



2024

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY
& APPRECIATION DINNER

November 14, 2024

WELCOME


Dear Columbus Family,

Welcome to our annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony and Appreciation Dinner. This event gives us the opportunity to honor those among us for their outstanding achievements and steadfast dedication to our school. This year's inductees have all embodied the Columbus, Marist spirit and make our school family extremely proud.

Tonight, we also celebrate and thank our strongest supporters. We are so grateful for all the efforts you make to ensure that Columbus continues to offer an exceptional education. On behalf of the Marist Brothers, our students, faculty, and administration, thank you!

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming tonight's inductees to our Hall of Fame.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Thomas Kruczek". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Thomas" and last name "Kruczek" clearly visible.

Thomas Kruczek
President

Hall of Fame



2024 Christopher Columbus High School Hall of Fame Inductees:

Maximo Alvarez

(Alumni Parent)

Maximo Alvarez has deep ties to Columbus and to the Marist Brothers. He and his brother Lucas attended the Maristas School in Havana, Cuba during the 1950s. Maximo came to the United States at age 13 as part of Operation Pedro Pan. He earned a bachelor's and master's degree from Florida State University and soon after graduation began his successful career in the oil industry with Cities Services Oil Company (CITGO Petroleum) and Mobil Oil Corp.



In 1987, Maximo purchased four gas stations that became the cornerstones of his company—Sunshine Gasoline Distributors Inc. To this day, Maximo serves as the president of this company which has grown to be one of the largest gasoline distributors in Florida, supplying over five hundred gas stations.

Maximo is a trustee of Pedro Pan Group, a non-profit organization for immigrant children. He is a member of the Belmont Abbey Wall of Fame and a trustee of Florida State University. He also serves as a trustee for The First Tee, a junior program that sets out to positively impact the lives of young people through the game of golf. Maximo has been married to his wife, Esther, for over forty-five years and has three children, Sandra, Maximo Ricardo '98 and Eduardo '04. His three children are following in his footsteps, working at Sunshine Gasoline. Maximo and Esther are also the proud grandparents of Samuel '24, Eric '28, Maximo Jose, Lucas, Gabriel, Michael and Audrey.

A D E L



Alex Trujillo

*(Class of 1996, Alumni Parent,
Administrator/Teacher/Coach)*

Alex's career at Columbus has spanned over two decades and it all started when he attended the school as a student in the 1990s. Alex is proud to say that as a senior he was honored with the "Most Improved Student Award" and following graduation, he went on to pursue his passion for football at Trinity International

University. At Trinity he played under the mentorship of Leslie Frazier, a notable NFL player and head coach. His experience in college football laid the foundation for his future coaching career at Columbus. When he arrived at Columbus, he became the varsity running backs coach and quickly advanced to defensive coordinator in his second year. Under Alex's leadership, our football team has captured three state titles, one tri-county championship, and over thirty district and regional, sectional championships.

But Alex is not just an outstanding football coach, he is an outstanding teacher. Over the years he has taught World History, European Civilization, American History, U.S. Government, and World War II. It was Alex who, along with Mrs. Kahn-Roberts founded Columbus' Black Student Organization. Alex's dedication to education was recognized during his seven-year tenure as social studies department chair. In 2017, Alex was honored with the Explorers Compass Award for his creativity, ingenuity, and dedication to leading students to excellence. In 2019, Alex advanced to a leadership role as dean of students. Alex has three children, Erick (from the Columbus class of 2013), Isiah (from the class of 2009) and his daughter Genesis.

A N T E

Jorge Rico

(Alumni Parent)

Jorge Rico is an extraordinary Columbus supporter who over the years has helped the school in many ways as board member, development committee member and strategic advisor. Jorge has helped Columbus fund several projects including our cherished DQ Plaza with our Mary Our Good Mother statue.



Jorge's background includes over 35 years of experience within the healthcare industry, specializing in the development and implementation of strategic plans in both public and privately held companies. Jorge is a Co-Founding Partner of MBF and has served as a Managing Partner of the firm since they opened in 2005. He directs MBF's development and manages all aspects of MBF's investment activities.

Jorge is currently a member of the Board of Directors of Palm Medical Centers, Carewell and Brightpath Behavioral, Baptist Health Miami Cancer Institute and is the Vice Chairman of the Board of Trustees at St. Thomas University.

Jorge holds an MBA in Healthcare and Leadership from the University of Miami and a bachelor's in computer science from St. Thomas University. His son Daniel graduated from Columbus in 2013.



Carlos Rodriguez

(Class of 1982)

Carlos was born in Cuba in 1964, and his family came to Miami in 1967. His brother Jose graduated from Columbus three years before him and was a role model, serving as Columbus Class President and then attending Harvard College. Carlos credits his

parents with making the financial sacrifice to send both Jose and Carlos to Columbus. The Marist Brothers and Columbus opened many doors for Jose and Carlos, and they are both especially grateful for the support from Brother Edmund Sheehan while they were Columbus students.

During Carlos' time at Columbus, he served as Class President and was a Silver Knight Award recipient. Carlos holds a bachelor's degree from Harvard College and an MBA from the Harvard Business School. He has had a successful career with ADP, a global payroll, and human capital management company. After various roles and responsibilities, Carlos was appointed CEO in 2011. After 11 years in the CEO role, Carlos retired in 2022 and served as Executive Chairman until January 2024.

Carlos serves on the board of ADP and Microsoft. He resides in Basking Ridge, NJ with his wife Eileen. His son Max is a junior at Boston College.

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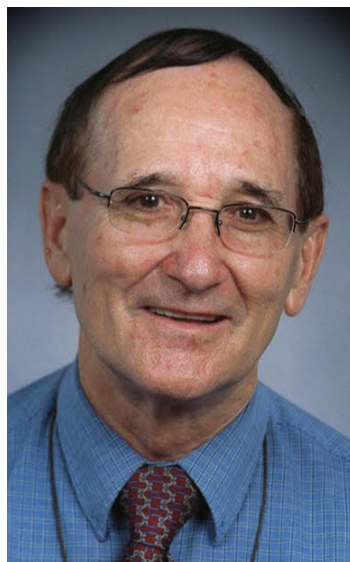


Br. Julio Vitores

(Posthumously, Educator/Coach)

Br. Julio had been a Marist Brother for 71 years when he passed away on December 2, 2022, at the age of 89. He served Christopher Columbus High School for over 25 years. Like many Marist Brothers, his ministry had taken him to several countries where he had the chance to impact the lives of thousands of youngsters.

Br. Julio was born in Palencia, Spain and received his first



Novitiate in 1952 in Turin, Italy and a second Novitiate in 1964 in Lyons, France. In 1954, he received a BA in Education from Gerona Maristas in Spain. He went on to teach in Marist schools in Cuba, Spain, Guatemala, El Salvador, Japan, Switzerland, and in New Jersey, Texas, and Miami (USA). He received an MA in Education from Villanova University in Pennsylvania and a degree in Theology from the University of Paris.

Fluent in four languages, Br. Julio taught Spanish and French but he had experience in teaching nearly all subjects. Br. Julio knew he wanted to be a teacher from an early age. Several of his family members were also Marist Brothers including his brother and several cousins. Br. Julio was also quite the sports enthusiast having started the first soccer team at Columbus as well as in other Marist schools. He had also been a track coach and was an excellent skier and tennis player. It was Br. Julio who began the Mother and Son and Father and Son Mass and Breakfast events. He also managed the Columbus bookstore for many years and served in administrative capacities in the school library and office.

A D E L



Castaways Against Cancer

(Friends)

The Castaways Against Cancer is a 100% volunteer non-profit comprised of fun-loving, mission-driven individuals who are focused on fighting cancer. What

makes this team unique is the series of arduous journeys they endure every summer from Key Biscayne to Key West. Kayakers paddle 160 miles over seven days, runners relay 170 miles over two days, and cyclists pedal the same 170 miles in one grueling day, all to raise money, and awareness, and honor those who have battled cancer.

The Castaways Against Cancer, many of whom are Columbus alumni and teachers, continue to be fueled by the original mission of its founder, Steve O'Brien '72, who in 2000, got in his kayak with a couple of his co-workers from Christopher Columbus High School after losing his mother to cancer. Little did they know it back then, but decades later, these four sea hippies sparked a powerful movement that has raised millions of dollars in the fight against cancer. Many years ago, O'Brien was inspired to "light a candle rather than curse the darkness," and to this day, it is the motto that keeps the Castaways team so passionately focused on their mission. The Castaways Against Cancer is the first ever organization to be inducted into the Columbus Hall of Fame.

A N T E

In the Way of Mary Award: Br. Edmund Sheehan

The *In the Way of Mary Award* was established in 2024 to honor prominent members of the Columbus community who have gone above and beyond in their service to the school and community, with quiet humility, and following *In the Way of Mary*. This special award will be presented annually at the Columbus Hall of Fame Induction Dinner. Tonight, we are proud to present the inaugural *In the Way of Mary Award* to a Marist Brother who was responsible for many key milestones in our school's history and who has served Columbus for 50 years and counting—Br. Edmund Sheehan.



Br. Edmund has been a Marist Brother for 66 years. At Columbus, he started out teaching English and serving as an Assistant Principal and later Principal from 1975 – 1984, a time when Columbus experienced great growth both in terms of enrollment and facilities. Under Br. Edmund's leadership, the development program was started and the school expanded with the addition of the Abraham Science Building. It was Br. Edmund who was responsible for hiring many of the legendary educators who have helped make Columbus the great school that it is today. We are blessed to have Br. Edmund still serving Columbus in the capacity of Librarian.



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME:

Ramon Abadin (Class of 1977)
Anthony Abraham (Alumni Parent)
Thomas G. Abraham (Class of 1971)
Jose “JB” Aleman (Class of 1984)
Facundo Bacardi (Class of 1984)
Br. Herb Baker (Educator/Athletic
Trainer)
Richard R. Baker (Class of 1962)
John Baumann (Class of 1966)
Gerald Bean (Alumni Parent)
Pat Bell (Class of 1965)
Brother Benedict (1st Principal)
Matt Bernhardt (Class of 1989)
Jim Bernhardt (Alumni Parent)
Tom Bezold (Class of 1971)
Patricia Bixby (Alumni Parent)
Br. Michael Brady (Administrator/
Teacher)
Marc Buoniconti (Class of 1984)
E. Carter Burrus (Class of 1962/
Teacher)
Robert Bustamante (Class of 1972)
Patricia Call (Administrator)
Raoul G. Cantero (Class of 1978)
Michael A. Carricarte (Class of 1959)
Teresa Chomat (Teacher/Alumni
Parent)
Br. Ben Consigli (Educator,
Counselor, Administrator)

Rogelio “Roger” Cuevas (Class of
1962)
Irene Culmo (Teacher/Alumni
Parent)
Br. Kenneth Curtin, fms (Teacher/
Campus Minister/Admissions
Director)
Luis De La Aguilera (Class of 1977)
Fr. Arthur Dennison (Teacher)
Paul J. DiMare, Sr. (Alumni Parent)
Br. Felix Elardo (Teacher/
Administrator)
Roberto Estades (Class of 1965)
Lee Evans (Alumni Parent)
Dr. Joseph Fernandez (Class of
1980)
Manny Figueroa (Class of 1967)
Fred Foyo (Class of 1975/Teacher
& Coach/Posthumously)
Alejandro Galvez (Class of 1992)
Al Garcia (Class of 1981 / Alumni
Parent)
Pedro Garcia-Casals
(Administrador/Alumni Parent)
Carlos Gimenez (Class of 1972)
Patrick J. Gleber (Class of 1977)
Tito Gomez (Class of 1964)
Br. Eladio Gonzalez (Guidance
Counselor/Teacher)



Pedro Jose Greer Jr. (Class of 1974)
Brian Griese (Class of 1993)
Manuel "Doc" Guerra (Teacher,
Posthumously)
Ignacio Halley (Alumni Parent)
Nancy Husted (Teacher,
Posthumously)
Br. Kevin Handibode (Administrator,
Teacher, Coach)
Br. John Healy (Educator/Guidance
Counselor)
V.C. (Vince) Hennessy (Class of
1963)
Paul Herald (Alumni Parent)
Thomas Herald, (Class of 1975)
William Herald (Class of 1971)
Alonzo Highsmith (Class of 1983)
Dave Isenberg (Educator)
Howard J. Korth (Alumni Parent)
James Lanier (Class of 1975)
Dr. Matthew A. Larkin (Alumni
Parent)
Marcus Lemonis (Class of 1991)
Robert "Bob" Linfors (Class of 1995,
Teacher/Administrator)
Carlos Luis (Class of 1985)
Tom Lord (Class of 1974)
John Lynskey (Class of 1978/
Teacher/Administrator)

Judge Mallory Horton (Alumni
Parent)
Br. Rafael Martin (Teacher/Librarian)
Fernando Martinez (Class of 1983)
Jorge Mas (Class of 1981/Alumni
Parent)
Jose Mas (Class of 1989)
Juan Carlos Mas (Class of 1984)
Miguel Maspons (Class of 1981)
Douglas "Doug" McClintock (Class
of 1966)
Dr. Mary Eileen McDonough
(Alumni Parent)
Dick McEnany (Class of 1966)
Chris McKeon (Administrator/
Teacher)
Br. Patrick McNamara
(Administrator)
Br. Patrick McNulty (Teacher/
Counselor)
Grant Miller (Friend)
John P. Miller (Teacher)
Steve O'Brien (Class of 1972/
Teacher)
Cesar T. Odio (Class of 1977)
Thomas H. O'Neil (Teacher)
Hernan Organvidez (Class of 1981)
Br. Angelo Palmieri (Administrator/
Teacher)



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME: *(Continues from previous page)*

Fred Panzer (Teacher/Alumni Parent)
Rafael A. Peñalver (Class of 1969)
David Scott Plummer (Alumni Parent)
Timothy Plummer (Class of 1983)
Richard F. Pollock (Athletic Director/Coach)
David Pugh (Administrator/Alumni Parent)
Maria Rams-Foyo (Educator)
Brian Regan (Class of 1976)
General Victor E. Renuart (Class of 1967)
David Riley (Teacher/Coach)
Rafael Roca (Class of 1988, Alumni Parent)
Mr. John F. Roche (Teacher)
Mark Rodgers (Class of 1977/Teacher)
Ray Rodriguez (Class of 1969)
Wayne Rotolante (Class of 1963)
Br. Bernard Ruth (CCHS Administrator)
Alina Sanchez (Educator/Alumni Parent)
Robert Sanchez (Class of 1983)
Joe Sanz (Class of 1972)
Lewis Savino (Administrator)
Doug Sawyer (Class of 1975)

Br. Edmund Sheehan (Librarian/Administrator/Teacher)
Michael J. Shula (Class of 1983)
John J. Spiegel (Class of 1967)
Achille “Butch” Staiano (Educator/Coach)
Nicholas Stanham (Class of 1986)
Roberto Suarez (Class of 1969)
Mario Sueiras (Class of 1991)
Brother Eugene Trzeciecki (Teacher)
Anibal Valdes (Alumni Parent/Alum of Colegio Champagnat, Cuba)
Dr. Franklyn Verdon (Alumni Parent)
Dr. Juan Vila (Class of 1997 / Administrator)
Karl “Joe” Weber (Class of 1983/Teacher/Coach)
Douglas “Doug” Yount (Class of 1967)
Dr. Joseph Zavertrnik (Alumni Parent)

*A sincere thank you for your
presence to honor the newest
members of
Christopher Columbus High
School's*

Hall of Fame

*We appreciate your dedication
and contribution to make this
celebration truly special.*



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

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