PREP TODAY

FAIRFIELD COLLEGE PREPARATORY SCHOOL | FALL 2024



Go Forth: The Campaign for Fairfield Prep

PAGE 4

Prep Lacrosse Wins State Championship

PAGE 22

INSIDE **PREP TODAY**

4 ANNOUNCING...

Go Forth: The Campaign for Fairfield Prep

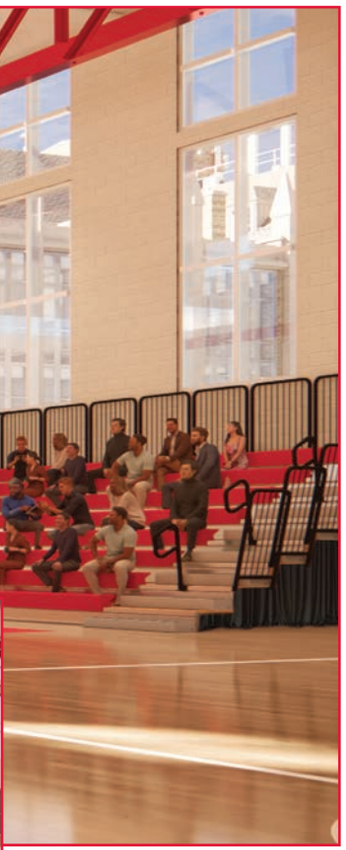
Fairfield Prep is embarking on a new $90 million comprehensive campaign, *Go Forth*, to strengthen our ability to cultivate tomorrow's heroic leaders prepared to respond to the needs of the times.





Arts and Athletic Center design renderings

COVER: *Jesuits Lacrosse Team celebrates the Class LL Lacrosse State Championship*
PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN PELLIGRINO, COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST & VIDEO PRODUCTION TEACHER





11

Class of 2024 Commencement Honors Achievements

Senior awards, graduation highlights, and reflections culminate in the Prep experience.



20

Mission & Ministry Immersion Trips

Domestic and Global service experiences impact students and faculty



22

Lacrosse Wins State Championship

Jesuits ranked #6 in the Northeast and #14 in the country by USA Lacrosse



27

Kery named Educator of the Year

Kevin Kery '00 is recognized for his passion, care, and Jesuit teaching.



28

Visual & Performing Arts

Prep artists showcase talent in music, acting, and creative media.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 President's Letter

32 SEED Diversity and Our Common Home

36 Spring Sports Wrap-Up

46 Prep for Success Workplace Shadow Program

48 Alumni Reunions

52 2024 Athletic Hall of Fame

55 Alumni News

PREP TODAY

The Magazine for
Fairfield College Preparatory School

COMMUNICATIONS OFFICE

Colleen Adams, P'08,'11
Asst. Vice President of Communications
Editor, Prep Today

Ronald DeRosa
Asst. Director of Digital Communications

John Pellegrino
Communications Specialist & Video Production Teacher

Samantha Russell
Fairfield University Intern

ADVANCEMENT OFFICE

Colleen Claflin
Associate Vice President of Advancement

Dave Houghton, P'17,'19
Director of Alumni & Family Engagement

Jennifer Royal P'23
Asst. Director of Family & Student Engagement

Julie Pollard, P'15
Major Gift Officer

Michael Connelly '83
Major Gift Officer

Kathy Norell
Director of Events & Stewardship

Arielle Romeo
Director of Annual Giving

William Short '18
Asst. Director of Annual Giving

Maura Carey
Coordinator of Advancement Services

Shannon Ralbovsky
Advancement Operations Assistant

SUBMIT INFORMATION AND PHOTOS

www.fairfieldprep.org/alumniupdate
or email cadams@fairfieldprep.org

Prep Today magazine is published twice a year by Fairfield College Preparatory School, and is available on our website: www.fairfieldprep.org.

DESIGN
Margaret Galeano

PHOTOGRAPHY & IMAGES

Colleen Adams, P'08,'11
Dante Agnello '25
Charlie Auray '19
Ahmad Bennett '25
Rinat Levy Cohen
Michael Connelly '83
Will Cristini '25
Jessica Cuntrera
Ronald DeRosa
Patryk Godzwon '26
Ruben Goodwin
Elliott Gualtiere, P'21,'24
Nick Gualtiere '24
John Hanrahan, P'98
Dave Houghton, P'17,'19
Henry Houghton Creative
Caleb Jackson
Kathleen Jackson, P'25
Rev. Brian Konzman, S.J.
Devon McCormick
Max Mihalov '25
Thomas Nardone '23
John Pellegrino
Rev. Ron Perry, S.J.
Thomas Rudden '19
Jack Singewald '27
Robert Taylor Photography
Plus contributed photos

PREPONLINE

For more detail visit our websites:

The official Fairfield Prep website
FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG

The latest on Prep athletics
JESUITPRIDE.COM

Connect with Prep on social media:

youtube.com/fairfieldprep1

facebook.com/fairfieldprepalumni
facebook.com/fairfieldprep

x.com/fairfieldprep

instagram.com/fairfieldprep

Fairfield Prep Alumni Network
Fairfield Prep Parent Network

Flickr.com/fairfieldprep
Flickr.com/fairfieldprepathletics

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

2024-2025

Michael R. Fox '86, P'23,'28
Chairman, Board of Governors
Managing Partner, ICR Inc.

Anthony D. Sabatelli, Ph.D., JD, '75
Vice Chairman, Board of Governors
Patent Counsel, Wiggin and Dana, LLP

Dr. Donna Andrade
Dean of Mission & Ministry, Fairfield Prep (Ret.)

Francis P. Barron '69
Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP (Ret.)

Sally E. Bednar, P'20,'22
Managing Director, Wells Fargo Securities (Ret.)

Christian J. Cashman, P'15,'23, Ex Officio
President, Fairfield Prep

Michael A.P. Casolo '82
CEO, Middlesex Ventures, LLC

Michael J. Cattano, P'21
Fixed Income, Deutsche Bank

Mary Ryan Cunningham, P'00,'08
Board of Trustees, Fairfield University

Rev. Jim Croghan, S.J.
Superior, Jesuit Community
Boston College High School

Joseph R. Dewhirst '69
Board Chair, Rhode Island Health and Educational Building Corporation

Tony Fox II '14
Project Manager, CBRE

Stephen M. Jakab, CFRE '84, P'16
President, Bridgeport Hospital Foundation, Yale New Haven Health

Craig Maloney '84
Chief Executive Officer
InStride

John Mancini '82, P'18,'20,'23,'25
Partner
Mayer Brown, New York

Rev. John P. Mulreany, S.J.
Superior, Fairfield Jesuit Community, Fairfield University

Julio Ojea Quintana, P'17,'19,'22
Managing Director, J.P. Morgan

Jeffrey W. Sochrin '85
Chairman, President, CEO & Managing Director, Caribe Broadcasting Network/ Island 92/Z105.1 FM

Michael Spaight '01
Director
BlackRock Capital Markets

Gregory M. Strakosch '80
Executive Chairman & Co-Founder, TechTarget

Virginia Wong, JD, P'21,'23,'26
Partner, Nixon Peabody LLP

PREP PAAC

PRESIDENT'S ALUMNI ADVISORY COUNCIL

Owen Black '73
Dennis Brown '85 '13
Timothy Butala '13
Jack Cavanaugh '17
Matthew Connelly '12
Matthew Considine '11
David Cristini '95
Sergio Cruz '14
William Dully '81
Kinney Edwards '96
Kevin Gallagher '17
Mike Hebert '85
Matt Keller '82
Traugott Keller '78
Christopher Kelly '13
Robert King '97
Kevin Leitao '82
Roberto Lopez '01
Christian Lund '89
Robert Morton '04
Donald Papcsy '87
Daniel Pengue '73
Timothy Peterson '13
Alex Petisi '01
Matthew Rahtelli '13
Andres Ramos '13
Brian Reidy '93
Timothy Shannehan '87
Brendan Sullivan '14
Michael Tirone '09
Todd Ulman '96
Timothy Zaino '92

EMERITI
John Chiota '61
Stephen Donahue '62
Dr. Jerry Hemenway '61
Charles McGill '59
Thomas Roche '70
Edward Rowe '59
Dr. Robert Russo '65
John Santa '60

Dear **Prep Community,**

I write to you with tremendous hope as we begin Prep's 83rd year in Fairfield, and am honored to share that, after four years of careful planning, discernment, and engagement with the Prep Community, we are announcing the largest philanthropic effort since Prep parents purchased the first bricks to build Berchmans Hall in 1947 – ***Go Forth: The Campaign for Fairfield Prep***.

In this pivotal moment, marked by societal upheaval and global challenges, our world needs leaders formed in our Jesuit, Catholic way of proceeding. Today's young men of Prep are deserving of our courageous effort and unwavering support, so that they can join the long line of Prep brothers who have gone out to transform the world and their own lives through a commitment to excellence and service to those in need.

Through this $90 million, comprehensive case, we seek to build the Prep brotherhood, invest in our students' intellectual development, and to commit to the care of our young men. And today, I am profoundly grateful to our early leaders who have committed nearly $72 million to these priorities. There is a great tradition in Jesuit education where we are called to always be discerning God's will, to seek the greater way, the deeper path, and we call this the *Magis*. It derives from the Latin meaning the greater, or the more. This is truly a *Magis* moment!

For many, this will be the first time that you have been called upon to make a significant contribution to Prep's audacious efforts. For others, you are stepping up, once again, to make it known that Prep's Jesuit mission is a top priority for you and your family. As a comprehensive campaign, ***Go Forth*** will include every individual gift made to Prep, at any level. Every member of the Prep community makes a difference in this effort!



As proud graduates of Jesuit schools, my family and I continue to live and breathe the spirit bequeathed to us by St. Ignatius of Loyola and the countless Jesuits and lay men and women who sacrificed to make our educations a reality. Now, I invite you to join me, my family, and the entire Prep community in supporting Prep in this audacious moment. I pray future generations will look back on us and declare that we answered the call of Christ the King, to love and serve with heroic generosity.

Enjoy the inspiring images and messages of our campaign and the faithful vibrancy that is Fairfield Prep. We hold each of you in our daily prayers and ask God to bless you all for your faithful care of Prep. Hail Fairfield! **+AMDG**

In gratitude,

Christian J. Cashman P '15,'23
President

Welcome to These Board of Governors



Rev. Jim Croghan, S.J.
Superior, Jesuit Community
Boston College High School



Craig Maloney '84
Chief Executive Officer
InStride



John Mancini '82, P'18,'20,'23,'25
Partner, Mayer Brown, NY



Michael Spaight '01
Director
BlackRock Capital Markets

Now more than ever, our world cries out for leaders of conscience, compassion, competence, and commitment—for heroic leaders shaped by the time-tested tradition of a Jesuit, Catholic education.

As Connecticut's only Jesuit, Catholic secondary school, Fairfield Prep has advanced this deeper formation of the human person for more than 80 years, inspiring generations of young men to excel and serve in all aspects of their lives.

Always in pursuit of the *magis*, Fairfield Prep is embarking on a new **$90 million** comprehensive campaign, ***Go Forth***, to strengthen our ability to cultivate tomorrow's heroic leaders prepared to respond to the needs of the times.

Through ***Go Forth***, we invite you to help us build the Prep brotherhood, to invest in our students' intellectual development, and to commit to the care of our young men.

Go Forth

The Campaign for Fairfield Prep

Build the Brotherhood

Goal: $30 Million

Throughout our history, Fairfield Prep has been dedicated to ensuring that young men from all socio-economic backgrounds have the opportunity to attend Prep and be formed in our Jesuit, Catholic way of proceeding. Your support will elevate our capacity to forge our community into a cohesive Prep brotherhood, regardless of our families' financial resources.

Areas for investment include:

Need-Based Financial Aid
Ensure that a lack of family resources never stands between a student and a Prep education.

Magis *Merit Scholarships*
Endow academic scholarships for talented students to promote a culture of excellence on campus.

Fairfield Prep Fund
Give our school leadership the flexibility to meet the emergent needs of our students and families.





"An investment in Prep is not just an investment in these boys today. It's an investment in America's future. We're building transformative leaders by giving them a place to go where the values are clear and unwavering."

Matt Sather '93
Teacher and Coach

Matt Sather '93

Matt Sather '93 had just taken a job as a paralegal and was intending to apply to law school when he got the call that an English faculty position was opening up at Prep that January. He accepted the job, intending to move on with his career after a year or two. That was the fall of 1997. Twenty-six years and counting, Sather has touched the lives of countless Prep brothers as both a teacher and coach, recently earning himself the title of Most Inspirational Teacher of the Year from the Class of 2023.

"I've spent more than half my life in these buildings. I'm 100% shaped by my time at Prep," says Sather. "I would start by saying this is a great place to work, as good a place to work now as it's ever been. The mutual respect and communication among the faculty and staff has shaped how I personally view the world.

"We throw around terms like '*cura personalis*' and 'meeting people where they are'. These walls bleed those values. When you've been here as long as I have, it doesn't wash off when you walk out the door."

As soon as Sather started teaching at Prep, he began volunteering with Prep's hockey program. By the end of the '98-'99 season, at just 24 years old, he was elevated to head varsity coach with the charge of rebuilding the program's culture. He led the team to 11 championships before stepping down at the end of the '21-'22 season but continues to serve as assistant coach of the varsity baseball team.

Sather is an excellent example of the life-long learners Prep seeks to cultivate. After teaching English exclusively for 20 years and serving as English department chair for a number of years, Sather dipped his toe into teaching history to reestablish Prep's interdisciplinary American Studies program, which he now team teaches with Vin O'Hara '01.

Sather sees the Prep's lifelong brotherhood playing an important role in inspiring the students of today to be men for others. "When they see support from alumni—hockey alumni coming to the alumni game, world-famous political cartoonist Kevin "Kal" Kallaugher '73 coming back to campus to teach for a day, or an alumnus they've never met donating a science lab—it inspires them to give of themselves on the field, on retreats, and in the classroom. When you see that camaraderie, the brotherhood, from so many people from so many walks of life, it's hard not to get inspired by that."

"This is a place that is soup to nuts, top to bottom focused on its mission. It's literally painted on our walls. You cannot miss it," asserts Sather. "That mission is critical in a world that's cynical and confusing. An investment in Prep is not just an investment in these boys today. It's an investment in America's future. We're building transformative leaders by giving them a place to go where the values are clear and unwavering."



Invest in Intellect

Goal: $10 Million

At Prep, we focus on providing an exceptional learning experience tailored specifically to boys. Research-based teaching methods, purposeful scheduling, innovative coursework, and co-curricular activities combine to create an environment where young men can flourish. Your investment in our faculty, staff, and academic programs will ensure that Prep remains at the forefront of educational excellence.

Areas for investment include:

Academic Leadership Position
Permanently endow this crucial position responsible for shaping and supporting our faculty.

Academic Strategic Plan
Fund the implementation of key priorities identified through our strategic planning process.

Jesuit Educators Academy
Form our faculty and staff members as Ignatian educators by expanding and endowing the Jesuit Educators Academy.

Ignatian Faculty Fellowships
Enable our educators to pursue advanced degrees and to translate their learning to the classroom.

President's Innovation Fund
Power innovative ideas and address pressing needs identified by our President.

Timothy Dee

Prep Principal Timothy Dee knows how much others' investment in him shaped him as a young man and as an Ignatian educator. Now a school leader, he's focused on helping Prep provide its faculty with the very best support and opportunities to grow—so they can have the most profound impact possible on their own students.

"My drive comes from being inspired and motivated by the adults around me as a student at BC High. I think back to my teachers and my coaches—I was *formed* by them. Their influence made me a good person. It set me up for a life I feel so fortunate to have," says Dee. "Anything I can do to inspire adults to do that for others, that's what gives me joy and purpose."

Dee graduated from Fairfield University in 2008 with a B.S. in math. After teaching for a year at BC High, he returned to Connecticut to teach math and computer science at Fairfield Prep. With eight years of Jesuit education under his belt, Dee had the Jesuit terminology down, but he didn't know how to carry it out in the classroom. Prep's Jesuit Educators Academy (JEA 1.0), helped him learn Ignatian teaching methods and translate his Jesuit knowledge into instructional strategies.

On a personal level, Dee points to the influence of veteran teachers surrounding him at Prep—especially former Math Department Chair Maureen Bohan. "The way that she taught, the dedication that she brought every day was just inspiring for me. She put so much effort into developing me as a teacher. Even when I started taking on these leadership roles, she was someone I would go to," Dee recalls.

With financial support from Prep, Dee earned his M.A. in secondary education from Fairfield in 2014. He later earned his intermediate administration certification from Sacred Heart University and is currently a Ph.D. candidate in curriculum and instruction at Texas Tech University.

"When I was a young teacher, seeing these veterans trying new things and continuing to learn was a huge inspiration," says Dee. "By supporting the adults in our classrooms—even mid-career teachers—to always pursue learning, we're providing great educators as well as great role models for our students."

Since assuming the position of principal in 2021, Dee has been building on Prep's core elements of Ignatian pedagogy while embracing the ingenuity and innovation of 21st century learning models. *Go Forth* will support these efforts, including crucial investments that address the changing needs and realities of both the student body and the faculty.

"Our students will only be as successful as the adults in front of them can inspire, motivate, and teach them to be," says Dee.



"We have great students at Prep, coming from more than 75 different schools. The faculty members who are in front of them every day are the most important part of our mission."

Timothy Dee, Principal

Commit to Care

Goal: $50 Million

As our boys grow into men for others, valiantly committed to using their gifts for the greater glory of God, we nurture all aspects of their personhood, from academic success to health and wellness. Your support will equip us to impact a student's individual journey to self-awareness and heroic leadership through social-emotional and learning support, spiritual guidance, and customized college advising.

Areas for investment include:

Academic Success and Support Faculty Positions

Add content-specific tutors and learning specialists to our team to provide students at all levels with comprehensive learning support.

Kairos Retreat

Endow Prep's core Ignatian formation experience so every student has the opportunity to participate at little or no cost to themselves.

Principal's Innovation Fund

Empower our Principal to meet the immediate needs of caring for our young men.

Center for Arts and Recreation

Help us seize a once-in-a-generation opportunity to complete our campus footprint.



Rudy Swagerty '26

A member of the second cohort of *Magis* merit scholarship recipients to attend Prep, Rudy '26 can already look back and see the tremendous ways he's grown since he applied to Prep as an 8th grader. "They really build you up as a young man to become the man you need to be, to go out into the world and to make an impact," he reflects. "They're setting us up for so much more."

For Rudy, the biggest adjustment to Prep was really a matter of time management—balancing sports practices with the increased workload that comes with all of his honors classes. At Prep, Rudy has gotten involved in everything he can: football, basketball, robotics club, guitar ensemble and band, math team, student government, and the African American cultural club. "There's so many ways to get involved. I've been taking advantage of that," says Rudy, who's planning to launch an engineering club in the future.

As a *summa cum laude* student, Rudy's also eager to seize the academic opportunities before him and meets regularly with his college counselor, Lynn Chesbro, to figure out his path ahead. "We have a really good connection," says Rudy, who finds Chesbro's assistance immensely helpful for achieving his goals. For example, Rudy started freshman year at Prep in Algebra I, but he decided that the next year he wanted to move up a level in the sequence in order to pursue his love of math. Prep provided him with a summer geometry course, and he was able to start sophomore year in Algebra II.

Rudy's most transformational moment of his Prep journey so far was his service immersion experience in Florida through Urban Plunge with Prep's brother school, Belen Jesuit, in Miami. One of the trip's activities included an ecological excursion to the Everglades in which students practiced seeing God in all things, including a two-minute exercise in silence in the swamp. "I think that was the most magical experience I've ever had," he recalls.



"They really build you up as a young man to become the man you need to be, to go out into the world and to make an impact. They're setting us up for so much more."

Rudy Swagerty '26

Among all the things Rudy loves about Prep, the brotherhood tops them all. "The atmosphere in the building is always friendly. The bonds that I have here are just amazing," says Rudy, who feels his own contribution to the brotherhood is serving as a bridge between different friend groups and helping to welcome kids who have had a slower start acclimating. "I know most of my class," he says. "I know that they're there for me. I'm there for them."

In fact, Rudy has already discovered the secret of one of Prep's most enduring effects on a young man's life—the brotherhood doesn't end after four years. "The connections you build at Prep, I already know they will last a lifetime," Rudy concludes.







Commit to Care

CENTER FOR ARTS AND RECREATION

Recreation and Athletic Spaces

Large enough to hold the entire student body for Masses, concerts, and community events, the gymnasium will feature a regulation-size basketball court that can be split into three smaller courts for intramurals, after-school pickup games, and student activities.

- More than 47,000 square feet
- Expanded Strength and Conditioning Center, Erg Room
- Updated locker rooms, new band room and music tech classroom

Black Box Theater

With a maximum capacity of 200+, an entire Prep class will be able to assemble in the theater for programs and presentations, greatly reducing scheduling constraints and opening up a new world of opportunities.

Arts and Music Renovations

With athletics vacating the first floor of Arrupe Hall, visual art and music can move in closer proximity to the new theater, creating greater synergy among the arts programs.

Event Entrance and Improved Flow

The new configuration of the completed quad will connect all of the school's buildings on the first floor, making travel from one part of Fairfield Prep's campus to another less cumbersome, especially for individuals requiring elevator assistance to move between floors.

Accompany Us

Open to growth. Intellectually competent. Religious. Loving. Committed to doing justice.

These are the hallmarks of a Fairfield Prep graduate—the fruit of the exceptional educational experience we offer our young men. With their hearts on fire, our graduates leave ready to meet the challenges of modern society, to lead with love in a complex world that needs them.

In an ever-shifting economy and educational landscape, responding to the needs of each new class requires ongoing agility and ingenuity.

Can we count on you to help us do more, be more, for the next generation of heroic leaders in the making?

Please join us for the journey by supporting Go Forth

The Campaign for Fairfield Prep

To learn more or join us as we ***Go Forth***, scan the QR code or contact Colleen Claflin, AVP for Advancement at cclaflin@fairfieldprep.org.





Berchmans Hall 4th Floor Blessed

Berchmans Hall — the first proper building of Fairfield College Preparatory School — received major renovations this summer.

Following months of construction, the fourth floor of Berchmans was reopened for classes for the fall semester of the 2024-25 academic year. The fourth floor has newly expanded classrooms, an office space for faculty, and various brightly colored accents. Most notably, the new space is air-conditioned.

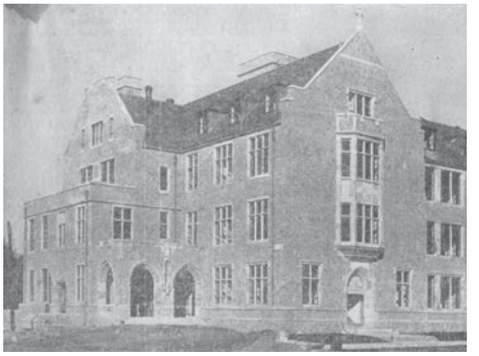
On Sept. 13, school administrators, members of the Board of Governors, and representatives from Newman Architects and Gilbane Construction held a rededication ceremony. The ceremony included a space blessing by the **Rev. Ron Perry, S.J.**, (top left), prayer readings by Director of Campus Ministry **Devon McCormick** and **Emmett Tolisano '25**, and a ribbon cutting. Students who were in class that day joined the occasion in parallel lines down the hallway.

In opening remarks, President **Christian Cashman** (top right) discussed Berchmans Hall's history, noting that when it opened in 1947, it was the first building for the Fairfield Prep "enclave."

"The first Prep parents and benefactors bought bricks and gave generously so that the young men of Prep could have a home to call their own," Cashman said. "Beloved as the McAuliffe and Bellarmine buildings were, Berchmans Hall belonged to Prep."

The hall was named after St. John Berchmans, a 16th-century Belgian Jesuit priest who passed away at age 22, and was a student of philosophy and the humanities. Berchmans fourth floor also holds a unique bit of Prep history, as for nearly four decades, it served as the residence of members of the Fairfield Prep Jesuit Community.





Berchmans Hall circa 1940s

"Many of our older alums will remember not being allowed to be up here from 1947 to about the mid-'80s," Cashman said.

After the Jesuit residence era, Berchmans fourth floor became the home of the Social Studies Department, seeing several legendary educators including **Bruce Jaffe**, **Dave Driscoll**, **Tom Sarcerdote**, **Lou Saracco** and **John Szablewicz**.

"In that spirit of the giants who came before us, from John Berchmans to the early Prep families to our teaching legends, we are thrilled to be able to bless and dedicate this sacred ground today for its joyful use by talented faculty and our gifted Prep students," Cashman said. "As we move into this fantastic new space in Berchmans Hall, let us never forget the bounty and gifts that surround us, those who make our work possible, and the blessing it is to learn in such beautiful spaces."

In his closing remarks, he cited the partners who made the renovation possible: Newman Architects (Jose Hernandez and Katelyn Chapin), Gilbane Construction (Jason VonWoermer, Amy Cantonese, and team), Fairfield University (Katie Hurley, Dave Frasinelli, and Curt Kurchinsky), and the Prep team (**Tim Dee**, **Tamara Guarino**, and **Nora Magi**).



GRADUATION WEEK:

An Opportunity to Reflect, Strengthen Our Brotherhood and Give Thanks

For the 150 members of the Fairfield Prep class of 2024, graduation week was a time to celebrate. Still, more importantly, it was an opportunity to reflect on our Prep experience, strengthen the bonds of our unique Prep brotherhood and give thanks to the many people who helped us achieve this milestone. As part of our senior retreat, we reflected on who we are today, how our Prep experience helped us become who we are, and how we will continue living out our Prep values in the next chapter.

As compared to the fourteen-year-old boy who apprehensively entered Prep four years ago, I am now more open to growth, intellectually competent, religious, loving, and committed to doing justice–in other words, a Prep "grad at grad." In the classroom, I mastered fundamental academic skills, but more significantly, I acquired the knowledge, awareness, critical thinking skills, and intellectual integrity to make better decisions. Outside the classroom, due to my service experiences working in a food pantry and soup kitchen and working with disabled individuals, I am more cognizant of the difficulties confronting the sick, the destitute, and the downtrodden, and I am more empathetic. My ability to make better decisions and my ability to empathize with others will be a significant source of strength as I continue the next chapter of my life.

During graduation week, we also strengthened the bonds of our Prep brotherhood through various events where we could socialize in a relaxed atmosphere without the pressure of homework or other tasks. We shared breakfast and lunch and cheered lustily as Mr. Shea and several of our more intrepid classmates hurtled down a slip-and-slide set up on the hill leading to Grauert Field. The Prep brotherhood was also a theme of a talk delivered by Mr. Shea in connection with his being named Prep's Most Inspirational Teacher of the Year.

Mr. Shea referenced Polonius's speech in *Hamlet*, in which Polonius advises his son to grapple with "those friends thou hast . . . to thy soul." Although the passage from Shakespeare is 400 years old, the message is clear—the friends whom we have made at Prep will forever be our brothers whom we can count on through thick and thin. During difficult times in our lives, we should not hesitate to reach out to our brothers for support and counsel.

Graduation week also allowed us to express our heartfelt thanks to the amazing teachers, coaches, guidance counselors, administrators, and other Prep staff who made the last four years so special. The lessons learned and the values instilled in us by these remarkable men and women will reside in our hearts and minds and will inspire us as we venture forth to set the world on fire.

Reflection by **Matt McLeod '24**, shown with parents Kateryna and **Scott McLeod '76**. At graduation Matt received the St. Edmund Campion, S.J., Award for academic excellence to explore self, faith, goodness and justice. Earlier senior year, Matt was named an SCC Scholar Athlete for soccer, and received the Jefferson Book Award from the University of Virginia, and a Medal of St. Ignatius Loyola. Matt is continuing his academic and soccer career at Bucknell University.

Better Because of The Challenge



The Class of 2024 is our small but mighty Covid class! These men finished middle school as the pandemic entered Prep in a hybrid model never tried before. Their faces were hidden behind masks for their first two years. They couldn't play sports or do extracurriculars. And they certainly couldn't roughhouse with their friends in the hallways like I did my freshman year.

And yet they showed up, with participation rates in Campus Ministry, student government, and other extracurriculars higher than ever. They embraced the suck of their situation to find meaning and purpose in a high school experience that was severely impaired.

Adversity is a gift. Those first Jesuits developed practices that have stood the test of time to become wisdom. This is adapting to whatever happens and becoming better because of the challenge, not despite it.

Looking back, I've distilled down a few lessons that I would offer to my 18-year-old self if he were sitting here.

Sleep is the foundation for a healthy life. When I was your age, I used to say I'd sleep when I was dead. And then I almost did, when I was so tired I fell asleep at the wheel. That was a wake-up call.

Nutritious food in moderate quantities is the medicine that fuels our bodies. So remember, the freshman 15 is not a competition.

If you get those two right, you'll have energy for the cherry on top, exercise. But not too much! The athletes in the room know you can't work out hard daily. Your body needs time to recover and come back stronger.

When these three elements of your physical well-being are right, your brain simply works better. You have the mental capacity to contemplate your spiritual health and, dare I say, your purpose.

I'm not naive enough to think that in your first weeks of college, you'll all be getting nine hours of sleep, eating solely from the salad bar, heading to the gym every other day, and religious services each week. But when you do, you'll feel better *and be better.*

Tough times make strong men … Prep men. You survived Covid and recovered stronger than before. As you go out and ignite the world, remember the Jesuit mantra to see God in all things, including in yourself. Take care of yourself. We need you healthy to keep this brotherhood strong.

Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam

Mr. Ed Gormbley '95, *commencement speaker, served as a former Vice Chair of Prep's Board of Governors. He is an entrepreneur and Managing Partner of Workforce Partners.*













We May Laugh, We May Cry, But We Never Say Die

As we gather here today to celebrate our graduation, I am reminded of these words from Prep's fight song—words that embody our last four years at Prep. On behalf of the Class of 2024, we share our greatest appreciation to the teachers, administrators, and staff of Fairfield Prep. To our loved ones, thank you for your support and for giving us the opportunity to attend this great place known as Prep.

Four years ago, we all had an idea of what Prep was about. But none of us could have imagined how it would shape us into the men we are today. Each of us has the potential to leave a legacy. The question we need to ask is, "What will we choose that legacy to be?"

The Class of 2024 is resilient. We navigated through the uncertainties of a world in flux, adapting to remote learning and the ever-shifting landscape of academia. But, resilience is more than just surviving; it's about thriving in the face of adversity and finding strength in moments of weakness and hope in moments of despair. In that regard, the Class of 2024 has excelled beyond measure. We put every last ounce of Jesuit spirit into our Prep pride.

Perseverance is the action of doing something that you are not supposed to be able to do. I've seen this millions of times with our class. Look at us now, the young, independent, fierce men we have become. We've learned that setbacks are not roadblocks but opportunities for growth.

As the years have passed, being a Man for Others has become much more than a requirement. In Woofgang Club with Bunco Nights, I was able to see a community bond and impact a group of socially challenged young adults. All of you boys have made this same impact. Whether you know it or not, you changed someone's life through your service.

Brotherhood is a powerful force that has molded us into the individuals we are today. It's about lifting each other up when we stumble and celebrating each other's victories as our own. It's important to acknowledge the impact our relationships have had on our personal and intellectual growth. The connections that are made through Prep is what Prep's tradition is really about. This brotherhood will follow you and be a part of you for the rest of your life.

During a time where the world seemed gloomy we came together and pushed through the difficulties. In this success we continued to strive for more. This never-say-die mentality got us to where we are today. The pursuit of looking for more, to be your best self, allows us boys to become men.

I am proud to have been a part of this journey with you all. Prep is a part of you, engraved into your heart. You are all still growing, but never change. God created all of you in his perfect image, so be yourself and watch where Prep and the world will take you.

Hudson Wingate '24 *was voted by his class to give the farewell address. He received the Kodak George Eastman Young Leaders Award from the University of Rochester, the Rev. Mateo Ricci, S.J. Academic Award for excellence in Spanish, and The Medal of St. Ignatius Loyola. Hudson is attending Boston College.*















A GOLDEN DIPLOMA

At Commencement, Prep Alumnus **Paul Halas '74** *was presented a golden diploma to recognize his 50th graduation anniversary. Paul is a member of Prep's Athletic Hall of Fame and is a former member of the Board of Governors.*



Find more graduation photos at
FAIRFIELDPREP.ORG

Watch video highlights on
YOUTUBE.COM/FAIRFIELDPREP1
Prep's YouTube channel



SPECIAL AWARDS AT COMMENCEMENT

The St. Edmund Campion, S.J. Award honors a senior who has demonstrated an enthusiastic quest for academic excellence which leads him to explore the possibilities of self, faith, goodness and justice in the world.

- ★ **Kieran Day**
- ★ **Matthew McLeod**
- ★ **Luke Van Dussen**

The St. Francis Xavier, S.J. Award honors a student who has taken advantage of the full array of opportunities and experiences offered at Prep.

- ★ **Kyle Elliott**
- ★ **Benjamin Hauptman**
- ★ **Gavin Toscano**

The St. John Berchmans, S.J. Award honors a senior whose faith has led him to become a man of conscience, compassion and action in service of others for the greater glory of God.

- ★ **Cincere Clark**
- ★ **Matthew Hewitt**
- ★ **Matthew Samuelson**

The Reverend Pedro Arrupe, S.J. Award honors a senior whose vitality of faith frees him to be a Man for Others.

- ★ **William McMahon**
- ★ **Matthew Murphy**
- ★ **Ralfs Viguls**

The St. Peter Claver, S.J. Award honors a senior who has distinguished himself by his leadership and his commitment to the preferential option for the poor.

- ★ **Nicholas Ambrosio**
- ★ **Ethan Farber**
- ★ **Brendan Murphy**

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

- ★ **Nathan Moore**











The Medal of St. Ignatius Loyola is awarded to the students in the top 5% of the Class of 2024 in honor of their outstanding academic achievements. These seniors were also recognized at the annual Fairfield Rotary luncheon honoring outstanding students from town high schools. Shown from left with Principal **Tim Dee**: **Ethan Farber**, **Nathan Moore**, **Matthew McLeod**, **Luke Trench**, **Alexander Drienik**, **Matthew Hewitt**, **William Reidy**, **Hudson Wingate**, **Luke Van Dussen**, **Ralfs Viguls**.

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

English
★ **Alexander Drienik**
★ **Ethan Farber**

Visual Art
★ **Nathan Moore**

Instrumental Music
★ **John Pezzimenti**

Choral Music
★ **Joshua Schumacher**

Theatre
★ **Tomas Galloza**

French
★ **Brandon Ukehaxhaj**
★ **Ralfs Viguls**

Latin
★ **Luke Trench**
★ **Luke Van Dussen**

Spanish
★ **Joshua Schumacher**
★ **Hudson Wingate**

Mathematics
★ **Alexander Drienik**
★ **Luke Van Dussen**
★ **Ralfs Viguls**

Computer Science
★ **Jacob Neaderland**

Innovation
★ **Frank Sabados**
★ **Boden Vrooman**

Biological Sciences
★ **Ethan Farber**

Chemical Sciences
★ **Luke Van Dussen**

Environmental Sciences
★ **Palmer Firmender**

Physical Sciences
★ **Nathan Moore**

History
★ **Alexander Drienik**
★ **Luke Van Dussen**

Economics
★ **Matthew Samuelson**



Business and Entrepreneurship
★ **Conor Fitzsimons**

Social Sciences
★ **Kent Costikyan**
★ **Nathan Moore**
★ **Ralfs Viguls**

Theology
★ **Nicholas Gualtiere**
★ **Matthew Hewitt**
★ **Gavin Toscano**

The Rev. Eugene C. Brissette, S.J. Award honors the senior who is Prep's most representative scholar/athlete.
★ **Cooper Callahan**
★ **Timothy Shannehan**

The St. John Francis Regis, S.J. Campus Ministry Award honors seniors who have shown outstanding leadership and contribution to the spiritual life of Prep.
For promotion of the Fairfield Prep retreat program
★ **Benjamin Hauptman**
★ **Matthew Murphy**
For contribution to the liturgical life of Fairfield Prep
★ **Nicholas Gualtiere**
For contribution to the Liturgical Music Program at Fairfield Prep
★ **Samuel Alvarez**

The St. Isaac Jogues, S.J. Award is given in memory of Mark Masiello, Class of 1983. A plaque and a gift are presented to a senior who has shown tremendous courage during his years at Prep.
★ **Samuel Alvarez**
★ **Gavin Toscano**

The Gerard Manley Hopkins, S.J. Award is given in memory of John Lambert, Class of 1994. A plaque and a gift are presented to a senior who has been key to the success of our literary publications.
★ **Tiankai Huang**
★ **Luke Van Dussen**

The All for One Award established by the McManus Family is a scholarship and award presented to a student who is a four year member of the SEED program and, through his actions, best exemplifies the qualities of the Graduate at Graduation.
★ **Phillip Martins**

The Jamie Hulley Arts Foundation Grant honors a student who has used his talents to make significant contributions to the Fairfield Prep community, offering new perspectives and encouraging us to see the world in new and profound ways.
★ **Samuel Alvarez**

The Phillip A. Lauria Scholarship has been established in the name of Phillip (Phil) A. Lauria '05. Phil, a true "man for others", lived and learned with integrity, ethics, kindness, religious values and respect for others in his Prep years and in his college years at Loyola University Chicago.
★ **Benjamin Hauptman**

The Cardinal Key Society Award members of the Cardinal Key Society who have distinguished themselves through their leadership and service to the Prep Community.
★ **Liam Keatley**
★ **Joshua Schumacher**

The Rev. Arturo Sosa, S.J. Leadership Award, named after the current Superior General of the Society of Jesus, a Senior Class Officer for their outstanding efforts in service to the Prep community.
★ **Brandon Ukehaxhaj**

The Vanderslice Family Award for Excellence in Math & Science has been established through the generosity of Paul Vanderslice, Prep Class of '76, and his wife Lynne Vanderslice, former Prep Board of Governor.
★ **Matthew Hewitt**

The Dr. Donna Andrade Academic Dean Award is given to members of the senior class who display academic excellence through intellectual ability, perseverance and determination that inspires others to greater academic success.
★ **Drew Cesaratto**
★ **Tiankai Huang**
★ **Luke Trench**

The Principal's Award is given to students for their outstanding academic achievement.
★ **Charles Caporrino**
★ **Kieran Day**
★ **Kyle Elliott**

The President's Award is given to students for providing outstanding leadership to the Fairfield Prep Community throughout the year.
★ **William McMahon**
★ **Brendan James Murphy**
★ **Ralfs Viguls**

SCC SCHOLAR LEADERS

Ralfs Viguls (center) and Phillip Martins (right) were selected by Principal Mr. Timothy Dee (left) as Prep's SCC Scholar Leaders for their leadership and excellence in the school and local communities. Considered the "Best of the Best," the honorees have talents which include mentoring, athletic prowess, artistic talents, activism, decision making, and the arts.

Ralfs Viguls '24 stood out as a top student in his class, demonstrating exceptional academic achievement at Fairfield Prep. Alongside his scholastic achievements, he excels in the Jesuits as an All-SCC Hockey athlete showcasing dedication, leadership, and skill on the ice. His musical talents shine in Prep's Symphonic Band and Jazzuits, where Ralfs has shared his musical talents on the alto saxophone during each of his four years. Committed to serving his community, Ralfs dedicates his time to volunteering at Covenant School of Bridgeport, and as a member of the National Honor Society, he shares his academic gifts with Prep's underclassmen as a peer tutor.

Ralfs embodies the Jesuit ideals of Fairfield Prep, exhibiting integrity, leadership, and service qualities in all aspects of his life. At graduation, he received The Reverend Pedro Arrupe, S.J. Award, honoring senior class members whose vitality of faith frees them to be a Man-for-Others. Ralfs' well-rounded accomplishments reflect his commitment to excellence both inside and outside the classroom, making him a scholar leader and a commendable role model for his peers. Ralfs is attending Boston College.



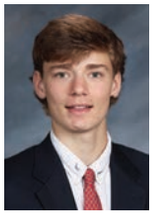
Phillip Martins '24 distinguished himself at Fairfield Prep as a top-ranked student, demonstrating academic excellence in the humanities and sciences. He also served as the coxswain on the crew team, allowing him to showcase his leadership and teamwork skills both inside and outside the classroom. Phillip used his talents to support underclassmen in their academic lives by serving as a peer tutor and served the wider community as a CCD teacher at his local parish and as a volunteer at the Covenant School in Bridgeport. Phillip is a "man for others" in all he does and integrates Prep's Jesuit values into his actions. Phillip's dedication to academic success, athletics, and community service reflects his commitment to being open to growth and supporting the growth of others, making him a scholar leader and an example for his peers and teammates. Phillip started his academic and rowing careers at Yale University this fall.

SCC SCHOLAR ATHLETES

Liam McMahon '24 (crew) and **George Hawley '24** (lacrosse) were both named SCC Scholar Athletes for the spring season, sponsored by Great Blue Research.



A four-year member of the Varsity Crew team, **Liam McMahon** has been a model student-athlete. In the classroom, he has excelled, graduating magna cum laude, and was also a member of the National Honor Society. In school, Liam has taken on numerous leadership roles. He was selected by the administration to be a speaker and student ambassador at school events for prospective students. He also served as an upperclassman leader at the Freshman and Kairos Retreats and was elected crew team captain. In the outside community, he has volunteered at Filling in the Blanks and was a mentor and tutor at the Wakeman Boys & Girls Club and McKinley School. Liam is enrolled at Wake Forest University.



A four-year member of the Varsity Lacrosse team, **George Hawley** is an exemplary student -athlete. In the classroom, George graduated summa cum laude and was a member of the National Honor Society. Beyond the classroom, George was active in student government. He was also active in his church and the youth ministry/service program where he participated in two different weeklong immersion/service trips to Appalachia to do home repair for families in need. On the athletic field, George was a hardnosed Lacrosse defenseman who helped Prep win a State Championship in 2024. Some of his accolades include USA Lacrosse All American, 1st Team All State Class LL, 1st Team All Game Time CT, and 1st Team All SCC. George is currently enrolled in a post grad year at Choate Rosemary Hall and will attend Dartmouth College in the fall of 2025.



From left: Fairfield Police Union Scholarship Fund Board Member Charles F. Chiusano, Asst. Dir. of Fairfield Univ. Public Safety Keith Broderick, Matt McManus '24, Police Captain Robert Kalamaras, and Police Officer Mike Paris.

Matt McManus '24 Awarded Fairfield Police Union Scholarship

Prep senior **Matt McManus** was awarded the Fairfield Police Union Scholarship honoring the life work of Fairfield Probate Judge Daniel Caruso, an advocate for anyone and everyone who needed help in the community.

Matt served as president of the White Ribbon Club at Prep, for which he took the lead in organizing the school Walk a Mile in Her Shoes event to bring awareness to domestic violence. Matt has also volunteered at the day care center at the Caroline House in Bridgeport and coached a basketball team at Wakeman Boys and Girls Club. In Campus Ministry, he served as a Kairos retreat leader, working for months to plan, pray, and prepare to facilitate a group of peers and share his life of faith with others. Beyond service, Matt has been an active member of the Environmental Club, Debate Team, Stock Market Club, JV Football and Varsity Track. A summa cum laude student, he is attending Boston College.

CAS-CIAC SCHOLAR-ATHLETE AWARDS



Timothy Shannehan (left) and Nathan Moore (right) were honored at the annual CAS-CIAC Scholar-Athlete Awards Banquet for exemplary academic and athletic careers, whose personal standards and achievements are a model to others and who possess high levels of integrity, self-discipline, and courage. (Pictured with Athletic Director Tom Curran '05.)

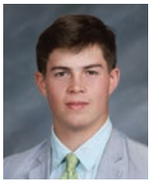
Timothy Shannehan

Tim Shannehan earned magna cum laude honors and was an NHS member and peer tutor. As senior captain he led the Prep Lacrosse team to win the 2024 Class LL State Championship and earn the #15 USA Lacrosse national ranking, where he earned many accolades: Attack USA Lacrosse All-American, Gametime CT 1st Team All-State, Class LL 1st Team All State-Attack, Gametime CT Player of the Year, and USA Lacrosse Northeast Player of the Year, and named to the USA Lacrosse U20 Training Team. Tim was a class leader for the student Bomb Squad plus announced weekly sports to the school. Active in the community, he was a volunteer coach for the Bridgeport Sports Academy, chairing a coat drive and a lacrosse equipment drive. Tim served meals to the homeless at the Thomas Merton House Center. He also led a Kairos retreat at Prep. He received Prep's Rev. Eugene C. Brissette, S.J., Scholar-Athlete Award. Tim continues his academic success and lacrosse career at Boston University.

Nate Moore excelled in and out of the classroom, where he achieved summa cum laude honors and was an NHS member and peer tutor. In athletics, Nate served as senior captain of the Varsity Soccer team. In the mission service, he led Prep's Grounded in Gratitude retreat and Freshman Retreat, and he experienced and was a leader on the Kairos Retreat. He also participated in a faith-based leadership camp through the University of Notre Dame. He participated in a family service program on that same campus for the past four years. He also volunteers extensively through Person to Person in his community, providing meals, managing their food pantry, and delivering meals to shut-ins. Nate received the Harvard Book Prize, the Rev. Mateo Ricci, S.J., Academic Awards in Visual Art, Physical Sciences and Social Sciences, the Medal of St. Ignatius Loyola, and the Jesuit Schools Network Award. Nate is at the University of Notre Dame this fall.

Serving our Nation:

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY AND U.S. ARMY



Palmer Firmender is an outstanding young man and a mature, honest, and reliable leader. Academically, Palmer is a summa cum laude and National Honor Society student. At the Senior Awards Dinner, he received the Rev. Mateo Ricci, S.J., Academic Award for excellence in Environmental Sciences. Beyond the classroom, Palmer is a two-sport varsity athlete. He served as Captain of the Prep Ski Team his senior year and has been a four-year starter on the Lacrosse team since freshman year. Palmer won two State Championships during his athletic career: one with the Ski Team in 2023 and one with the Lacrosse Team in 2024. Palmer also enjoys serving his community. He has volunteered numerous hours, such as participating in a weeklong immersion trip to Appalachia, volunteering with Habitat for Humanity, and serving food to the homeless at Nourish Bridgeport. In sum, Palmer is an outstanding young man of character and integrity. Palmer is dedicating his service to his country, while maintaining his academic and lacrosse career at the United States Air Force Academy.



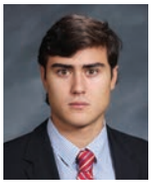
Alex Drienik is a striver, determined and dedicated to excellence in life and in the classroom. Alex achieved summa cum laude honors each year and was recognized with the Brown University Book Award in the fall of senior year. At the Senior Awards Dinner, Alex was also presented with awards for outstanding achievement in English, Mathematics and Social Studies. He was honored the St. Ignatius Medal for academic excellence and was recognized as a National Merit Commended Student. He is proficient as a cellist and has a history of long-distance swimming. Alex learned to value service while at Prep and found joy in volunteering at a local soup kitchen where he served every Sunday, arriving at 5 a.m. Alex's desire to serve has led to his commitment to serve our country, enlisting in the United States Army.



Head Football Coach Keith Hellstern with Emmett Derby '24

Derby Scores Fairfield Youth Football Scholarship

The Fairfield Youth Football (FYF) program awarded **Emmett Derby** a scholarship check. Emmett was a Fairfield Wildcats and FYF Giants player from 4th-8th grade and was selected for this award based on his time with FYF, academic excellence, and, most importantly, his commitment to community service. He is attending Providence College and playing rugby.



Congratulations Eagle Scout

Nicolas Alvarez-Bonilla

Class of 2024 Honors Tom Shea ’73, P’08, ’11

Inspirational Teacher Award



Tom Shea ’73 receives award from Class of 2024 Student Government members, from left: George Hawley, Kent Costikyan, Brandon Ukehaxhaj, James Murphy and Hudson Wingate.

Fifteen years ago, I was lucky to cross paths with **Tom Shea ’73**. He had recently become the new Head Football Coach at Fairfield Prep and was looking to re-establish a culture of excellence and accountability within a proud program. I was leaving collegiate coaching and looking to be somewhere I could most directly develop and impact young men and student-athletes. We “clicked” automatically and became fast colleagues and friends.

Since then, Tom has displayed a relentless drive as an educator toward instilling commitment, self-discipline, and sacrifice in the classroom and on the playing field. He is a true “Man for Others” and gives back daily to Fairfield Prep and its mission.

At Prep, we often discuss aspiring for the *Magis* in our lives by intentionally doing more for the people and world around us. On that journey, we hopefully inspire others to follow such service — no matter the task — big or small. I could not think of a more fitting embodiment of that principle than Tom Shea ’73. Congratulations on being named the Inspirational Teacher of the Year by the Class of 2024!



By Keith Hellstern, Head Football Coach, Social Studies Teacher

Jessica Lombardi *Honored in “Hearthstone”*

“An inspiration and model for us all, Assistant Dean, Mrs. Jessica Lombardi, embodies what it means to be a Prep educator and mentor. Her class will always be one of my favorite Prep memories. She pushed us to become dedicated learners and, more importantly, caring young men for others. In her new role as Dean of the Classes of 2024 and 2025, she has continued to show personal care tutoring and helping students. Mrs. Lombardi’s constant hard work and passion for the Prep community is evident and earns her the highest respect from every student who crosses her path.” — **Luke Van Dussen ’24** *(shown with Mrs. Lombardi)*

“Whether you find her in her office or down in the SLC, Mrs. Lombardi is a friendly face to all throughout the halls of Prep. Her door is always open, and she is there to help us when we need it most.” — **Emmett Tolisano ’25**

“I have been fortunate enough to have Mrs. Lombardi for two years and I can honestly say that her class is one I look forward to each day. She always makes learning engaging and interesting, and I am a much better student because of her teaching.” — **James Chesbro ’25**



In Kinship and Service



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Mustard Seed Communities

In February of 2024, a small but mighty mission team of six Prep students, including me, embarked on a trip of a lifetime. We went to Mustard Seed Communities, an international organization with facilities in less developed countries that provide housing and care to children and adults with disabilities—cerebral palsy, autism, Down Syndrome, and microcephaly. This was the first time anyone in our group had been to the Dominican Republic, let alone on an international mission trip. Despite our shared unfamiliarity going into the trip, each brother came out with a deeper relationship with God and His people.

Jesuit Fr. Greg Boyle, in his book *Tattoos on the Heart*, writes, "Only Kinship." Although Boyle's words do not form a complete sentence consisting of an independent clause, his words contain a fully formed notion: God calls us to be akin and only akin. Boyle often cites Kinship as 'having one's feet in the right place.' I had studied and met Fr. Greg months earlier, and his words flooded my mind at Mustard Seed. I was reminded that kinship is 'the ministry of presence'; we are not called to serve, but to be, to come as you are and nothing else. Through kinship, we can see and enjoy what God wants us to see: each other. This was particularly resonant in my thoughts as our theme of the 2023-24 school year was 'Men for Others.' God calls us to act in a nature that is for others by being with others.

One memory that stands out is a daily occurrence called 'play therapy'—that being just playtime, but it was, in fact, therapeutic to the residents. One day, many mobile residents were up, running around, and playing chase during play therapy. However, the non-mobile residents were often excluded from such active play and were left inside the pavilion on the property.

Seeing this, I wheeled a young girl with cerebral palsy over. There were no toys, except for a quarter in my pocket. We sat down together and spun it on a table. The girl, Anabel, could not stop smiling and laughing, and with contagious smiles, I could not stop smiling either. To many, a quarter is worth twenty-five cents and no more, but in this situation, it was priceless: it brought smiles, happiness, and a new sense of kinship. God calls us to be and nothing else, and on the rest of the trip, there were many other moments demonstrating that. The Prep education calls us to step outside where we are comfortable and into the margins, just like Jesus. For this reason, I am forever grateful to everyone who made this trip possible: Mr. Smith, Mr. Rudden, my Prep brothers, and most importantly, the kids at Mustard Seed Communities.

By **Lars Maechling '25**, below, a summa cum laude honors student. Lars received the Kodak George Eastman Young Leaders Award from The University of Rochester at the Honors Awards Ceremony in September.



Derick Rodas '24 plays with children at the Mustard Seed community in the Dominican Republic.





CEDAR POINT WEST VIRGINIA

Appalachian Immersion Trip

Fairfield Prep's Appalachia Immersion Trip sends a group of student volunteers to a farm in West Virginia to serve communities in the Appalachian region. This past year, I had the privilege of leading the trip alongside three other rising seniors. It was a remarkable opportunity for us to step back from our busy lives and experience an entirely different way of life in the South.

The farm is guided by four cornerstones: prayer, simplicity, community, and service. These principles shaped our week there. We explored various forms of prayer—specifically conversational prayer, prayer through art, and reflective prayer.

One memorable occasion involved us gathering outside in the dewy, chilly morning, where we reflected on how the week helped us embrace each cornerstone. Experiencing simplicity allowed each of us to recognize how much we take for granted at home and prompted us to consider changing some harmful habits, such as using inappropriate language, which can damage our communication.

In terms of service, we repaired and built roofs, porches, and other parts of community members' homes. We also learned basic gardening skills and landscaping techniques while completing our chores at the farm. By living alongside the farm workers and engaging with the local community, we became part of a new family in Cedar Point, West Virginia.

This trip was an influential experience filled with learning. We explored the history of economic injustices in Appalachia and discovered how the organization we partnered with works to address these issues.

Personally, the trip enriched my school life and my growth as an individual. As both a volunteer and a leader, I forged stronger connections with classmates and faculty, creating lasting friendships.

The Appalachia Immersion Trip embodies Fairfield Prep's mission and teaches students how to become true Men for Others.



By **Patrick Mancini '25**, a magna cum laude honors student, is a member of Prep's Campus Ministry leadership team.







From Island Shores to Classroom Doors: Lessons in Caring for Our Common Home



CHUUK, MICRONESIA

Xavier High School

This past summer, I had the unique opportunity to teach at Xavier High School in Chuuk, Micronesia, a Jesuit institution not unlike ours here at Fairfield Prep. I spent a month immersed in this beautiful Pacific Island, gaining new perspectives and witnessing the natural and communal beauty within Chuuk State.

Stepping off the plane, I was struck by the stunning surroundings: water so blue it looked unreal, trees greener than I had ever seen, and wildlife everywhere. As a marine biologist, I marveled at the vibrant ocean life. I saw pristine examples of marine ecosystems I had only read about.

Yet, alongside this natural beauty, I encountered the environmental and social challenges faced by the community. Trash littered the shores, abandoned cars lined the roads, and the lagoon held wrecks from World War II. Clearly, the island's isolation played a significant role in these issues, as most goods are imported but waste remains, with no infrastructure to remove it.

Despite these challenges, the hope I found was in the young people. At Xavier, I taught aquatic environmental science, showing students the importance of caring for their island's natural resources. The students' eagerness to learn was inspiring. They were passionate about understanding the world around them, and many began to see how their actions could affect their community. We discussed how small changes could create ripple effects, encouraging others to care for the environment.



The beauty of Chuuk lies not only in its natural surroundings but also in its people. Education at Xavier isn't just about academics but about instilling a sense of responsibility for caring for one another and for the environment. I left Chuuk reminded of our Jesuit values and how essential education is in promoting care for our common home.

As we embrace this theme at Fairfield Prep this year, I hope to take what I learned in Chuuk to inspire my students and colleagues to act. Together, we can make a difference in our communities and the world.

Reflection by Jessica Cuntrera, Biology and Environmental Science teacher









The month I spent in Chuuk, Micronesia, easily ranks as the best experience of my life so far. I'm thrilled I had the opportunity to share that time with such amazing people and to engage in the activities we did. At home, it's easy to get caught up in the daily grind and forget that each day can be an adventure if we choose to see it that way. Life in Chuuk was exactly that—one adventure after another.

The main building of Xavier High School is a concrete communications bunker that the Japanese constructed for their naval base in the lead-up to World War II. It's poetic that the Chuukese transformed a symbol of violence and oppression into a vibrant community focused on life and learning. Being part of that community and giving back to an island and its people, who have endured so much loss, was a tremendous honor.

The students we taught radiated life, joy, innocence, and energy. We connected with them so naturally that you wouldn't know we came from opposite sides of the Earth. The children of Chuuk were filled with the Holy Spirit, which you could feel when they sang during Mass; their voices made the little chapel overlooking the lagoon resonate beautifully.

Aware of how fleeting our time in Chuuk was, we seized every opportunity to explore and go on adventures. We hiked through the jungle to the Japanese lighthouse, snorkeled through vibrant coral reefs, and explored tiny islands along the barrier reef. After class, we teachers would often form a group and head into town just to soak it all in.

Some of our best moments happened when we rode six deep in the bed of a pickup truck, bouncing along the rutted dirt road. The sun warmed our backs, the dampness of the jungle enveloped us, the sea breeze tousled our hair, and the



excitement and joy of the children revealed that the islands were bursting with life in the midst of a vast expanse of nothingness.

Living and teaching in Chuuk was an adventure; each day was unpredictable. That's what teaching is like—creating plans, preparing your classroom and materials, and going with the flow no matter what happens in those next 40 minutes. I suppose that's what living on island time is all about moving from one adventure to another.

Reflection by Caleb Jackson, Physics teacher







Service Calls



LACROSSE CLINIC

Prep welcomed friends at Covenant School of Bridgeport to stop by a Jesuit lacrosse practice in early April and learn more about the sport from our coaches and players. Our Bridgeport guests ran fun drills and played games before watching a real Prep lacrosse practice.



FIRST SERVE BRIDGEPORT

At the close of April, the Prep tennis team hosted First Serve Bridgeport, an urban youth enrichment tennis program at the Walsh Athletic Center tennis courts, running a fun clinic for its team members! Special thanks to Director of Tennis Rob Oppenheim for his continued collaboration with Fairfield Prep.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity expressed appreciation for the work our boys completed alongside advisors on Sunday, September 29. Students teamed up with the organization's construction staff, lending a hand on key projects like painting and landscaping. The hard work and enthusiasm of Prep students makes a real difference, and Habitat for Humanity underscored their gratitude for students' dedication to their mission — building affordable homes, strengthening our community, and spreading hope for a brighter future.







SIGNING UP AT THE IGNATIAN SERVICE FAIR

Prep Students took part in this year's "Ignatian Service Fair" on September 9, giving them the opportunity to meet with local agencies. Seniors will choose an organization to commit themselves to this year as part of our service program. All students participate in various forms of community service as we strive to be Men for Others.



SOPHOMORE RETREAT

The Class of 2026 came together to pray, reflect and bond at last spring's Sophomore Retreat. This shared experience showcased their strong spirit of brotherhood that will sustain them throughout their time as upperclassmen. The connections students made and the sense of community they fostered were truly special. Prep is grateful for this opportunity for our young men to grow together and we cannot wait to see how the Class of 2026 leads with strength and unity.







BROOKLYN JESUIT PREP SUMMER PROGRAM ON CAMPUS

At Mass of the Feast Day of St. Ignatius on July 31, **Rev. John Mulreany, S.J.**, Superior of the Fairfield University Jesuit Community, invited students from Brooklyn Jesuit to join him on the altar at Egan Chapel. He pointed out the individual stained-glass windows depicting the life of St. Ignatius. Every summer, students and teachers from Brooklyn Jesuit Prep, a Jesuit Nativity middle school, spend weeks on campus as a special program with coursework in Xavier Hall, combined with room, dining and recreation- including the pool- at the university. A wonderful collaboration showing the bonds and connectivity of our Jesuit schools and common mission to support and service one another!



A DAY AT THE BEACH

Over the final weekend of September, Fairfield Prep's Environmental Club teamed up with local non-profit North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA) to take care of our common home – Planet Earth. Students worked for two hours to clean the trash off of Fairfield's Jennings and Penfield Beaches. This was the first of many service opportunities that will aim to ensure our students are doing their job to protect our earth and its natural resources.



Time to Worship Together





CONFIRMATION AT ASCENSION MASS

Our Prep community came together for a beautiful Ascension Mass led by Bishop Frank Caggiano on May 9. We were blessed to witness several students receive the sacrament of Confirmation – a powerful reminder of the strength of our faith community.





KAIROS 80 — QUALITY TIME WITH GOD AND EACH OTHER

The Kairos 80 Retreat was another great experience for Prep's senior and junior participants! Students came together to examine themselves, their relationships with others, and God, and to have meaningful discussions and meetings with their brothers.



A Jesuit Tradition: The Mass of the Holy Spirit

The Prep community joined together for the Mass of the Holy Spirit on September 13, the first liturgical gathering to kick off the school year. The community prayed that the Holy Spirit blesses us with joy and gratitude as we live out our theme of caring for "Our Common Home." During the Mass, Principal Celebrant **Rev. Brendan Coffey, S.J.**, (pictured above center) delivered an impassioned homily focused on each person's originality and how God "does not make junk." Following are excerpts:

We are all born as originals, but many die as photocopies. Those are the words of Carlo Acutis, the first Catholic saint of my millennial generation, who died two decades ago while a student at our Jesuit high school in Milan, Italy. He was a guy like many of you: a gamer, creative techie, and passionate sports fan. But today, I just want to focus on his words: We are all born as originals, but many die as photocopies.

Why is that? When being an original is so attractive and core to our desire for authenticity, why do many let the dream slip away? I'd like to suggest that, ultimately, it's about a failure to accept love.

Every day we encounter people trying to be anybody but themselves. There are those desperate to fit in: the performers who con a part to win acceptance, becoming everything and nothing at the same time. There are those addicted to success: the achievers who act like invisible men who won't be seen unless they wrap themselves in life's prizes. There are those who crave control: the willful warriors who'd choose a lifetime of loneliness rather than suffer the indignity of bearing their own brokenness by letting others in.

The failure is like a forgetting. It's a forgetting that our Creator doesn't make junk—God creates us all as His irreducibly unique children. It's a forgetting that God shined a light into our perplexed confusion that this could be so when He sent His Son to remind us just how original we are, to remind us of the wildly, recklessly beautiful possibility of being human. It's a forgetting that the foundations of that true originality have and always will be God's awesome love for us: a love so complete, so perfect, it exists as its own person in the Trinity of God—a love we call the Holy Spirit.

An original is wildly different from what makes me an original. That means that the gifts you bring to Fairfield Prep are unique. And though we tend to compare those gifts, measuring which is the greater anxiously, remember: that's the lie telling you you're not enough, not the truth-seeking to set you free. Some of us are called to be athletes, and some of us, if you're like me, shouldn't be anywhere near a field, rink, or court (though I'll be your loudest fan). Some of you are called to be leaders stirring our rowdy boys into action, and some of you are called to be that one special friend, a quiet but deeply significant person in the life of another. The trick is remembering that when you live as God's original, answering the call that is true to you, you are always a blessing in the eyes of God and a light to your brothers... And every time you rejoice in the originality of your brothers, pulling out of them what you know to be true to who they are, you are rejoicing and praising the Spirit of God living and breathing within each of us.

Kevin Kery '00 Honored with Distinguished Ignatian Educator Award

Kevin Kery '00 was awarded the Distinguished Ignatian Educator Award for the 2024-2025 academic year during the Mass of the Holy Spirit.

The Distinguished Ignatian Educator Award honors the legendary **Fr. Martin G. Shaughnessy** of the Society of Jesus, a former Prep Theology teacher of over 40 years. As Prep President Christian Cashman spoke of the award on Sept. 13, Fr. Shaughnessy "was a larger-than-life presence at Prep and a legendary Jesuit of our community for 42 years."



Kevin Kery '00 with Christian Cashman

Nominated by his peers and colleagues, Kery is a prime example of these values. According to Cashman, he "emulates the core characteristics of the Ignatian Educator" who offers passion, variety, rigor, care, and Jesuit love to Prep classrooms and athletics every day. His engagement and inspiration to spirits is a remarkable model of the gifts of presence and openness to growth.

Kery's inspiration touches past his students and into his colleagues and Prep families. With daily examples of Ignatian generosity, he has also engaged with every Ignatian program, retreat, service immersion, and opportunity on and off the Fairfield Prep campus.

Having lived the Prep experience, "our honoree holds our Prep mission in sacred trust," said Cashman, "and views his entire life's work as a vocation in our Church." "He has been a champion for Diversity and Belonging at Prep and is a justice warrior in the spirit of our first teacher, Jesus Christ," Cashman concluded.



"Song of Songs" Spring Concert

Fairfield Prep's Annual Spring Concert showcased lively performances from our talented musicians on May 15, fulfilling their dynamic theme, "Song of Songs." Featured in the concert was an entire Prep music department, including the String Orchestra, Freshman Choir, Select Choir, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Jazzuits, Rock Band, Guitar Ensemble, Combined Symphonic Orchestra and featured students from our Collaborative Piano Class.

"As [Prep's] Director of Music, it is an honor and privilege to work with these incredibly talented students who are more than just musicians," said Mr. Daniel J. Horstmann, Visual & Performing Arts Chair.

With performances of "The Boys Are Back In Town," "Memories," *Barbie*'s "I'm Just Ken" and tunes from *Annie*, an exciting night of music and community took over Prep and the entire Quick Center. Horstmann stated the true testament of the hard work, dedication and passion of Prep's musically-inclined. "Every moment the students spend in rehearsal provides them with a unique opportunity to learn more about music and to connect with one another as musicians," he said.

Horstmann concluded with an issue of great pride for his students and appreciation for Prep's annual show.





Watch video highlights on the Prep YouTube channel
YOUTUBE.COM/FAIRFIELDPREP1



The Prep Players Win Halo Awards

Prep Players continued their theme of using literature and love as a healer, taken from fall musical *The Lost Boy*, and ran into their spring performance of *Alice by Heart*. On May 9, 10 and 11, the Kelley Theatre transported back to World War II, in the rubble of London Blitz, where Alice Spencer's life is turned upside down after she and her dear friend Alfred are forced to take shelter in an underground tube station.

While ailing Alfred is quarantined, Alice encourages him to escape with her into their cherished book *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* and journey down the rabbit hole. As they travel through the tale, *Alice by Heart* explores the poignancy of first love, coming to terms with loss, and finding the courage to move forward. This show encourages us all to celebrate the transformational power of the imagination, even in the harshest of times.

Director Megan Hoover praised the cast and crew, "I am always so proud to share with you the work of these students because they give so much of themselves. I cannot tell you how much they appreciate having the Prep community members in the audience and getting to show you a whole other side of themselves."



Congratulations to the Prep Players for two fantastic productions *Alice by Heart* and *The Lost Boy*, and five Halo Awards! Including:

Halo Awards

- Best Chorus for *Alice by Heart*
- Outstanding Orchestra in a Production for *Alice by Heart*
- Best Performance by a Leading Actor in a Contemporary Play - **Tomas Galloza** for James M. Barrie in *The Lost Boy*
- Best Performance by a Supporting Actor in a Play - **Logan Thidemann** for Davey/Peter Pan in *The Lost Boy*
- Halo Robe Award - **Joshua Salazar** in *Alice by Heart*







Arts & Ideas Showcase



SHOWCASE OF TALENT

Prep's visual arts, music and theatre programs embodied the Jesuit spirt of creativity during our Arts & Ideas Showcase in April. Throughout campus, students showcased their unique talents through dynamic performance, expressive artwork, and creative writing. The arts were celebrated as vibrant expressions of individual perspectives and critical thinking. This connects to our Jesuit mission by fostering a community where students explore their God-given gifts and discover their voices.











PREP PERFORMS IN FLORIDA

Our Prep musicians embarked on an unforgettable journey to Orlando this past spring break! Students immersed themselves in Disney workshops, expanding their musical abilities and culminating their experience with a showcase performance at Universal Studios' CityWalk Stage. We're also incredibly grateful to our dedicated chaperones for supporting our students' musical development.









SEED Dinner Bids Farewell to Seniors, Welcomes Incoming Freshmen

The annual Fairfield Prep SEED Diversity Dinner took place in the Student Life Center on May 1. The event drew hundreds of SEED students, parents and friends, who enjoyed dinner with multi-cultural, authentic foods. Speakers at the dinner included student **Jaylin Brown '24**, Prep Alumni **Courtney Hamilton '92** and **Damian Elias '92**, parent **Maria Martins P'24**, and Prep's Director of Diversity & Community Engagement **Ruben Goodwin**. As an annual tradition, the graduating SEED seniors gave a Prep tie to members of the incoming class, to symbolize passing on the Prep Brotherhood spirit and welcoming the incoming freshmen.









Ahmad Bennett '25 greets guests at the Diversity Dinner. SEED members above welcomed guests at Prep's entrance.

No Place For Hate and UAP "Our Common Home" Grant Competition

On October 2, our school community participated in Fairfield Prep's annual "No Place for Hate" Assembly. This year we had two special experiences for our student body; aligning with this year's theme "Our Common Home" we invited Republican State Senator Tony Hwang and Democratic State Representative Steve Stafstrom to join us for a conversation about civic engagement and civic discourse. Senior Student Govt. Vice President **Lars Maechling '25** mediated a conversation about current events, social justice and our political process. By simply being on stage, our two special guests gave our students an understanding of what a civil discourse between two politicians from different parties can look like.

Students also had the opportunity to hear the UAP Grant Competition finalists present their ideas and vote for a top three. Three of the six finalists have been chosen to receive a $1,000 or a $500 grant. The grants will kickstart the three winning projects and allow them to have financial support as well as the support of their Prep brothers and the greater Prep community. We look forward to seeing the tremendous effect our three winners will have on the greater Fairfield County community this school year. Congratulations to our winners!





Welcoming the Class of 2028

SUMMER JUMPSTART: THE FRESHMAN EXPERIENCE

Our incoming Class of 2028 spent two weeks in June and July participating in the Freshman Experience Program, where they not only acquired essential skills for their upcoming school year but began forging connections with their fellow classmates. Prep welcomed students who took courses like "Prep for Prep," Effective Writing, and Foundations of Mathematics, with activities like filling "Welcome Home" bags for veterans, ending days with the Examen prayer to shape spiritual and academic foundations. Students worked inside and outside the classroom, already embracing the values of brotherhood and learning what it means to be "Men for Others."





FRESHMAN ORIENTATION

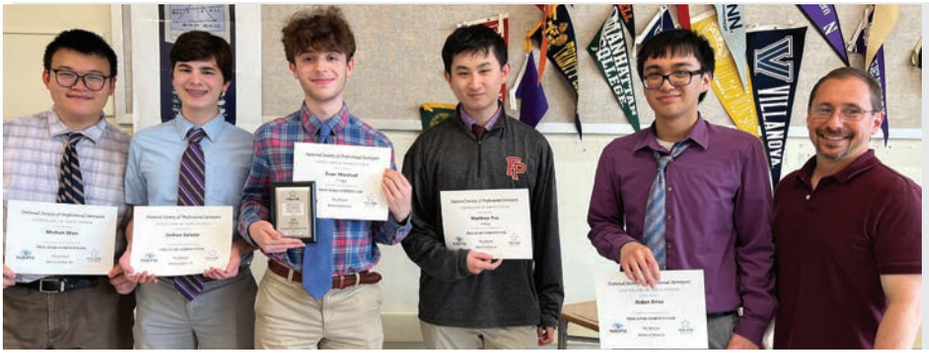
This August, Fairfield Prep welcomed their newest class of "Men for Others:" the Class of 2028! Literally clapped through the entrance by Prep upperclassmen, our inaugurated brothers kicked off their Prep journey with their first orientation, connecting with their first-semester teachers, exploring the Clubs and Activities Fair, and competing in the annual Freshman Olympics. Students received their first lockers and looked at sample class schedules, before heading to the McLeod Innovation Center for speeches on brotherhood and Jesuit values. And, before competing in fan favorite games for the Freshman Olympics — corn hole, spike ball and tug of war, among others — boys first fueled up with pizza in the Student Life Center. The Class of 2028 is already on the path to an amazing four years ahead, and we can't wait to see all the accomplishments and memories they'll create!

Around Campus



SENIORS NAMED NATIONAL MERIT SEMIFINALISTS AND COMMENDED

Fairfield Prep is proud to announce four seniors have been recognized as National Merit Semifinalists for exceptional academic talent and scholarship potential, along with six seniors named Commended Honorees in the National Merit Scholarship Program. Over 16,000 students nationally were recognized as semifinalists and 34,000 others as Commended Honorees. The National Merit Scholarship Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Pictured from left: Commended Honorees **Ryan Voytek**, **William Mitchell**, **Evan Marshall**, **Henry Johnson**, **Aidan Erive**, and (not shown **Samuel Woody**); and Semifinalists **Andrew Kopchick**, **Samik Soi**, **Daniel Tristine**, and **Franco Arduino**.



TRIG-STAR CHAMPS

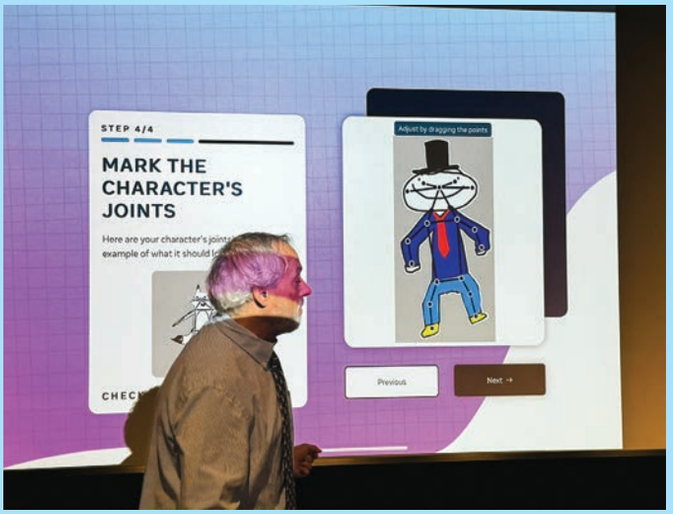
Congratulations to Prep's TrigStar team members who competed in our local TrigStar exam this year. Kudos to state champion **Evan Marshall '25** (holding plaque), who will compete in the national exam, and special thanks to our surveying sponsor Redniss and Meade with our Program Director **Jorge Pereira**.



STOCK MARKET WINNERS

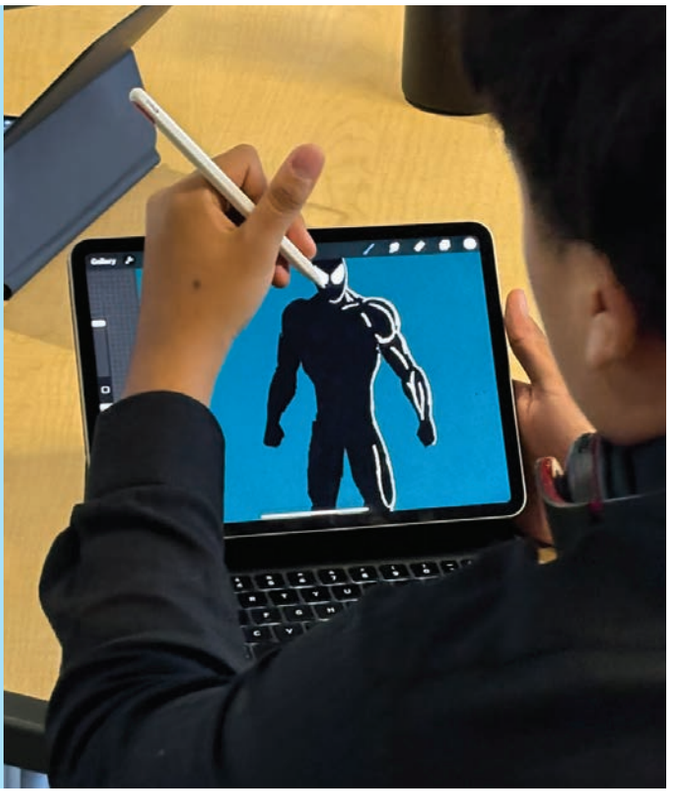
Congratulations to **Karsten Keoppl '26** (with certificate) for his incredible win in the Connecticut Stock Market Game! Karsten achieved the highest portfolio growth out of all competing CT high schools. His dedication and consistency within the Stock Market Club truly paid off!

The Stock Market Game is a program run by the SIFMA Foundation where students manage a virtual portfolio to gain real-world investing experience. Thousands of students participate, making Karsten's victory even more impressive. This win highlights the importance of fostering financial literacy in our students.



DRAWINGS COME TO LIFE WITH ANIMATION

Prep is taking art to the future! On September 30, Prep Visual Arts students learned how to use Animate Drawings by META and brought their own drawings to life through animation. It's a fantastic tool that can add an exciting dimension to our students' creative projects.





WALK A MILE FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Prep expressed great pride in seeing their community come together for Walk a Mile in Her Shoes on April 26 to support Center for Family Justice and domestic abuse victims. Students, faculty and staff joined forces to raise awareness about the serious issue of sexual assault and gender violence, dedicating a walk throughout the Fairfield University campus to Egan Chapel. It was a powerful reminder of our commitment to ending these harmful acts. Let's keep the conversation going and work towards a world free of gender-based violence.



FALL MIXER WITH FRIENDS

Freshmen and sophomores came together for the annual Fall Mixer in the Quad on October 5, enjoying a night of dancing, games, and sweet treats from the Mr. Softee Ice Cream Truck. Girls from Lauralton Hall and other local schools joined in for a fun-filled evening of community and connection!



CONTEMPLATIVES IN ACTION LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

In preparation for the 2024-2025 academic year, rising seniors **James Callaghan '25**, **Emmett Tolisano '25**, and **James Chesbro '25** attended the inaugural "Contemplatives in Action Leadership Summit" at Boston College High School this summer. Alongside fellow student leaders from Jesuit High Schools on the East Coast, our students engaged in reflective conversations about best practices and areas for future growth within their communities.

SCOREBOARD SPRING 2024



Lacrosse Wins State Championship

Finishes Season ranked #1 in Connecticut, #6 in Northeast and #14 in the Nation

The 2024 Fairfield Prep Lacrosse team finished their season 21-1 and were CIAC Class LL State Champions, SCC Tournament Champions, and SCC Regular Season Champions. The team was led by captains **Timothy Shannehan '24**, **George Hawley '24**, and **Cooper Callahan '24**. The Jesuits opened a very difficult regular season schedule by going on the road to defeat Darien 8-7 in overtime. One week later, the Chaminade Flyers came into Rafferty to hand the Jesuits their lone season defeat, 12-10. After that lone loss, the team went on to win its next 18 games in a row, with great wins over NY state finalists Farmingdale 12-7, New Canaan 8-7, Cheshire 14-13 OT, and NJ State Champion Don Bosco 11-8, finishing the regular season with a hard-fought 7-5 win at Delbarton.

The team played longtime Southern Connecticut Conference rival Cheshire in the SCC Championship game at West Haven High School. The team jumped out to an early lead and never looked back, defeating the Rams 17-8 in front of an incredible crowd of Prep students, families, and fans. **Gavin McCarthy '24** was named the Most Outstanding Player of the SCC Tournament for his efforts that night.

The Jesuits earned the #1 seed in the CIAC Class LL Tournament for the second season in a row and opened states with relatively easy wins over West Haven 21-3 and Notre Dame-West Haven 14-7. In front of an enormous crowd in Rafferty Stadium, the Jesuits defeated Ridgefield 10-7 to advance to the Class LL Championship game. **Timothy Shannehan '24** scored that night with 3 goals and 2 assists. **Matt Barry '25** played the second half in goal and electrified the crowd with 6 saves to help seal the victory.

The CIAC Class LL Championship Game was a rematch of the season openers for both teams, as Darien and Fairfield Prep would meet again. But this time, the Jesuits opened up an early first-quarter lead that they never relinquished. The attack unit of **Timothy Shannehan '24**, **Luke Shannehan '25**, and **Nate Estrella '25** combined for 11 points to lead the Jesuits to a 9-7 victory over the Blue Wave. **Garrett Keane '24** played an incredible first half in goal, making 7 saves, while **Ryan Backus '24** went 13-18 at the faceoff X. For the Jesuits, it was their first CIAC Lacrosse Championship since 2013.

The 2024 Fairfield Prep Lacrosse team finished ranked as the #1 team in Connecticut, #6 in the Northeast, and #14 in the country by USA Lacrosse. The Jesuits are returning a very strong group again for the 2025 season and will continue to play one of the top schedules in the country.



LACROSSE HONORS

- CHSCA Team of the Year
- Gametime CT #1 Ranked Team in State of CT
- *USA Lacrosse Magazine* #15 in Country
- *USA Lacrosse Magazine* #6 in Northeast
- *Inside Lacrosse Magazine* #14 in country

Graham Niemi
SCC Coach of the Year

George Hawley '24 - Defense
USA Lacrosse All American
Gametime CT 1st Team All State
Class LL 1st Team All State - Defense
All SCC 1st Team
SCC Spring Scholar Athlete

Timothy Shannehan '24 - Attack
USA Lacrosse All American
Gametime CT 1st Team All State
Class LL 1st Team All State - Attack
Gametime CT Player of the Year
USA Lacrosse Northeast Player of the Year
Named to USA Lacrosse U20 Training Team
CIAC Scholar Athlete

Gavin McCarthy '24 - Defense
Gametime CT 2nd Team All State
Class LL 1st Team All State - Defense
All SCC 1st Team
SCC Tournament - Most Outstanding Player

Luke Shannehan '25 - Attack
USA Lacrosse All American
Gametime CT 1st Team All State
Class LL 1st Team All State - Attack
All SCC 1st Team
SCC Athlete of the Month - May 2024

Cooper Callahan '24 - Defense
Gametime CT Honorable Mention All State
2nd Team All SCC
SCC Comeback Player of the Year Award

Garrett Keane '24 - Goalie
US Lacrosse Academic All American

Nate Estrella '25 - Attack
Class LL 2nd Team All State - Attack
All SCC 1st Team

Finbar Malloy '25 - Midfield
Class LL 2nd Team All State - Midfield
All SCC 1st Team

Emmet Crotty '25 - Midfield
Class LL 2nd Team All State
All SCC 1st Team

Ryan Backus '24 - Faceoff
Class LL 2nd Team All State - Faceoff
All SCC 2nd Team

Alex Meier '25 - Defense
Class LL 2nd Team All State - Defense
All SCC 2nd Team

Theo Rudolph '26 - Midfield
All SCC 2nd Team



TENNIS Wins Back-to-Back SCC Championships

For the second straight year, the Fairfield Prep Tennis team won the SCC tournament championship and reached the semifinals of the CIAC Class LL tournament. Led by junior captain **Luke Levanat** and senior captain **Will Chiota**, the Jesuits finished the season with a 22-1 record, defeating SCC rivals Daniel Hand and Amity three times each and completing their second straight undefeated season in SCC league play. In the SCC Championship match against Amity, the Jesuits earned victories at #1 singles as Levanat won his match convincingly, 6-2, 6-2. The #1 doubles team of **Andy Beckerlegge '25** and **Preston Wong '24** also won handily, 6-3, 6-1, and at #2 doubles, **Max Varian '26** and **Rohan Thung '26** cruised to a 6-0, 6-1 victory. With the team match still in balance, **Andy Thung '27** won at #3 singles, 7-6, 6-3, to clinch the match for the Jesuits. The tennis team advanced to the semifinals in the CIAC Class LL state tournament before falling 4-3 in a hard-fought match. Levanat, Wong, Beckerlegge, and **Devin Kelly '26** were named All-SCC for their efforts. The Jesuits will reload for next season, returning a veteran group of starters.

BASEBALL Earns Playoff Berth

The 2024 Fairfield Prep Baseball team would have to learn on the job, returning only one starter from last season after graduating a large senior class in 2023. While the team struggled early, opening with a 1-7 record, there were some close calls, some flashes of brilliance and good play in the field, on the mound and at the plate to build on. In between games the guys practiced hard and stayed focused on improving and learning. The team's hard work and determination was rewarded over the last 12 games of the regular season. The team, with their backs against the wall, went 8-4 over the last 12 games, starting with a win against LaSalle Academy (Providence, RI) where they executed offensively, moved runners, tied hits together, pitched well (**Ryan Ventrelle '26** and **Andrew Lanzillotti '24** on the mound) and played good defense. During this stretch the Jesuits went on a five game winning streak, starting with a great come from behind win against Notre Dame of West Haven on a monster of a grand slam from **Vinny Lombardo '25**, and a tremendous pitching performance in relief by **Griffin Fisher '24**. Behind an outstanding performance from sophomore pitcher **Andrew Wong '26**, the Jesuits posted a no-hitter against Branford, earned a gutsy win against Pope Francis of Springfield and earned splits in decisive fashion against North Haven and Guilford (qualifying for the state tournament).



The Jesuits finished the regular season with a sweep of Branford, breaking the game open in the top of the seventh.

The successes experienced this season all had common ingredients: we pitched well, played solid defense, hitters got on base, we moved runners around and strung hits together. The team was focused and determined and much of the time the wins involved more players than the ten who started the game. The 2024 Varsity Baseball Team has much to be proud of and the 2025 Jesuits Baseball team will return a talented group of players that will look to build on that success.

BASEBALL HONORS

Most Outstanding Player
Stephen Polizzi '24
Vinny Lombardo '26

Most Improved Player
Griffin Fisher '24
Ryan Ventrelle '26

Coach's Award
JJ. Schachinger '25
Tommy Farrell '24
Cooper Rotondo '26

CHSCA Senior All Star
Stephen Polizzi '24

ALL SCC, First Team
Stephen Polizzi '24
Vinny Lombardo '26

ALL SCC, Second Team
Andrew Wong '26
Cooper Rotondo '26



RUGBY Competes Against Nation's Best

The 2024 Prep Rugby team embarked on the school's most ambitious schedule in decades, playing 12 nationally ranked opponents throughout the season (including national champion Gonzaga) and finishing 10-8 overall. The 2024 team fell in the state semifinal to Greenwich, 25-10, but still ranked #26 nationally when it was all said and done. Led by a powerful and talented group of seniors that included captains **Emmett Derby** (Providence), **Mike Silk** (Saint Joseph's University), and **Liam O'Hara** (University of South Florida), this team worked incredibly hard to establish its own identity and cement the Fairfield Prep rugby tradition for generations to come. Notable wins during the season included a victory against Greenwich (22-14) on senior night, the first regular season triumph over Greenwich in the 2000s, as well as an emotional win over crosstown rivals Fairfield Rugby Club, 26-13, to end the regular season. The 2024 team traveled all over the East Coast to play top-level competition, and they have a season and a legacy of which to be very proud.

Prep Rugby has multiple seniors competing at the next level: all three senior captains will continue their rugby careers at their respective colleges and are joined by **Conor Fitzsimons** (Fordham), **Justin Tayman** (Fordham), **Felix Crawford** (Saint Joseph's University), and **Will Ford** (Miami, Ohio).

Last year's 2024 Division II team competed for its own state championship, falling to West Hartford on a last-second score. This unfortunate end to a magical season has led the junior leadership on that team to prepare even more heartily for this year's 2025 campaign. **Henry Tymniak '25** continues as a two-year captain in his final season and is joined by **James Callaghan '25**, **Billy Mitchell '25**, and **Alex Iadarola '26** to round out this year's leadership group.

Jeremy Benton '25, **Mason Beardsworth '25** plus underclassmen **John Morris '26** and **James Burgess '26** also bring significant experience back for the 2025 campaign. All of this adds up to a promising future for the Prep rugby program as we build upon a successful past.



RUGBY COLLEGE COMMITMENTS

Congratulations to Class of '24 student athletes, from left: **Felix Crawford** (Saint Joseph's University), **Liam O'Hara** (University of South Florida), **Mike Silk** (Saint Joseph's University), **Emmett Derby** (Providence), **Conor Fitzsimons** (Fordham), **Justin Tayman** (Fordham) - not pictured **Will Ford** (Miami, Ohio).





CREW Has Standout Performances

The 2024 spring season for Prep Crew was a changing of the guard for the team, with many freshmen and sophomores stepping up to race in the top three varsity boats. Captains **Phillip Martins '24**, **Liam McMahon '24**, and **James Louw '24** led the young team from the First Varsity 8.

The flagship varsity eight for Prep Crew had many contributors throughout the season, including coxswain **Phillips Martins '24** and rowers **Liam McMahon '24**, **Will Close '24**, **James Louw '24**, **Will Davis '26**, **Henry Johnson '25**, **Peter Grace '25**, **PJ Lynch '25**, **Lucas Ippolito '26** and **Dylan Russo '26**. Prep Crew began the season strong with photo finishes against Stonington and Farmington High Schools.



After the opening weekend victories, the boys traveled to New Jersey for a revenge race against St. Peter's Prep that saw the varsity eight sprint from behind for another wire-to-wire win. After a close race against Brunswick marked a celebratory Senior Day at Captain's Cove, Prep finished the regular season of racing at BC High with a close cup race loss in the final sprint.

As the postseason racing began with Northeast Regionals, Prep Crew sent their Varsity Four of coxswain Phillip Martins '24, along with the crew of James Louw '24, William McMahon '24, William Close '24, and William Davis '26. They stood against the best clubs and schools in the region, and in an unbelievably close time trial, Prep finished 13th and was less than a second from qualifying for the semi-finals. Following regionals, the top varsity eight traveled to Worcester for their NEIRA conference championship, where they finished 17th after heats.

As the spring season came to an end, the team congratulated Phillip Martins (Yale University), Will Close (University of Wisconsin), and James Louw (Trinity College), who will continue their rowing careers competing at the next level in college. We also celebrated their successors and newly appointed captains of Prep Crew: **Henry Johnson '25**, **Peter Grace '25**, and **PJ Lynch '25**.

END OF SEASON AWARDS

MVP
James Louw '24

Most Improved
Lucas Ippolito '26

Coach's Award
William McMahon '24

Redgrave Award
William Davis '26

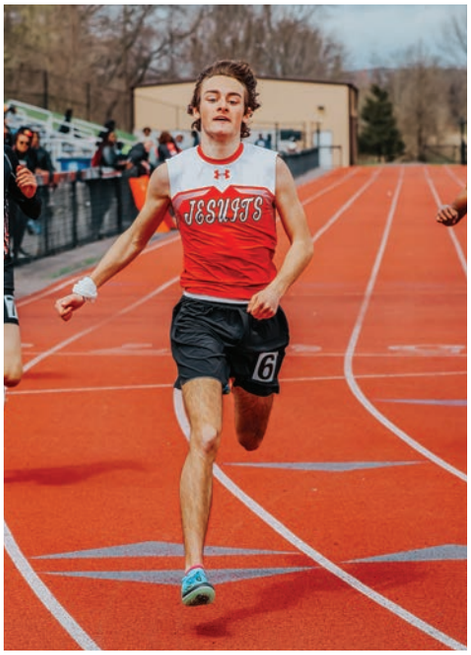
SAILING Performs Well at O'Day Regatta

The Fairfield Prep sailing team had another great spring season practicing at the Pequot Yacht Club and participating in weekly races in the Fairfield County Sailing League. The highlight of the season for the Jesuits came when **Nick Hahn '25**, **Charlie Caporrino '24**, **Blaise Leopold '26**, and **Will Bonito '25** placed 4th in the O'Day Qualifier in Groton, CT, finishing ahead of Ludlowe, Branford, Xavier, Weston, and Staples. The Jesuits narrowly missed out on moving on but proved to be right there with some of the best boats in the area. The Jesuits will return a talented group of sailors who will look to build on their success from last season.











TRACK Achieves Post-Season Success

The 2024 spring track season was an incredible success, with our team breaking individual and school records. Following a winter filled with growth in event participation and roster size, we saw a great mix of experienced upperclassmen and eager first- and second-year athletes. The positive team spirit and strong work ethic created a competitive practice environment, leading to many standout performances and numerous CIAC state qualifying marks.

CIAC Class LL qualifiers: **Kyler Robinson '25**: 100m, 400m, 4x400 relay, 4x100 relay; **Konrad Walinoski '24**: 100m, 200m, 400m, 4x400 relay, 4x100 relay; **Jack Davis '25**: 100m, 200m, 4x100 relay; **Jeremiah Langston '26**: 100m, 200m, 4x100 relay; **Alexander Scott '24**: 200m, long jump, high jump; **Jude Gussen '24**: 400m, 4x400 relay; **Jackson Pinzon '26**: 200m, 4x400 relay; **Reid Hanson '25**: 4x400 relay; **William Kennedy '25**: 100m, 200m; and **Dakota Newton '27** : 100m, 4x100 relay.

The team's 4x100 relay finished 3rd in the Class LL championships, and 6th in the State Opens.

We would also like to honor our graduating seniors: **Konrad Walinski**, **Charlie Santa**, **Alexander Scott**, **Jude Gussen**, **Jonathan Voskov**, **William Muir**, and **Cincere Clark**.

READY TO PLAY

Prep proudly announces that by their strong character and athletic efforts, many Class of '24 student-athletes have earned the opportunity to compete in sports while achieving their college degrees.

BASEBALL

Tommy Farrell
Gettysburg College

Andrew Flamini
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Holden Norman
Worcester Polytechnic Institute

Stephen Polizzi
Winthrop University

CREW

Phillip Martins
Yale University

James Louw
Trinity College

Will Close
University of Wisconsin

FOOTBALL

Jack Butler
Salve Regina University

Philip Brady
Colby College

Jon Morris
University of Connecticut

Javere Cannonier
Central Connecticut State University

LACROSSE

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

RUGBY

Felix Crawford
Saint Joseph's University

Will Ford
Miami University Ohio

Conor Fitzsimons
Fordham University

Justin Tayman
Fordham University

Emmett Derby
Providence College

Liam O'Hara
University of Southern Florida

Mike Silk
Saint Joseph's University

FAIRFIELD PREP
Football Camp





FAIRFIELD PREP
Rugby Camp





CAMP AT PREP!

ATHLETICS ON THE FIELD

Prep Football staff and players continued their growing tradition of an action-packed, skills-building, fun week teaching football fundamentals to young players. This year, Prep Rugby launched its first summer camp week for middle schoolers with great success, teaching the basics of the game to enthusiastic campers.



FIRED UP FOR PREP!

Prep's Fall Pep Rally excited students, faculty, and staff at Grauert Field on September 23, celebrating our fall sports and the start of a new academic year. The rally began with our band playing Prep's Fight Song, followed by an introduction of our newly hired faculty and staff. Football Coach Mr. Hellstern delivered a speech, and fall sports teams competed in a thrilling dodgeball tournament. The highlight of the afternoon was a faculty penalty shootout, where our new Asst. Dean of Students, Mr. Langston, (far right) claimed victory!





FAIRFIELD PREP
Innovation Camp





FAIRFIELD PREP
Esports Camp





MCLEOD INNOVATION CENTER

By popular demand, Innovation and Esports Camps returned with more camp weeks this year, offering hands-on, immersive, engineering experiences in Innovation Camp, and skills and team building instruction in the Rocket League Esports Camp. Prep student counselors commented: "Volunteering at Innovation Camp taught us the value of giving back, welcoming others into our space, and creating experiences that inspire a love of learning. We were eager to work with the team—we built, tested, and refined the camp's engineering challenges. We loved watching our campers transform."
- Rudy Swagerty '26, **Joshua Salazar '26**, and **Arnav Sharma '26**







Prep is Family





MOTHER-SON COMMUNION BREAKFAST

Prep mothers and their soon-to-be graduate sons celebrated their special bond on a beautiful Sunday morning in April. Our Senior Mother and Son Communion Breakfast was filled with heartwarming moments. From the shared Mass to the touching readings, it was a reminder of the love and support that guides these young men. We're so grateful to the moms for their dedication throughout their sons' four years at Fairfield Prep.





NICK MORRIS, P'24 SPEAKS ABOUT ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Prep parent **Nick Morris** spoke to the *Principles of Business & Entrepreneurship* classes about his career path and firsthand experience as a business innovator. **Mr. Tom Shea '73**, a teacher and coach who founded Prep's Entrepreneurship Institute, teaches the class.



MOTHER-SON DINNER & TRIVIA NIGHT

Hundreds of Prep mothers and sons attended a fun community evening on Oct. 2 to kindle friendships and enjoy special mom-and-son time together. At the front entrance, Prep photographers took a "red carpet" photo of the guests to share with them.



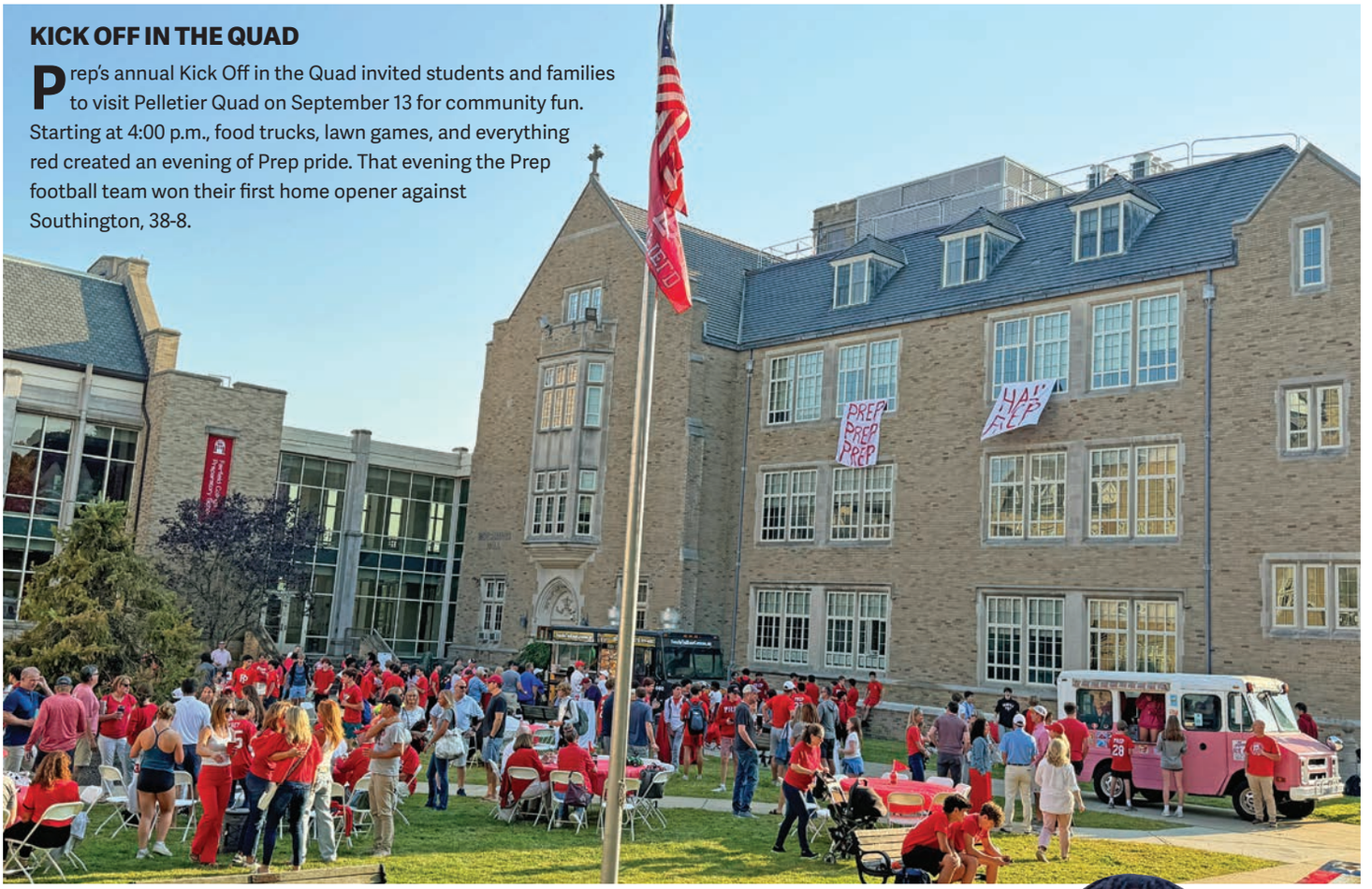


JAZZUITS MEMORIAL DAY PARADE

The talented Prep Jazzuits entertained thousands at the annual Fairfield Memorial Day Parade on May 27, demonstrating undeniable pride for our American heroes and in their typical, festive fashion.

KICK OFF IN THE QUAD

Prep's annual Kick Off in the Quad invited students and families to visit Pelletier Quad on September 13 for community fun. Starting at 4:00 p.m., food trucks, lawn games, and everything red created an evening of Prep pride. That evening the Prep football team won their first home opener against Southington, 38-8.







PREP *for* **SUCCESS**

An Innovative Career Preparedness Program

Prep for Success, Fairfield Prep's signature career readiness program, was initially launched in spring 2023 with the goal of encouraging our young men to envision the next chapter of their lives and invest in discovering their purpose. In its inaugural year, members of the Class of 2023 had the opportunity to participate in our first Prep for Success Workplace Shadow Program, allowing students to experience a "week in the life" at a host company.

In year two, we expanded the Prep for Success Program. During the spring semester, the Class of 2024 participated in a LinkedIn workshop, attended career panels, and were invited to apply to participate in the second annual Workplace Shadow Program. 67 seniors were selected to take part in the program, and they partnered with 30 host companies from Greenwich to Branford based on their career interests. Hosts ranged from alumni to parents (current and alumni) and friends of Prep, representing a wide array of fields including medical, legal, engineering, wealth management, real estate, and philanthropy.

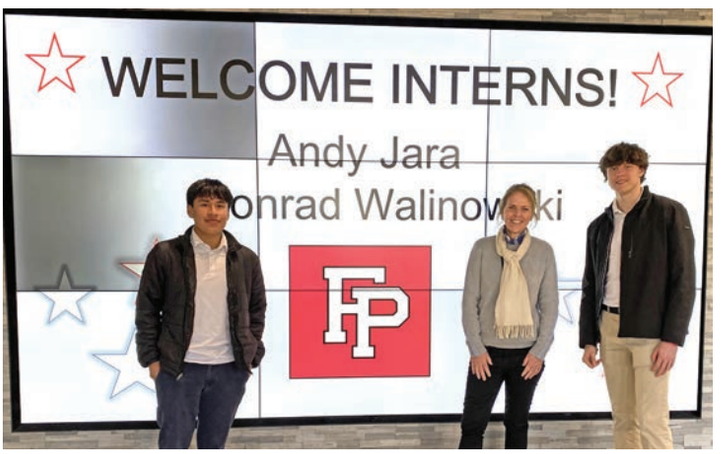
Now in its third academic year, Prep for Success continues to offer the annual Workplace Shadow Program and will expand to include Young Alumni Career Panels, Career Lunch & Learn, and 1-Day "Job Treks," which are intended to provide groups of students with the opportunity to travel to companies in CT and the NY metro area where they can experience "a day in the life" in a larger company environment.



Jennifer Royal, P'23, Assistant Director, Family and Student Engagement







WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

If you are interested in hosting students or being part of a career panel, please reach out to Jennifer Royal, P'23, Assistant Director of Family and Student Engagement (jroyal@fairfieldprep.org). Learn more on our website at **www.fairfieldprep.org/student-life/prep-for-success**.


United

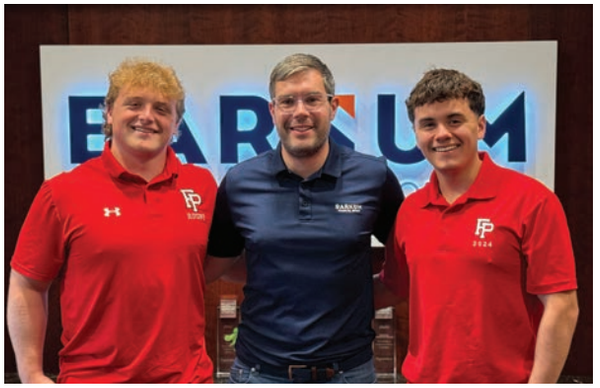











BARNUM


4
PROPANE



Class of 1974 Celebrates 50th Reunion



The Class of 1974 celebrated its 50th class reunion on Sat., June 15. The evening began with a welcome reception in the Barone Campus Center at Fairfield University, joining the other reunion classes ending in 4 and 9. The '74 classmates were awarded golden diplomas to much applause, and festivities continued with cocktails and dinner in the Diffley Room at the Leo D. Mahoney Arena, where members of the jubilee class renewed and celebrated lifelong friendships!












1974













Prep For Life

REUNION FOR CLASSES ENDING IN 4 AND 9

Over Alumni Weekend, which took place from June 14-15, Fairfield Prep alumni from class years ending in 4s and 9s gathered in the Oak Room in the Barone Campus Center at Fairfield University for a cocktail reception and dinner. Alumni rekindled friendships and remembered the good times together.





CLASS OF 1959 ENJOYS LUNCH

Pres. Cashman visited with the Class of 1959 at a reunion luncheon in June.


2004


2009


'19




2014


2019



2024 FAIRFIELD PREP ATHLETIC HALL OF FAME

Honoring the Achievements of Prep Giants

Prep 's Alumni Weekend kicked off with the Athletic Hall of Fame ceremony on June 14.

The dinner was held in the Oak Room of the Barone Campus Center at Fairfield University with family, friends, teammates and coaches who celebrated the induction of three alumni athletes, two coaches and one legendary team. The 2024 inductees were **George "Babe" Risley '50**, **Todd Paul '03**, **William Steiner '13**, **Bob Ford Jr.** and **Bob Ford Sr.**, and the **1973 Football Team**.

Jack O'Connell '51, Athletic Hall of Fame recipient in 2021, honored the late **George "Babe" Risley '50**. **Bob Harris**, former Fairfield Prep Athletic Director and Athletic Hall of Fame recipient in 2022, honored **Todd Paul '03**. **Ryan Lyddy '93**, former Fairfield Prep Soccer coach honored **Will Steiner '13**. Finally, the **Terry** family (Martha, **Matt '82**, **James '11**, **Brendan '12**, and **Colin '17**) honored **Coach Bob Ford Sr.** and **Coach Bob Ford Jr.**

The evening offered a great opportunity to reminisce about some of Prep's great sports legends and moments. Special thanks to **Jeff Sochrin '85**, Master of Ceremonies, and Fairfield Prep Board of Governor, and to video producers **Ronald DeRosa** and **John Pellegrino** of Prep 's Communications department.

Watch the evening 's recording with video tributes and acceptance speeches on Prep YouTube.
YOUTUBE.COM/FAIRFIELDPREP



Coaches Bob Ford Sr. and Bob Ford Jr. shown with Pres. Cashman and AD Tom Curran '05

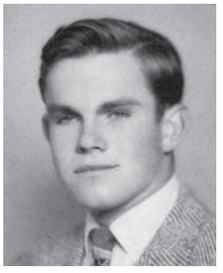


Members of the 1973 Football team, from left: #52 Gary Pintek, #41 Pat DiTullio and #62 Robert Albert

THE 2024 HONOREES



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.

Late AHOF Class of 2023 inductee Judge **John Maiocco '50** once said of his old Prep teammate: "George (Babe) Risley was one of the most naturally gifted athletes I ever saw, no matter what sport it was."

In football, Risley was the sure-handed receiver on Prep's "Wonder Team" of 1949 that was the school's first unbeaten squad (7-0-1). Only a 6-6 tie against Stamford on Thanksgiving prevented a perfect record.

Risley also played center on the Jesuits' 1949-50 basketball team that went 12-2, including a nine-game winning streak. He made a buzzer-beater to beat a great Central team on its own floor 36-34 and later in the season scored 24 points as Prep registered its first-ever victory over Harding, 62-61 in overtime.

Risley was an infielder on the Prep baseball team and after graduation, attended Holy Cross. He played football and baseball for a year before signing a pro contract with the Detroit Tigers in 1952.

Primarily a third baseman, the 6-foot-1, 190-pounder played professionally from 1952-1962 and got as high as Class AAA. He compiled a career batting average of .279 with 61 home runs and 348 RBI in 1,385 minor league games.

Although his best season average-wise was a .310 mark in 113 games with Richmond – the Yankees' Class AAA affiliate – in 1961, his best all-around season might have been in 1956 with the Pacific Coast League's Sacramento Solons, when he batted .289 with eight homers and 54 RBI in 164 games.



TODD PAUL '03



One of the outstanding tennis players who played for Fairfield Prep, **Todd Paul** was a four-time CIAC Class LL singles champion who was a major contributor on the Jesuits' state title teams of 2002 and 2003. In state singles play he was a perfect 24-0 and only lost one set. Paul was a team captain in 2003, was named All-Area MVP by the New Haven Register in 2000 and 2001, and at one point was ranked No. 1 in New England.

After graduation, he attended Wake Forest, where he became one of the most decorated athletes in school history. He was the first tennis player to be named to the All-ACC team all four seasons and at the time he graduated in 2007, he was only the eighth male – and 13th athlete overall – to be a four-time all-ACC choice in any sport.

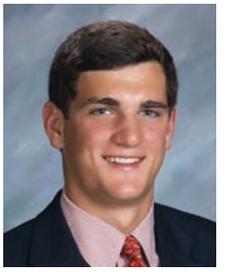
Paul was the first two-time tennis All-American in the school's history (2006-2007), was an all-American as a doubles player in 2006 and was ranked by the FILA Collegiate Tennis Rankings as the NCAA's No. 1 singles player for one week as a senior in 2007. He led the team with 28 singles victories as a freshman, being named ACC Freshman of the Year. He rose as high as No. 10 nationally during his junior season.

Named a captain and playing as the No. 1 singles position as a senior, Paul compiled a 32-6 overall record, helping the Demon Deacons reach as high as seventh in the nation and advance to the Round of 16 in that season's NCAA tournament. He also qualified for the National Indoor Championships, which featured the top 32 players in the nation, and advanced to the quarterfinals.

Paul wound up as the school's all-time leader with 107 singles victories. He received the 2007 Arnold Palmer Award as the school's best male athlete and represented the USA in that summer's Pan-Am Games.



WILLIAM STEINER '13



All-America 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-conference, all-state, all-New England and All-America honors, plus being named All-Area MVP in both the Connecticut Post and New Haven Register. Additionally, a national soccer website rated him the top goalkeeper in the Northeast and its fifth-highest player.

Steiner attended Villanova after graduation and started in goal all four seasons, helping the Wildcats reach the NCAA tournament for the first time in 2016. In his freshman season of 2014, he played every minute and logged a 0.86 goals against average with 86 saves, an .835 save percentage and seven shutouts. He followed up with a 1.71 GAA, 83 saves and three shutouts in his sophomore season.

Steiner was a team captain in both his junior and senior seasons. In the NCAA tournament season, he made 90 saves with a 1.22 GAA and five shutouts, was named Big East Goalkeeper of the Week on two occasions and was named to the conference's All-Academic team. In his final season of 2017, Steiner had a 1.35 GAA with 66 saves and two shutouts.

Steiner played 97 total games for the Wildcats, and played every minute, except for an injury during a game in 2015. He compiled a career 1.27 goals against average, 325 saves, a .770 save percentage and 17 shutouts.

Continued on next page >

COACH ROBERT FORD SR. and COACH ROBERT FORD JR.

Father-and-son duo **Bob Ford Sr.** and **Bob Ford Jr.** mentored Fairfield Prep runners for three decades apiece. Bob Ford Jr. coached the Jesuits' cross-country team for 33 seasons (1986-2018), while Bob Ford Sr. served as his assistant for 30 of them (1989-2015). Together, they guided the Jesuits to three CIAC Class LL championships, two State Open titles, three SCC titles and eight SCC divisional crowns. Prep was also a New England Championship runner-up twice and had a national ranking of 15th in 1997, one of two times it was ranked in the top 25 nationally. Prep's record under their leadership was 268-66 in dual meets with six undefeated seasons.

The Fords helped develop a host of standout high school and collegiate runners, among them Connecticut Gatorade Runners of the Year **Connor Rog '12** (2010- 11) and **Drew Thompson '18** (2017). Both qualified for the prestigious Footlocker National Cross-Country Championships, as did **Brian McGovern '01** (1999-00) and





current Prep cross-country coach **Christian Alvarado '14** (2012-13). Under the Fords' tutelage, Prep runners made seven appearances in that event, the most for any school in the country. In all, 28 Prep harriers were named all-state during their tenure.

The Fords also coached indoor and outdoor track. Ford Jr. was head coach of the outdoor track team from 1988-2005 and indoor track head coach from 1995-2005. Ford Sr. helmed the indoor track team from 2006-2007 and was the assistant outdoor track coach from 1988-2019. Ford Sr. helped coach Prep 2012 Olympian javelin thrower **Craig Kinsley '07** in the State Decathlon Championship, where Kinsley became the only Prep medal winner in that event. Under the entire cross country/indoor track/outdoor track umbrella, the Fords had a total of 101 athletes that were named all-staters.

Ford Jr. was recognized as the CITCA Cross Country Coach of the Year in 1997, CHSCA Cross Country Coach of the Year in 2000, CHSCA Track and Field Coach of the Year in 2005 and SCC Coach of the Year in 2013. Ford Sr. was the CHSCA Assistant Track and Field Coach of the Year in 2008. Both were named Footlocker National Championships Coaches of the Year by Footlocker in 2013.



Bob Ford Jr. and Bob Ford Sr. gathered for a photo with many Prep alumni runners who attended as guests to honor the Fords.

1973 PREP 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/safety/kicker), fellow co-captain **Mike Dolan** (end) and running back **Pat "Spunky" DiTullio**, the Jesuits outscored the opposition 341-70. The defense, anchored by middle linebacker **Al DeJulio**, tackle **Ray Cal** and end **Rich Kondub** – who also excelled on special teams – posted three shutouts and did not allow more than eight points in a game until the season finale against Stamford. Prep captured the MBIAC title with a victory over Harding and was ultimately voted the No. 1 team in the CIAC's Class L division. Halas, Cal, DeJulio and guard **Bob Albert** were all-MBIAC honorees, while Halas (as a safety) and Cal were named all-staters and to the all-Daily News team.

STAFF: Head coach **Earl Lavery**; assistant coach **Bob Mastroni**; assistant coach **Bob Harris**; assistant coach



Tom Hildebrandt; chaplain **Fr. Eugene Brissette, S.J.**; manager **Dan McCarthy'74**; assistant manager **Scott Morrissey '76**.

PLAYERS: Seniors: **Paul Halas**, co-captain; **Mike Dolan**, co-captain; **Bob Albert**; **Ray Cal**; **Mike Cingari**; **Tom Coba**; **John Horan**; **Rich Kondub**; **Dan McSweeney**; **Gerry Norman**; **Mike O'Hara**; **Steve Sheaffer**. Juniors: **Bill Barron**; **Stan Cal**; **Mario Contaldi**; **Al DeJulio**; **Pat DiTullio**; **Bob Fortuna**; **Kevin Golger**; **Jim Lacerenza**; **Keith Lavin**; **Dave Smith**. Sophomores: **Dennis Axon**; **Mike Bonney**; **Tom Carley**; **Chris Davis**; **Scott McLeod**; **Joe Miller**; **Brian Mola**; **Brett Peters**; **Gary Pintek**; **Bill Stanley**; **Pete Tarczali**; **George Webb**.

SEASON RESULTS (11-0) PREP 55, Bullard-Havens 0; PREP 35, Bunnell 0; PREP 35, Bassick 6; PREP 26, St. Joseph 0; PREP 7, Stratford 6; PREP 33, Notre Dame 6; PREP 29, Harding 8; PREP 40, Kolbe 6; PREP 30, Central 6; PREP 21, Harding 6 (MBIAC Championship Game); PREP 40, Stamford 26.



PREP ALUMNI

Scan here to update your information!

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



2024 Legacy Grads, Dads, and Grandfathers

After Baccalaureate Mass, legacy members joined their son or grandson of the Class of '24 for a group photo: **William** and **John Chiota '86**; **Aidan** and **Mark Clarke '89**; **Matthew** and **Bryan Conelius '96**; **Kieran** and **Andrew Day '94**; **Palmer**, **Marco '23** and **Seth Firmender '92**; **Griffin**, **Timothy Fisher '89** and **Francis Pfeiffer '62**; **Matthew**, **Gregory '90** and **Francis (Bud) Hewitt '55**; **Henry** and **Brian Kelly '87**; **Matthew** and **C. Scott McLeod '76**; and **William** and **Kevin McMahon '87**; **William** and **Christopher Muir '87**; **Dustin** and **Dustin Ranciato '89**; **William** and **G. Griffin Reidy '90**; **George** and **George Christopher Rippey '95**; **Timothy** and **Timothy Shannehan '87**; **Michael** and **Christopher Silk '88**; **Hudson** and **Tate Wingate '92**.

Accomplished Alumni Speak with Prep Classes

PREP FOR SUCCESS PANEL

Prep greatly thanks our amazing alumni panelists, **Cody Jones '13**, **Matt Considine '11**, and **Christian Babikian '09**, for sharing their career journeys at the Young Alumni Career Panel in April! Their insights were invaluable to the Class of 2024 as they prepared for their next steps, marking a fantastic part of Prep for Success week.





SENIOR SEND-OFF ADVICE

Michael Spaight '01 gave an inspiring talk at the Senior Send-Off. He is a member of Prep's Board of Governors.

CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS

Commander **Timothy W. Fox '93** spoke to Prep's AP European History class, taught by **Dr. Chris Altieri '95**, about how the critical thinking skills they learn in history studies will serve them in all life's adventures.



JACK WALLACE '06 SELECTED FOR CENTRAL CATHOLIC HS



Jack Wallace was named the new Central Catholic High School principal, the first layperson to be the top administrator at the school in Pittsburgh's Oakland neighborhood in its nearly 100-year existence. "I am wholeheartedly committed to upholding and enhancing the Catholic, Lasallian mission of Central Catholic and I look forward to collaborating with the mission-driven men and women of 4720 Fifth Avenue to continue to make Central Catholic a place where young men come to develop their intellectual competence, conscience, compassion, and a commitment to doing God's work in the world," said Wallace. "I am excited about the opportunity to contribute to Central Catholic's rich history of forming 'men of faith, scholarship, and service.'" Wallace served as the Dean of Student Affairs at Jesuit Preparatory School of Dallas prior to coming to Pittsburgh. Jesuit Dallas is one of the largest all-boys' Catholic high schools in the country.

Highlights



FAIRFIELD UNIVERSITY LAUNCHES "RED SEA" COFFEE WITH PREP ALUMNUS MORSANUTTO '04

Fairfield University announced a new partnership with Silvermine Coffee Roasters, a rising star in Norwalk's coffee scene. Since opening in September 2023, Silvermine Coffee Roasters has rapidly gained popularity for its artisan coffee, and now, Fairfield University will proudly serve Red Sea Coffee at all University events. A Norwalk native from the Silvermine area and Fairfield Prep alumnus from the Class of 2004, Silvermine Coffee Roasters owner **Thomas Morsanutto** said, "I'm very excited to be working with Fairfield University and providing coffee across campus. I have so many great memories from my time at Prep and am honored to share my passion with the next generation of students."



PREP IN ST. LOUIS

Alumni met up with one another at a well-known sports bar in St. Louis on May 16. They appreciated the chance to get together with fellow Prep alumni, and they were all surprised that there were others in the area. From left: **Peter Arsenault '72**, **Nick Rosa '08**, **Jim Caldwell '74**, and **Mike Healey '00**.



UNEXPECTED REUNION

AJ Coppotelli '14 and **Christian Fatsy '25** reunited in Aruba showing the stretch of the Prep brotherhood.



TONY FOX '14 RECEIVES ALUMNI SERVICE AWARD

Tony Fox '14, member of Prep's Board of Governors, received an Alumni Service Award from the Catholic Academy of Bridgeport as a 2010 alumnus of CAB's St. Augustine campus. He has been a CAB board member since 2018 and leads the school's Alumni Network. Tony also serves on the Board of the Greater Bridgeport Symphony, is a Project Manager at CBRE, and has a B.S. in Engineering from Fordham University. Tony is pictured above behind the plaque, with supporters including Prep Board members **Dr. Donna Andrade** and **Mike Fox '86, P'23,'28**.

DOUG LANZO '90 PUBLISHES TRIBUTE POEM



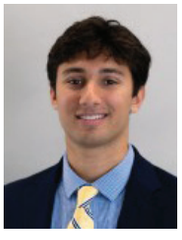
Doug writes: "Special congratulations and thanks to my former cross-country and track coaches, Robert Ford, Sr. and Bob Ford, Jr., on their recent induction into Fairfield Prep's Athletic Hall of Fame!" Doug's poem was published in FaithHopeandFiction.com. Doug is celebrating well over 425 poems internationally published in 76 best-selling anthologies and literary journals.

BONITATIBUS JR. '89 WON THE EKEBERG PRIZE



Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute's **Peter J. Bonitatibus Jr., Ph.D.**, associate professor of chemistry and chemical biology, has been honored with the Anders Gustaf Ekeberg Tantalum Prize for excellence in tantalum research and innovation. Bonitatibus was presented the award by the Tantalum-Niobium International Study Center (T.I.C.), at T.I.C.'s 65th General Assembly held in Tokyo, Japan, from September 8-11, 2024.

BILLY BONNIST '22 HELPS LEAD NOTRE DAME'S HABITAT FOR HUMANITY IN SOUTH BEND, IN



Apart of South Bend hit hard by housing demolitions over the years is getting some new attention from Habitat for Humanity and Notre Dame. **Billy Bonnist '22** is co-president of Notre Dame's Habitat for Humanity student club. He first volunteered and was president of Prep's Habitat Club, working in Bridgeport, CT. At ND, Billy has been extremely involved in planning the club's activities, marshaling the volunteers, and other aspects of the project. Billy carries on our Jesuit mission of serving as a Man for Others.

Fairfield Prep
JESUITS ON TAP
est. 1942



Washington, D.C.

Thanks to all the Fairfield Prep alumni in the DC area who came out to our meet-up at Colony Grill on March 27! It was great reconnecting with everyone and enjoying some delicious pizza.



Atlanta

Huge thanks to everyone who made Jesuits on Tap - Atlanta a success! It was fantastic to connect with our Prep community in Georgia at Live at the Battery on April 18.



New York City

Prep alumni took over Inside Park in midtown Manhattan on Sept. 10 for our Jesuits on Tap reception. It was an amazing night of laughs, stories, and reconnecting with fellow brothers. We were thrilled to have special guests like former Housemaster John Brennan, Dean of Mission & Ministry Elliott Gualtiere, and President Christian Cashman join in on the fun!



Boston

Prep alums gathered on the Rooftop at The Envoy in Boston for an unforgettable evening of fellowship on Sept. 25. The event allowed attendees to reconnect, reminisce about their time at Prep, and celebrate their shared memories. President Christian Cashman also hosted a special lunch with young alumni attending Boston College.

Golf Outings









Plenty of Birdies at Fairfield Prep Golf Outing



Prep hosted 142 alumni, parents and friends on May 31 to enjoy a beautiful day on the links at Great River Golf Club in Milford. The tournament was set up as a shamble and offered breakfast, lunch and reception afterward. The outing supported Prep's scholarship fund in honor of the late head golf coach and past Athletic Hall of Fame recipient, **Roger Ratchford '51**. Special thanks to the tournament committee chaired by **Alex Oracheff '94**, and committee members **Greg Chiota '93, Gaetano Ciambriello '15, Kevin Foley '73, Matt Gifford '92, P'22,'25, Sean Gleason '97, Kevin Kozlowski '99,** and **Kevin McQuade '73**. Thank you to Curran Volkswagen in Stratford, CT – **Chris Curran '77** our Hole in One contest sponsor. Also, special thanks to **Shawn McDonnell '72** who helped at the event.

Classes of 1983 and 2019 Tee Off



Vermont was the host of this outing for some members of the class of 1983.



Members of the class of 2019 held a golf outing prior to their 5th year reunion.



Alves Wedding **Justin Alves '10** married Haley Schaffer on June 22, 2024. The ceremony and reception were held at Catamount Ranch & Club in Steamboat Springs, Colorado. FP Alums in attendance pictured L-R: **Parker Beller '10**, **Bill Harkawik '10**, **Thomas Intrieri '10**, Haley Schaffer, **Justin Alves '10**, **Lucas Dennison '10**, **Tyler Pramer '10**, **Robert Aufiero '10**, **Sean Greer '10**.



Featherston Wedding **Danny Featherston '13** was married to Haley Carew in August 2024. Both of Danny's brothers were in attendance (**Jamie '09**, **Charlie '08**), his cousin **Ray Featherston'15,** and many members of the class of 2013, 2008, and 2009 attended as well. The wedding was at the Elkins Estate in Pennsylvania, and Danny and Haley live in Philadelphia.



Foley Wedding **Ryan Foley '15** married Meghan Logan on July 20, 2024. The ceremony was at St. Mary's church in New Haven, which is the oldest Catholic parish in New Haven and the second oldest in Connecticut. The reception to follow was held at the New Haven Lawn Club. Pictured from left to right : **Jack McKeon '15, Brendan Killoy '15, James Gallacher '87, Connor Foley '10, A.J Mansolillo '15, Groom Ryan Foley '15**, Bride Meghan Logan Foley, **Anthony Palazzolo '15, Thomas Nolan '15, Charles Winchell '74, John Murphy '15, Quinn Pollard '15, Charlie McGrath '15, Rich Sekerak '78, Mike Gulish '78, Tate Duran '15, Tyler Bernier '15,** and **Jack Thornton '15.**



Griffen Wedding

Geoffrey Griffen '10 married Jamie Brenner at Tappan Hill Mansion in Tarrytown, New York, on June 1, 2024.

Births



Tom Curran '05 (Prep Athletics Department) and his wife, Denise, welcomed a baby boy, Daniel George Curran on August 13, 2024. Daniel joins his big sister, Coco (2), at home.



Michael Lacerenza '00 and his wife, Jerilyn, welcomed a son, Charles Peter, on June 13, 2024. Charlie joins big sister Taylor (3) and brother James (2).



Colin Nevins '08 and his wife, Catherine, welcomed a baby girl, Sophie Philbin Nevins, on May 1, 2024, in Rhode Island.

Welcome Home!

Prep Faculty and Staff welcomed back retirees to our end-of-year lunch on campus. It was a great time to reconnect and reminisce. Enjoy photos of some of our Prep celebrities.











Births



Stephen Ambrogio (Prep IT) and his wife, Alyssa, welcomed a baby boy, Gabriel Anthony Ambrogio, on July 21, 2024.



Dan Horstmann (Prep Music Dept.) and his wife, Colleen, welcomed a baby girl, Lilly Eileen Horstmann on June 29, 2024.



Vijay DaCosta (Theology Dept.) and his wife, Erin, welcomed a baby boy, John "Jack" Casey DaCosta on June 30, 2024. Jack joins big sister Esmie (5).



Sean MacKenzie (Theology Dept.) and his wife, Leslie, welcomed a baby girl, Eleanor "Ellie" Ann MacKenzie on April 16, 2024.

In Memoriam

Joseph L. Alberti Sr. '54 on April 1, 2024. He was the father of **Joseph L. Alberti Jr. '79**.

Timothy Barrett '74 on February 20, 2024. He was the brother of the late **James H. Barrett '67**.

Deborah Broccoli on June 5, 2024. She was the mother of **Damian R. Broccoli '99**.

John A. Callahan '52 on May 16, 2024. He was the father of **William J. Callahan '76** and **Terrence P. Callahan '77**.

James F. Cosgrove '47 on March 25, 2024.

Carmel Cronin on August 13, 2024. She was the mother of **Charles P. Cronin '76**, **Arthur J. Cronin '78**, and **Michael T. Cronin '86**.

Steven Diaz Jr. '20 on May 4, 2024.

Bonnie Douglas on August 9, 2024. She was the wife of **Fred R. Douglas Jr. '59.**

Dianna Douglas on July 26, 2024. She was the daughter of **Fred R. Douglas Jr. '59**.

Joseph L. Dyer '80 on April 7, 2024. He was the brother of the late **Patrick J. Dyer '72**.

Vincent J. Falcone on January 17, 2024. He was the father of **Stephen V. Falcone '81** and the grandfather of **Matthew S. Falcone '20**.

C. Ronald Gatti '51 on April 18, 2024.

Joseph W. Giordano Jr. '54 on September 16, 2024.

Michael J. Grise '84 on September 10, 2024.

William P. Huntington on September 14, 2024. He was the grandfather of **William P. Huntington III '23.**

Vincent A. Iosso '59 on September 3, 2024.

Francis E. Izzo '68 on July 1, 2024.

Sean P. Kane '89 on August 15, 2024. He was the son of **Michael J. Kane '68,** brother of **Justin Kane '90**, and father of **John C. Kane '19**, **George P. Kane '22**, and **Charles B. Kane '25.**

Robert E. Keogh '58 on January 24, 2024. He was the brother of **John F. Keogh '48** and the late **Raymond J. Keogh '49.** He was the father of **Peter G. Keogh '86.**

John F. Keogh '48 on April 12, 2024. He was the brother of the late **Raymond J. Keogh '49** and the late **Robert E. Keogh '58.** He was the uncle of **Peter G. Keogh '86.**

Thomas J. Kmetzo '57 on July 31, 2024.

James Linehan '51 on June 27, 2024.

Raymond E. Londgen II '47 on June 8, 2024.

John A. MacKenzie '66 on September 16, 2024.

Cameron D. Martin '91 on March 29, 2024. He was the son of the late **David J. Martin '54**.

Kay Martin on June 11, 2024. She was the wife of the late **Vincent T. Martin '54** and the mother of **Thomas V. Martin '81**, **Timothy R. Martin '83**, **Patrick M. Martin '90** and **Sean M. Martin '91**.

Carl A. Massaro Sr. on October 2, 2024. He was the father of **Carl A. Massaro Jr. '73**, **Craig A. Massaro '78**, **Christopher A. Massaro Sr. '82**, and **Cal A. Massaro '84.** He was the grandfather of **Joseph A. Landini '07, Brandon C. Massaro '09**, **Christopher A. Massaro Jr. '18**, **Daniel C. Massaro '19**, and **Matthew C. Massaro '19.**

Cheryl Molyneux on March 2, 2024. She was the mother of **Christopher J. Molyneux '95** and **Shaun R. Molyneux '99**.

Joseph A. Monaco '57 on August 20, 2024.

William O. Mooney Sr. '56 on July 3, 2024. He was the brother of **James P. Mooney '48** and the father of **William O. Mooney Jr. '89** and **Brian J. Mooney '90**.

Dianne Nolte on March 3, 2024. She was the mother of **James M. Nolte '05**.

F. J. O'Malley '70 on August 26, 2024.

Robert J. Patrignelli Sr. on August 8, 2024. He was the father of **Robert J. Patrignelli '83** and the grandfather of **Michael C. Haydu '07** and **Robert J. Patrignelli '25.**

David J. Pavelko '91 on June 30, 2024.

John Pesavento '73 on July 20, 2024.

Michael G. Petro '58 on July 11, 2024.

David M. Phelan '49 on June 4, 2024. He was the father of **Michael V. Phelan '81** and **Andrew C. Phelan '83**.

Connie Pulley on September 21, 2024. She was the wife of **George E. Pulley '49** and the mother of **George E. Pulley Jr. '76** and **Jeffrey J. Pulley '82**.

Keith T. Romano '92 on June 29, 2024. He was the brother of **Matthew E. Romano '93** and **Christopher J. Romano '96**.

Arnold J. Rossi '67 on April 10, 2024.

Domenic A. Sammarco '69 on May 2, 2024.

Alexander W. Samor '57 on October 7, 2024. He was the father of **David A. Samor '94**.

Ronald T. Schwarz '74 on June 3, 2024.

John J. Skowronski '73 on August 30, 2024. He was the brother of the late **Walter E. Skowronski '62** and the late **William J. Skowronski '64**; the father of **John J. Skowronski '03**; and the cousin of the late **Robert F. Skoronski '51**, **Eugene A. Skowronski '61**, and **Theodore E. Skowronski '64**.

Andrew N. Smith '59 on July 4, 2024.

John H. Stevens '48 on June 3, 2024.

William S. Valus Jr. '50 on June 7, 2024. He was the father of **William S. Valus III '84**, the father-in-law of **James C. Meyers '86**, and the grandfather of **Austin J. Valus '18** and **Mark W. Valus '23**.

Robert R. Walsh '46 on April 4, 2024. He was the brother of the late **Richard O. Walsh '50**.

James Welch '56 on October 11, 2022.

Prep at the 2024 Paris Paralympics



Matt Torres '19 Wins Bronze Medal at Paris

Back in August, an announcement spread across Prep that **Matthew Torres '19** (Fairfield University '23) qualified for the 2024 Paris Paralympics for swimming and diving. One month later, he took home yet another bronze medal for his performance.

Torres is no stranger to the Paralympics. He won his first bronze medal in the 400m freestyle at the Tokyo games in 2020 and later added two silver World Championship medals to his belt. Returning to Team USA this year, the proud Prep alum received strong support from his alma mater, rightfully so. He swam the first leg of Team USA'S 4×100 mixed freestyle relay in which the team placed third– setting an American record. Torres also individually competed in the 100 Backstroke, 400 Freestyle, and 100 Freestyle.

"These are really cool moments in time getting to watch athletes you have worked closely with swim at the highest level," said former Fairfield University Swimming and Diving coach Anthony Bruno. "Swimming at the D-I level is difficult for someone with physical impairments like Matthew but he was always working and wanting to do what everyone else was doing in terms of training."

Torres was born with amniotic band syndrome, "a rare condition in which bands of tissue tangle around an unborn baby's limbs and cause damage," according to CT Insider. Because of this condition, the swimmer is missing half of his right leg and multiple fingers and toes, coupled with mild hearing loss.

His swimming career began in 2008 after finding inspiration from Michael Phelps in the Beijing Games. Aside from his success in the Paris and Tokyo Paralympics, Torres participated in the 2021 U.S. National Championships, setting the world record in the 150mm freestyle with a time of 17.42.44.

"He was a great teammate and with his dedication we could always see him doing well in para swimming at the world level," Bruno said.

JAMIE BARONE '98 TAPPED TO COACH TEAM USA PARALYMPIC SWIM TEAM



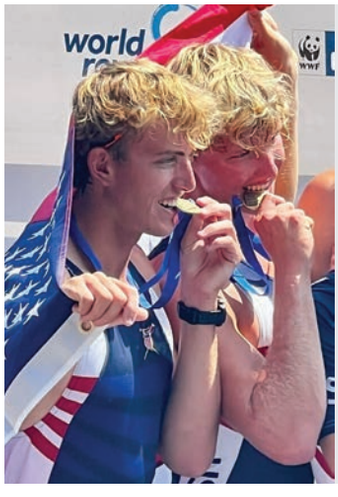
Jamie Barone '98 was selected as one of eight coaches to lead the U.S. Paralympic Swim team in Paris. Connecticut Paralympian Ali Truwit (pictured) is the only para-athlete Barone has worked with and said he was humbled to be asked to join the staff in Paris. Barone first coached Truwit when she was 10-years old at Chelsea Piers in Stamford and continued to until she left in 2018 to swim at Yale. The two stayed in touch after she left for college. Truwit lost her foot and part of her leg in a shark attack last year. When she was interested in getting back in the pool, she called her old coach, Barone.

Growing up in Stamford, Barone swam competitively through age 11, but soon gave it up to focus on ice hockey. Barone attended Fairfield Prep, where he played hockey until being cut his junior year. He then joined the swim team as a senior at Prep and helped the team win its first State Open championship. Barone was hoping to continue swimming in a postgraduate year, but those plans fell through, and he ended up at Loyola College in Baltimore where he eventually walked on to the swim team.

Dedicating himself to training for swimming year-round for the first time, Barone quickly excelled at Loyola, becoming a three-year captain and the MAAC Swimmer of the Year in 2002. He set numerous school records and still holds marks in the 100-yard breaststroke (:56.35), 200-yard breaststroke (2:01:35), as well as the 200-yard backstroke (1:56.56).

Barone then made the 2004 and 2008 Olympic trials where he was ranked as high as No. 14 in the United States and top 100 in the world in the 100-meter breaststroke. He trained with ASCA Hall of Fame coach Bob Bowman and won the USA Swimming national championship in 2006 in the 4x100 medley relay, with teammates Klete Keller, Davis Tarwater and Michael Phelps. He credits his training there with leading him into coaching.

Source: Hearst Media



MONTANARO '24 WINS BRONZE AT U19 WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Aidan Montanaro '24, got a bronze in rowing for the U19 US Junior National Team 4+ at the U19 World Championships in Canada. Aidan currently rows for Syracuse University.





JOEY MANCINI '18 PROGRESSING IN HOUSTON ASTROS' SYSTEM

Joey Mancini '18, a New Haven Register All-Area selection and 2022 graduate of Boston College, began his professional career last season after being selected in the 15th round of the 2022 MLB Draft by Houston. He began at Class-A Fayetteville and was impressive, striking out 33 and walking just six in 24 2/3 innings and six outings (three starts). That success earned a mid-season promotion to Asheville. In 19 outings (10 starts), Mancini went 1-7 with a 7.42 ERA.

Mancini starred in baseball and hockey at Fairfield Prep. On the mound as a senior, he went 7-0 with a 0.88 ERA and 52 strikeouts and two saves in 48 innings of work. He also added two homers, four triples and seven doubles at the plate. He went on to pitch four years at Boston College, impressive enough for Houston to take a chance on him. "I loved it," It was an unbelievable experience for me, so glad I made the decision to go there," Mancini said of BC.

Source: Hearst Media



1973 FOOTBALL MINI-REUNION

After being inducted into this year's AHOF, five members of the '73 Football team got together recently in Celebration, FL. (L-R) **Pete Tarczali '76**, **Tom Coba '74**, **Gary Pintek '76**, **Steve Sheaffer '74**, and **Jim Lacerenza '75**.



1972 GOLF MINI-REUNION

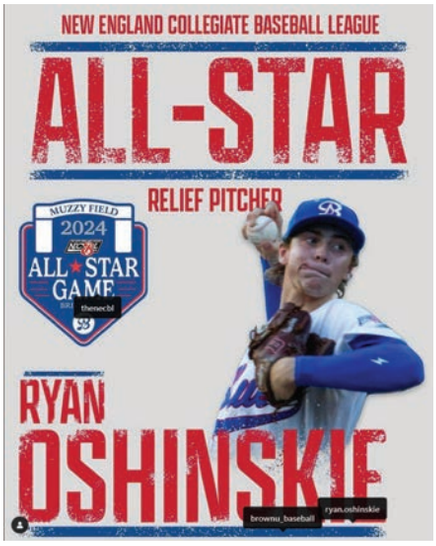
The Class of 1972 gathers yearly for a mini reunion of golf and dinner. This year, 20 players plus guests joined in the fun and camaraderie.





CALLAHAN IN THE TOP 20

Conor Callahan '12 finished as one of the top 20 U.S. male runners at the 2024 UTMB Mont-Blanc, completing the 107-mile race with over 29,000 ft of elevation gain in 32 hrs, 51 min. Known as one of the most challenging trail races in the world, the race takes runners through France, Italy, and Switzerland, circling the Mont Blanc massif in the Alps. Out of 2,761 runners invited from around the world, only 1,760 managed to finish the race.



OSHINSKIE PITCHING AT BROWN

Ryan Oshinskie '23, current pitcher for Brown University, played for the Bristol Blues of the New England Collegiate Baseball League in summer 2024. Ryan was named the NECBL Top Reliever of the Year and was selected to play in the league's all-star game and the Summer Rivalry Classic Game in Worcester, showcasing the best Northeast amateur prospects. He helped Bristol earn the No. 3 seed in the NECBL playoffs.



Party with Prep!

★ **Golf Outing**
Fri., May 16, 2025

★ **50th Reunion**
Class of 1975
Thurs., May 22, 2025
Fri., May 23, 2025

★ **Athletic Hall of Fame**
Thurs., May 29, 2025

★ **Alumni Weekend**
Reunions 5's and 0's
Fri., May 30, 2025
Sat., May 31, 2025



< Register Today!

Connect with Prep brothers during our alumni events. Stay up to date with all Prep happenings at **www.fairfieldprep.org/alumni**





GIVING IN GRATITUDE

Giving Back to Pay it Forward



Nick Marsan '91

Nick Marsan's remarkable journey from Fairfield Prep to his recent appointment as Fire Chief of Westport displays the Jesuit values of service and leadership instilled in him during his time at Prep. After graduating, Nick embarked on a path of service, first in the U.S. Army and later joining the Westport Fire Department in 2007. Nick has demonstrated unwavering dedication and commitment to public safety throughout his tenure. He earned numerous accolades, including the Army Commendation Medal for Valor during his deployment to Afghanistan in 2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Nick's ascent within the Westport Fire Department reflects exceptional leadership qualities. From his early days as a firefighter to his recent promotion to Fire Chief, Nick has constantly displayed a passion for excellence and service to others. In addition to his role as Fire Chief, Nick serves as the town's Emergency Management Director, further highlighting his dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of Westport residents. His extensive training, including master's degrees in history and public administration and experience as a state-certified fire marshal and emergency medical technician, uniquely positions him to lead the department.

Throughout his career, Nick has remained deeply connected to his alma mater, embodying the values of intellectual competence, wise decision-making, compassion for others, and commitment to justice instilled in him at Fairfield Prep. His commitment to education and philanthropy is evident through his involvement in a charitable foundation he co-founded with another Fairfield Prep graduate in 2012. This foundation raises funds to provide scholarships for four students each year, embodying his belief in the transformative power of education and the importance of giving back to the community. Nick, a father of three, credits his time at Fairfield Prep "in developing the man I am today. The sense of community and support I experienced at Prep gave me the confidence to pursue my goals and desire to give back to the community." Fairfield Prep celebrates Nick's achievements and is very proud of his contributions to this community.

By Peter Haley '19, Alumni Service Corps Member



Donnel Delva '19

Donnel Delva, Class of 2019, embodies the spirit of Fairfield Prep's mission to cultivate "Men for Others." As a first-generation Prep student from Bridgeport, Donnel's journey began when his seventh-grade teachers, one of whom was a Prep graduate himself, recognized his potential and advocated for his attendance at Prep.

At Prep, Donnel thrived, graduating magna cum laude. He credits the school's supportive environment and dedicated teachers, particularly in the English department, for nurturing his growth. Donnel's Prep experience was marked by memorable moments, including back-to-back hockey state championships and joining the football team in his senior year.

After graduating from the College of the Holy Cross, Donnel returned to his alma mater as part of the Alumni Service Corps during the 2023-24 school year. This year, Donnel joined the Prep faculty to teach English, finding profound fulfillment in continuing the Prep tradition of alumni giving back and returning to teach at our Common Home. This has been a full circle moment for him, and he says, "When I'm teaching, I'm always thinking, this is exactly why I was born."

Donnel's gratitude for Prep runs deep. He acknowledges the financial assistance he received from Prep alumni that made his education possible and the brotherhood that helped him overcome his initial shyness. This appreciation fuels his commitment to annual giving and his dedication to providing the same transformative experience for current students. Donnel has given every year since graduation, and in his words, "I give back so I can support even just one brick of the building thousands call home. The school's given me so much; it's the least I can do."

Looking ahead, Donnel hopes to see Prep maintain its commitment to accessibility for deserving students, regardless of financial circumstances. He advises recent graduates to "go with the flow" and trust in God's plan, reflecting the Ignatian spirituality that has profoundly shaped his life philosophy. Through his teaching and mentorship, Donnel Delva continues to embody Prep's values, paying forward the love, education, and opportunities he received as a student.

By Peter Haley '19, Alumni Service Corps Member

INVEST IN INTELLECT

Forming Ignatian Educators for the Future

Kathy and Dr. Bob Russo '65, P'92,'03

Like many Prep graduates, **Dr. Bob Russo '65, P'92,'03** left town after graduation to further his education—first at Fordham University, then at Tulane Medical School. But soon, he returned to Fairfield, once again immersed in the community where he'd formed stronger bonds with his friends and brothers than at any other institution. By the late 1980s, he was chairman of Prep's board of trustees, an office he held several times during his board tenure until he stepped down in 2019.

Russo, a retired radiologist, has played an integral role in Prep's evolution as a Jesuit institution over the years. Russo and his wife Kathy's most recent gift to Prep is an investment in the next innovation of a visionary program Russo once helped bring to life—the Jesuit Educators Academy (JEA).

Since the early 2000s, JEA has formed Fairfield Prep's newest faculty members as Ignatian educators during their first five years, enabling them to translate Ignatian principles to their own lives, their classroom instruction, and their relationships with students and families—ultimately shaping young men who embody the qualities of a Jesuit, Catholic school graduate at graduation.

"When Prep was founded, the Jesuits were the teachers. There was always this idea that the Ignatian culture of a Jesuit school would come from having Jesuits in the classroom," explains Elaine Clark, dean of academics, who currently runs the JEA program. "As the ranks of the Jesuits shrink, JEA is an insurance policy that those of us who carry on at Prep carry on that Jesuit nature of the school that makes Prep so special."

In the 1990s, Russo was one of several board members involved in helping Prep prepare for a future with fewer Jesuits, work that ultimately birthed JEA. "We saw it coming," Russo recalls, "But nobody wanted to give up the Jesuit ideals. The only way to carry forward was JEA. And it works—you see it when you walk onto the campus."

"I spent years going to Jesuit conventions around the country, and there really wasn't a Jesuit school ahead of Prep in teaching and living the Jesuit ideals," Russo observes. "We were always light years ahead of other schools because of the quality of people at Prep."



"The education at Prep sets people up on a path that will make the world better. I think that's what we're ultimately looking for—a society that we can all be proud of."

— DR. BOB RUSSO'65, P'92,'03

Recognizing the needs of the times and today's teachers, staff, and students, Prep is again taking another step forward in forming Ignatian leaders. The JEA for new hires is being adapted to include coaches, staff, and moderators to put everyone on campus on the same footing. The school has also begun developing JEA 2.0—a program of ongoing Ignatian formation for veteran faculty members.

"When our boys walk into this building, we want them wrapped in our Ignatian values and principles so that when they graduate, we send the most well-formed boys out to this weary world to make a difference. This is why Dr. and Mrs. Russo's gift is so very important," says Clark, "It allows us to take a teacher or a staff member and help them be the very best that they can be for our boys."

The Russos, also proud parents of Prep alumni, donated to Prep regularly even when $25 was all they could afford. "When I first got a decent job, I said I was going to pay back all the good things Prep did for me," Russo says. "The education at Prep sets people up on a road that will make the world better. I think that's what we're ultimately looking for—a society that we can all be proud of."

Fairfield College
Preparatory School
A Jesuit, Catholic School of Excellence

1073 North Benson Road
Fairfield, CT 06824-5157

FairfieldPREP.org

Connect with us on social media

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Fairfield
University

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FAIRFIELD PREP CLASS OF 2024. + AMDG



GO FORTH

The Campaign for Fairfield Prep

Join us for the journey!

Learn more about how we're building the brotherhood, investing in intellect, and committing to care:
goforth.fairfieldprep.org