I've loved it. A lot of people say "This is so much work," but I wouldn't do it all if I didn't love it. I think I found a lot that I love here and I feel very blessed to participate in so much.

Favorite Aliotti moment?

I don't know if I am allowed to say this because I don't know if we are worried if the freshmen believe in Santa or not. But Mr. Aliotti called me up when I was driving one day and he goes, "Charlie!" I didn't have his number so said, "Hello Mr. Aliotti, how are you?" He asked me if I could be Santa for his grandkids, so I showed up at his house dressed in a Santa outfit. All of his grandkids sat on my lap one by one and I gave them a present. That was just a very funny moment with Mr. Aliotti and I thought it was very unique.

You are often seen around campus in costumes including the famous American flag suit and Spartan

costume, where do you get all those costumes?

My Dad likes to say that we have the biggest costume budget outside of Hollywood because we love Halloween and dressing up. I love getting in the spirit of things.

Who has been your favorite Teacher?

I wouldn't want to say anyone's name in particular. But a few of my favorites would be Ms. Stevenson, Señora Hall, Mr. Appel, Ms. Talmadge, and Mr. Graham—for sure— I loved Mr. Graham's class. I don't want to say one teacher because I don't have one, I feel like De La Salle teachers are just the best, I love so many of them.

Do you have any Mentors?

I have been very lucky to have many mentors in different areas of my life. I would say Coach Alumbaugh is a mentor for me— he really helped me with leadership skills and working with other people. My Dad of course is a role model for me. Ms. Stevenson and Coach Alumbaugh made me aware of Scott Hugo, he went to St. Isidore's like I did, he was a football captain like I was, valedictorian as well, and ended up going to UCLA, where I am headed. He ended up becoming a Rhodes Scholar and going to Harvard so he is definitely someone I am looking up to right because he followed what it meant to be a Spartan.

Why UCLA?

Who wouldn't want to go to a school in such a beautiful place? UCLA is an incredible school in a great state! I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to get to go to such an amazing school.

In addition, what I learned from De La Salle teaches you this it's not the success of getting into a school, you want excellence over success, which is the motto for this school year. So, if you

focus on being the person God wants you to be and trying the best in all areas of your life.

You mentioned your business, Grasshopper Worldwide, which ran a free spring camp for De La Salle Academy students and raised over \$3,000 in funds for NHS, by mulching and organizing a flag football camp at De La Salle. What inspired you to start your own business?

It was the first few weeks of covid and I was bored, it was

the last time I remember being bored because ever since then I have always got something to do. Since I didn't have much to do, I decided to take out my lawnmower, mow my lawn and I would listen to five or six books a day. I would go door to door in the neighborhood, getting a lot of No's but some Yes's which taught me a lot about rejection. I did that for a whole month until the Gardeners came back but it was awesome, I built a whole list of

clients and I would work from 6 am to 8 pm. It was a great experience.

After making morning announcements for the entire school year, what is the yoke of the year?

What's the tallest building at De La Salle?

- The Library, because it has the most stories!



The Queen of Carondelet: An Interview with Valedictorian Morgan Gambles

By Camille Conrad and Eleanor Chamberlain

1. How did you find out you are valedictorian?

Dr. Chaponot congratulated all of the finalists and delivered the results to all of us in person. There was an application process, so I knew that it was a possibility. All of the finalists were amazing, so it was an honor to be chosen.

2. What was the most challenging part of high school for you?

Time management was challenging for me. It was difficult to balance all of my commitments at times.

3. What is your biggest high school regret?

I wish that I would have branched out earlier. I have met so many amazing people my senior year, and it would have been fun to become friends with them earlier.

4. Favorite movie?

Pride and Prejudice or Top Gun.

5. What is your fondest memory in high school?

I loved being on the golf team! It was super fun because I became really close with my teammates!

6. If you could switch bodies with another classmate for a day, who would it be?

Cassie Esco because she is going to TCU, and I love that school!

7. What College are you going to and why?

Stanford, I think Palo Alto is really beautiful. They have really interesting majors that combine multiple disciplines, so I'm excited about that.

8. What is your Favorite High School memory?

I liked all the people at Carondelet, I thought all of them were awesome.



Morgan Gambles
Stanford, Pablo Alto, CA

Senior Interviews

By Noah Wilson



From left to right: Michael Risse, Jesse Torres, and Will Pariso

Committed to:

Chico State, Boise State, and Oregon University

The Why:

Will: The University of Oregon, it's got good academics and a good school culture. Fun environment.

Jesse: Boise State, it was the first school that accepted me.

Michael: Chico, it's a cool school.

Favorite High School Memories:

Will: All the dances, football games, and sporting events have been fun.

Jesse: Kairos

Michael: Kairos



Valentino Serrano

Committed to:

St. Mary's College

The Why:

I like the area, close to home, and the community is great. My coaches convinced me to go there and I'll be playing rugby there. I am excited, I've got a lot of guys going there too: Drake Porter, Joe Becker, Joey Manzone, and Angelo Accardo. I'm going to see a lot of my own teammates.

Favorite High School Memories:

Beating Folsom at Folsom for the Norcal Championship. Definitely a top 5 moment in my life. It taught me that working hard will help you reach your goals.



From left to right: Cooper Cazares, Nathan Capinpin, Jack Maher, Arjun Chahal, Matthew Dias-Martin

Committed to:

All: Arizona State University

The Why:

Cooper: I think it's a great school, an amazing place to be, nice weather, and many other reasons. Going for a good time and a long time.

Matthew: Out of all of the schools I applied to, it was one of my most realistic options. I am going there for economics, it's what I wanted to do. I liked the campus and the people there and it had the right major for me.

Jack: Good campus, good weather. They are very advanced: number one in innovation and sustainability. They care about the Earth and the environment, which is a very big deal nowadays. They

have a good film school. And great sports.

Nathan: Great weather and great campus. Go Devils!

Favorite High School Memories:

Matthew: Beating Folsom at their crib, senior year, for the Norcal Championship

Nathan: Freshman year homecoming because it was the first dance and pretty fun.

Cooper: For me, when I was playing football, being on TV, and running down to the student section. That was probably the best thing that ever happened to me in high school.

Jack: Being on the football field, the electric energy at home games. The first home game was wild, with unbeatable energy.



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Carter Voerge

Committed to:

University of San Diego

The Why:

Well, it's a really nice campus, they have a really good business school and that is what I'm going to be majoring in next year.

Favorite High School Memories:

Gosh... that's a tough one. Just the whole experience was really good, I don't really have a favorite memory. Maybe it was the first semester I had, it was really good. A perfect combination of a sandwich. It's a bagel, hash brown, egg, cheese, and bacon.



Mackenzie Hoey

Committed to:

Duke University

The Why:

I have a little bit of a family connection to North Carolina so that kinda drew me to the campus. I also had a real interest in the academic strength of their program. They have a really good balance between academics and school spirit.

Favorite High School Memories:

I would say probably Kairos, it's the biggest memory for me right now because we just went on it, so I am kinda riding the high from that. Making good memories with my friends and strengthening the relationships that I already have, right before I go off to college, is a big priority for me. Go Blue Devils!



Dylan Greeson & Katelyn Rodde

Committed to:

Montana State University (Dylan) and the University of Alabama (Katelyn)

The Why:

Dylan: Montana State because they have a really good business program and I love Montana.

Katelyn: University of Alabama for Nursing, I love their nursing program and I get to stay on campus all 4 years.

Favorite High School Memories:

Dylan: I would say Senior ball, it just happened.

Katelyn: Yeah, I would say the same, Senior Ball was really awesome.



Jessica Felcher

Committed to:

Cornell University

The Why:

Cornell University because they have a great business program, it's a beautiful campus, a great college town, and they have everything I really wanted.

Favorite High School Memories:

Probably the clubs I have been a part of. I really liked participating in the Ventures Club, it's like the business club at Carondelet.



Gia Mannoni

Committed to:

University of Washington

The Why:

I'm going to U-dub because of their drama program and I love the campus, it was absolutely beautiful.

Favorite High School Memories:

Starting the early-early show, I've had many great experiences on it.

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20 Questions with Mr. Aliotti

By Andrew Jimenez

1 Where were you born and where did you grow up?

"I was born in Pittsburg, CA."

2 Where did you go to high school?

"I went to Pittsburg High School."

3 Did you play any sports growing up?

"I played Football, Basketball, and Baseball"

4 While you were growing up, what job did you dream of having?

"I wanted to be a professional athlete in the NFL or MLB."

5 How did you end up at De La Salle?

"I knew Mr. Eidson from coaching against him at Pitt and in 1991 we beat De La Salle. I then became a VP and eventually an administrator at Pitt High. Mr. Eidson approached me about job opening as a Dean at De La Salle and I applied and got the job."

6 How long have you been working here?

"27 years."

7 What kept you here for 27 years?

"The great students, the Lasallian mission, and Catholic education which was important to me."

8 What is your favorite memory at DLS?

"There's a lot of them, watching the students walk across the stage and

transition from boys to men. I'm always gonna parent a student and take care of them, and show them love and discipline like their parents."

9 What are you most proud of in your life (school-related or in general)?

"My family, raising my daughter and two sons with my wife."

10 Which player or what team have you enjoyed watching the most during your tenure at DLS?

"There are so many that if I tried I'd leave some out, a few are DJ Williams, Derek

Landry, and Maurice Jones-Drew."

11 What is your favorite part of your job/you'll miss the most?

"I love that it is always different everyday, it's never the same going in everyday."

12 What is your favorite food?

"Mexican Food."

13 What is your favorite ice cream flavor?

"Mint Chocolate Chip, I LOVE ice cream; you can put that in all caps."

14 What is the craziest dress code violation you have seen?

"I usually stop them before it happens, but I'd say fish slippers."

15 What is a fun fact most people don't know about you?

"I love to play cards and gamble."

16 Do you have any regrets in your time at DLS or in life?

"Zero."

17 What advice would you give to the future Spartans?

"Be respectful, listen to your parents, people have done what you have done, and concentrate on being a good person and citizen. If everyone was good then I wouldn't have a job."

18 What will you be doing in the next few years?

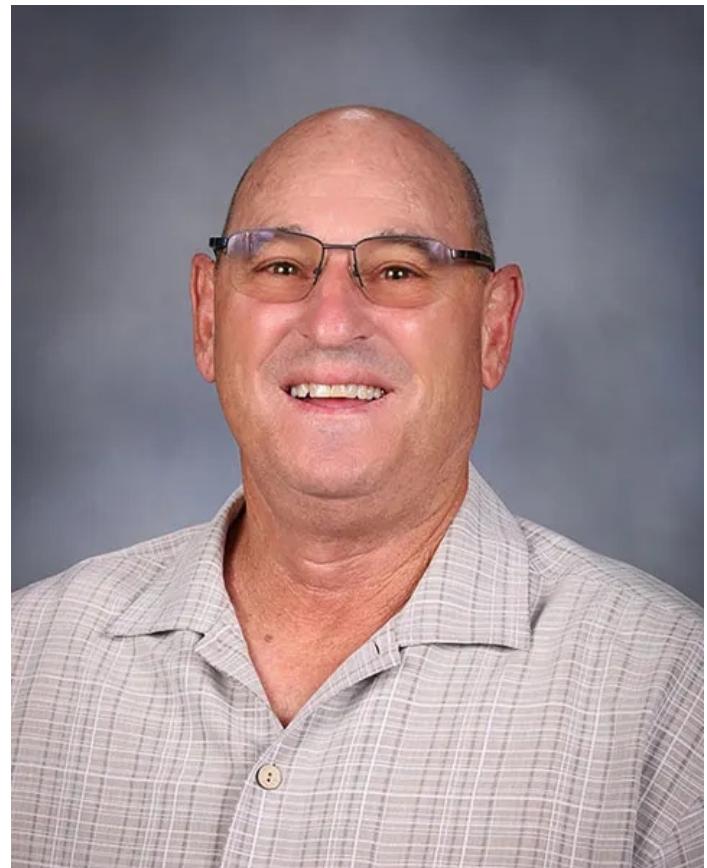
"I'm not leaving school just taking a new role, I have too much love to leave."

19 What are some of your plans for when you do decide to retire?

"I'll be golfing and going on vacation with my wife, brother, and sister."

20 Is there anything else you want to tell the students of De La Salle?

"It's been a special place for me and my family. I've had two sons graduate from here, my daughter graduated across the street, and my wife in the cafeteria. There have been a lot of friendships that I've built and cherish from DLS, and I will always do what is best for the school."



The Cycle of The School Year

By Shayaan Kashif

The courtyard here at De La Salle is a place all the members of our school community are acquainted with. Being right in the middle of three wings and our library, this area is consistently surrounded by the most students at any given time of the school day. I think the courtyard as a whole is a representation of our school community. The great tree right in the middle of the inner court is constantly changing throughout the year — replete in late summer, then slowly changing color in the fall, bare in winter, and once more becoming alive in

spring. It's a gradual change for sure, but one you have to stop to notice. Just a few days ago, I was reflecting back on my freshman year, and realized the metaphor of that tree. As the year progresses, we as a community go through many changes in spirit and mood. Intent on our return from summer break, frantic before finals, and gradually more and more carefree yet comfortable, as summer approaches. Each year, the tree may lose its leaves, and the regrowth may not be exactly as it was before, but the whole tree remains flourishing with life. Throughout the years, faces and exact details may change as our seniors graduate and new freshmen come in, but the spirit, livelihood, and cheer of our school community once more returns

as a whole. One thing I've noticed is that in general, each of the grade levels tend to gravitate towards specific spots on campus, favoring them over others. Now, since I've only been here a year, I can't comment on whether or not everyone will frequent the same spots at lunch or break as the years progress, but I think it's safe to say that they will. If so, I think it's also safe to say that the incoming class will take up the spot of the graduating class, thus keeping our community perpetually thriving.

My goal with this article was not to inform you about some important current issue, nor tell a long story about my own life, but rather prompt you to reflect on your own year, no matter which grade you may be in. What are some new

things you experienced? New memories you formed? New friendships you made? If you had to choose one highlight of your whole year, what would it be?

For me, coming here and not knowing anyone, it was completely new to me. Yet over the course of the year, I've formed new friendships, and found my own place somewhere that was completely new to me. As you complete this "cycle" and inch closer towards your graduation, ask yourself some of these questions. Either way, I hope you've enjoyed your year here just as much as I have, if not more, and the experiences will hold a fond memory in your heart.



De La Salle Senior Spotlight: Daniel Berkes

By Ian Moore and Noah Wilson

1. Could you share with us what you do on campus?

I'm Daniel Berkes, I am a senior, some of the stuff I've done here is band all four years, marching and concert. I have ran cross country for four years, been in NHS, OnBoard, SCORE, Green Club, class council for 3 years, Bring Change to Mind, and Jefferson Awards.

2. What achievement are you most proud of?

The Brother Lawrence Memorial Outstanding Junior Award for character, leadership and achievement. The first major award that I received here and it felt like a lot of my hard work was being noticed and it was good to be up there with two of my good friends Charlie Kratus and John Arcidiacono. (Usually given to only one person but the board couldn't decide who to give it to.)

3. You plan on attending Boston College next year, what made you decide on Boston?

I wanted to continue to go to a Catholic school so it was on my radar, and while I'm in college I wanted to explore the East Coast and travel outside of California. Everyone there seemed super excited to be there and to learn and it is a nice campus. I also wanted to go to somewhere where they have good sports because I like doing that in my free time and BC has D1 football. I wanted to also be somewhere where student life was big and I feel like Boston

College had a lot of the opportunities that I wanted such as a band and the college is suited to my major.

4. What are your favorite high school memories?

Freshman Year: Intramural football, the first real activity I did, really good time, and got to the podium.

Sophomore Year: After the AP Bio test, the people in the class hung out in the stream courtyard and ate In N' Out and drank milkshakes.

Junior year: Really good to come back onto campus at that time, getting the award was also amazing.

Senior Year: Last Week of school, not doing a lot in any of my classes and just sitting and talking with all of my friends and keeping those relationships going, and going out at lunch and throwing the football around because a lot of high schools I feel like I was grinding and focusing on academics and its nice to just take a step back and foster those relationships before we all leave.

5. Who are your favorite teachers?

Mr. Van Bommel, Mr. Eidson, Mr. Pelster, Mr. Graham, and...—This is like a trip down memory lane right now. One of my favorite things about De La Salle is definitely the teachers, Prof of course, he helped me with Spanish for multiple years, but my favorite part about the academics is definitely the teachers. You know, they really care about you and they really want to

help you succeed, I genuinely don't think that I had any bad experiences with teachers.

6. What was it like having both your parents (Dr. and Mr. Berkes) on campus?

I honestly liked it, because they weren't teachers, and they weren't super up in all my business but it was also good to have that resource, I can always ask someone for help and it was easier because we could all carpool. I try to see them at least once a day especially because I'm going off to college so I think it's important to visit them. It was definitely an interesting but overall a very positive experience. All of the teachers knew me and they would all say 'Hi' and as a freshman I didn't know them but now of course, I know them.

7. What impact did De La Salle have on your life?

It has developed my faith a lot and besides academics, it has taught me to be a man of service and to live my life for others and the importance of that. I have had experiences, such as Kairos and Ven a Ver, that I would not have had in public school that have helped me see up close the people that need help in our own community and to bond with my brothers here and to learn what the brotherhood is. I feel like it is hard for students at other high schools to say that high school has had such a big impact on them but on me it has, going forward I think that the lessons I have learned here are lessons that I can apply to everyday life: Faith character, integrity, service leadership, traits that were developed because of De La Salle.

8. What is your favorite Aliotti Memory?

Freshman year I was terrified of Aliotti, but I came to realize if you do what you're supposed to, you won't come to the wrong side of the law, it was sophomore year, we had a campaign centered around Aliotti, we had "Stay safe, don't vape" pins with his face on them, these sweatshirts that said "comply" on them and it was really cool to see how the whole community loves Aliotti and how he helped keep us in check all these years and how he helped us grow into men.

9. Who have you looked up to as a mentor over your four years at De La Salle?

There are a lot of kids I have kinda looked up to, I mean: Zane Mogannam, Cameron Meyer, Shamar Garett, just to name a few seniors who graduated. Charlie Kratus, Nico Roth, John Arcidiacono; I definitely look up to them and try to live my life like they are, they're doing it right and they're really good people and they are going to make a difference in the world and I am glad that I've gone through school with them and I want to thank them for all the lessons that they've taught me.

10. What is your yoke of the year?

What do you call a singing computer?

A-Dell.



Carondelet Senior Spotlight: Sofia Andrawess

By Eliana Wilson

What college are you going to and why?

I am going to Dartmouth College because I like the East Coast and it's the best school I got into.

What's your favorite memory at Carondelet?

My favorite memory is either at the beginning of senior year when we all decorated our cars or when I won my first speech and debate tournament.

What's your favorite project that you've done at Carondelet?

I think honestly it was a rough project but it was the boat project at De La Salle where you make a cardboard boat out of duct tape and cardboard and you have to have two people in your group row laps in it.

Who has been your favorite teacher?

Mr. Thompson or Mrs. Woo, both of them, it's a toss-up.

How have your four years at Carondelet been and what have you learned?

It has been excellent, I have learned a lot about heart,

faith, and courage and a lot about building a strong community with people that I love.

What has kept you busiest?

Probably my schoolwork, it's rough.

What impact has Carondelet had on your life?

I think Carondelet has made me a much more outgoing and friendly person and I think it also improved my confidence.



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Special thanks to:

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Inspiration:

Bob Montgomery (co-editor of the Winton Oracle 1968-70)

Design & Layout:

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