

# PREP TODAY

FAIRFIELD COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL | SPRING 2024



**Bill Barron '75 and Jonathan Boette '61  
Leaving a Legacy to Prep Scholarships**

**Estuarine Research in  
Long Island Sound**

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From tackling plastic pollution to tracking turtles in the rainforest, the lab team dove into many hands-on learning experiences. Environmental efforts reinforce our Jesuit Universal Apostolic Preferences, which include "Caring for our Common Home."

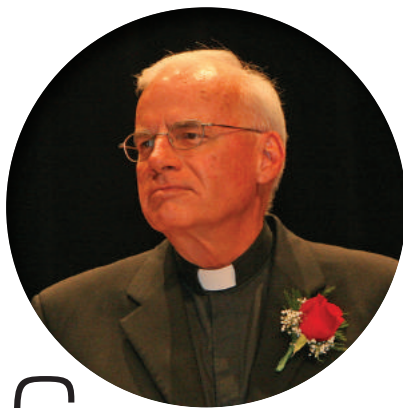
*Grayson Adamson '25 dives for discovery in the Caribbean Sea on the Belize Science Immersion trip.*

PHOTO CREDIT: DANTE AGNELLO '25



COVER: *George Rippey '24 conducts ecology research in Long Island Sound.*

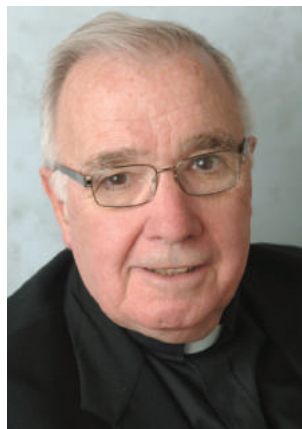
PHOTO CREDIT: PALMER FIRMENDER '24



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### Remembering Fr. Charlie Allen, S.J.

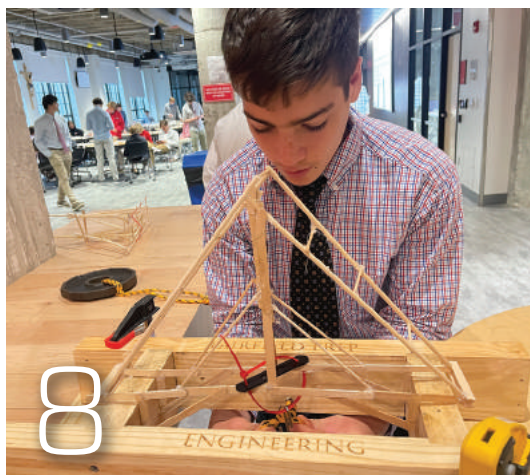
Former headmaster beloved by the Fairfield Prep and University communities



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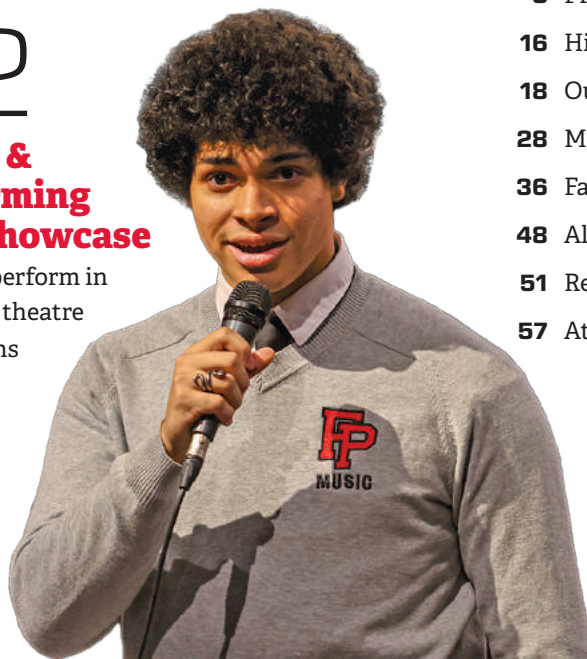
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# PREP TODAY

The Magazine for  
Fairfield College Preparatory School

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The latest on Prep athletics  
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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

# Dear Friends,

Since I wrote to the Prep Community in the fall, we have bid tearful farewells to **Rev. Charles Allen, S.J.**, **Mr. Bob Sylvester**, **Ms. Billie Brooks**, and recently **Rev. James Bowler, S.J.** Natural as it is to lament and mourn the loss of such giants of Prep's history, I invite us, in the spirit of Easter resurrection, to celebrate and give thanks to God for the remarkable contributions of two legendary Jesuit Headmasters and their lay colleagues who set the standard for caring and excellence at Prep. As I regularly remind our young men, we stand on the shoulders of Ignatian spiritual giants who paved the way for us. May they intercede for us now and always to our Lord, Christ the King.

Just as we honor the Prep giants of our 82-year legacy at Prep, we also look forward, and in the Jesuit way of proceeding, we read the signs of the times and respond from our deepest values. In these pages, you will see the remarkable innovation, collaboration and Ignatian transformation taking place, from the McLeod Innovation Center to Kairos and Urban Plunge, to our exploration of environmental justice and learning in Belize. Prep is greeting the world around us, with our signature Jesuit ingenuity and creativity.

Progress and support for key initiatives in our *Be Ignited* Strategic Plan 2022-26 are bearing tremendous fruit. Prep's enrollment will exceed all expectations next fall as we open our doors to nearly 840 boys, making Fairfield Prep the largest Catholic high school in Connecticut. The Prep mission and brand are known far and wide for our academic excellence and a commitment to care for the whole person. Prep's academic strategic plan, which is featured here, continues to garner inspiring support from our alumni brothers, most notably in this issue are **Bill Barron '75** and **Jonathan Boette '61** who have each made significant seven-figure investments in our young men and the mission. Thank you, brothers, and God bless your generosity!

As always, the young men of Fairfield continue to impress with their academic, athletic, and co-curricular prowess. When I consider how many of our boys are involved in multiple sports, clubs, service



to community and an extremely rigorous academic life, I am moved and continually impressed. One of our brothers from the Class of '81 serving on the President's Alumni Advisory Council recently remarked to me, "There is something special going on inside the walls of Fairfield Prep!" I could not agree more, and this *Prep Today* is full of so many shining examples.

We couldn't achieve any of our goals without generous leadership in our volunteer community. I offer heartfelt gratitude to our departing Governors **Jon Carroll '87**, **Kevin Considine '06**, and **Fr. Michael Tunney, S.J.**, for their tireless support, wise counsel, and commitment to our beloved Prep. Well done, good and faithful servants.

We are so truly blessed here at Fairfield Prep. Thank you for the many ways you continue to support Prep's vital mission. May the God of new life continue to direct all our thoughts and actions to the greater glory of God as we seek to serve those most in need. Hail Fairfield! **+AMDG**

In peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cashman".

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

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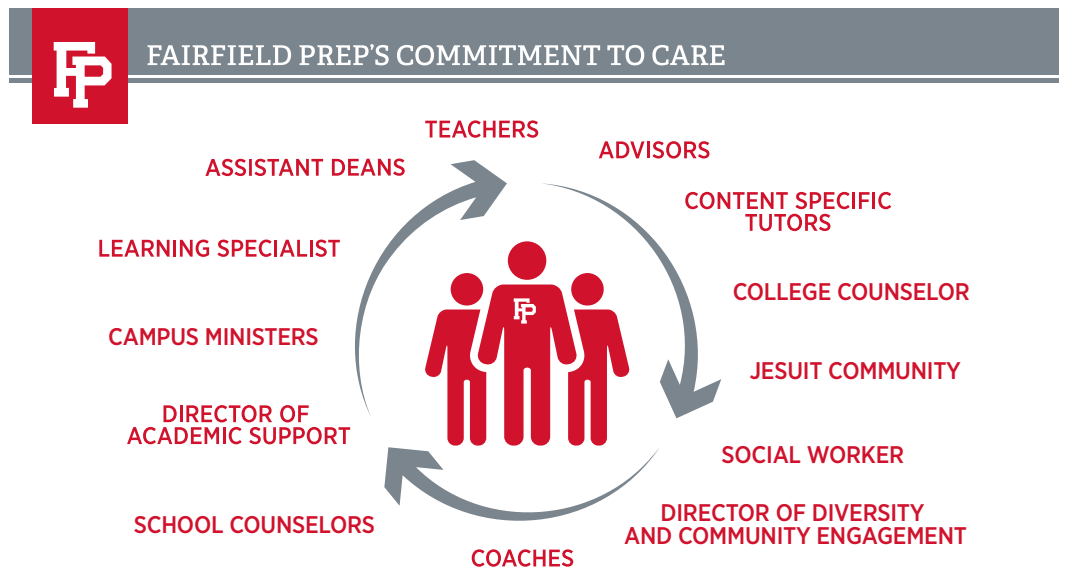
**Rev. Michael F. Tunney, S.J.**  
Provincial Assistant for Higher  
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of the Society of Jesus



# Fairfield Prep's Commitment to Care

## *Cura personalis,*

that is, "Care of the whole person," is a phrase mentioned almost every day at Fairfield Prep. As we strive to develop our students to be agents of positive change in the world, the adult community at Prep works each day to care for and form our students in all ways – inside and outside of the classroom, academically, spiritually, athletically, artistically, and more.



Over the last two years, Prep has invested in human capital to ensure we are able to deepen the Ignatian engagement of the whole person.

Our renamed School & College Counseling Department has modified its structure to allow for every student to have a consistent School Counselor for all four years and a separate College Counselor to focus on next steps after Prep.

Our three new Assistant Deans of Students, and a fourth to be added in July, have given each class an adult leader to know and form the class in our Jesuit tradition. Our Social Worker, **Robyn Bilotta**, has established *Wellness Wednesdays* and has given our students the programs and resources to focus on their own brain health. In addition to **Jen DiLillo** being named Prep's first full time Director of Academic

*Pictured above: John Hanrahan, Dean of School & College Counseling  
At left: School Counselor Dean Davis, P'25,'27*



Top left: Learning Specialist  
Mandy McCubbin  
Top right: Asst. Dean of Students  
Jessica Lombardi  
Bottom left: Clinical Social Worker  
Robyn Bilotta  
Bottom right: Math Tutor Laura Carroll

driven faculty members. Inside our classrooms each day, students are being challenged academically and pushed to think critically and creatively. But the lessons they are taught are about so much more—they are about how to be a positive and contributing member of society, and about how to act always in a way that is *For Others*.

Each day we are *Ignited* to walk the halls with our students and give them the opportunity to be their best.

Support in August 2022, we have also added a full-time Learning Specialist to help students develop their executive functioning and study skills, and content specific tutors in Math and Literacy to ensure students have the support needed to succeed academically.

**Ruben Goodwin** has expanded his role and became Prep's first Director of Diversity &

Community Engagement, dedicated to our participation in advancing the greater Fairfield community. Our athletic department, led by **Tom Curran '05**, continues to offer opportunities for our students to compete, and has increased our coaching staff to give more students the experience of being mentored by our mission-driven coaches. The Prep

Jesuit community, led by **Fr. Ron Perry, S.J., Fr. Brian Konzman, S.J.**, and the Fairfield University Jesuit community, are an active presence during liturgy, holding confessions, participating in retreats, and promoting vocations on campus.

In addition to all of this are the daily interactions with our Jesuit-educated and mission-



By Principal  
Timothy G. Dee

## Fairfield Prep's Five Strategic Pillars



**Sustain Our Jesuit, Catholic Mission and Commitment to Justice**



**Ensure Jesuit Educator Formation and Excellence**



**Deepen Ignatian Engagement of the Whole Person**



**Expand Academic Success and Support**



**Invigorate the Fairfield Prep Alumni Brotherhood**

**View Prep's Strategic Plan Goals**  
Scan the QR code or visit [beignited.org](http://beignited.org).





## Remembering Past Headmaster of Fairfield Prep

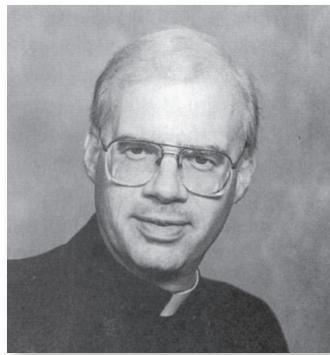
# Rev. Charles H. Allen, S.J.

*Fr. Allen was a beloved figure on campus, integral to the life and spirit of the University and Fairfield Prep community for more than 40 years.*

**R**ev. Charles H. Allen, S.J., passed away on Jan. 10 at the Campion Center in Weston, Mass., at the age of 81. Before his retirement in 2020, Fr. Allen was a legendary figure on campus and a great contributor to the life and spirit of Fairfield Prep and the University community for over 40 years.

A native of Boston, raised in Jamaica Plain, Mass., Fr. Allen's Jesuit vocation began in 1959 at the age of 17, where his work took him across five continents to Mexico, Italy, Egypt, France, Spain, Hong Kong, and the Philippines, among many other countries. He was ordained in 1973, and four years later began serving as an administrator and teacher at Fairfield Prep.

Fr. Charlie Allen made an indelible mark on Fairfield Prep. Serving as an administrator beginning in 1977, and later as headmaster from 1985-1989, Fr. Allen built up the great Ignatian brotherhood with his signature humor and affection for all. He led Prep with a flare and style that was unmatched in the school's history. He was an early champion for women faculty and administrators, sending representation to the national Jesuit Schools Network (formerly JSEA). He was a champion of Prep's SEED Diversity Program, securing funding for some of the first tuition grants for students in need, and he was a gifted, intelligent and articular homilist, known for his brevity and wit.



*Fr. Allen began at Prep as an administrator and teacher in 1977 and served as headmaster from 1985-1989*

In his capacity as alumni chaplain at Fairfield University and Fairfield Prep, Fr. Allen officiated at hundreds of wedding ceremonies, baptisms, funerals and Masses. He also served as a spiritual mentor and friend to a host of organizations throughout the Bridgeport and Fairfield area, notably in his role as chaplain to the Town of Fairfield's Police and Fire Departments.

A retirement parade in honor of Fr. Allen that took place during the challenging spring of 2020 drew a cavalcade of nearly 600 carloads of well-wishers—friends, families, former students, town residents, and first responders—to thank him for his service over four decades to the University, Prep, and the greater Fairfield and Bridgeport communities.

In 2021, Fr. Allen was honored by Fairfield University's Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality with the Rev. James M. Bowler, S.J., Award for his lifetime of service exemplifying the spirituality of St.

Ignatius of Loyola. On that special occasion, the Most Reverend Frank J. Caggiano, Bishop of the Diocese of Bridgeport, shared this reflection on Fr. Allen's impact: "One of Fr. Allen's greatest gifts is the ability to preach with clarity, simplicity and conviction. His ability to break open the Word of God and apply it to the challenges of modern life has inspired and enriched countless people in many parishes throughout the Diocese. His humor is unsurpassed, allowing him the unique ability to find humor in life and connect that in a deeply meaningful way to the joy of the Gospel."

Among recent honors bestowed upon Fr. Allen, in the fall of 2023, the new dining facility of the Thomas Merton Family Center, a program of Catholic Charities serving Bridgeport, Conn., was named the Father Charles H. Allen,

S.J., Dining Hall.

Fr. Allen earned a bachelor's and a master's degree in philosophy from Boston College, and additional master's degrees from Gregorian in Rome, Italy (theology), Brown University (mathematics), and Columbia University (educational administration).

Father Allen remained a close advisor and friend to Prep for decades, and his legacy will live on for years to come on North Benson. The Prep Community prays in thanksgiving for the remarkable life and Jesuit ministry of Reverend Charles H. Allen, S.J.

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*Donations may be made to Fairfield Prep (note: Rev. Charles Allen, S.J., Scholarship), 1073 North Benson Road, Fairfield, CT 06824 or [www.fairfieldprep.org/give](http://www.fairfieldprep.org/give)*



*Father Allen, S.J., was the keynote speaker at Prep's 2011 Commencement*





## Remembering Past Headmaster of Fairfield Prep

# Rev. James M. Bowler, S.J.

*Fr. Bowler served Fairfield Prep and the University community for many years. He was the founder and former director of the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality and facilitator for Catholic and Jesuit Mission.*

Prep mourns the passing of the Rev. James M. Bowler, S.J., beloved Jesuit and former Fairfield Prep Principal. Father Bowler passed away on March 20 at the Campion Center in Weston, Mass., at the age of 84. Before his retirement, Father Bowler was a distinguished figure on campus, and a singular contributor to the life and Ignatian spirit of the Fairfield Prep and Fairfield University community for decades.

A native of Holyoke, Mass., Fr. Bowler's Jesuit formation began as a young Jesuit Scholastic at Fairfield Prep from 1967 to 1970 teaching history and economics. He was ordained in 1974, and a few years later began serving as one of the youngest principals in Fairfield Prep's history from 1977 to 1983. As principal and head of school, Fr. Bowler led a re-organization of Fairfield Prep's administrative structure, instituted its Christian service program, and implemented the "Graduate at Graduation" philosophy which was adopted by all Jesuit schools as the foundation for the mission of Jesuit education.

Father Bowler's commitment to Ignatian innovation, excellence, and investment in human capital and talent made a decisive impact on Fairfield Prep. As a direct response to Father General Pedro Arrupe, S.J.'s mandate that Jesuit schools re-orient themselves to educating "Men for Others," Father Bowler instituted Fairfield Prep's service program and made



*Fr. Bowler served as Prep's principal and headmaster from 1977-1983*

it a requirement for graduation. Fr. Bowler led Prep in a critical era of program development and administrative leadership, influencing the future of the school's progression.

In addition to his theological studies as a Jesuit, he attended three extended institutes at the C.G. Jung Institute in Zurich, Switzerland, in 1984, 1987, and 1993. He served for more than 20 years in spiritual direction as director

of Campion Renewal Center, executive director of the National Jesuit Retreat and Renewal Ministries, and as a staff member at Loyola House in Guelph, Ontario, where he was responsible for training and supervising spiritual directors in the Ignatian tradition. He returned to Fairfield University as facilitator for Faith and Mission in 1999.

The most significant outgrowth of his work at Fairfield University was the creation of the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality to increase spiritual direction in the Ignatian tradition to an ever-widening number of Fairfield's students, faculty, staff and, in cooperation with the Bridgeport Diocese. The Murphy Center serves the Catholic community in a welcoming and inclusive manner that respects other faith traditions as well as the searching of non-believers.

Fr. Bowler's work took him

from Fairfield Prep, to Canada, to California, back to Fairfield University, and North Carolina, before he took residence at Campion Center in Weston, Mass., as Spiritual Director and Retreat Director to generations of alumni and friends.

Father Bowler was a close friend and spiritual director to numerous Prep alumni, faculty, and staff even into his final days at Campion Center. In his last visit to campus in 2023, Father Bowler expressed joy and even tears of consolation at how much the Jesuit charism and Ignatian spirituality imbue the everyday life of our faculty, staff, and young men. Father Jim Bowler's impact and legacy will live on for decades to come at Fairfield Prep.

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*Prep faculty and staff with Fr. Bowler on May 18, 2018, from left: Mike Connelly '83, Bob Ford Jr., Corey Milazzo, Jamie Chesbro, Colleen Keltos, Dr. Bob Perrotta, John Hanrahan, Maureen Bohan and Dr. Donna Andrade.*



# McLeod Innovation Center

*Innovation, Collaboration  
& Transformation*



## ENGINEERING DESIGN CHALLENGE

Mr. Chap, Mr. Dotolo, and Mr. Jackson orchestrated a two-fold Bridge Building Engineering Design Challenge for one hundred fifty physics students in the McLeod Innovation Center. First, students demonstrated their creativity by crafting paper bridges and testing their strength with the weight of pennies. The stakes rose as they ventured into the design of bridges using craft sticks and wooden dowels, undergoing rigorous testing at the weighing station. The pinnacle of this challenge was the suspenseful stress examination, where one exceptional bridge astounded all, holding an astonishing 70 pounds! This activity fostered an environment where students apply knowledge to real-world challenges, providing students with the opportunity to make meaningful contributions to the world. This activity embodies our Jesuit mission by equipping students with technical skills and inspiring them to use those skills for the betterment of others.

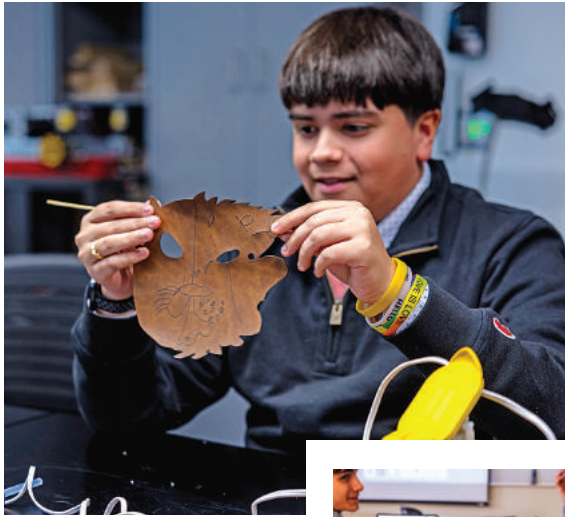
## HOME IMPROVEMENT GREEN INVENTIONS

Students in the Introduction to Engineering and Digital Fabrication course tackled real-world challenges to design Arduino-based devices for societal betterment. Projects included a motion sensor for home security, a flood detection system, a rear parking aid, and a soil moisture detector, reflecting environmental stewardship. A poster session was held in the McLeod Innovation Center, showcasing the students' work. Overall, this assignment highlighted the importance of tech, creativity, and compassion in shaping students' educational experiences.



## WATER MANAGEMENT FROM A HOLISTIC VIEW

The water demand is projected to surge fivefold by 2050 while the Earth's freshwater resources remain constant. Mr. Ford's environmental science course students grappled with vital skills to tackle this impending challenge, aligning with our mission of educating individuals who are academically proficient, socially conscious, and equipped to address real-world issues. Students delved into comprehensive lessons covering efficient conservation practices, self-reflection on personal water footprints, and the design principles behind water filtration systems. The curriculum extended beyond the classroom, engaging students in understanding the global demand for clean water and the efficacy of water reuse and exploring the nuances of water treatment, including coagulation, clarification, filtration, and disinfection. Our students gained a holistic perspective on water management. To reinforce these principles, students also had hands-on experience constructing a water filter device in the McLeod Innovation Center, simulating the economic considerations essential for designing practical engineering solutions.



### SPANISH CLASS TAKES OVER MCLEOD CENTER

Students in Mrs. Goodwin's AP Spanish Language classes learned their Personal and Public Identity unit in their AP curriculum. They were tasked with a unique and creative endeavor in which they had to hand-draw masks, each adorned with two animals symbolizing facets of their personal and public identities. Beneath each illustration, students thoughtfully wrote in Spanish about the traits associated with each animal, delving into the complexities of self-discovery. Both classes then ventured into the McLeod Innovation Center, where they learned how to use Adobe Illustrator. Over the course of a week, they skillfully translated their hand-drawn masks into digital masterpieces. The culmination of this activity occurred when the students employed our laser cutter to materialize their creations. By encouraging students to reflect on their identities creatively and in a second language and adapt to cutting-edge technologies, this project embodies our commitment to fostering well-rounded individuals.



### LIGHTING UP THE DAY OF THE DEAD

In homage to the Day of the Dead, the McLeod Innovation Center welcomed students from Ms. Somoza's Spanish classes and Ms. Rosales Montenegro's Aspira club for a fusion of cultural celebration and second language learning. This special project involved the creation of luminous cards using paper circuitry paired with heartfelt notes written in Spanish. This activity allowed students to delve into the rich tapestry of Hispanic culture and traditions. By intertwining second language education with a rich cultural experience, we exemplify our Jesuit mission of cultivating individuals who are linguistically proficient and profoundly connected to diverse cultural perspectives.



### CELEBRATING NATIONAL PI DAY

Students dove into the world of math to celebrate Pi Day on March 14 (3.14). Boys measured and calculated  $\pi$  in a variety of ways, and even played a Pi Piano! Hands-on activities celebrate our school's joy of discovery.

### FABRICATING HALLOWEEN-THEMED MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

In a harmonious blend of engineering ingenuity and Halloween flair, students embarked on a thrilling project in Dr. Levy Cohen's Introduction to Engineering and Digital Fabrication course, crafting musical instruments that embody the season's spirit. Using Makey Makey, our students transformed ordinary materials like candy, pumpkins, and cardboard into musical instruments.



# WELCOME TO THE JUNGLE



## ECOLOGY TRIP IS REAL WORLD LEARNING

**D**uring February break, Mr. Ford, Mr. Dotolo, and Mr. Soto brought 11 students to Belize to study tropical ecology with Ecology Project International. Their marine experience included: snorkeling on the Mesoamerican barrier reef near Tobacco Caye; a survey of coral bleaching and health; dissection of invasive lionfish to report what they are eating; collecting, sorting, and recording of amounts and types of plastic pollution (students averaged over 25 pounds of plastic collected each); and night-time observations of marine life.

The course then moved to the mountainous tropical rainforest inland where students learned about forest ecology, assessed water quality of invertebrate and fish species, observed bats and bat capture/release experiments at night, radio-tracked the evasive mud turtle, and conducted their own field research with presentations on a variety of topics. These experiences reinforce our Jesuit Universal Apostolic Preferences, which include “Caring for our Common Home.”

*In February 2025, Prep will offer a “Winter Ecology in Yellowstone” course. If interested, please contact Mr. Ford at [rford@fairfieldprep.org](mailto:rford@fairfieldprep.org).*





## IMMERSED IN BELIZE'S BIODIVERSITY

Reflecting on my three years at Prep, the Ecology Trip to Belize stands out as an indelible memory. When the opportunity arose at the end of my sophomore year, I eagerly seized it, propelled by a sense of excitement and anticipation.

As we bid farewell to familiar faces and stepped into the unknown, the early morning send-off by Mr. Dee and Mrs. Clark marked the beginning of a journey that would shape us in profound ways.

Upon our arrival in Belize, weary yet exhilarated, we embarked on a bus journey to our first destination—Tobacco Caye, a tranquil haven nestled five miles offshore. Here, amidst the gentle sway of palm trees and the rhythmic lapping of waves, we immersed ourselves in the study of ecology, diligently documenting the intricate ecosystem that thrived both above and below the azure waters.

Memories abound from our time on the island: the exhilaration of encountering an adult shark gliding gracefully through the barrier reef; the awe-inspiring sight of an octopus unfurled upon a solitary rock during a nocturnal hike; and the profound camaraderie shared with my Prep brothers as we lounged upon the weathered docks, basking in the warmth of friendship and shared experiences.

Leaving Tobacco Caye behind was a poignant moment, yet it marked the beginning of a new chapter as we ventured deeper into the heart of the Belizean jungle.

At Toucan Ridge Ecology and Education Society (TREES), we delved into personal research projects, immersing ourselves in the rich biodiversity of the region. Through hours of data collection and analysis, bonds were forged, and friendships deepened, culminating in a collective sharing of experiences and insights during our final presentations.

Leaving Belize, our hearts were filled with gratitude for the unforgettable moments, the invaluable lessons, and the lasting



friendships forged along the way.

The Ecology Trip to Belize will forever hold a special place in my heart, serving as a reminder of the transformative power of exploration, camaraderie, and the boundless wonders of the natural world.

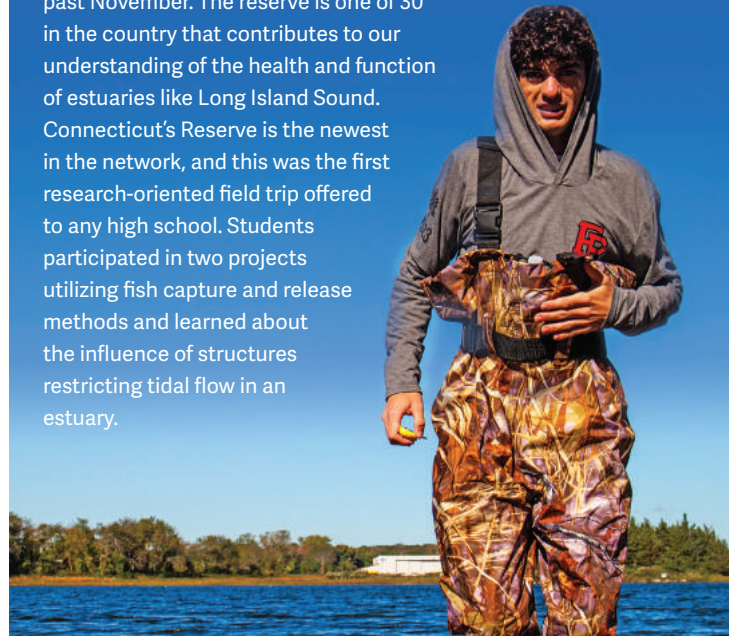
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Reflection by **Dante Agnello '25**. Dante is pictured above left with **Christian DeTerlizzi '25** tracking turtles in the rainforest.



## Classes Conduct Research on the Health of Long Island Sound

Ms. Cuntrera's Environmental Science and Mr. Ford's Ecology & Field Bio classes took a trip to the Connecticut National Estuarine Research Reserve at Bluff Point near Groton, CT, this past November. The reserve is one of 30 in the country that contributes to our understanding of the health and function of estuaries like Long Island Sound. Connecticut's Reserve is the newest in the network, and this was the first research-oriented field trip offered to any high school. Students participated in two projects utilizing fish capture and release methods and learned about the influence of structures restricting tidal flow in an estuary.



Fairfield Prep presents

# writing royale

a short story contest



The "Writing Royale," Fairfield Prep's annual creative writing contest, welcomed blind submissions of short fiction during January and February. This year's contest, sponsored by the Creative Writing Club and open to all students, collected a dozen submissions. Faculty moderator Mr. Brian Hoover offers thanks to all the students who shared their work, and to the panel of faculty who read the submissions and nominated the five finalists.

This year's guest judge, **Michael Brelsford**, is a Fairfield Prep graduate of the **Class of 2007**. His own short fiction has appeared in *Post Road Magazine*, *Peatsmoke*, and *The Bookends Review*. His story "Independent Alice" received the Nicholas J. Rinaldi Award in fiction, and his first novel, *The Breadwinner's Fireworks*, is forthcoming. He holds an MFA in writing from Sarah Lawrence College and teaches at Fairfield University. Mr. Brelsford had this praise for the finalists:



**CONGRATULATIONS...**  
to **Quinn Lombardo '26**,  
the winner of Prep's  
"Writing Royale" contest,  
and to all the finalists.

**Winner: Quinn Lombardo '26**  
**"Green Hell" (Winner)**

"Green Hell" reads like the final journal entry of a soldier entrenched in jungle warfare. The war is not specifically named, expanding its significance almost into the realm of allegory. An also-nameless narrator seems to know he will die in battle and all but hopes for it. His girl having moved on to another man, there is nothing for our soldier at home. This prose throbs with a consistent voice, pacing, intensity, honesty; the writer demonstrates the ability to craft an ending that resolves while pointing to the future. The title helps us toward a theme: soldiers often know a unique existence that is at once living—green—and dead: hell. "Green Hell" comes from the heart and displays a staggering talent.

**THOMAS ADAMS '25**  
**"I Just Want Some Sushi" (Runner-up)**

In "I Just Want Some Sushi," Nick meets friends for a Saturday dinner in New Canaan, Connecticut. The sneakers, the puffer jacket, the Subaru Crosstrek, Apple Maps, Spotify, the wealthy town itself—all speak to the narrator's comfortable life. Recalling the treacherous world of his recent read, Dante's *Inferno*, Nick seems haunted by this Fairfield County existence, agonizing over parking spaces and restaurant choices. The evening seems constantly on the brink of "something bad happening," but nothing horrible ever materializes. Or does it? Is this world of luxury and privilege, a world where we just want our sushi, in fact a kind of inferno, a certain hell?

**BEN LESTER '25**  
**"Soldiers of a Separate War" (Runner-up)**

"Soldiers of a Separate War" explores a profound moment of regret. At a table in Gabriel's Bistro, Michael encounters his estranged friend, Elias. Though Elias admired Michael for his intelligence and became his protector against bullies, they eventually fell apart due to mutual jealousies. Michael was the academic, Elias the athlete. When Elias got accepted into his dream college, Michael was caught off guard. This story embraces its realist genre by focusing on what an experience of loss is like rather than how life should be—the hallmark of a talented and wise writer.

**ALEX SALAZAR '25**  
**"Antlers of Ice" (Runner-up)**

Sal digs graves, buries his neighbors, and wonders if his father will ever return from the frozen, mountainous world in "Antlers of Ice." The narrative centers around Sal's pursuit of a stag through the treacherous winter, rifle in hand, defying his mother's insistence that there is nothing to hunt. As he chases this gorgeous animal with icicles hanging from its antlers—a crystal-clear image effortlessly painted by a writer who knows beauty comes with restraint—Sal becomes even more fatigued than his prey. The story teaches us that redemption will come when we don't give up hope.

**Ryan Sheppard '26**  
**"The Letter" (Runner-up)**

Estelle is already exhausted from grief when she finds "The Letter" from her deceased father. We learn from the first line that the attic in which she finds the letter is a kind of living presence, welcoming her with "its musty embrace." It is filled with things from Estelle's relationship with her father, most notably a chess set where the king has toppled over. In only a few short pages, this story teaches us how to love, how to mourn, and how to move on. It is not in the avoidance of pain that we find peace. The attention to detail is remarkable, showering the reader with a sense of place. This writer knows that a short story exists on its own terms, plays by its own rules. The title makes us assume that we will read this letter, that perhaps the whole story will be epistolary—but this writer is too talented to be predictable.

Read the finalists' short stories in *"The Bellarmine Review,"* to be released in late spring.



### PREP PEN PALS IN PERU

This year, students in Señor Tremblay's classroom connected with a classroom in Huaraz, Peru, for "Pen Pals." This connection was made possible by Isabella Silverman, serving there as a volunteer teacher/engineer in the Peace Corps. Students in Peru as well as the students at Fairfield Prep both enjoyed food and drinks celebrating the opening of their letters. In the United States food and drink were provided by Mariela in the SLC. She provided an assortment of Peruvian dishes and drinks that the students enjoyed, while in Huaraz, students enjoyed local food donated by students in Señor Tremblay's classroom.

### FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOP

How does money work? Prep's sophomore class participates in a yearlong series of Financial Literacy workshops to learn about the tools and resources to make wise financial decisions throughout their life.



### PREP FOR SUCCESS OFFERS LINKEDIN TRAINING

Prep Seniors took part in a hands-on LinkedIn workshop in January. Seniors developed their LinkedIn profiles, began to establish their network and gained access to the Prep Alumni Network. This training is part of the Prep for Success program, which provides students with career readiness skills and development opportunities prior to graduation.



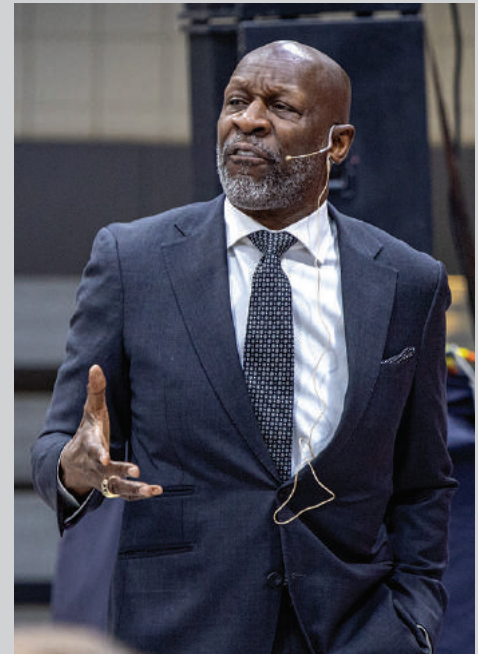


# Strengthening the Brotherhood



## BLACK HISTORY MONTH ACTIVITIES

**F**airfield Prep's African American Cultural Club (AACC) hosted a Black History Month celebration in Brissette Gym. The club organized stations featuring games, fashion, music, history, and trivia, where AACC members shared insights into African American culture with our student body. Thanks to English teacher and club moderator Jayné Penn (right front with Registrar Madeline Namin) for her coordination of the event.



## GUEST SPEAKER FOR MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY ASSEMBLY

**F**airfield Prep hosted its annual Martin Luther King Day Assembly on Jan. 10. This year's guest speaker, **Billy McBride**, Associate Athletic Director for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion at Amherst College, delivered an inspiring speech in the Fairfield Univ. RecPlex. The lecture aimed to connect Dr. King's life and work to the Jesuit mission and ideals of the school, providing a meaningful experience for students, faculty, and staff.



## PREP IN WASHINGTON, D.C., FOR IGNATIAN FAMILY TEACH-IN

**F**or the final week in October, a group of Fairfield Prep students and faculty took on Washington, D.C. This stellar group gathered with other Jesuit high school and college students at the Ignatian Family Teach-In for a weekend centered around social justice. On Oct. 30, as a part of Advocacy Day, they met with Congressman Jim Himes and Senator Chris Murphy to discuss social justice issues. True Men for Others in action!



## PREP IS NO PLACE FOR HATE

**B**obby Haskins '17 returned to Prep on Nov. 10 to speak with the entire student body on "Standing up to Hate." He also reflected on his own experience and support of the Brotherhood. Prep is designated by the ADL as a "No Place for Hate" school, and we are committed to inclusion and acceptance of all individuals.

# FP HIGH ACHIEVERS

## Company Scholars Award a Life-Changing Blessing

Congratulations to **Adrian Fernandez '24**, recipient of Fairfield University's Company Scholars award. He will attend Fairfield University as part of The Company Scholars program, a unique, cohort-based full scholarship program founded to assist low income students who attend Jesuit schools.

The program's namesake derives from the six closest companions of St. Ignatius of Loyola. These companions carried on the mission of the Society of Jesus by serving the underserved and dedicating their lives to social justice through education.

Students selected to participate in the program become part of a select group, or "company," of diverse individuals who are engaged in academic excellence and equipped with a supportive network and a platform to make a difference in their community.

As part of the program, students will actively engage in a creative service project within the greater Fairfield community — one that educates, impacts, and enhances the Jesuit principles of outreach and social justice upon which the University was founded. The Company Scholars' model allows the



Adrian Fernandez '24 and his parents Nelson Fernandez and Roxanna Salazar with Corry Unis, Vice President for Enrollment Management at Fairfield University.

University to connect participants with faculty mentors, academic and career advisors, and study abroad and research opportunities in the 'company' of a supportive peer group.

Adrian will join previous Company Scholars

**Richard Herrera '23** and **Joseph Queenan '23** who are currently completing their freshman year at Fairfield University, and **Nicholas Posada '22** who is now completing his sophomore year.



### Commended National Merit Students

Fairfield Prep congratulates **Alexander Drienik '24** and **Luke Van Dussen '14** who were named Commended Students in the 2024 National Merit Scholarship Program. These students demonstrated outstanding potential for academic success through their performance on the 2022 PSAT Qualifying Test.



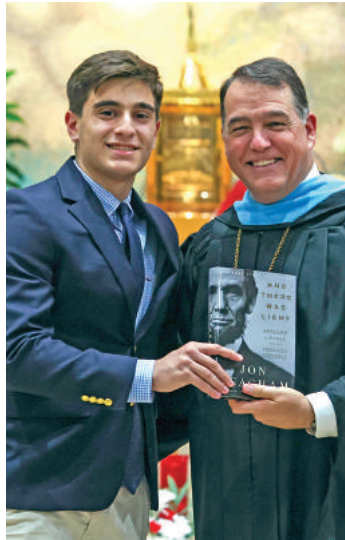
Phil Brady and his parents Jennifer and Terence.

### Phil Brady Named National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete

**Phil Brady '24** was awarded the National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete award, honoring a senior who has lettered in football, excelled in the classroom and been active in their community. Phil is a Magna Cum Laude student, a member of the National Honor Society, a peer tutor, and has played for the Jesuits Football team for all four years. Phil has also played varsity tennis and rugby, attended Kairos, and the Appalachia Service Trip. He volunteers for youth football and rugby programs and serves as a mentor at McKinley School through Wakeman Boys & Girls Club. Phil is excited to play football for Colby College in the fall.

## Students recognized at 2023 Honors Awards Ceremony

Prep students were honored for their high academic achievement at the annual Honors Awards Ceremony held on Sept. 28, 2023, at St. Thomas Church in Fairfield. New members were inducted into the National Honor Society and seniors received special Book Awards, recognizing their outstanding school performance and leadership in key subject areas. Additionally, students were recognized for honor awards for the 2022-23 school year. Pictured is **Brandon Ukehaxhaj '24**.



## Class of 2024 Book Awards

Fairfield Prep seniors were recognized at the Honors Awards Ceremony. Book Awards were given for outstanding academic performance and leadership in key subject areas.

### Brown University Book Award

★ Alexander Drienik

### Clarkson University Leadership Award

★ Brendan James Murphy, Jr.

### Clarkson University Achievement Award

★ William Reidy

### Columbia University Book Award

★ Luke Trench

### Cornell University Book Award

★ Luke Van Dussen

### Dartmouth College Book Award

★ Kent Costikyan

### Endicott College Book Award

★ Jude Gussen

### Gettysburg College Book Prize

★ Brandon Ukehaxhaj

### Harvard Book Prize

★ Nathan Moore

### Johns Hopkins Book Award

★ Ethan Farber

### Rensselaer Medal

★ Matthew Hewitt

### Sacred Heart Book Award

★ Matthew Murphy

### St. Lawrence University Book Award

★ William McMahon

### Saint Michael's Book Award

★ Tiankai Huang

### Saint Michael's Book Award

★ Drew Cesaratto

### Tulane Book Award

★ Joshua Schumacher

### Bausch + Lomb Honorary Science Award

★ Philip Martins

### Frederick Douglass and Susan B. Anthony Award from The University of Rochester

★ Benjamin Hauptman

### Kodak George Eastman Young Leaders Award from The University of Rochester

★ Hudson Wingate

### Xerox Award for Innovation and Information Technology from The University of Rochester

★ Kyle Elliott, Jr.

### The Jefferson Book Award from the University of Virginia

★ Matthew McLeod

### The William & Mary Leadership Award

★ Kieran Day

### The Yale Book Award

★ Ralfs Viguls

Phillip Martins and Matthew McLeod were named SCC Scholar Athletes for the **FALL SPORTS**, sponsored by Great Blue Research.



### Phillip Martins '24, Crew

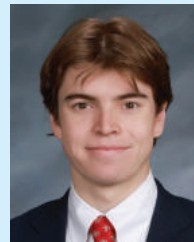
Phillip Martins has excelled in the classroom, on the crew team, and through his volunteer work. He has been Summa Cum Laude for four years, is a member of the National Honor Society and has served as a peer tutor. At St. Charles Borromeo in Bridgeport, he has volunteered extensively. He has served an acolyte, altar server, CCD teacher and holds the title of 'Ceremonial' during the services. Fluent in Portuguese, he often translates for the church business office. He serves as Captain of the Prep Crew Team and leads as coxswain on the first boat. Phillip will continue his crew career at Yale University.



### Matthew McLeod '24, Soccer

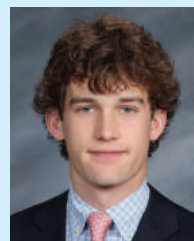
Matt McLeod has been a model student-athlete. A senior Captain for the Varsity Soccer, he led the Jesuits to a postseason appearance in the SCC and CIAC tournaments and finished second for the team in goals. He has been Summa Cum Laude, National Honor Society and the recipient of the Jefferson Book Award at the University of Virginia. He is a peer tutor and volunteered with Club Woofgang and the Thomas Merton Center. He provided English language tutoring to Ukrainian refugees, and collected supplies for them. Matt will continue his academic and soccer career at Bucknell University.

Benjamin Hauptman and James Murphy were named SCC Scholar Athletes for the **WINTER SPORTS**, sponsored by Great Blue Research.



### Benjamin Hauptman '24, Swimming

A scholar, an athlete and a gentleman, Ben Hauptmann is an excellent representative for Fairfield Prep. Summa Cum Laude, National Honor Society and a peer tutor, Ben has been a model student in the classroom. He has also been a school leader. On the Varsity Swimming & Diving team he was All-State his junior year and as Captain in his senior year helped guide the Jesuits to the SCC title and a runner-up finish in the Class L. In Campus Ministry he has volunteered as a student leader for both the Freshman and Kairos Retreats. Ben will be studying business at Northeastern University.



### James Murphy '24, Hockey

In ice hockey, James has stood out for his performance and leadership on the ice as well as raising money for the Connecticut Storm, an organization that teaches children and young adults with handicaps and special needs how to skate and play ice hockey. As a four-year member of the Prep Varsity Hockey program, James was a top scorer his junior year as the Jesuits claimed the CIAC State Championship. In senior year he served as Captain and was voted All-State and All-SCC. James also used his hockey talents to create and organize a 3-3 ice hockey tournament that raised \$14,000 for CT Storm. In school, James is an equally high performer, recognized as Summa Cum Laude and with membership in the National Honor Society.



**JESUBOTS TAKE OVER**

**C**ongratulations to this year's Prep "Jesubots" Robotics team, which advanced from the regional competition, qualifying for the FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC) Center Stage state competition at the University of Connecticut. Pictured are **Dylan Russo '26, John Tarleton '25, Rudy Swagerty '26** and **AJ Testo '27**.



**St. Patrick's Festivities**

**REIDY SELECTED**

**Will Reidy '24** has been named Second Mr. Shamrock in the Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Scholarship program. His recognition is based upon knowledge of family traditions and Irish history, involvement in the parade and the community, and activities. At Prep, Will has achieved an extraordinary academic record. He has made a significant contribution to community life at Prep through athletics and service. His involvements include Prep's Debate Club, Prep's Gaelic Football Club and Irish Club through which he initiated fundraisers to assist the needy in Ireland.



**PREP AT THE PARADE**

Prep brought the Irish spirit to the Greater Bridgeport St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 15. Decorated in green and gold, the Jazzuits performed on a float and the Irish Cultural Club marched in Black Rock with pride and sang the Prep Fight Song to represent our school. The cheers for the Jesuits and their festive float were incredible.



# Teaming Up With **Lauralton Hall**



## PREP'S AND LAURALTON'S ITALIAN CLUBS CELEBRATE 'FESTAS' TOGETHER

The Italian Cultural Clubs of Fairfield Prep and Lauralton Hall collaborated this year to organize a series of "Festas." Prep was delighted to host Lauralton Hall for our inaugural event in October, welcoming Lauralton's Head of School, Beth Coyne, to our community. On Feb. 8, members of our Italian Cultural Club traveled to Milford for another festa with Lauralton Hall. Club members enjoyed pizza, pastries, and games.

The Lauralton Hall women created an Italian-themed Kahoot challenge, Italian-themed bingo, and a scavenger hunt that gave Prep students a tour of the beautiful Lauralton campus. Our two institutions have enjoyed a long and storied history together, and we look forward to more exciting collaborations.



## SPEAKING WORDS OF WISDOM

Students from Fairfield Prep and Lauralton Hall celebrated the New Year by creating and exchanging affirmation cards. This reciprocation of positivity demonstrated an intent to be the start of a wonderful 2024 for each school. In following months, Prep participated in social and service activities with Lauralton Hall. These activities create new positive friendships and lasting bonds.



## FILLING BLESSING BAGS FOR THE COMMUNITY

Fairfield Prep teamed up with Lauralton Hall on March 14 to collect items for "Blessing Bags," filled with toiletries, snacks and JVN personal care products. Students loaded the Prep "toaster" bus and dropped the bags off at three local shelters: Thomas Merton Family Center, Prospect House, and Alpha House Community Services.



## PREP Rallies!

For both the fall and winter seasons, Prep Student Government sponsored Pep Rallies. Students showed their strong school spirit at the Pep Rally for fall sports on the newly renovated Grauert field! The band kicked off the September celebration with the fight song, and new faculty and staff were introduced. Football Coach Keith Hellstern gave an inspiring speech, and fall sports teams battled in a dodgeball tournament, with the soccer team victorious. Finally, faculty-student duos competed in a water balloon toss.

In February, the Prep community united with school spirit for the Winter Pep Rally in the Leo D. Mahoney Arena. As a part of Catholic Schools Week, Prep's incredible educators were honored and they showcased their skills with a win during a student versus faculty and staff basketball game. Mr. Via (pictured top right) won the MVP title. Members of the Prep Golf Team were also recognized for their victory as CIAC State Champions. Rev. Ron Perry, S.J., blessed the golfers' State Champion rings in front of the Prep community. The Pep Rally concluded with the Prep Fight Song.



## 100 DAYS SENIOR CELEBRATION

Members of Prep's Class of 2024 celebrated "100 Days Until Graduation" on Feb. 15. Students gathered in the Student Life Center for a catered lunch, watched a highlight video of class memories, then went to Brissette Athletic Center for a recreation party filled with games.





### I Wanna Rock!

The FP Rock Climbing Club (RCC) took a trip to Chatfield Hollow State Park to reach new heights on the mountain. The RCC is a group of students who meet weekly to climb at Rock Climb Fairfield for indoor climbing. When the weather is warm the group gets together to enjoy nature and climb outdoors! This club is perfect for students looking to challenge themselves both physically and mentally while also strengthening their bonds with the Fairfield Prep Brotherhood.

### Ethics Team Well Prepared for Regional Bowl Tournament at UCONN

The Ethics Bowl Team participated in the Regional Tournament on the UCONN Storrs campus on Jan. 27. Prep's two teams presented positions on tough justice topics. Students received case studies in September and studied the details and real-life struggles involved in each, in order to deliver their perspectives to a panel of judges represented by Yale and UCONN professors and graduate students. Prep demonstrated thorough knowledge of each case and they look forward to presenting at next year's Regional Bowl at Yale University. Prep's 2024 Teams one and two consisted of **Tomas Galloza '24, Daniel Tristine '25, Peter Moreno '25, Evan Marshall '25, Farrell Nivrose '24, Kyle Elliott '24, Andrew Kopchick '25, Samik Soi '25 and Mason Andrews '25.** Coaches included **Ms. Jackson** and **Mr. Kery.**



### PINK OUT FOR BREAST CANCER

Students and faculty wore pink on Oct. 27, 2023, in support of the Pink Pledge, a month-long, community-wide initiative happening every October. The campaign is dedicated to raising awareness and funds for the Norma Pfriem Breast Center. The contributions from Pink Pledge help ensure that the Center can maintain its commitment to providing top-notch medical care and compassion to all women, regardless of their financial situation. Prep proudly supported the Center by selling t-shirts and pink rally towels, and supporting online donations.



# Autumn Showcase

Prep's Music Department performed the 4th Annual Autumn Music Showcase on October 26 in the McLeod Innovation Center. The concert featured the Music department, with special presentations by senior vocalists and instrumentalists. The program also included selections by the Freshman and Select Choirs, piano students and guitarists. In recognizing the seniors, Director of Music Dan Horstmann applauded their journey of musical growth: "It has been an honor and privilege to work with these incredibly talented students. The repertoire is truly a testament to their hard work, dedication, and passion for music."



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





# Winter Concert

**P**rep's Annual Winter Concert was presented in the Quick Center for the Arts on January 10. With the theme "Light in the Darkness," the concert included selections performed by ensembles representing the entire Music Department: String Orchestra, Freshman Choir, Select Choir, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazzuits, Rock Band Club, the Guitar Ensemble, and the Combined Symphonic Orchestra. Director of Music Dan Horstmann commented, "Our students challenged themselves this semester as members of an ensemble while finding gratitude for the 'Light' that shines bright when making music with Prep brothers."



# 'The Lost Boy' reveals how Neverland came to be!

The Prep Players theatre group performed "The Lost Boy" at the Quick Center for the Arts on November 9 through 11. In this play, the famous author JM Barrie returns to his hometown in Scotland, haunted by a tragic accident. But out of this past, and with the help of an unexpected friendship, comes the idea for his most famous and beloved work, "Peter Pan." The journey is not always a happy one, but touches all who remember the magic and mystery of "The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up." The show actually takes the audience to two worlds, the fantasy of Pan's adventures, and the stark realities of Barrie's past.

Director Megan Hoover praised the actors for their work and performances: "Juggling those worlds was a wonderful challenge for this group, pushing them in ways they didn't expect. They approached the inspiring material with open hearts and real commitment to the value of the story. I am so proud of what they accomplished."





### WHERE LOTS OF DRAMA IS A GOOD THING

Fairfield Prep continued its tradition of welcoming Saint Ignatius School (SIS) in the Bronx to campus. SIS visited Prep on Nov. 8, and the students were treated to a performance of "The Lost Boy" as well as an acting workshop with the Prep Players.



## Artists at Work

**P**rep's Art Studio is thriving! From the top clockwise, **Kevin Urban '25** and **Aiden Erive '25** work on various projects in Studio Art class. This is a mixed level group of sophomores, juniors, and seniors who work independently on pieces of their own design allowing students to explore multiple mediums at their own pace. Freshman **Neo Contacessi '27** finishes a digital illustration as part of the freshman Visual Art class. Visual Art is one of several course choices our freshmen must fulfill for their Fine Art requirement on their way to achieving the "Grad at Grad."



### DELORES TEMA PRINT-MAKING MASTER CLASS

**L**ongtime Fairfield Prep art teacher and yearbook moderator Mrs. Delores Tema paid a visit to Mr. Bob Fosse-Previs' Studio Art class to conduct a lesson on print-making. Mrs. Tema, who taught at Prep for 18 years and retired in 2016, will periodically conduct art lessons throughout the semester. We are grateful for her expertise and her service to our students!

# Making a Difference



## FR. BOYLE, S.J., SPEAKS TO THEOLOGY CLASS

Students from Dr. Smith's, Ms. Jackson's and Mr. Reidy's theology classes attended a presentation at the Quick Center featuring **Fr. Greg Boyle, S.J.**, founder of Homeboy Industries. Members of HomeBridge Ventures, a regional branch of Homeboy Industries that opened in May 2023, were also in attendance to share information about their important work in Bridgeport.



## TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS AT THE FEAST OF ALL SAINTS MASS

The Fairfield Prep community gathered to celebrate the Feast of All Saints with a special Mass on Nov. 1. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to **Rev. Mario Powell, S.J.**, our Celebrant, who offered a homily on community and responsibility. Additionally, Pres. **Christian Cashman** signed the Jesuit Sponsorship Review document, reaffirming Fairfield Prep as a Jesuit-sponsored school.



## KAIROS 78

## KAIROS 78 & 79 Building Brotherhood

More than 150 juniors and seniors took part in our Kairos retreats this year. Kairos offers our upperclassmen an opportunity to explore their relationship with others, with themselves, and with God, and continues to be one of the most impactful opportunities that Prep students experience.



## KAIROS 79

# The Hidden Gems of Urban Plunge



In the fall and spring, Prep students fulfilled three days of collaboration, meaningful connections and heartfelt service during the Urban Plunge immersion trips. Students and faculty worked with schools and organizations throughout Bridgeport to undertake a wide array of tasks at a variety of sites. Students worked with children at the Covenant School of Bridgeport, packed bags of food and distributed them at Blessed Sacrament, plus tutored and worked afterschool with Catholic elementary students. Their service at a variety of organizations, including the Thomas Merton Center, Bridgeport Rescue Mission, schools across Bridgeport, and others, demonstrated their dedication to making a difference and being Men for Others. To the right is a message from Urban Plunge leader **Max Hauptman '26** to his group participants. It has been edited for space.



## LIVING THE 'MAGIS'

For my Urban Plunge experience I worked at a food distribution center. It was before Thanksgiving and I was assigned to carry bags to cars.

I grabbed the bags and greeted a man who had a very upbeat personality. He couldn't be more thankful for the food. During this quick interaction, I learned he was a Vietnam War veteran and that he plays "Taps" on his trumpet at every Veterans Day parade (which just happened the previous week). This year, due to a leg condition that placed him in crutches, he was unable to play. Despite his disappointment and discomfort, this man spread his love, smile, and gratefulness to all those around.

As I dropped off his bags, he looked me in the eyes, shook my hand, and gave the most sincere thank you that I have ever received.

At another Plunge, I was tutoring a little girl during an after-school program. Tutoring may be an exaggeration, it was more like motivating her to do her homework.

She had a worksheet with several questions on it. One asked, "What are you grateful for?" This 8-year-old girl wrote an incredibly touching answer. She was grateful for her mom and dad, the roof over her head, and that her parents love her.

This spoke to me in a loud voice. It reminded me to count my blessings because I can fail to remember what I am truly grateful for.

These interactions are the hidden gems of the Plunge. It is a different experience from what most of you have worked before. You will be on the frontline. Do the "Magis." Go the extra mile; it will truly benefit you.

The Plunge is also a time of reflection, in groups or silently. I want you all to be mindful. How were you able to relate to those you served? How does this impact the way that you do service?

Enjoy these days, find comfort in the uncomfortable, talk to those you serve. Be present with them for the time that you have. Not only will you make their day, but you will learn about yourself.



**Max Hauptman '26**





## Blessings in Disguise

### TRUNK OR TREAT BUILDS COMMUNITY

Prep seniors celebrated Halloween with students from Hall Elementary School of Bridgeport during a fun afternoon of autumn-themed games, followed by "Trunk or Treat" on the Prep campus. This wonderful annual event allows our young Men for Others to put their Jesuit education into action through service and community building.



# A Prep Christmas

## CARLOADS OF NEW TOYS FOR CHARITY

Prep supported Catholic Charities of Fairfield County this holiday season with their annual Toy Drive, collecting donations of toys and gift cards for families in some of the neediest parishes of the Diocese of Bridgeport. Gifts included board games, action figures, dolls and sports equipment, and donations were accepted under the Christmas tree in Arrupe Lobby. Executive Director of Catholic Charities **Mike Donoghue, P'09, '11**, left Prep with carloads of toys, a demonstration of the generosity and Jesuit mission within our Prep community.



## THE TREE BLESSING MUST GO ON

Nothing stops the Christmas spirit at Prep – not even rain! The annual Advent Carols and Tree Lighting Service took place on Dec. 3 and brought the Prep community together for a night filled with shared joy and spirit. Fairfield Prep musicians performed Advent Carols in Arrupe Lobby, and the Select Choir and Jazzuits continued the holiday tunes in the McLeod Innovation Center. **Logan Petraglia '25** also touched guests with a prayer for the Advent season. The night was filled with festivity and family fun.

## JAZZUITS PERFORM DOWNTOWN AT SHOP AND STROLL

On Dec. 6, the Prep Jazzuits and Choir participated in the annual Fairfield Shop and Stroll across downtown Fairfield, gifting our community with delightful Christmas tunes at the Sherman Town Green and Fairfield University Bookstore.





# Lenten Reflections

Fairfield Prep students, faculty, and staff gathered for an Ash Wednesday Prayer Service on Feb. 14, uniting in reflection and spiritual renewal at both Egan Chapel and in the Brissette Gymnasium. The occasion provided an opportunity for the community to pause and deepen its commitment to faith and compassion, and marked the beginning of the Lenten season. Additionally during Lent, Prep students, faculty and staff shared daily reflections on the Church's scriptural readings. Here are two student reflections. They have been edited for space.

We are gathered today to reflect on the beginning of Lent and remember our mortality. Lent reminds us annually that God put us on earth for a reason. Most of us don't know that reason quite yet but, if you listen to those around you, you might.

Lent serves as a second New Year's resolution. If I had to guess, at least half of us have given up on our resolutions already. Well, I have good news for you, Lent is 40 days long, not 365.

My past Lenten experiences have been nothing short of difficult. I've tried the social media detox and deleted Snapchat. While a lofty goal, I could not last more than two weeks because of a little thing called FOMO. The idea of losing connection actually hurt; connection is one of the primary necessities of life.

Another unsuccessful Lent, I stopped eating Fig Newtons. Without them, my days felt incomplete. And then there was the year I wanted to gain some muscle, you know, become the pin not the pinball. Each morning I would get on the floor and hit a quick 20 pushups. Some days I was way too tired to do it.

Lent gives us an opportunity to step away from our normal lives, however big that step may be, and challenge ourselves to become a better version of ourselves. It

is an opportunity to take another step toward being a Man for Others. We do this not for our own props but rather to give thanks to Jesus for sacrificing His life for us.

I stand here to encourage a different Lent for all of you. Instead of taking on or getting rid of a habit, I encourage us to live the next 40 days with Love, more specifically, with God's Love. We can do this by remembering what it truly means to be a Man for Others, to be a brother. We use the word "brother" a lot, but I wonder how many of us are one every day.

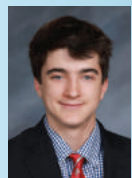


Think about how you can spread brotherly love every day this Lent. Social media can help. Post in gratitude of someone. Send a text out to a family member, a friend you haven't talked to in a while. Hold the door open for the person behind you. Keep your head up as you pass in the hallway. There are a lot of opportunities and conversations we are missing.

If you're saying to yourself, "I already do that," I challenge you to live out the Man for Others mentality. We don't attend this school to simply clock in and clock out. If you see someone alone at lunch, go sit with him. If you notice that someone is being left out of a group project, invite him in. Strive to be a Man for Others in every moment of your life.

However you may choose to share Christ's love as a brother, remember God created us to live in community with those around us. What better time to strengthen this community in God's Love than in Lent. This is a unique time when we can reinvent ourselves and remember the invitation to community that the Prep brotherhood offers.

Whatever class you may be, like it or not, your days are fleeting at Prep. It is up to each of us to seize every moment we have with one another and be the brothers that God intended, starting with this Lenten renewal.



**Nate Moore '24**



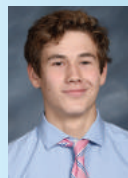
For a long time as a child, I was always oddly infatuated with the idea of infinity. How could something go on forever? What does infinity look like? Although these were strange thoughts for a small child, I didn't wrestle with them that much before I came to Prep. Fast forward to freshman year and my first Ash Wednesday service. I was eager to get ashes upon my forehead, as I never had before. This first service was a big deal for me, but even more impactful were the subliminal concepts it carried.

In context, Ash Wednesday celebrates the beginning of Lent. These ashes that we hold before us today are the palms presented on the previous Palm Sunday. However, now, they are burnt, and reduced to ash. The ashes give us a fundamental meaning of our own mortality, "For you are dust, and unto dust you shall return."

In our lives here on earth, we often can find ourselves lost in our routine, not giving time to others and ourselves. However, in this world of menial tasks, God is a teacher of the fundamental lesson—you and everything along with you will be returned to dust, of which you are made. Although solemn, Ash Wednesday is a reminder to us believers to wake up, realize the nature of our universe and our meaning. The idea that we are only dust is morbid. However, it allows us to examine who we are—creatures of purpose.

Purpose is God's innate gift to us. A machine is made up of dust as we are, but what separates us from the machine is our belief in a purpose, a belief in something bigger. One way to think about purpose is an onion. It has several layers that go deeper and deeper into a core. Translating this to purpose, when you were younger, your main goal or purpose might have been to score in a sport. Today, maybe your goal is to make the varsity team. After college, you might want to score a specific job. What I am getting at is that we each have something that we are chasing. We all build our daily lives around this immediate goal, and afterward, we chase the next, then the next, then the next. But what happens when we shave down each and every layer of this onion? We get to the core. After completing every single routine purpose that we have, we get to our truest, deepest, most veracious purpose. And it is my belief that this deepest purpose of ours is God's will—to love.

Love is the simplest word one can say, but it is the deepest in the entire dictionary. It carries the meaning of our religion and existence. Love is the essence of our God. God is love. Love is the glue that holds the pieces of dust together, for we were all made in the image and likeness of Him. It is hard to live it out. It is hard to understand, to forgive, to make friends. Although tough, God challenges us to learn to live it out. How do we do what God wants us to do? Go sit with someone alone. Go inquire for someone's name. Get outside of your comfort zone. Live your life to your fullest potential because you will never know when you will return to dust.



**Lars Maechling '25**



# Jesuit Connections



## URBAN PLUNGE IN MIAMI WITH BELEN

Fairfield Prep visited Belen Jesuit Prep in Miami for the 4th annual combined Urban Plunge. Through the theme of Environmental Justice, students learned about the symbiotic relationship between the health of the community and local habitats, the Everglades. The group worked directly with the affected Haitian community through Catholic Charities.



## Mission & Ministry visits America Media in New York City

Many thanks to the America team for hosting Fairfield Prep students and members of our Mission & Ministry team for an in-depth tour of the NYC offices. The visitors had the opportunity to meet the staff and experience the editorial process in person. Special thanks to **Lindsay Chessare, P'17** (America) for coordinating the visit!



## GREAT IGNATIAN FOOD CHALLENGE

This November, Prep exceeded our goal of 20,000 items donated for the Great Ignatian Food Drive. This annual challenge, a collaborative effort with 22 Jesuit and Catholic schools throughout the country, helped to fight hunger in the community and impacted over a thousand local families.

The Prep community donated non-perishable food items and canned goods for five different food pantries. These nonprofits included Alliance for Community Empowerment, Blessed Sacrament Parish Food Pantry, Operation Hope, Bridgeport Rescue Mission and Spooner House. Students were encouraged to bring 20 items each, and the class and advisory with the highest number of donations were recognized with an ice cream truck and a chance to "Pie the Principal."



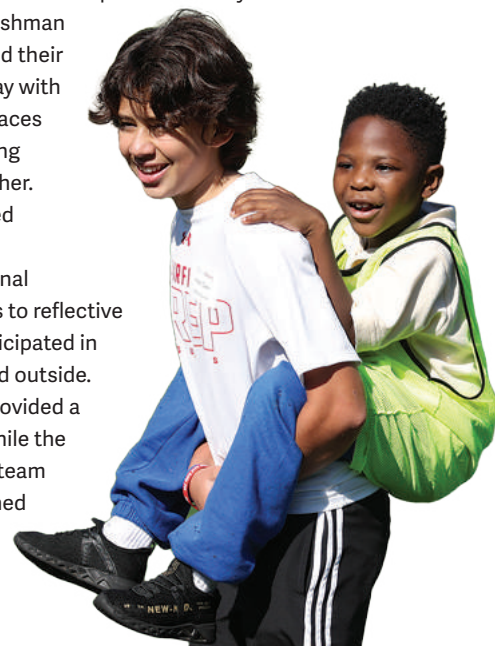
# The Class of 2027 Becomes Brothers



## FRESHMAN RETREAT EVENTS CREATE COMMUNITY

**P**rep hosted elementary students of St. Raphael Academy as their first event for their Freshman Retreat in the fall. The freshmen and their buddies enjoyed a fun-filled field day with games including sack races, relay races and “Red Light Green Light,” creating unforgettable bonds with one another.

The Freshman Retreat continued in the spring with a day filled with meaningful connections and personal growth. From engaging icebreakers to reflective discussions, students actively participated in every aspect of the day, indoors and outside. The community walking examen provided a tranquil space for introspection, while the knee hockey tournament fostered team spirit. The Class of 2027 strengthened bonds and new memories, setting a positive tone for the rest of their first year at Prep.



# Welcome to Prep!

## HUNDREDS ATTEND OPEN HOUSES

Fairfield Prep held Open Houses on Oct. 1 and Nov. 18, welcoming hundreds of prospective students and families to the Prep campus. Guests began their day in the Student Life Center where they heard from key faculty and staff members on the significance of a Jesuit education and the Prep experience. Principal Timothy Dee, President Christian Cashman and Assistant Dean Jessica Lombardi all shared their insights. Then, families explored the various clubs, activities, sports and academics offered at Prep, talking with students, faculty and staff throughout Xavier Hall, The Lavery Strength and Fitness Center and the McLeod Innovation Center. A construction challenge featuring dry spaghetti was also open to visitors in the McLeod Innovation Center.



## ACCEPTED STUDENTS INTRODUCED TO PREP

All accepted students were invited to join us for an "Accepted Students & Parents Day" in January. Students immersed themselves in a day filled with class experiences and interactive activities, from English and Science to Languages, Art, and Theology. The boys learned more about Prep, our faculty and Jesuit mission. Meanwhile, parents listened to insightful talks from our school leadership, and participated in a lively Q&A session.



Scan to see the Prep Viewbook

# Special Delivery

## For Magis Scholars

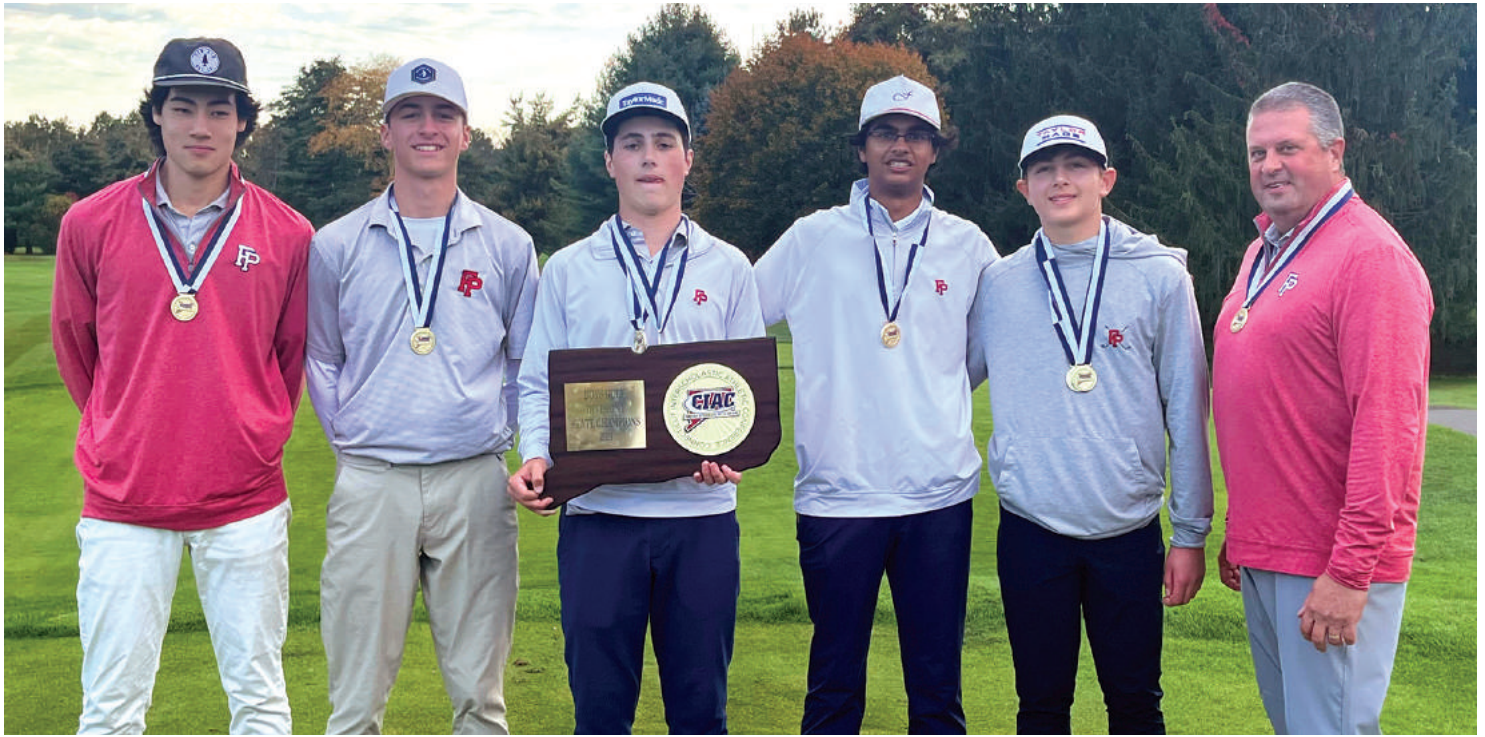
Prep surprised the Class of 2028 candidates with the great news of acceptance, plus delivered "Magis" Merit Scholarship awards. Congratulations to all of our accepted students and welcome to the Prep brotherhood!





# SCOREBOARD

FALL  
2023



The Fairfield Prep golf team won the CIAC Division I state championship at Stanley Golf Course in New Britain on Oct. 24, 2023. From left: Chris Sola '25, Luke Hoglund '27, Caden Piselli '25, Ravi Khanna '26, Robby Rosati '26, and Coach Bob Bernier.

## Golf Team wins CIAC Division I State Championship

Depth is a necessity to contend for a high school boys golf team championship. So is performing well on the day of the season's biggest meet. The 2023 version of the Fairfield Prep golf team had the former all season long and came through with the latter when it mattered most. The Jesuits shot a cumulative total of 287 at Stanley Golf Course to win the CIAC Division I state championship meet by eight strokes over Glastonbury. "We knew all season long they were capable of something like this. We just hoped we could play well today," Fairfield Prep coach Bob Bernier said.

Prep golfers **Caden Piselli '25** and **Rob Rosati '26** both shot 3-under-par 68s to earn tri-medalist laurels with Will Gregware from Conard-West Hartford. "We definitely knew we had to play good. It wasn't going to be easy," said Piselli, a junior. "But we knew our team was capable." Piselli made five birdies and Rosati, a member of the GameTimeCT All-State team last fall as a freshman, made four birdies.

"We knew there were a lot of good teams, so we had to stay steady," Rosati said. Coach Bernier commented, "Will Gregware is a great player. The kid is going to Maryland to play golf. That's phenomenal. For these guys to go out there and become co-medalists with Will, that's a great accomplishment."

Gregware's round helped Conard finish third overall with a 306 total. Greenwich, the defending champion, finished fourth (308) and Westhill-Stamford was fifth (311).

**Ravi Khanna '26** shot 75 to tie for 13th and **Luke Hoglund '27** shot 76 to tie for 19th to help secure the title for Fairfield Prep.

Prep won the Division I state championship meets in consecutive

years — 2021 and 2022 — during the spring season. Then the Jesuits moved to the fall season and finished fourth in the fall of 2022.

"The last two times we won it, we had a deep team. I think these guys are every bit as good and their scoring average shows it," Bernier said.

Source: Hearst Connecticut Media



Rob Rosati '26 (left) and Caden Piselli '25 (right) tied for 2nd place with 3 under par.



## 2023 PREP FOOTBALL POST-SEASON HONORS

Mark Massiello Memorial (Offensive Player of the Year): **Finbar Malloy '25**

CHSCA All State Class "Top 26" Team: **Jon Morris '24**

Reverend Eugene C. Brissette, S.J., Award (Defensive Player of the Year): **Mason Frey '25 and Jon Morris '24**

90th Annual New Haven Register All State First Team: **Jon Morris '24**

Chris Boyle Memorial Coaches Award: **Cooper Callahan '24**

90th Annual New Haven Register All State Second Team: **Emmett Derby '24 and Mason Frey '25**

Richard Magdon Most Improved Player Award: **James Burgess '26**

Walter Camp All-CT First Team: **Jon Morris '24**

Bob Skoronski Lineman Award: **Jack Butler '24**

National Football Foundation Scholar Athlete: **Phil Brady '24**

James T. McGrath Memorial Special Teams Award: **Emmett Derby '24 and Nazeer Thompson '24**

CHSCA SCC Player of the Week: **Mason Frey '25**

All-SCC Tier 1: **Emmett Derby '24, Mason Frey '25, Finbar Malloy '25, Jon Morris '24**

## FAIRFIELD PREP FOOTBALL 2023:

# Perseverance Personified

Going into the 2023 season, the Fairfield Prep Football program once again had the most difficult schedule in Connecticut. An extremely young team with limited returning starters and several varsity level underclassmen would be tasked with taking this challenge head on. With their first six games involving all playoff qualifiers and two eventual state champions, the Jesuits played valiantly but began the season 0-6. Most teams would have folded, but our young men stuck together and showed tremendous grit in turning their season around.

After a bye week, our outcomes turned for the better by defeating Hamden (37-27) followed by victories against Catholic school rivals Xavier (30-17) and

Notre Dame West Haven (35-10). Based off Prep's strength of schedule, a victory against Thanksgiving rival and then #3 ranked West Haven (21-14) catapulted the Jesuits into the playoffs for the third consecutive year, which was a program record. This unique opportunity was a first in state history and one that was well earned. It was evidenced by a tightly contested loss to eventual #1 ranked Staples (13-12) in the "LL" quarterfinals.

There is a Japanese proverb that states, "Fall down seven times, get up eight." It simply captures the true power of perseverance. The 2023 Fairfield Prep football team and its graduating seniors displayed incredible resolve by representing their school community and brotherhood with honor no matter the circumstances. Despite the challenges of this past season, there was



much to be proud of and learn from that will help carry our football program forward into 2024, all while adhering to our motto: **Prep – P.R.I.D.E. – Victory.**

*By Keith Hellstern, Head Football Coach, Social Studies Teacher*



## SOCCER

The Fairfield Prep Soccer Team had a strong season under first year head coach **Joel Rodriguez**, finishing the regular season 8-4-4. The Jesuits began the year with a hard-fought tie against Farmington and, after dropping the second game of the season, went 9 games without a loss, defeating SCC foes Guilford, Branford, Cheshire and Shelton along the way. After a tough stretch, the Jesuits finished in style with a 4-2 victory over Guilford on the road

to secure an SCC playoff spot. In the first round of the state tournament, the Jesuits once again faced and defeated state power Farmington in a thrilling three round penalty shootout after finishing regulation and two overtime periods tied 2-2. In the second round, the Jesuits tied Hamden 1-1 in the final 30 seconds of the game on a cross from sophomore **Logan Berg** to sophomore **Callum Wilson**, but ultimately fell in the second round of a penalty shootout. The Jesuits were led all season long by senior captains **Jude Gussen**

(shown left), **Justin Tayman**, **Matt McLeod** and **Nate Moore**. Gussen was named SCC Player of the Year and Gussen, Tayman and McLeod were all named All-SCC. In addition to the captains, the Jesuits graduate a very talented senior class consisting of **Nick Ambrosio**, **Nate Flores**, **Adrian Fernandez**, **Will Reidy**, **Mike Vano**, **Anderson Jara** and **Matt Murphy**. The Jesuits return many talented underclassman and will look to make another league and state title run this coming season.



## CROSS COUNTRY

The 2024 Fairfield Prep Cross Country team was led by Seniors **Charlie Santa**, **Brendan McMullan** and **John Gerrity**. The team got off to a solid start at the Wilton Invitational finishing in 14th place. **Charlie Santa '24** and **Daniel Tristine '25** were the top scorers for the Jesuits. The Jesuits team also included strong underclassmen runners; **Rahul Campos '27**, **Matt Rizzitelli '27** and **Barrett Mullahy '27** all performed well during the season and have bright futures ahead of them. After a 4th place finish at SCC Divisionals the team headed to the SCC Championship Race. **Charlie Santa '24** was once again the top finisher in 34th place for Jesuits as the team finished in 14th place. The team finished the season at the CIAC Class LL Championship in 15th place overall meet with a team of **Charlie Santa '24**, **Daniel Tristine '25**, **Barrett Mullahy '27**, **Reid Hanson '26**, **Will Kane '25** and **Hudson Mathews '25**. The Jesuits finished in 15th place overall and **Charlie Santa '24** was the team's top finisher. The coaches thank the captains and seniors for all of their hard work and dedication to the program.



## CREW

The 2023 fall season for Prep Crew was highlighted by new faces in old places. More than 50 young men came out in force to embrace the challenges of rowing in the pursuit to develop teamwork, adaptability, and grit. 33 novices, both freshman and sophomore alike, picked up an oar for the first time in their lives and joined the upperclassmen in a season of growth. As the novices learned to pull for each other and chase down their competitors in Hartford,

Philly, and Bridgeport, our returning varsity men took up the mantle as leaders of the team, starting with captains **Phillip Martins '24**, **Liam McMahon '24**, and **James Louw '24**.

Those varsity leaders rose to the challenges of new and old voices around them as they took on crews from all over the country at the Head of the Charles in Boston and Head of the Schuylkill in Philadelphia. Prep Crew's flagship Varsity 8 paved the way for the team, coxed by **Phillip Martins '24** and rowed by **Liam McMahon '24**,

**Will Close '24**, **James Louw '24**, **Will Davis '26**, **Henry Johnson '25**, **Peter Grace '25**, **PJ Lynch '25**, and **John Pezzimenti '24**. We congratulate Phillip Martins (Yale University), Will Close (University of Wisconsin), and James Louw (Trinity College) who will continue their pursuit of excellence at the next level in college.

For Prep Crew, the year was not over as the team kicked off spring racing in April against Farmington and Stonington in Stonington, CT.



## REINDEER GAMES

Prep Lacrosse teams participated in the 3rd Annual Reindeer Games in memory of **Jimmy McGrath '23** over the Dec. 15 weekend. 48 teams played and raised funds to benefit Bridgeport Youth Lacrosse – an organization for which Jimmy volunteered!





# SCOREBOARD

WINTER  
2023-2024

## Jesuits add another SCC Championship and finish State Runner-up

Loaded with young talent and battle tested upperclassmen, the Prep Swimming and Diving Team was poised to have a great 2023-24 season. They ended up exceeding expectations. The boys were able to hit personal bests, crack the top 10 list in multiple events, and succeed as a team.

During the early dual meets the team was focused and posted very fast in-season times with wins over Hamden and Weston, the eventual Class S champion. With every meet it became clear the Jesuits front line was one of the best in years.

Along with a solid core of returning upperclassmen, an outstanding freshman class burst on the scene and made an immediate impact.

After starting the season 6-0, the Jesuits would travel to Greenwich High School. This meet was circled on the calendar and from the first day of practice was a focal point of the season. While the Cardinals pulled out the win, there were standout performances by **Owen Tharrington '25** who dominated the 100 backstroke and newcomer **Jack Cunningham '27** who would win the 100 freestyle in a come from behind victory over the Greenwich Captain, the defending state open champion in the event. The team would finish the dual meet season undefeated in the SCC with victories against Amity and Greater New Haven Co-Op. The Jesuits were well prepared for the championship season.

With the structure of the SCC Championship meet being that top 32 places score – the goal was to get as many swimmers/divers to score as possible. While the young talent shined through all season –



it was the sophomore, junior and senior classes that would lead the way to a third consecutive SCC Championship and 20th overall. Senior Captains **Jack Boyle '24** and **Ben Hauptman '24**, were two-time scorers at the meet and were key leaders throughout the season. **Timmy King '25**, was a winner in the 200 and 500 freestyles.

At the Class L Championships, the Jesuits finished runner-up for the second straight season. Prep crowned their first individual and relay champions since 2018. **Owen Tharrington '25** was a double winner with victories in the 200 IM & 100 backstroke while **Jack Cunningham '27** claimed the 50 freestyle title and teamed with Captain **Brandon Bonilla '24**, **Timmy King '25** and **Oskar Sulkowsky '26** in winning the 200 freestyle relay in a thrilling race.

Joining the above winners on the All-State team were freshman standouts **Evan VanVelzor '27** in the 200 IM and **Gabe Swarowsky '27** swimming breaststroke on the 200 Medley Relay.

Additional recognitions include diver **Gianmarco Barrato '26**, who after a season in which he did not qualify for the SCC championship, would go on to finish 5th at the Class L championship meet. Transfer from Ohio, sprinter **Rohan Thung '26**, would score twice at Class L championships and

represent Prep at the State Open. Other significant contributors include **Maks Shemiako '26**, **David Kavasansky '26**, **Nick Rotondo '25** and **Wynton Buerstetta '27**. Overall every single one of the Prep Swimmers/ Divers could be listed as key contributors as they ALL had a key role in this season's success.

### SWIMMING AND DIVING HONORS

#### FINAL TEAM OUTCOMES

Dual Meet record: 11-1  
SCC Champions  
2nd Place State Class L  
5th Place State Open

#### INDIVIDUAL ACCOLADES

**Brandon Bonilla '24**  
Class L 200 Freestyle Relay Champion,  
All State 50 Freestyle, SCC Champion 200  
Medley Relay and 200 Freestyle Relay,  
All SCC 50 Freestyle

**Jack Cunningham '27**  
Class L 50 Freestyle Champion, Class L  
200 Freestyle Relay Champion, All State  
100 Freestyle, All State 200 Medley Relay,  
SCC Champion 50 and 100 Freestyle, SCC  
Champion 200 and 400 Freestyle relays

**Ben Hauptman '24**  
SCC Scholar Athlete

#### Timothy King '25

Class L 200 Freestyle Relay Champion, All State 100  
Butterfly, SCC Champion 200 and 500 Freestyle,  
SCC Champion 200 and 400 Freestyle Relay

#### Oskar Sulkowsky '26

All SCC 200 Freestyle, All State 200 Freestyle Relay

#### Gabriel Swarowsky '27

All State 200 Medley Relay, SCC Champion 200  
Medley Relay, All SCC 500 Freestyle

#### Owen Tharrington '25

SCC Swimmer of the Year, Class L 200IM and  
100 Backstroke Champion, Class L All State 200  
Medley Relay, SCC Champion 200IM and 100  
Backstroke, SCC Champion 200 Medley Relay  
and 400 Freestyle Relay

#### Evan VanVelzor '27

All State 200IM, All SCC 100 Butterfly, All SCC 100  
Backstroke, SCC Champion 200 Medley Relay and  
400 Freestyle Relay

## HOCKEY HONORS

### Ralps Viguls '24

2nd-Team All-SCC  
2nd-Team All-State

### Declan Murphy '25

Pope Francis Invitational  
All-Tournament Team

### James Murphy '24

1st-Team All-SCC  
1st-Team All-State  
CHSCA Academic  
GameTimeCT All-State First Team  
Pope Francis Invitational  
All-Tournament Team  
CHSCA Player of the Week



## HOCKEY

This year's hockey season was an arduous uphill climb, and while our season did not finish at the summit like last year's squad, our success is measured in our progress. With only six returning players, our locker room was full of fresh faces after tryouts. While our expectations were high, the challenges were many, as our team began the year with four difficult losses. But character is measured in how someone reacts to difficult situations, right?

Our senior returners, **James Murphy '24** (right), **Ralphs Viguls '24**, and **Hudson Wingate '24**, worked hard to maintain the work ethic and team-first philosophy that characterizes Prep Hockey. Our team began to gel when we went up to the Mount St. Charles Holiday Tournament in Rhode Island, notching our first two wins with **Liam Keatley '24**, **Tyler Morris '24**, and **Ayden Geltman '24** entrenching themselves as offensive contributors. One of the season's highlights was a critical 3-1 victory over a tough Ridgefield squad, with **Luke Trench '24** leading the way over his hometown rivals at Wonderland. Another highlight was our hard-fought 5-4 win over Bishop Hendricken (RI) at the Pope Francis Invitational. Led by **James '24** and **Declan Murphy '25**, the brothers scored all five goals, sending our team to the championship game.

Our season ended sooner than we all expected with a heartbreaking double-overtime loss to Greenwich. The legendary NCAA basketball coach John Wooden said, "If we magnified blessings as much as we magnify disappointments, we would all be much happier." While it is easier said than done, our future is bright: we are returning 14 experienced players eager for another chance to represent Fairfield Prep and make their mark on our program's storied history. Thank you to all of our fans for



their support. We look forward to seeing you all at Wonderland next December.

*By Vin O'Hara '01, Varsity Hockey Coach, English and Social Studies Teacher*



## BASKETBALL

The Fairfield Prep basketball team faced one of the more challenging schedules in school history during the 2023-24 season, facing traditional SCC powerhouses and some challenging non-conference teams. The young Jesuits team battled all season long and were on the wrong end of a few buzzer beaters, but earned valuable experience and progress throughout the season. The highlight of the season came when the Jesuits welcomed Division 2 State Runner-Up West Haven to Mahoney Arena and led from start to finish in a decisive 70-52 victory over the Westies behind 22 points from **Will Kane '25** (left).

The Jesuits will return Kane, **Ciaran Fitzsimons '25**, **Matt Feeney '25**, **Will Kennedy '25**, **Lameik Black '26**, **Andrew Wong '26**, **Lukas Kiger '26** and freshmen **Jack Nolan** and **Ryan Andrews**, who all played valuable minutes for the varsity team this past season. The program will miss captains **Aidan Crotty '24**, **Jack Stocknoff '24**, and **Cooper Callahan '24**, as well as fellow seniors **Nic Alvarez '24**, **Alex Scott '24**, **John Gerrity '24**, and **Luca Fusco '24**, but will look to reload next season, compete against the best teams in the state and fight until the last whistle.



*By Mike Papale (right), Head Basketball Coach*

## INDOOR TRACK

The 2023-24 Fairfield Prep Indoor Track season was highlighted by a record number of students participating and qualifying for post-season meets along with a 5th place finish at the SCC West Sectional Meet. Senior captain **Konrad Walinowski '24** had an incredible individual season, breaking the school record in both the 55m with a time of 6.52 and the 300m with a time of 35.29. **Dakota Newton '27** had a strong freshman season, breaking the indoor freshman school record in the 55m, 300m and Long jump. Thirteen individual athletes qualified for the CIAC Class LL Championships along with three of the relay teams. The Jesuits will return a strong crop of athletes heading into the outdoor track season this spring and indoor season next year.



### INDOOR TRACK TOP FINISHERS

#### Konrad Walinowski '24

55m 1st in SCC West  
4th in SCC Championships  
4th in Class LL Championship  
3rd in CIAC State Open  
300m 2nd in Class LL  
5th in CIAC State Open  
6th in New England  
Indoor Championships

#### Dakota Newton '27

Long Jump 4th in CIAC LL Championship

4x200

7th in SCC Championships

#### Jon Voskov '24

#### Theo Rudolph '26

#### Kiran Campos '26

#### Dakota Newton '27

4x800

9th in SCC Championships

#### Matt Murphy '24

#### Caleb Galligan '26

#### Patrick Feeney '26

#### Mason Andrews '25



## SKIING

The Fairfield Prep Ski Team had another successful year, finishing the regular season with a record of 48-8 and a record of 36-3 for the JV team. The Jesuits skied exceptionally well in the State Open Championship meet, finishing 2nd in the state by just .83 seconds behind Weston. The top performers for Prep at the State Open were **Drew Cesaratto '24** 4th (above), **Palmer Firmender '24** 9th, **Aidan Clarke '24** 14th, **Nick Hahn '25** 28th, **Evan Scheffler '25** 37th, and **Brendan Morris '26** 42nd out of 136 skiers. The Jesuits will return many talented underclassmen that will look to build on the success of the team.

## WRESTLING

The 2023-24 Prep Wrestling Team enjoyed another successful season this winter, placing several wrestlers in post season championships and developing countless young wrestlers in JV and Varsity meets. The Jesuits fielded 35 wrestlers this season which was a program record for roster size and earned league victories over Jonathan Law, East Haven and Morgan. The Jesuits had strong finishes in the Ludlowe Invitational, Trumbull Duals, Southland Duals and the John Chaco Duals. In the postseason the Jesuits took 6th at SCC's behind a first place performance from **Jack Lilly '26** (left) in the 157lb class, a runner up finish by **Tyler Smith '24** in the 175lb class and a 4th place finish from **James Cavallo '24** in the 132lb weight class. Cavallo would go on to finish his senior year with a record of 32-9 with 22 pins. **Will Smith '24** returned from injury and took second place in both the Class LL Championships and the State Open. Smith would go on to finish a decorated career with a 93-16 overall record. Tyler Smith would go on to take 2nd place at the Class LL, capping a stellar career as well, while Lilly took third at Class LL and finished with a 40-13 record this season. Other standouts for the Jesuits include underclassman **Christian Borges '25**, **Hilton Rodriguez '25**, **Franco Arduino '25**, **Blake Lombra '25** and **John Morris '26** who will all return to form a strong core.





## Prep Blesses, Re-Dedicates Renovated Grauert Field

Fairfield Prep held a Blessing & Ribbon Cutting of the newly renovated Lt. Hans H. Grauert Memorial Field at the 8th Annual N.E. Jesuit Rugby Tournament on Palm Sunday, March 23. Pres. Christian Cashman gave an overview of the field's history, followed with a Blessing by **Rev. Ron Perry, S.J.**, and a Ribbon-Cutting ceremony: "For years, Fairfield Prep and Fairfield University had the hope and vision that we could one day enhance this beloved pitch for the strength and multiple needs of rugby and athletics. Therefore, Prep was honored and thrilled to be the primary investor in the \$1.3 Million renovation and addition of turf, official rugby goals, and regulation lines. While we celebrate and give thanks for the generosity of so many who helped make this field a best-in-class venue for pre-collegiate and college rugby, I am most mindful today of our athletes—the young men of Prep Rugby who stand behind me, representing generations of Prep Ruggers and a brotherhood that transcends any one team or any one year."



## 'In a Heartbeat' Donates AEDs

The Prep Community thanks Head Basketball Coach **Mike Papale** with his In a Heartbeat Foundation and partner Microboard for their generous donation of three AEDs (defibrillators) for our school campus. The foundation's mission is to ensure all schools have an AED within 3 minutes of every location. Sudden cardiac arrest is the leading cause of death among student-athletes. These new AEDs join two others on campus previously donated by Mike and his team. We applaud Coach Papale as a tremendous mentor for our young men, living Prep's Jesuit Mission of being a Man for Others!

From left: School Nurse Margaret Sullivan, President Christian Cashman, Principal Tim Dee, Coach Mike Papale, and Microboard CEO Nicole Russo.

# READY TO PLAY

Prep proudly announces that by their strong character, academic success, and athletic efforts, many Class of 2024 student-athletes have earned the opportunity to compete in sports while achieving their college degrees.



## BASEBALL FROM LEFT:

**Tommy Farrell** - Gettysburg  
**Andrew Flamini** - Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
**Holden Norman** - Worcester Polytechnic Institute



## CREW FROM LEFT:

**Phillip Martins** - Yale University  
**James Louw** - Trinity College  
**Will Close** - University of Wisconsin



## FOOTBALL FROM LEFT:

**Jack Butler** - Salve Regina  
**Phillip Brady** - Colby



## FOOTBALL FROM LEFT:

**Jon Morris** - University of Connecticut  
**Javere Cannonier** - Central Connecticut State University



## LACROSSE FROM LEFT:

**Cooper Callahan** - Sacred Heart University  
**Ryan Backus** - Dickinson College  
**Gavin McCarthy** - Bryant University  
**Palmer Firmender** - United States Air Force Academy  
**Timothy Shannehan** - Boston University



## SOCCER

**Matthew McLeod** - Bucknell University

# Fathers and Sons Team Up to Serve

## HOMES FOR THE BRAVE

Prep fathers and sons volunteered to help renovate the Homes for the Brave, the only location in CT that serves homeless female veterans and their children, on Oct. 30. The group did landscaping and then scraped, sanded down, and painted and stained the porch — which had not been done in 10 years. The team also donated much needed blankets, pillows and toiletries to the home.



## TRUNK OR TREAT

Prep's annual Trunk or Treat event for Spooner House Shelter was a sweet success! Sponsored by the Fathers' Club and Bellarmine Guild, Prep parents and sons came together to positively impact the lives of homeless families in our neighborhoods. The afternoon was filled with creative car trunk setups, candy distribution, and getting to know shelter residents. Parents and sons also gained insight into the critical need for food donations by visiting the pantry.



## SPOONER HOUSE FOOD DRIVE

The Prep Fathers' Club assisted in unloading and organizing the food donations from Spooner House's November food drive. The fathers and sons restocked the pantry, which provides essential assistance to residents and those in need in the community.



## COAT DISTRIBUTION

Prep Fathers' Club hosted a Coat Distribution event at the Bridgeport YMCA warming centers on Nov. 10. Special thanks to Father's Club member **Todd Barrato '26** for running the event and donating coats from Free Country Apparel.



## THANKSGIVING BASKETS

For Thanksgiving, the Prep Fathers' Club collaborated with Spooner House Shelter to help distribute Thanksgiving baskets filled with donated food to over 200 local residents in need.

## FATHER-SON COMMUNION MASS

The annual Fairfield Prep Father-Son Communion Mass and Breakfast was held on Sunday, Feb. 4. Led by **Rev. Ron Perry, S.J.**, and **Rev. Brian Konzman, S.J.**, at Egan Chapel of Saint Loyola, families gathered in gratitude for an important event in the spiritual life of Prep. Afterward, breakfast was served in the Student Life Center, where **Matt Sather '93** was the guest speaker.



# Moms On Campus to Support Prep



## FALL SIP & SHOP

Prep mothers and female caregivers attended the Fall Sip & Shop event hosted by the Bellarmine Guild on Oct 25. Mothers enjoyed the opportunity to gather socially and get some early Christmas shopping done with 20 local vendors and artisans.



## AP SPANISH ENJOYS ARGENTINIAN SPECIALTIES

AP Spanish Language students had a fun and informative session delving into Argentina with alumni parent **Ana Ojea Quintana '17, '19, '22** accompanied by her son, **Marcos '22** (Harvard). The students drank "Mate" Argentinian tea and ate delicious alfajores cookies brought by the Ojea Quintana family. Gracias!



## MOTHER/SON DINNER & SHOW

More than 150 Prep mothers and their sons gathered for the annual Mother/Son Dinner on Oct. 3. This is a fun annual tradition sponsored by the Bellarmine Guild. Mothers and sons enjoyed dinner and an entertaining show featuring magician **Tom Pesce**.



## A FAMILY AFFAIR

On Sunday, March 10, Fairfield Prep hosted Family Mass at Fairfield University's Egan Chapel. It was a beautiful gathering where all who attended came together to reflect, reconnect, and strengthen our bonds as a community. The Mass was Prep's first event of an inaugural Ignatian Heritage Week, with activities running from March 10 to March 16.

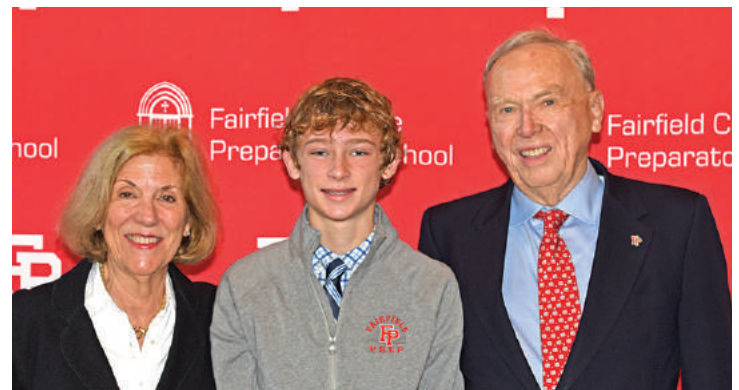


# Spoiling the **Grandparents** for a Change



## GRANDPARENTS DAY BREAKFAST AND MASS

On Oct. 13, Prep welcomed the grandparents of our freshman and transfer students for our annual Grandparents Day Breakfast and Mass. We were happy to connect with our extended Prep family and create even more memories.



## GRANDPARENT LEGACY

James Driscoll '27 with grandparents  
William '63 and Constance Cotter.





# TIME TO SIGN UP FOR SUMMER CAMP AT PREP!



**FAIRFIELD PREP**  
**Esports Camp**  
July 8-12 or July 15-19



Rocket League Drills, Teamwork and Competition  
For Boys & Girls Entering 6th, 7th and 8th Grades



**FAIRFIELD PREP**  
**Innovation Camp**  
July 15-19 or July 22-26



Hands-On, Immersive,  
Engineering Design  
Experiences For  
Boys & Girls Entering  
6th, 7th and 8th Grades



**FAIRFIELD PREP**  
**Rugby Camp**  
July 8-11



Rugby Fundamentals and Instruction  
For Boys Entering 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Grades



**FAIRFIELD PREP**  
**Football Camp**  
July 22-25



Football Fundamentals and Instruction  
For Boys Entering 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th Grades



20  
24

**SUMMER  
CAMPS**

**FAIRFIELDPREP.org**  
1073 North Benson Road, Fairfield, CT 06824-5157



**SIGN UP  
TODAY!**

# Prep mourns the loss of **Bob Sylvester**, Athletic Hall of Fame coach and teacher

It is with great admiration and heartfelt fondness that we remember Fairfield Prep legend **Bob Sylvester Sr.**, a talented teacher, administrator, and Hall of Fame coach, who died peacefully on Dec. 9, 2023, with his loving children by his side in Moosic, Pennsylvania. Bob was preceded in death by his devoted wife of 52 years, the former Joan Luciani who passed away in 2011. Bob's son **Robert Sylvester Jr. '79** and grandson **Robert Sylvester III '14** are Prep alumni.



Bob was born May 26, 1936, in Jessup, PA, where he graduated from high school. He received his BS degree from the University of Scranton and his MA from Fairfield University. Bob continued studies at Fairfield University and received his Certification of Advanced Studies in Administration. He honorably served in the U.S. Army as a captain, completing U.S. Infantry School at Ft. Benning, GA. During his time in the military at Fort Dix, NJ, the Army saw a special talent in Bob. He was assigned to teach and speak to large groups of Army Service Members returning home from Europe. This is where Bob discovered his great passion for teaching and his extraordinary career of service to others.

Bob held several positions during his 24-year career at Fairfield College Preparatory School, including: Director of Development and Alumni Relations, Associate Principal for Admissions and Public Relations, Senior Housemaster, Chairman of the Department of Social Studies, and Instructor of American History and Constitutional History. In 1959, at the young age of 23, Bob became the Junior Varsity Basketball Coach and two years later became the Head Varsity Basketball Coach. During his tenure as basketball coach (1959-1977), Fairfield Prep qualified for the state tournament 16 of 18 years. The team won five conference championships along with two State Runners-Up and in 1969 won the State Championship. Coach Sylvester once wrote, "I was so young. Looking back on the entire career and using the great teams I coached as a focal point, I can say that I am one of the luckiest guys in the world. I had the privilege of teaching and coaching some of the best and brightest students and athletes."

Bob received numerous awards during his career at Fairfield Prep. He was inducted into the Fairfield Prep Hall of Fame in 1983 and in 1992 was the recipient of the Fairfield University 50-year anniversary Jubilee Medal. During that same year, Bob was honored by being asked to give the commencement address to the Fairfield Prep graduating class of 1992. Bob was inducted into the New England Basketball Hall of Fame in 2006 and into the Fairfield Prep Athletic Hall of Fame in 2018. During his life and career, Bob embodied the Jesuit vision and motto "Men for Others."

Recently the Sylvester Family established a scholarship in Bob's name. Donations may be made to Fairfield Prep (note: Sylvester Family Scholarship), 1073 North Benson Road, Fairfield, CT 06824 or [www.fairfieldprep.org/give](http://www.fairfieldprep.org/give)

*Pictured right: Former Prep President Rev. Tom Simisky, S.J., honors Bob Sylvester at the Athletic Hall of Fame Dinner in June 2018.*

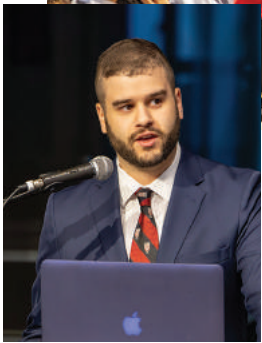


# PREP ALUMNI

Submit your news and photos easily online at [www.FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG/ALUMNIUPDATE](http://www.FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG/ALUMNIUPDATE).  
Email us at [development@fairfieldprep.org](mailto:development@fairfieldprep.org) or mail to Fairfield Prep Alumni Office, 1073 North Benson Rd., Fairfield, CT 06824.

## Accomplished Alumni Speak at Prep Classes

### FILM & MEDIA



#### ESPN PRODUCER CODY JONES '13

**Cody Jones '13** paid Fairfield Prep a visit on Oct. 17 to give a presentation to the Introduction to Film & Media class and the Prep Media Club about his experience as a producer at ESPN. Thank you, Cody for sharing your expertise with fellow Prep brothers!

### AMERICAN STUDIES



#### SENATOR JOHN MCKINNEY '82 AND MATTHEW KELLER '82 TALK POLITICS

It was a pleasure to once again welcome back to Fairfield Prep former state **Sen. John McKinney '82, P'14** and **Matthew Keller '82, P'22**. Sen. McKinney and Mr. Keller discussed civic engagement, public service and bipartisan politics with students in Mr. Sather's American Studies class in early November.

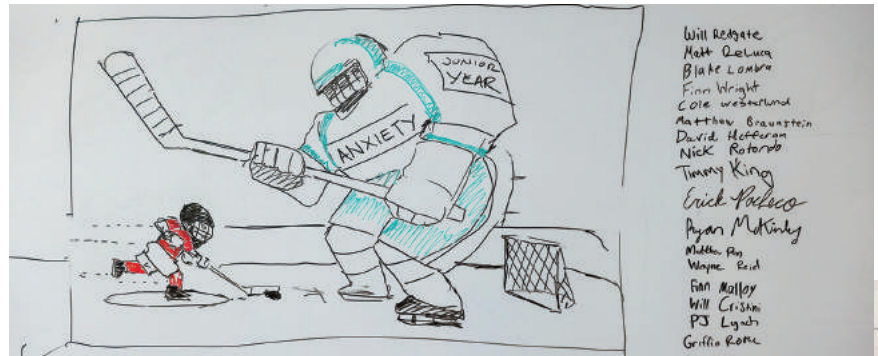
### PREP MEDIA CLUB



#### RADIO ANNOUNCER MATT SCALZO '19

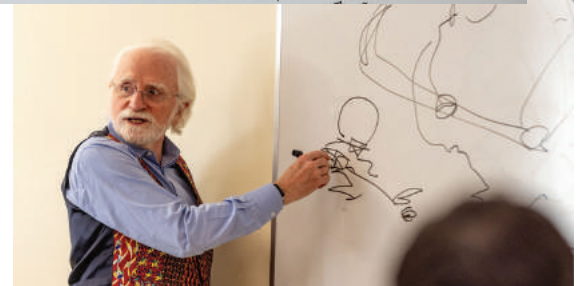
Thank you to **Matt Scalzo '20** for paying a visit with Prep Media Club students to discuss his experience as a radio announcer and sports media major at Penn State.

### VISUAL ARTS



#### POLITICAL CARTOONIST KAL KALLAUGHER '73 GIVES DEMONSTRATION

It was a pleasure welcoming **Kevin "Kal" Kallaugher '73** back to Fairfield Prep to speak to our students about his career as a political cartoonist.



# Prep Alumni Spreading the Gospel



## LOMNITZER '14 CELEBRATES IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

We welcomed Prep Alumnus **Colin Lomnitzer '14** as the Celebrant for the Mass of the Immaculate Conception on Dec. 8 in the RecPlex. He shared a moving homily about Mary's devotion to God. Fr. Lomnitzer is the Parochial Vicar of St. Mary Parish in Ridgefield in the Diocese of Bridgeport.



## LAFLEUR '15 ORDAINED A PRIEST

**Andrew LaFleur '15** was ordained to the priesthood in the Diocese of Bridgeport on May 20, 2023, at St. Theresa Parish. Andrew was born in Bridgeport to James LaFleur and Pamela Smith LaFleur. He graduated from Fairfield Prep in 2015, Sacred Heart University in 2019, and spent his transitional diaconate at St. Mary Parish in Bethel. LaFleur celebrated his first Mass as a priest at St. Ann Parish in Bridgeport on May 21, 2023. Pictured are Fr. LaFleur with the Most Rev. Frank J. Caggiano.

## PREP FOR SUCCESS

# Alumni Engage with Students at Career Night

Thank you to the amazing Prep alumni and parent professionals and dedicated students who made Prep for Success Career Night a resounding success! We're so grateful for the insights, connections, and inspiration shared.



# Billie Brooks

## IN LOVING MEMORY

It is with much love and gratitude that we mourn the passing of Billie Noel Brooks, of Shelton, Conn., on December 31, 2023. Billie was a beloved foreign language teacher at Fairfield Prep from 1972 to her retirement in 2016. After earning her bachelor's and master's degrees in education from the Southern CT State College in 1972, Billie embarked on a 44-year teaching career at Prep. Initially she taught both German and Spanish, but later in her career taught exclusively Spanish. She would eventually serve as the chair of the World Language Department. Billie was admired very much by her extended family and the countless people that knew her as a teacher at Prep.



Donations may be made to the Fairfield Prep Fund, In Memory of Billie Brooks, 1073 North Benson Road, Fairfield, CT 06824 or [www.fairfieldprep.org/give](http://www.fairfieldprep.org/give) (note: Billie Brooks)

Billie Brooks received the Ignatian Educator of the Year Award in 2012. Standing to her left is former President Rev. Jack Hanwell, S.J.

In July 1994, there was a cheerful voice on our answering machine (remember those?) identifying herself as Billie Brooks, Chair of the language department of Fairfield Prep, inviting me to interview for a teaching position. I returned the call, intending to thank her for the opportunity, but planning to decline because Fairfield was too long a commute. That cheerful voice, however, was so warm and welcoming that I found myself agreeing to the interview. When I met the voice, it matched the person, and so began my career at Fairfield Prep.

Billie's career began a bit differently in 1972. There was no answering machine, no charming female voice. She was hired to teach German and Spanish. At that time, she and Betty Kachmar were the only women faculty at Prep.

Billie Brooks spent over 40 years educating Prep students. As the population culture changed, she adapted as well, always looking for new ways to bridge experience and reflection into action. Whatever current topic was energizing her students—from gay rights to AI—Billie arranged a discussion asking her students to reflect on morality within the Jesuit paradigm. She found Spanish resources on the internet to broaden her students' perspectives. When teaching the subjunctive, Billie asked her students to write prayers to share for daily meditation. With upper-level classes, she often did a unit on fairy tales, which concluded with milk and cookies, just like kindergarten.

Billie did not merely mouth the Jesuit ideals; she lived them. She was committed to social justice both at Prep and in the larger community. For many years, Billie organized a sock drive to benefit the residents of local shelters. She used the simplest of clothing to help her students become aware of the importance of the smallest

gesture. Every Christmas, Billie made a contribution in the name of the Language Department to various charities. For several years, she contributed to the boxing program associated with her trainer. Because of her generosity, several young men could participate in an activity that was not affordable to them. The notes she received from these young men were heartwarming. One of her last acts of kindness came just before she died. Because of a fire at the Waterbury Country Club, there were many people left without a job just before Christmas. Billie, who knew none of these people and in the midst of her own illness, sent money to them all.

The phrase "unsung hero" has become almost trite. However, in Billie's case, it is an apt description. She never expected any gratitude because that is how she always lived her life.

Among the many accolades given to Billie, she received the Rev. Martin G. Shaughnessy, S.J., Ignatian Teacher of the Year Award. This award has particular significance because the recipient is nominated by his or her colleagues, and the award is named in honor of one of Prep's most beloved teachers.

The very last communication I received from Billie was December 30, the day before she died. No one who knew Billie would be at all surprised that her last words in that text were "Tell everyone I love them." Our dear Billie, we certainly loved you.



Tribute by Connie Carrington, retired Prep World Languages teacher and chair



## Jesse Senko '02 Wins Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize for Conservation

**T**welve-year-old **Jesse Senko** fell in love with sea turtles on a snorkeling tour with his family in the Cayman Islands. Spotting a big green one in front of him, Senko grabbed it, and the turtle took off. Despite his panicked mother's calls to "Come back!" he enjoyed the ride. Eventually the turtle returned to the boat and it rid itself of its hitcher. "Right at that moment I say to my parents, "That was awesome! I want to study these things!" Senko says. "Ever since then I've been obsessed with sea turtles."

Growing up on the coast of Long Island Sound, Senko is not a foreigner to boats, and has been fishing since he could hold a rod. He graduated from Fairfield Prep in 2002, majored in fisheries and wildlife sciences at the University of Connecticut, and received his master's degree in wildlife ecology and conservation from the University of Florida.

Senko is now a marine biologist and conservation scientist studying his passion at Arizona State University. Unlike other scientists, the marine enthusiast navigates about 10 problems at once. Saving sea turtles is job one, but that's related to sustainable fishing, which ties into resilient coastal communities. Engineering transformative fishing gear and reducing plastic trash in the oceans are other parts of his puzzle.

"Fishing gear is the greatest threat to sea turtles worldwide," Senko says. "Sea turtles are vital for the health of the world's oceans. They perform fundamental roles in ocean ecosystems, many of which are not fulfilled by other species. And humans need healthy oceans to survive and thrive."

Upon completing his PhD, he joined ASU's new School for the Future of Innovation in Society, which works on solving all aspects of wicked problems and the unintended consequences behind new technologies and policies.

While working on his PhD in Baja, California, Senko noticed that lights put on gill nets to attract fish reduced sea turtle bycatch. Turtles and sharks can see nets and avoid them. Assembling a creative, skilled university team, Senko set off to develop solar-powered net lights which, when tossed on the deck or dock, recharge themselves.

Senko also linked with fishermen brothers Felipe and Juan Pablo Cuevas, arguably the most famous among their peers in the waters of Baja California Sur. Conservation for the Cuevas brothers is not just turtles, it's the whole marine ecosystem. Senko joined with the brothers to test the lights in a turtle-rich area. They dropped two nets separated by a 200-meter length of line: a treatment net with lights switched on and a control net with lights turned off. The lights looked like a blinking landing strip in the darkness. When they returned to the nets, the middle light on the treatment net was not working. There was a big dark area in the middle, which was exactly where they found a green turtle, away from the lights. The lights worked. They hauled the turtle on board, freed it and released it back into the water.

For its impact and innovation, the project was named a 2023 Theodore Roosevelt Genius Prize Competition \$100,000 winner for "Promoting Wildlife Conservation" from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Senko developed a solar-powered light that doubles as a buoy to reduce bycatch of endangered sea turtles, sharks and marine mammals while maintaining target fish catch. The innovation is lifesaving for the marine animals it protects — and immediately implementable for fishers using their existing fishing gear. Senko's turtle ride has only just begun.

*Source: ASU News*

## Remembering Dr. M. James Barrett '60, Largest Prep Benefactor



wanted to give back." The Prep Community is forever grateful for the Barretts' tremendous generosity in supporting Fairfield Prep and its future.

We give thanks to God for Jim Barrett's remarkable life and legacy.

Fairfield Prep is deeply saddened by the loss of **Dr. M. James Barrett '60** on Jan. 23, 2024, in Potomac, MD. Jim is survived by his wife April, and their children and families. He also leaves Prep alumni brothers **Raymond '61, Ronald '63 and Andrew '63.**

Jim and April Barrett were early investors in the five pillars of Prep's Be Ignited Strategic Plan '22-26, which has provided critical support for our mission and

programs. Previously in 2020, Jim and April also made a transformational gift toward the Xavier Hall fourth floor renovations into the **Barrett Science Center**, a state-of-the-art STEM center for advanced science learning.

Jim's varied professional path took him from obtaining a PhD in Biochemistry, to heading research and development in the pharmaceutical industry, to becoming a venture capitalist

in the biotech sector. Looking back, Jim unequivocally credited Fairfield Prep as the bedrock of his success. "College and graduate school and everything that came after would not have been possible without the foundation laid at Prep," he reflected. "For that reason, I've always felt an obligation to the Prep. Prep transformed me as a personality and a person... And because April and I have been so fortunate, we

## In Memoriam

**Henry J. Anderson '63** on November 22, 2023.

Joan Attolino on February 17, 2024. She was the wife of the late **James V. Attolino '52.** The mother of **James V. Attolino '78** and **David M. Attolino '82;** and the grandmother of **Timothy J. Attolino '13.**

Cynthia K. Antonico on January 7, 2024. She was the mother of **Michael V. Antonico '17.**

**John J. Barnick '52** on February 18, 2024.

**M. James Barrett '60** on January 23, 2024. He was the brother of **Raymond T. Barrett '61, Andrew J. Barrett '63** and **Ronald L. Barrett '63.** See article above.

**John R. Biebel '74** on December 8, 2023.

**William J. Bova Jr. '61** on December 8, 2023. He was the uncle of **Mark E. D'Alton '03.**

Sandra Bruder on March 13, 2024. She was the wife of **Bernhard F. Bruder '57,** the sister in law of the late **Albert W. Bruder '48** and the mother of **Christopher J. Bruder '83** and **Michael S. Bruder '87.**

**Lawrence J. Bues '57** on March 5, 2024. He was the father of **Jonathan K. Bues '00** and **Alexander G. Bues '03.**

Erika Ceccarelli on February 5, 2024. She was the mother of **Anthony J. Ceccarelli '87** and the grandmother of **Oliver M. Pires '27.**

**Earle F. Cote '46** on January 16, 2024.

**William M. Dazzo '84** on October 4, 2023.

**Joseph E. DiCorpo '69** on February 24, 2024.

Pasquale DiTullio on October 28, 2023. He was the father of **Pat DiTullio Jr. '75** and **John DiTullio '78.**

**Thomas G. Doherty Jr. '52** on October 20, 2023.

Katherine Driscoll on October 17, 2023. She was the mother of **Timothy F. Driscoll II '89** and the mother in law of **Sean P. Kilbride '87.**

Mark Driscoll on February 5, 2024. He was the father of **James C. Driscoll '27** and the son-in-law of **William D. Cotter '63.**

**William Dwyer '51** on October 3, 2023.

Patricia Susan Erts on November 13, 2023. She was the grandmother of **Tyler L. Gray '27.**

Katharine Farkes on July 23, 2023. She was the wife of **David J. Farkes '65** and the sister in law of **Joseph W. Farkes '69.**

**Roger A Fazzone '58** on October 10, 2023. He was the brother of the late **Andrew C. Fazzone '53.**

**Alexander J. Fekete Jr. '52** on November 9, 2023.

Shane Fitzsimons on October 27, 2023. He was the father of **Conor M. Fitzsimons '24** and **Ciaran P. Fitzsimons '25.**

**Robert M. Fox '62** on December 9, 2023 brother of the late **Richard J. Fox Jr. '53** and **David W. Fox '59.**

**Chester L. Gage Jr. '61** on October 11, 2023.

Patricia Marie Goscienski, on August 9, 2023. She was the wife of **Philip Goscienski '52.**

**Edward M. Greco '58** on May 21, 2023.

**Michael Grosso Jr. '64** on February 12, 2024.

Arthur J. Hedge Jr. on December 29, 2023. He was the father of **Arthur J. Hedge III '80, Peter M. Hedge '81,** and **Gregory C. Hedge '87.**

Marianne Hennessey on December 6, 2023. She was the wife of **John E. Hennessey '59,** the aunt of **Jason R. Wise '87** and the grandmother of **Braedon T. Hennessey '26.**

**Edward D. Hyde '56** on October 18, 2023. He was the brother of **Brian D. Hyde '58** and **Gary J. Hyde '61.**

**Daniel J. Ianniello '59** on October 26, 2023. He was the father of **Daniel J. Ianniello Jr. '80.**

**Richard Kapusta '69** on March 15, 2024.

**Joseph T. Kasper Jr. '52** on December 18, 2023. He was the father in law of **Victor F. Riccio '72,** and the grandfather of **Joseph R. Rappice '05** and **Victor J. Riccio '15.**

Gerard Kennedy on December 26, 2023. He was the brother of **Ryan W. Kennedy '19.**

**John T. Kennedy Jr. '51** on January 6, 2024.

Donald Kleber on January 15, 2024. He was the father of **Matthew J. Kleber '05.**

**James P. Kronus III '58** on December 18, 2023.

Peggy Lesko on March 13, 2024. She was the wife of **Ronald V. Lesko Sr. '59** and the aunt of **Jeffrey S. Lesko '85.**

**Stephen G. Lynch '75** on December 13, 2023. He was the brother of **John T. Lynch '72** and **Peter A. Lynch '80.**

**Nicholas J. Maiolo Sr. '51** on December 31, 2023. He was the father of **Nicholas J. Maiolo Jr. '82.**

Robert Martin on November 11, 2023. He was the father of **Michael D. Martin '83,** the father in law of **William S. Valus '84** and the grandfather of **Austin J. Valus '18** and **Mark S. Valus '23.**

Joan McGillicuddy on February 9, 2024. She was the wife of the late Tim McGillicuddy long time Prep teacher and administrator, the mother of **Stephen T. McGillicuddy '77** and **Brian P. McGillicuddy '81.** The mother in law of **Timothy J. Foley '81** and the grandmother of **Michael P. McGillicuddy '09** and **Max T. McGillicuddy '20.**

**Eileen McNeill** on February 18, 2024. She was the mother **Robert J. McNeill '84** and **Christopher W. McNeill '86.**

**Robert S. Nemergut '59** on February 15, 2024.

Dwight Patton on March 3, 2024. He was the father of **Peter M. Patton '90.**

**Robert R. Petrucelli '49** on February 15, 2024. He was the father of **Robert D. Petrucelli '87.**

Sandra Pleban on March 19, 2024. She was the wife of the late **Walter E. Pleban '54,** the mother of **Joel F. Pleban '86** and the grandmother of **Stephen R. Grabarz '15** and **David A Pleban '22.**

**Henry L. Rojas '56** on March 5, 2024.

Thomas J. Rosati on January 13, 2024. He was the father of **Joseph E. Rosati '80, Robert Rosati '81,** and **Thomas M. Rosati '82.** He was the grandfather of **Robert D. Rosati '26** and **William P. Rosati '27.**

**James A. Sedesny '54** on January 19, 2024. He was the brother of **Andrew J. Sedesny '57.**

Martha Sullivan on December 25, 2023. She was the wife of **Donal Sullivan '52.** The sister of the late **Paul J. Connelly '48;** the sister in law of the late **David J. Sullivan Jr. '49,** the late **Kevin J. Sullivan '60;** and a friend and relative to many Prep alumni.

**Richard C. Szymanski '57** on September 28, 2023.

**Jeffrey M. Tauber '63** in December 2023.

**Martin P. Tristine '62** on March 8, 2024. He was the father of **Edward M. Tristine '88** and **Joseph R. Tristine '89.** He was the grandfather of **Edward M. Tristine Jr. '19** and **Daniel J. Tristine '25.**

Jay Valade Sr. on October 23, 2023. He was the father of **Jay L. Valade Jr. '82** and the grandfather of **Sean K. Cassidy '16.**

**John S. Vitka Jr. '55** on October 5, 2023. He was the brother of the late **Thomas J. Vitka '59.**

**George Wanat Jr. '66** on December 13, 2023.

Ann Wasmer on December 12, 2023. She was the mother of **Peter E. Wasmer '83** and **Conrad Wasmer '88**



## Healey Wedding

**Mike Healey '00** married Kristin Casey in St. Louis, MO on October 25, 2023.



## Pleban Wedding

**Joel Pleban '86** married Katherine Bothos on November 25, 2023, at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Bridgeport, CT. **David Pleban '22**, was the best man.



## VITULANO BABY

**Rob Vitulano '04** and his wife Hilaire welcomed their son, Henry Robert Vitulano on Sept 5, 2023. Henry joins big sister Vivienne Vitulano. Other Prepsters celebrating are Godfather **Michael Vitulano '02**, Uncle **Chris Szeftc '98** and Grandfather **Larry Vitulano '68**.



## Fumai Wedding

**Domenick P. Fumai '07** married Danielle N. Wynee on September 2, 2023, at Assumption Church in Westport, CT. The Mass was celebrated by former Prep President **Rev. John J. Hanwell, S.J.** Also in attendance was Domenick's brother **Robert Fumai '14** (not pictured). The reception was held at Le Chateau in North Salem, NY.



## GLOMB BAPTISM

Prep Chaplain **Rev. Ron Perry, S.J.**, baptized Liem, son of **Nick '91** and Kim Glomb, at St. Ignatius Church, San Francisco. Older brother Khai celebrated with the family.

## In Memoriam

**Rev. Charles Allen, S.J.** on December 31, 2023. Father Allen served as a Prep administrator beginning in 1977, and then as headmaster from 1985-1989. Later, he served as Asst. to the President and Alumni Chaplain at Fairfield University. See pg. 6.

**Rev. James M. Bowler, S.J.** on March 20, 2024. Father Bowler served as a Jesuit Regent at Prep from 1967-1969 and returned as principal and headmaster from 1976-1983. Later, he became the Founder & Director of the Murphy Center for Ignatian Spirituality at Fairfield University. See pg. 7.

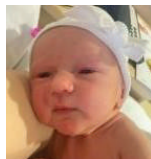
**Billie N. Brooks** on December 31, 2023. Brooks was a beloved foreign language teacher for 48 years at Prep from 1972 to her retirement in 2016. Initially she taught both German and Spanish, but later in her career taught exclusively Spanish. She also served as the chair of the World Languages Department. See pg. 51.

**Bob Sylvester Sr.**, on Dec. 9, 2023, in Moosic, Penn. Sylvester was a talented Prep teacher, administrator, and Athletic Hall of Fame inductee. He coached Prep's 1969 State Championship Basketball team, which was also inducted into the Prep Athletic Hall of Fame. See pg. 48.

## Births



**Nick DeBarbrie** (Assistant Dean of Students) and his wife Katie welcomed a baby boy, Charles Douglas DeBarbrie, on October 30, 2023.



**Kelly Glazer** (Math Department) and her husband Zach welcomed a baby girl, Violet Mary Glazer, on March 5, 2024. Violet joins big brothers Gavin and Jaxx.



**Zachary Thomas** (Social Studies Department) and his wife Jill welcomed a baby girl, Addison Lynn Thomas, on January 22, 2024. Addison joins big sister Camryn.



**Tom Tulp** (Theology Department) and his wife Brady welcomed a baby girl, Isadora Jane Tulp, on September 23, 2023. Isadora joins big brother Calli.

## Service Anniversaries

### FACULTY, STAFF MEMBERS HONORED FOR YEARS OF SERVICE

Fairfield Prep recognized four employees for a collective 110 years of service to the school on Nov. 21. Pres. Cashman announced the four individuals in front of the entire Prep community during the Thanksgiving Prayer Service. The honorees are:



Director of Events and Stewardship **Kathy Norell**  
20 years of service



VP of Finance **Nora Magi**  
25 years of service



English Teacher **Matt Sather '93**  
25 years of service



Dean of School & College Counseling **John Hanrahan**  
40 years of service



## BOB CUNEO '65

### Sports Engineer To Receive Prestigious Statewide Accolade

**B**ob Cuneo '65, founder of Chassis Dynamics in Oxford, will receive the President's Award from the Connecticut Sports Media Alliance at the 82nd Gold Key Dinner this fall.

A collaboration between a former Daytona 500 champion and a Connecticut-based engineering and design company more than 30 years ago led to a drastic reversal of fortune for U.S. competitors in a popular Winter Olympics sport whose medal stand had been barren of Americans since the Eisenhower administration.

After capturing the bronze medal in the four-man bobsled competition at the 1956 Winter Games in Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy, Team USA was absent from medal contention for the next nine Olympiads. In 1992, NASCAR driver Geoff Bodine learned the Americans were using second-hand sleds purchased from its rivals in Europe. He contacted Cuneo, and the task of designing and building a better vehicle resulted in formation of the Bo-Dyn Project ("Bo" for Bodine, "Dyn" for Chassis Dynamics).

The new sleds debuted at the 1994 Games in Lillehammer, Norway, but it wasn't until the 1998 Games in Nagano, Japan, that an impact was first felt. The American four-man team placed fifth, just 0.02 of a second from a bronze medal. That set the stage for the 2002 competition in Salt Lake City,



Bob Cuneo (right) with John Morgan, Geoff Bodine and Phil Kurze. Photo: Chassis Dynamics

where the U.S. won the gold medal in the inaugural two-woman event, and four-man teams took home silver and bronze medals. The two-woman team earned a silver medal in the 2006 Olympiad in Turin, Italy, then the ultimate peak was conquered in 2010 in Vancouver, when an American four-man team knocked off perennial powerhouse Germany to win the country's first men's gold medal since 1948.

Cuneo, 77, a Trumbull native who graduated from Fairfield Prep and earned an engineering degree at Northeastern University, began his lengthy career with Bob Sharp Racing in Wilton as a car

designer in 1972. He accumulated more than 30 championships in road racing competition with the International Motorsports Association and the Sports Car Club of America. Furthermore, he was involved with cars that won four Rolex 24 Hours of Daytona, a Whelen Modified Tour division title in 2002 with Ridgefield driver Todd Szagedy, and modified track titles in Lancaster, N.Y., at the Danbury Fairgrounds Racearena and Stafford Motor Speedway. He was inducted into the New England Auto Racers Hall of Fame in 2021. Bob and his wife Karen reside in Bethany.

Source: Patch Media



## ALUMNI SWIMMERS ARE BACK IN THE POOL

After a four-year hiatus, the Fairfield Prep Swimming & Diving Alumni Meet returned on December 23 at the RecPlex.

**Brandon Cole '14** and **Robert McCrory '15**, claimed the first ever Swimmer and Diver Alumni Meet MVP awards! Join us next year!



## THANKSGIVING TURKEY TROT

**M**any Prep Alumni ran in the Pequot Runners Thanksgiving Race/Walk. Save the date (11/28/24) to participate next year! Contact **Vin Framularo '99** at [vincentframularo@gmail.com](mailto:vincentframularo@gmail.com).



## XC COACH FORD SR. RECONNECTS WITH RUNNERS

**R**etired Cross Country Coach Bob Ford Sr. reconnected with **Class of 2018** team members, from left: **Jack Feeney, Drew Thompson, Max Sheldon, Frank Denhupv, Drew Newcomb, and Coach Ford Sr.**

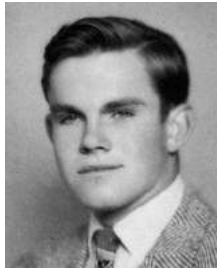


## ALUMNI HOCKEY GAMES: TWICE AS NICE

Prep hosted two well-attended Alumni Hockey Games this year. Prep's college-age alumni gathered to play over Christmas break on Dec. 23, and Prep's annual game for Alumni of all ages took place on Feb. 3. All Hockey Alumni are invited to join us next year!



1973 Football Team



George Risley '50



Bob Ford Sr.



Bob Ford Jr.



Todd Paul '03



Will Steiner '13

# Congratulations to the 2024 Inductees!

The Fairfield Prep Athletic Hall of Fame was established in 2017 to honor those alumni who achieved excellence and distinguished themselves in Fairfield Prep's athletic programs while also living Prep's mission throughout their lives as "Men for Others." Inductees are selected through a nomination process by the Athletic Hall of Fame Committee.

The Athletic Hall of Fame will be held June 14, 2024, 6 p.m., in the Oak Room at the Barone Campus Center, Fairfield University.  
**Register Today!**  
[www.fairfieldprep.org/ahof](http://www.fairfieldprep.org/ahof)

## 1973 FOOTBALL TEAM

The **1973 football team** was the sixth undefeated and untied team in school history and the first 11-0 squad coached by the late Prep Athletic Hall of Famer Earl Lavery.

Led by co-captain and 2017 AHOF inductee Paul Halas (quarterback), fellow co-captain Mike Dolan (end) and running back Pat DiTullio, the Jesuits outscored the opposition 341-70. The defense, anchored by middle linebacker Al DeJulio and lineman Ray Cal, posted three shutouts and did not allow more than eight points in a game until the season finale against Stamford. It captured the MBIAC title with victory over Harding and was voted the No. 1 team in the CIAC's Class L division.

## GEORGE (BABE) RISLEY '50

The only player to make Fairfield Prep's 1942-1951 All-Decade team in three sports (football, basketball, baseball), the late **George (Babe) Risley** was considered to be one of the finest athletes in the Greater Bridgeport region. In football, Risley was part of Prep's "Miracle Team" of 1949 that was the school's first unbeaten team (7-0-1). Only a 6-6 tie against Stamford on Thanksgiving prevented a perfect record.

After graduation, Ridley attended Holy Cross, where he played football and baseball for a year before signing with the Detroit Tigers in 1952. He played professionally for 14 seasons, mostly in Class AAA, before retiring.

## BOB FORD SR. and BOB FORD JR.

Father-and-son duo **Bob Ford Sr.** and **Bob Ford Jr.** coached the Fairfield Prep cross-country team for 33 seasons and guided the Jesuits to three CIAC Class LL championships, two State Open titles, three SCC titles and eight SCC divisional crowns.

The Fords also coached indoor and outdoor track, where Bob Jr. was named CIAC Outstanding Coach of the Year in 2005 and Ford Sr. helped coach Prep Olympian Craig Kinsley. Collectively, they coached over 120 seasons with cross-country and track, with 27 Prep runners achieving all-state honors.

Both Fords were named National Coaches of the Year by Footlocker in 2014, while Bob Ford Jr. was recognized as the SCC Coach of the Year in 2013.

## TODD PAUL '03

One of the outstanding tennis players who played for Fairfield Prep, **Todd Paul** was a four-time CIAC Class LL champion who was a major contributor on the Jesuits' state title teams of 2002 and 2003.

After graduation, he attended Wake Forest, where he was the first two-time All-American in the school's tennis history (2006-2007) and was ranked as the NCAA's No. 1 singles player in both his junior and senior seasons. When he graduated in 2007, he was Wake's all-time leader with 118 singles victories, including 32 as a senior.

Paul is also a member of the Fairfield County Hall of Fame.

## WILL STEINER '13

All-American goalkeeper **Will Steiner** has the distinction of becoming the first soccer player to be inducted to the Fairfield Prep Athletic Hall of Fame. Steiner was a four-year starter for Prep and had 17 shutouts in 24 games as a senior as Prep went 20-3-1. After that season he was named MVP of the SCC tournament, as well as garnering All-SCC, All-State, All-New England and All-American honors, plus being named All-Area MVP in both the Connecticut Post and New Haven Register.

He attended Villanova after graduation and started in goal all four seasons, helping the Wildcats reach the NCAA tournament for the first time in 2016. He played 97 total games, compiling a 1.27 goals-against average and a .770 save percentage to go with 17 shutouts.

# Donor Societies Overview

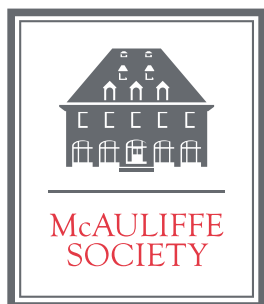
Fairfield Prep's donor societies—Hearthstone, Loyola Circle, and McAuliffe—recognize and honor the vital commitment of their supporters. Hearthstone acknowledges consecutive yearly contributors, Loyola Circle celebrates generous donors sustaining the school's legacy, and McAuliffe honors those securing Prep's Jesuit mission through estate planning. Recognizing the importance of these donors is central to sustaining and advancing Fairfield Prep's mission.



The loyal members of **THE HEARTHSTONE SOCIETY** are among Prep's most committed, philanthropic champions who lead by example year after year. The Hearthstone Society recognizes Prep donors who have given three or more consecutive years and understand and acknowledge the importance of investing in Ignatian education.



**THE LOYOLA CIRCLE** is a group of Prep's most generous donors whose vision and commitment continue to advance the legacy of our school. Their leadership in philanthropy provides everything from innovative technology for students and faculty to student financial aid. The Loyola Circle recognizes and honors donors who contribute a cumulative amount of \$1,200 or more annually.



**THE McAULIFFE SOCIETY** recognizes those individuals who have helped assure the future of Fairfield Prep and its Jesuit mission by including the school in their estate plans. They are individuals who have the foresight to provide for future generations of Fairfield Prep students through an estate commitment, or other "planned gift" arrangement.



# Giving in gratitude



## HEARTHSTONE SOCIETY

### Frank Giordanella '77

**Frank Giordanella '77** emerges as an admirable member of the Hearthstone society. Since 1986, Frank has dedicated himself to giving back, inspired by the transformative impact of alumni contributions on his own Prep experience. For him, the essence of Prep lies not just in academic lessons but in shaping good individuals with enduring Jesuit values. Frank's commitment reflects a belief that giving enables the school to fulfill its mission and serves as a profound way to express gratitude. He contends that giving isn't merely

a one-way street, believing it imparts humility and prompts reflection on those who have influenced our paths. Understanding the unique brotherhood at Prep from day one, Frank emphasizes that while substantial contributions matter, even modest, consistent giving can collectively shape the institution's future. His story is a testament to the enduring bond and shared journey within the Fairfield Prep community, leaving a legacy that inspires present and future alumni to celebrate the spirit of giving.



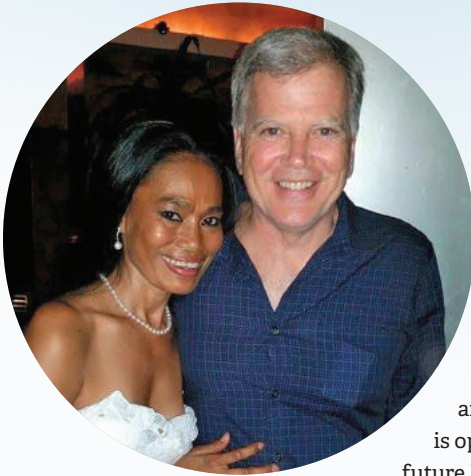
## LOYOLA SOCIETY

### Teddy Bobroske '19

**Teddy Bobroske '19**, a proud member of the Loyola Circle, embodies the influence of Fairfield Prep's education and values. Drawn by the graduates he admired, Teddy joined the Prep brotherhood, driven by a desire to emulate their dedication and impact. Since leaving Prep in 2019, he has pursued a path of impactful service, graduating from Boston College and delving into climate change research. His commitment to giving back stems from his lessons learned at Prep, whether in a classroom,

on a field, or participating in a retreat. Through these experiences, he learned what it meant to be a Man for Others and live out the Magis. Inspired by his rugby background and the idea of "leaving the jersey in a better place than you found it," Teddy's generous contributions to Prep reflect his belief in nurturing future generations of leaders. Teddy's dedication to service serves as a beacon for others to follow, exemplifying the spirit of the Loyola Circle and advancing Prep's legacy of excellence and brotherhood.

# Giving in gratitude



## McAULIFFE SOCIETY

### Bill Barron '75

From London to Hong Kong, the career of recently retired Wall Street attorney **Bill Barron '75** took him around the globe. Now Barron is opening up new horizons for future Prep students with a \$2 million leadership gift to his family's endowed scholarship fund named in honor of his parents.

"It seemed like a good time for me to show my gratitude to Prep and to my parents by making this contribution," explains Barron, whose transformational gift will benefit the Prep Brotherhood for generations. "Part of it is having just retired and thinking about the things that were very meaningful for me in life—and Prep was certainly that."

#### Momentous anniversaries

Barron and his five brothers—all Prep graduates—established the Patrick Francis and Audrey Barron Scholarship in 2000 to mark the occasion of their parent's 50th wedding anniversary. Patrick Francis Barron, the first in his Irish immigrant family to go to college, received his own Jesuit education at Boston College High School and Boston College.

"My parents didn't really have a need for anything else [at the time of their anniversary], but education was very important to them and to my father, in particular. He not only valued Jesuit education but thought that we should try to help kids who didn't have the money to pay the tuition to these schools. So it seemed like an appropriate gift for them, and they were quite pleased with it," Barron explains.

Coincidentally, Barron's newest gift to the scholarship fund comes on the heels of his own 50th anniversary—as a starter on Prep's 1973 undefeated football team under the legendary coach, **Earl Lavery '50**. The team was recently selected to be inducted into Prep's Athletic Hall of Fame in June 2024.

"Playing on that team was an extraordinary experience. It was such a privilege to be exposed to a man like Coach Lavery," reflects Barron, whose fond memories of Prep extend far beyond football.

#### A wider horizon

"Coming out of the Greenwich public schools, it was remarkable to go to Prep and be exposed to the Jesuits and the other faculty. They made a very strong impression on me through their dedication to teaching and to their students,"

explains Barron, who credits Prep with encouraging him to reach higher and to achieve his potential.

"I became much more disciplined and ambitious at Prep," Barron recalls. "Part of that was the school, part of it was just the maturation process. But I certainly became more focused on doing well."

After graduating from Prep, Barron earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in government at Dartmouth College and his J.D. at Columbia Law School. He spent the next 35 years working for the Wall Street law firm, Davis Polk. Following several years practicing law in the firm's New York, London, and Tokyo offices, Barron helped establish Davis Polk's Hong Kong office, where he served as managing partner of the Asian practice for 21 years.

But it was Barron's years at Prep—animated by values different from the public schools—that first widened his horizons, connecting him with all different kinds of people from all over Connecticut. In fact, Barron's experience of the Brotherhood topped his list of the ways Prep impacted his life.

"The most important thing was that I made great friends at Prep. They're friends I've had for a lifetime," Barron says. "I've been all around the world, but I always enjoy coming back and seeing my friends from Prep. We've remained very close."

Altogether, Barron lived abroad for 30 years of his career, an experience he greatly enjoyed. But in 2018, just as Barron was preparing to retire, he fainted at the beach by his family's beach house in Thailand and fell down the concrete steps. The unlikely accident ended his career and left him a quadriplegic. Nevertheless, Barron remains upbeat. "In many ways, it's had a very positive effect on my attitude, my gratefulness for things, and my understanding of how lucky I've been in life," he observes.

#### A meaningful gift

"Prep played a significant role in my life. I have more memories of Prep than just about any other school or organization that I've been associated with," says Barron, who would encourage others to consider what was meaningful to them in life—and to direct their generosity where it can really make an impact.

For Barron, that meaningful, impactful use of his philanthropy is helping to build up the Prep Brotherhood.

*Bill is shown above with wife Ketsara.*



## McAULIFFE SOCIETY

# Jonathan Boette '61

For over a decade, **Jonathan Boette '61's** endowed scholarship fund has been helping build the Prep brotherhood, enabling

other students to experience the same academic, moral, and spiritual foundation in the Ignatian tradition that he received over 50 years ago. Thanks to his recent transformational gift of \$1.1 million—including a \$1 million estate bequest—his positive influence on the future of aspiring Fairfield Prep students will grow exponentially.

"I think that you should do everything you can to help another high school kid be all he can be," explains Boette, a retired systems engineer. "And there's probably nothing better than a Prep education."

### An inspirational encounter

In 2011, Jonathan Boette and his wife Ingrid made the journey down from their home in Vermont for Boette's 50th Prep reunion. Boette had always felt warmly toward Prep and wanted to see how the school had changed over the years. He was pleased with what he saw and found Prep's continued commitment to our spiritual grounding and philosophy refreshing in an increasingly secular world.

While following their GPS on the trip home, the couple decided to stop for lunch in Bridgeport at a pizza place across from a prison in a predominantly immigrant neighborhood. When the shop owner asked how two Vermonters found themselves in his store, they explained about the Prep reunion. The man pointed to his two little boys sitting at a table nearby and said he hoped to be able to send them to Prep someday.

The experience solidified Boette's growing conviction that helping other young men get a Prep education would be a worthwhile endeavor, and soon after, he established an endowed scholarship fund at Prep.

### A good start in life

When Boette was in middle school in the 1950s, the idea of going to Prep was rather revolutionary for his Lutheran family. But one of Boette's neighbors was planning to go, and a combination of pride and the desire to get the best education possible prompted Boette to apply as well. Meanwhile, another family at their church assuaged his parents' concerns about sending their son to a Catholic high school. Boette ultimately enrolled at Prep—a decision he would never regret.

Prep's liberal arts emphasis was tough for

technologically-oriented Boette. His German grade almost held him back from graduation. "When I would take a hard course at the university, I would think, 'This is easier than German,'" recalls Boette, who earned a Bachelor of Science degree in electrical engineering at the University of Connecticut. Nevertheless, Boette appreciated the Jesuit's well-rounded approach to education, and credits his Prep experience with teaching him hard work and discipline. "You knew you were going to be held accountable," he recalls.

After college, Boette worked a couple of jobs, got married (to a German, ironically), started a family, and eventually accepted a position in New Hampshire with Saunders Associates, which later became part of Lockheed Martin. He earned his Master of Science degree in electrical engineering from Northeastern, survived multiple rounds of layoffs during the big recession in the technology sector after the Vietnam War, and eventually retired from Lockheed Martin as a senior principal systems engineer after 33 years with the company.

"Overall, my Prep experience gave me a background that served me the rest of my life. It was brutal, but it was good," Boette observes fondly.

### A No-Brainer

A firm believer in the value of a Prep education, Boette describes his recent decision to expand his endowed scholarship fund with a \$1 million bequest and an additional \$100,000 cash gift as a "no-brainer." Prep, in turn, is honored Boette chose to join the many generous donors in the McAuliffe Society who have used their estate plans to make gifts to Prep that align with their values.

"If you have money and you're going to give it to charity, there are a lot of choices. Fairfield Prep was a big factor in my success," says Boette, who hopes other successful alumni who got their start at Prep will choose to pay it forward as well.

"Ingrid and I, we've been good stewards of our resources. We worked hard. We didn't live an extravagant life," Boette explains matter-of-factly. "Our kids are doing very well, and in my opinion, don't need it all. We are happy to share some of it with Prep for scholarships."

"If the reason a kid with the motivation and the ability can't attend Prep is because he doesn't have the money, I want to give so he can attend, succeed, and be all he can be," says Boette. "It's important. It's the start of their lives."

*Bill is shown above with wife Ingrid.*

# Jesuits On Tap

## Austin Round-Up

A group of Fairfield Prep Alumni enjoyed a "Round-Up" of brothers in Austin, TX.



## Boston Roof Top

Prep Alumni met overlooking the Boston Harbor on a beautiful fall evening. Special thanks to **Stephen '05** and **Chris '03 Thurston**, and Viva Tequila Seltzer.



## Florida Reception

This past February, President **Christian Cashman** and the Fairfield Prep team met with alumni and friends in the Naples area. Guests enjoyed a delightful cocktail reception hosted by FP Board of Governor **Greg '80** and **Peggy Strakosch** at Club Pelican Bay. Alumni, family, and friends spanning several decades appreciated the opportunity to reconnect and learn about the latest exciting developments at Prep.

## San Francisco Reception

Prep Alumni met up in San Francisco, CA. It was fun to meet others, catch up, and share stories from their Prep years.





# Dr. Jerry Hemenway '61 Named Man of the Year



## LATIN SCHOLARS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Prep Alumni of all ages gathered for the Annual Latin Scholars Christmas Luncheon which benefits Prep scholarships. **Dr. Jerry Hemenway Jr. '61** (top photo, center in tan coat) was honored as "Man of the Year." All Alumni are invited to join us next year. Save the Date: Dec. 12, 2024.



## Holiday Classic Event

Prep's annual Holiday Classic Basketball Tournament welcomed back many alumni, including past FP Basketball players and family members. All enjoyed the beautiful Mahoney Arena as the stage for the town's best high school tournament, exciting basketball action and the opportunity to connect with one another.



## Prep ACAN at Rafferty

Prep's Alumni of Color & Allies Network (ACAN) met at Rafferty Stadium to enjoy the Varsity Football game in the fall. Football Alumni **AI Rosier '87** (Prep Athletic Hall of Fame member) and **Tony Fox '14** were recognized as "Honorary Captains" on the field. **Dr. Donna Andrade** attended as the founder of ACAN.



## What A Night!

A huge THANK YOU to our auction guests who made Prep's **2023 Auction: Ignited for Others** a memorable evening—and an unbelievably successful event! With your generous support, Prep raised **more than \$280,000**, for financial aid and scholarship. We couldn't have done it without the generosity of our Prep Community.

Watch the inspiring speech given by **Phillip Martins '24** about the transformational impact that access to a Jesuit education has for our young men.



## Giving Day Smashes Goals!

This year's **Giving Day: For Others** was historic. Our amazing Prep community came together and raised more than **\$370,000** from **1,059 donors!** The excitement across campus was captivating as our students celebrated by being reminded that the core values of our Jesuit way begin with gratitude and generosity, and that everything at Prep is a gift. Congratulations to the **Class of 1986** for achieving the most participation with **13%** of the class making a gift. And a special thank you to our generous match and challenge donors, we couldn't have done it without you! Fairfield Prep thanks our amazing alumni, parents, families, and friends for making an impact on our Jesuit mission. As a result of your help, we will be able to continue our foundational programming as we continue to form Men for Others. Together, we are shaping the future of Prep! **+AMDG**



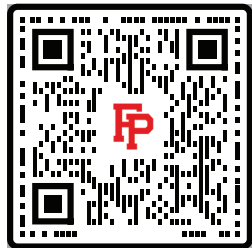


# Party with Prep!

Connect with Prep brothers during our alumni events. Stay up to date with all Prep happenings at [www.fairfieldprep.org/alumni](http://www.fairfieldprep.org/alumni)

- ★ **Golf Outing**  
Fri., May 31, 2024
- ★ **Athletic Hall of Fame**  
Fri., June 14, 2024
- ★ **Alumni Weekend Reunions 4's and 9's**  
Sat., June 15, 2024

**Register Today!**



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