

Dr. McMahon '76
Wins Prestigious
Award



Track Team
Captures WCAC
Championship



Rick Reeves
Retires After
34 Years



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RED & BLUE

SUMMER 2024



Celebrating the
Class of 2024

CONTENTS SUMMER 2024

FEATURES

- 11** 50 Years After Mark Ricker '74 Graduated, Son Ryan '24 Joins Him
- 12** Graduating Class of 2024
- 14** Award Winners & Scholarships
- 16** Concern for Grandmother Inspires DeMatha Graduate's Future Plans
- 17** DeMatha Graduate Daniel Smith Seeks to 'help my community now, not later'



PAGE 6



PAGE 8

DEPARTMENTS

- 3** From The President's Office
- 4** School News
- 5** Principal's Perspective
- 7** Campus Ministry News
- 8** Faculty News
- 10** Music Notes
- 18** Sports News
- 21** Alma Matters
- 27** In Memoriam



PAGE 11



PAGE 14

ON THE COVER

The 184 graduates of DeMatha's class of 2024 were all smiles during commencement June 7. They began their high school careers during the restrictive learning environment of the pandemic. They are now poised to extend the DeMatha brotherhood and do great things. (All graduation photos courtesy of Andrew Travers '11.)



DeMATHA CATHOLIC High School

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Red & Blue

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PRESIDENT

Dr. Daniel J. McMahon '76
PRINCIPAL

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Alumni and Friends of DeMatha,

All of us are truly blessed if we participate in events that are repeated annually but have not lost their impact on us. They remain as pivotal as always. I feel that way about our Baccalaureate Liturgy celebrated in the Convocation Center and the Commencement ceremony at the Basilica of the National Shrine. They remain significant milestones in my DeMatha memories, and this is my 27th year of participating in them both.

The Baccalaureate Liturgy with the graduates and immediately family, faculty and staff is a visual reminder that we are faith-based school, and with all our hopes and plans for academic success and further education in our minds, there is present the fundamental reminder that we hope that they have come to a deeper knowledge of how much God loves us, how much God needs us to make a difference in the world, and how much we rely on each other as brothers for the rest of our lives. As I look out at the assembled graduating class in their academic attire for the first time, it gives me a great feeling of success, pride and hope for our nation's future.

The Commencement service at the National Shrine is incomparable. Dr. McMahon and I are the last individuals in the entrance procession, and when we arrive at the top of the sanctuary and turn around and see our graduates and thousands of proud family and friends, it is a clear visual that DeMatha "stands tall....in all that is true," as we sing in the Alma Mater. Prayers are spoken, speeches are delivered, awards are presented, songs are sung, diplomas are issued, the golden graduates are acknowledged, and in the ebb and flow of the ceremony, one can almost feel the pride and sense of accomplishment in the hearts of all attending.

This is always the culminating event of every academic year. I thank you, our loyal readers and supporters of DeMatha, for all that you do to make these events possible. We are blessed by each other, and we share that blessing annually with our graduating class and their families.



Sincerely,

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



At DeMatha's Academic Awards Night in April, more than 400 students were recognized for scholastic achievement. Outgoing assistant principal **Bill Clark** coordinated the event for the 27th consecutive year.

Edwin Giron '27, Earl Gillam '25, Alejandro Barry-Obregon '25 and **Spencer Woods '25** were recognized at the University of Maryland's Banquet for Exceptional High School Students in Geographical Sciences.

John Nichols '24 is the latest DeMatha Library Quiz Bowl Challenge winner. John distinguished himself by completing the most quiz bowl games with perfect scores. He will attend the University of Maryland.

DeMatha held a flag-raising ceremony April 23 to help elevate awareness about organ, eye and tissue donation and to honor those who have given the gift of life. Several organ donors and recipients from the DeMatha community were recognized. April is National Donate Life Month.

At the End of Year Liturgy in May, **Bishop Roy Campbell** confirmed, from left, **Jonathan Sharayera '24, Michael Thomasian '25, Garrett Prokopchak '24, Jonathan Zdravec '25** and **Carter Quinn '25**. Garrett also made a profession of faith, and Carter and Jonathan S. were baptized.



Father Damian was honored by the National Catholic Educational Association in April with a Life Commitment Award for his 50 years of service to DeMatha. On March 16, over 200 people gathered in the Antler Room to celebrate with him. On June 9, he threw out the ceremonial first pitch prior to the Bowie Baysox game.



In April, DeMatha won the Fire Protection Engineering Design Challenge. Sponsored by the University of Maryland, the competition involves the design, construction and burn testing of a small housing model. Students are challenged to find an innovative solution for fire detection and suppression. The Stags beat five schools to win the title for the first time since 2016.

*"We expect DeMatha
grads to be authentic,
to be genuine."*

The words "author," "authentic" and "authority" all have roots in a common semantic field with related meanings around "creation, origin, legitimacy." Or, to put it another way, these words all have a common idea at their core while remaining distinct. An "author" is an originator or creator; "authentic" refers to the genuine or to one who acts independently. "Authority" connotes the legitimacy of influence or command.

No author writes independently of all other texts—one imitates or contradicts; one fills gaps or prunes away; one is inspired or angered into a response. It is the hope of DeMatha that students will go on to author their lives in recognition of the influences not just of written texts, of classes taken, of co-curriculars, but of the influence that parents, family, teachers, coaches, friends have had on them.

We expect DeMatha grads to be authentic, to be genuine. That they will bring to every situation a self that acts from core principles and that is willing to act independently and not follow the crowd.

DeMatha graduates need to take responsibility for their authority—for their influence. John Donne pointed out that, "No man is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main." DeMatha grads author their lives—they have responsibility for themselves; they are authentic—genuine and independent; they have authority—a responsibility to use their influence on others carefully and to acknowledge the influence that others have on them.

Author, authentic, and authority: If we braid these three words together in our lives, then we will achieve a kind of success that can never be taken from us.



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



Dr. Dan McMahon '76 received the Simon Bruté Medal in June from his college alma mater, Mount St. Mary's University. The school's highest honor is bestowed to a "graduate who has rendered outstanding and meritorious service to the Church, state, nation and our fellow citizens." Dan is entering his 25th year as DeMatha principal.



Rising seniors **Jackson Yoder** (above) and **Conner Hayes** of the DeMatha Fishing Club taught more than 20 children how to fish in early May at nearby Lake Artemesia. They also arranged for the kids to receive free rods and reels from the Future Angler Foundation and clothing and gear from the Ike Jime Federation and the DeMatha Athletic Department.

The DeMatha Players presented three performances of "Hoodwinked," a parody of the legend of Robin Hood. Rising juniors **Jesse Kliman**, **Aidan Decker** and **Daniel House** portrayed the principal male characters. Faculty member **Keith Rafferty** produced and directed the April play.

At DeMatha's annual Day of Giving in May, nearly \$150,000 was contributed

by approximately 435 donors. The class of 1980 contributed the most funds; the class of '88 had the most donors; and the class of '78 had the highest percentage of donors. We thank you all!

Construction on the Cross Center for Engineering, Arts and Robotics has begun. It is scheduled to open in January 2025.



Father Albert graduated from Loyola University Maryland on May 18 with a master's in educational leadership. Sharing in his accomplishment was his mother, **Eleanore Anuszewski**.



Even St. John de Matha had to don protective glasses to witness the solar eclipse on April 8. Our patron saint was joined by DeMatha President **Father James** and registrar **Josh Mendizabal '12**.



Mr. Hager, **Mrs. Stockton**, **Erick Umana '24** and several sophomores took two days in April to build these garden beds on campus for a local refugee family. The Ecology Club provided the compost. The family planted vegetables this spring and summer.

CAMPUS MINISTRY OFFICE NEWS



DeMatha Campus Ministry and Student Government Association organized the collection and delivery of over 400 lbs. of toiletry items for 77 formerly homeless veterans. The donations by students and members of the DeMatha community went to former service members living in HELP Walter Reed Veterans Apartments in Washington, D.C.



DeMatha students in April helped to package 53,676 meals with Terps Against Hunger to combat food insecurity. The meals went to the Capital Area Food Bank.

Daniel Smith '24 received a Community Engaged Scholarship to attend Xavier University in Cincinnati. Daniel is the fifth son of teacher **Pat Smith '82** to graduate from DeMatha. The fellowship is awarded to freshmen who excel in service and community engagement. Recipients of the scholarship are required to perform 10 hours of service each week.

Several DeMatha students coached basketball to youth with disabilities through KEEN (Kids Enjoy Exercise Now). The clinics were held in the original gym twice a month from September to May. KEEN provides "free, non-competitive, one-on-one programs of physical activity and fun, supporting the overall health and well-being of all participants."



On May 16, members of the DeMatha baseball and Elizabeth Seton softball programs worked with Special Olympians for half a day running drills, teaching skills, playing a game and having lunch together. This is the second year DeMatha has participated in the event. It was **John DiMarsico '24** and **William Walker '24** who proposed the idea of a service opportunity with special-needs athletes.

Father Allan Paul of the Cross Gastardo, O.S.S.T. was ordained to the priesthood on June 1. He is the first Trinitarian to be ordained in the Philippines. Father Allan served in the Campus Ministry Office during the fall 2023 semester. DeMatha campus minister **Father Josh** attended the celebration.



DeMatha President **Father James** preaches during Baccalaureate Mass.

Rick Reeves Leaves DeMatha After 34 Years Teaching Science

DeMatha said goodbye this spring to longtime faculty member Rick Reeves. Mr. Reeves just completed his 34th year of science instruction at DeMatha. He has been Science Department chair for 26 years. (This also marks his 47th year total in education.)

Mr. Reeves said he is leaving to “pursue other adventures in life” and possibly relocate to his hometown of Lumberton, N.C. He first came to DeMatha just when it seemed like he was going to be hired at Good Counsel.

“I was working at a lab in Beltsville, and the president of the company suggested I apply to Good Counsel,” he said. “I did apply and had a second interview when they told me they wanted a third interview. It just so happened John Moylan (former principal) called and said there was an opening at DeMatha. He asked me to come over that very afternoon, which I did. I met with him and took the job, thinking I would be here for one or two years, and it wound up being 34.”

And why did he stay so long? “Well, DeMatha has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life,” he said. He estimates he taught over 5,000 young men during his time at the school. “My encounters with all of my students is what I will remember. They are a part of my life, and I’ve kept in touch with many of them for years.

“DeMatha is a special place where people get connected and make friends with the people they came into contact with for life. As faculty member Pat Smith ’82 would say, that is part of being “The DeMatha Man.”

Without question, Mr. Reeves was a busy man during his career. Besides teaching, he annually gave the required (popular, ahem) blood borne pathogen session for faculty, staff and coaches and was the school’s contact with the state when it came to water testing and asbestos inspection. Mr. Reeves also started the school’s rowing program in 1997 and served as the team’s first coach in its formative years.



But that’s not all. For 20 years, Mr. Reeves ran an Austrian student exchange, and he also oversaw an annual Science Expo each March for 25 years. “I’m pretty sure that we are the only school to have three different Nobel Prize winners speak at our Science Expo,” he said.

In addition, Mr. Reeves ran a Science Camp for middle schoolers for many years and hosted a popular Middle School Teachers Workshop for more than two decades. DeMatha Principal Dr. Dan McMahon ’76 has called him the “most energetic evangelist for science education” that he ever met.

Mr. Reeves was recognized by The Washington Post in 2003 as a Distinguished Educator, an honor he says was the highlight of his academic career. He said he was also honored to learn at this year’s graduation that the Environmental Science Award now bears his name.

In May, on the last day of regular school, several faculty/staff members gathered in Mr. Reeves’ room for his last class. Not surprisingly, it was an emotional moment for him to say goodbye. But Mr. Reeves promises to return to reunions when he can and says he will stay in touch.

We wish him well in his future endeavors and thank him for his many years of dedicated service.



Caleb Thomas Ptomey, son of theology chair **Mike Ptomey '98** and his wife **Jessica**, was born May 18 and weighed 10 lbs., 1 oz. Congratulations!



Theology teacher **Stephen April '10** and his wife **Caroline** welcomed a baby boy, **Patrick Jerome April**, on March 9. He checked in at 7 lbs., 8 oz. and 20 inches. Congratulations!

Faculty and staff members **Andrew Quinn '05**, **Mark DePrato '14**, **Kelsey Wood**, **Kyle Fall**, **Marian Alonso**, **Jarrold Randall**, **Mike Ayala '04**, and **Stephan Rochefort** have left DeMatha. **Emily McNally** is taking a gap year and will return in 2025-26. We thank them for their service to the school.

New staff members for 2024-25 are **Dante Brown** (social studies),

Christena Hamilton (math), **Abigail Hiltke** (biology), **Remi Jones** (science), **Kristen McPike** (science), **J.T. Lagaras** (theology), **Angel Maldonado** (English), **Hunter Montevideo** (social studies), **Rebecca Taylor** (academic support), **Justin Messersmith** (health & physical education), **Amanda Ross Benedict** (academic support), **Aidan Snashall** (Campus Ministry intern), **Justin Chatman**

(Athletic Dept. intern), **Jordan Gill** (English intern) and **Mary Lucian** (finance director).

Sam Haller, assistant principal of faculty formation and professional development, was accepted into Harvard University's Graduate School of Education to pursue a master's degree in education leadership. He began his studies June 1.



Mathematics teacher **Angela Woods** graduated from Morgan State University in May with a master of science in mathematics education.



Mary Lucian, CPA, was hired as finance director May 15. She has worked for accounting firms, the National Park Foundation, and, for over 15 years, was chief financial officer at Elizabeth Seton High School. She graduated from the University of Maryland with a B.S. in accounting. Mary has deep ties to DeMatha. Her husband **Rob '85** and sons **Tyler '12** and **Chris '19** are alumni, as are several nephews. She graduated from Seton in 1986, as did her daughters **Candice '14** and **Sophia '16**.



Seniors closed out their DeMatha musical careers with several excellent and superior ratings at the Festival of Music event in April. They are shown here outside of the L. Douglas Wilder Performing Arts Center on the campus of Norfolk (Va.) State University.

DeMatha musicians had several stellar performances in April at the Festivals of Music event in Virginia Beach, Va. Here are the awards we won and ratings we received:

- Overall Concert Choir - Voices of DeMatha
- Overall Concert Band - Wind Ensemble
- Overall Vocal Soloist - **Jesse Kliman**
- DeMatha Harmonics - Excellent Ratings
1st place Men's Choir
- Voices of DeMatha Superior Ratings -
1st place Concert Choir
- Percussion Ensemble II - Excellent Ratings
2nd place
- Advanced Percussion Ensemble -
Superior Ratings 1st place
- Sinfonia - Superior Ratings 1st place
Class AA
- Concert Band - Excellent 4th place
Class A
- Concert Band 2 - Excellent 3rd place
Class A
- Symphonic Band - Superior 1st place
Class A
- Wind Ensemble - Superior 1st place
Class AA

Dr. Michael Gatti, Music Department chair, spent part of his summer working as a percussion ensemble director at the DMV Percussion Academy. **Matt Bickel '95** and **Carlos Castrillon '95** hosted a Summer Band & Strings Program, and **Jim Turk** welcomed chorus members for individualized instruction.



John Mitchell, who founded the DeMatha Music program in 1970, prior to his "Stag Song" interview. John taught here for 41 years.



Jim Roper (left), who retired as DeMatha's director of bands in 2022 after teaching music here for 40 years, and **Francis Abbey '95**. Francis is an award-winning filmmaker who is producing "Stag Song: The DeMatha Music Story." He's looking for photos, videos, potential interviewees and those who can assist with production. You can contact him at stagsongmovie@gmail.com.



The Voices of DeMatha sang beautifully during graduation.

50 Years After Mark Ricker '74 Graduated, Son Ryan '24 Joins Him

Unlike several family members, Ryan Ricker '24 had no intention of attending DeMatha. He was living in Ocean View, Del., and figured he'd just continue in public school.

Then, in the summer of 2019, he went to the DeMatha Football Camp. He was convinced this was the school for him after entering the ground floor of the Looney Convocation Center.

"I walk in and on the right is a plaque with my entire family's name," Ryan recalled. "And everything clicked. Ever since then, I've been 100%, no-doubt DeMatha through and through."

Not wanting to spend five hours (or more) commuting to and from school, the Rickers bought a townhouse next door to campus in September 2019. Ryan was still in the eighth grade, so his mom, Lynn, homeschooled him. He also played on a youth football team coached by Stags assistant coach Marvin Brown.

"When Ryan saw the plaque, he said, 'Can I go here?'" his dad, Mark '74 said. "And not knowing how in the heck we were going to put this together, I went, 'Sure, we'll figure it out.'"

When Ryan graduated, he joined his late grandfather (Thomas Ricker '53), his father, two uncles (Andy '78, dec. and Michael '83) and cousins (Ben '07 and Pat '07) as DeMatha graduates. During commencement, Ryan presented Mark with his 50-year commemorative pin.

"It really is hard to believe," Mark said. "It doesn't feel like 50 years."

Ryan was a member of the DeMatha Engineering Club for two years and played JV football as a freshman and sophomore. His 2021 team was undefeated. He played rugby his final three springs and was co-captain as a senior. Unfortunately, an injury ended his career after just one game in 2024.

But he still had plenty to keep him busy by serving this past year as SGA president.

"I had all of my buddies with me," he said, "and we worked really hard to make it one of the best years in DeMatha history. From what I heard from my classmates, they sure enjoyed the heck out of it. I'm very proud of what we accomplished."



Ryan will attend Louisiana State University in the fall, where he's looking to study environmental engineering. He would eventually like to become an environmental lawyer.

Mark said living in Hyattsville brought back several great DeMatha memories, particularly when he walked his dog, Crosby, on campus:

"To me, it's the monastery, remembering Brother Sean [Donohue] and seeing his name by the St. John de Matha statue; Father Damian [Anuszewski] teaching typing and business law; Ray Smith with math; Father Mike [Malloy] in biology; Mr. T [Doug Tschiffely]; Joe Carroll; Tom Ponton; I can go on and on.

"I remember going to the chapel in the monastery, going to midnight Mass there with Brother Sean. You don't realize what you miss until you're gone."

Mark said his parents, Thomas and Mary June, met doing a play together in DeMatha's original gym. Ryan's other grandfather, Bill Budness, played linebacker for the Oakland Raiders for seven years (1964-70).

"Needless to say, this family's obsessed with the Raiders," Lynn said before Ryan chimed in, "And now the [LSU] Tigers."

To which Mark added: "But always the DeMatha Stags."



ANOTHER STELLAR CLASS

This class of 2024 entered DeMatha in semi-isolation. They departed in unified jubilation.

The DeMatha brotherhood welcomed 184 newly minted alumni during its 76th commencement on June 7 from the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

“It’s hard to believe I’m an alum now,” Andrew Righi ’24 said. “It’s pretty wild.”

When Andrew and his classmates were freshmen in 2020-21, DeMatha was in a hybrid learning environment brought on by the pandemic. Many students chose to learn completely online, while he and others would come to school once or twice a week.

“It wasn’t so much the academics that were tough; it was a bit of an adjustment learning online,” Andrew said. “I think the toughest part was tapping into that DeMatha community, making friends and everything.”

“Especially if you were all online, it was really difficult to make any friends. I only knew a couple people from my classes, and I didn’t really know them well. Most of the friends I made started in sophomore year.”

DeMatha President Father James Day, in his public remarks at graduation, thanked the departing seniors for their “commitment to learning under the hardest of circumstances during these pandemic and post-pandemic high school years.”

One-hundred and sixty-four members of the class plan to attend four-year colleges. Of those, 19 are going to the University of Maryland College Park; 11 to Towson University; six to Hampton University and UMBC; and five each to Morehouse College, Temple University and Virginia State University.

The total value of scholarships offered to the class is \$25,843,772. Seven young men exceeded \$750,000 in offers; the highest being over \$2.1 million.

Ten seniors are heading to community college, one to junior hockey, one to the Air Force and one to the International Union of Elevator Constructors. Six were still undecided at press time.

Andrew Righi, who played the alto saxophone, ran cross country all four years and graduated with a 4.339 cumulative GPA, began his plebe year July 1 at West Point. William DelValle will join him there. John DiMarsico is going to the Coast Guard Academy.

Liz and Pat Smith ’82 were recognized during commencement for having five sons graduate from DeMatha: Joe ’07, Sean ’09, Nathan and Matthew ’12, and Daniel ’24.

Daniel drew laughter during his farewell address by pointing out that despite his dad and brothers combining “to win several WCAC championships and a national championship in basketball, and earn All-Eastern Chorus and All-State Band honors ...

G H S C H O O L C O M M E N C E M E N T



Liz and Pat Smith '82 (left) were recognized during commencement for having five sons graduate from DeMatha.



Graduates celebrate outside the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

“Only one of us has had the privilege of speaking at graduation, and for that I am honored.”

DeMatha Principal Dr. Daniel McMahon '76 said he admires the class for its resilience, improvisational skills and thoughtfulness during unprecedented times.

“The community we have built and continue to build can withstand ... disappointment, disagreement, and anger; we can withstand distance measured in miles as well as distance measured in time,” he said. “We can withstand COVID-19. We can withstand anything, except neglect.”

Kelvin Blake, who delivered the welcoming address, appreciated the diversity of thought he experienced at DeMatha.

“I believe we all have greatly benefited in so many ways from being exposed to different and opposing ideas and perspectives before heading to college or the workforce,” Kelvin said. “Despite our differences, however, it is nice to know that no matter where we are in life or in the world, we will carry with us the strong brotherhood that we share through our connection to DeMatha.”



The class of 2024's first day of school: Aug. 26, 2020.

AWARD WINNERS

GENERAL EXCELLENCE:

The Cardinal's Award for Catholic Citizenship: **Kelvin M. Blake Jr.**
 DeMatha Catholic High School Citizenship Award: **Gabriel C. Scott, Henry R. Lawrence**
 DeMatha High School Alumni Award for General Excellence: **Matthew A. Franco**
 Dr. Charles 'Buck' Offutt Faculty Award for General Excellence: **Kelvin M. Blake Jr.**
 DeMatha Catholic High School Scholar Athlete Award: **Andrew R. Ross**
 DeMatha Parent Organization Award: **Alejandro Carr, John S. Nichols**
 H. Thomas Eastman Award: **Jayden J. Duran, Nolan N. Rascher**
 Father Augustine Derricks, O.S.S.T. Award: **Kai N. Blackman, Kalen P. Wells**
 Father Patrick T. Glynn, O.S.S.T. Award: **Harry V. Rothmann**
 John L. Moylan Award for Academic Excellence: **Anthony J. Lukban**
 Mary Favret Kerley and Katherine Mauser Award: **Hayden B. Belt, Declan M. Devilbiss**
 Kiwanis Club Award: **Daren D. Pefok**
 U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Athlete Award: **Thomas W. Dietrich**
 U.S. Marine Corps Distinguished Musician Award: **Andrew S. Righi**
 U.S. Marine Corps Scholastic Excellence Award: **Darien L. Birks**

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

Thomas J. Burke Business: **Ever Alvarez**
 Computer Studies: **Matthew A. Franco**
 Engineering Award: **Matthew A. Franco, Michael D. Powell, Kalen P. Wells**
 English: **Kelvin M. Blake Jr., Tobias I. Hernandez**
 Joseph A. Carroll Journalism Award: **William L. Walker**
 Fine Arts: **Gabriel C. Scott**
 Photography: **Matthew A. Franco, Jayden J. Duran**
 Mary R. Yarrish Mathematics Award: **Kelvin M. Blake Jr.**
 James S. Roper Music Award: **Brandon J. Cibor, Joseph D. Schweitzer**
 Biology: **Darien L. Birks**
 Combined Science: **Andrew S. Righi**
 Ralph E. "Rick" Reeves, Jr. Environmental: **Tobias I. Hernandez**
 Physics: **Matthew A. Franco**
 Douglas Tschiffely and Richard Macheski Social Studies: **Daren D. Pefok, Declan M. Devilbiss, Reuben K. Ezi**
 Theological Studies: **Andrew S. Righi, Daniel A. Smith**
 French: **Emanuel C. Pizana, Reuben K. Ezi**
 Latin: **Kelvin M. Blake Jr.**
 Spanish: **Declan M. Devilbiss**
 Mandarin: **Jonathan I. Awunor**

SERVICE AWARDS:

Aviation Club: **Cameron C. Tucker**
 John H. Mitchell Band Award: **Ian V. Patience, Marcus A. Tong**
 Black Student Union: **Nnaeto Nwafor**
 Campus Ministry Award: **Andrew S. Righi, Erick J. Umaña, Alex N. Lathrop**
 Chess Club Award: **Leo M. Watson**
 Fr. Paul Donovan Drama Award: **Aidan Z. Anderson**
 Engineering Club: **Aidan R.K. Ankrah**
 Video Broadcast Journalism Award: **Justin X. Jordan**
 Investment Club Award: **Anthony J. Lukban**
 Mock Trial Award: **Henry W. Lucas**
 National Honor Society Award: **Declan M. Devilbiss**
 Orchestra: **Edgar M. Sullivan**
 Science Scholars: **Hayden B. Belt**
 Student Government Award: **Ryan D. Ricker, Davis G. Dedner**



Kelvin Blake delivered the welcoming address.



Daniel Smith delivered the farewell address.



"We all have one thing in common: the foundation that DeMatha has provided us to be successful in life."

– Kelvin Blake

"Our class will leave knowing that DeMatha is a brotherhood we take with us."

– Daniel Smith

The annual Dads and Grads photo outside St. John de Matha Hall.

Total in Academic Scholarships: \$25,843,772

Students in the class of 2024 received scholarships and financial aid offers totalling more than \$25 million. Here are the schools they will attend this fall.

ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Nigel Abner - Towson University
Aidan Anderson - Lincoln University
Aidan Ankrah - Colorado Mesa University
Nathan Ayalew - Boston College
Caleb Barley - High Point University
Darien Birks - Hampton University
Kai Blackman - Morehouse College
Kelvin Blake - Princeton University
Edgar Cantoral - Frostburg State University
Brandon Cibar - Indiana University
Jalen Jackson - John Carroll University
Alex Lathrop - West Virginia University
Chase Lopez - Fairleigh Dickinson University
Anthony Lukban - University of Maryland
Charley Magoulick - Rider University
Anthoney McClary - Marymount University
Nnaeto Nwafor - Syracuse University
Solomon Oyebanjo - Stevenson University
Daniel Quiroz - Rollins College
Steven Ramirez - Marymount University
River Robinson - Loyola University Maryland
Andrew Ross - Randolph-Macon College
Harry Rothmann - Florida State University
Cameron Sharpe - Stevenson University
Daniel Smith - Xavier University
Wyatt Stephens - Coastal Carolina University
Benedict Sullivan - The Catholic University of America
Stanley Tinoco - George Washington University
Kalen Wells - Syracuse University
James Westbrook - High Point University
Jordan Williams - Hampden-Sydney College

ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

Football

Ashton Booker - College of the Holy Cross
Terez Davis - University of Maryland
Antonio Greene - Indiana University of Pennsylvania
Blake Houser - University of Richmond
Dhonte Jackson - Lafayette College
Emmett Laws - Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Mason Lindsay - University of Pittsburgh
Kareem Robinson - Stevenson University
Micah Veilleux - Virginia State University
Cody Williams - Towson University
Jordan Williams - Hampden-Sydney College

Baseball

Thomas Dietrich - Washington & Jefferson College
John DiMarsico - United States Coast Guard Academy
Emmanuel Hall - Frostburg State University
Jalen Jackson - John Carroll University
Nikolas Long - Southern Wesleyan University
Charley Magoulick - Rider University
William Walker - Morehouse College

Track and Field / Cross Country

Caleb Barley - High Point University
Joshua Gresham - Fairleigh Dickinson University
Chase Lopez - Fairleigh Dickinson University
Ashton McCullers - Howard University
Anthony Waterman - University of Kentucky

Lacrosse

Dylan Adams - McDaniel College
Jadon Meyers - Hampton University
Andrew Ross - Randolph-Macon College
James Westbrook - High Point University

Basketball

Anthoney McClary - Marymount University
Malcolm Thomas - Villanova University

Rugby

Daniel Jackson - Mount St. Mary's University

Tennis

Jacob Poole - Morgan State University

Wrestling

Steven Ramirez - Marymount University



Concern for Grandmother Inspires DeMatha Graduate's Future Plans

By Richard Szczepanowski

The Catholic Standard (May 29, 2024)

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For Kelvin Blake, a member of DeMatha Catholic High School's class of 2024, the decision of what to study in college and what his future career goals are comes from the love he has for his grandmother.

In the fall, Blake will attend Princeton University on a scholarship where he will study neuroscience. "My grandmother has dementia," he explained. "I want to hopefully find the cause and a cure for dementia."

"After Princeton, I want to earn either a medical degree to become a neurosurgeon or a Ph.D. so I can become a medical researcher," he said.

Active in his Catholic faith, Blake and his parents – Kelvin Sr. and LaShea Blake – are residents of Bowie and members of The Church of the Incarnation in Washington, D.C. The younger Blake is also a member of the St. Matthias Parish youth group, which he joined when he was a student at the Academy of St. Matthias the Apostle in Lanham.

Blake is also a member of The Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Washington's Archdiocesan Youth Leadership Team. Comprised of young people from throughout the archdiocese, members of the team teach others about the Catholic faith, help coordinate the annual Youth Mass of Celebration and Thanksgiving, and plan retreats and other youth activities.

Sharing his faith with others, he said, "is something I know God wants me to do."

"At a young age, the Catholic faith was instilled in me by my family, and also the importance of taking time to help others," he said.

To that end, Blake has participated in numerous service



"From the first day I walked in [to DeMatha] I felt welcomed. And here, they offer a lot of variety of clubs and activities to choose from. I really enjoyed the brotherhood and sense of community here."

projects, including working at the Mother Mary Lange Food Pantry at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Takoma Park.

Outside of the classroom, he is a member of the National Honor Society and was active in DeMatha's Black Student Union "where we talked about different issues that we face as a society," and was a part of DeMatha's Strategic Planning Board where he "wrote goals for the school on how to improve student health."

He ran the 400-meter, the 800-meter open and the 800-meter relay for DeMatha's varsity track squad, and was part of DeMatha's 4x800 relay team that came in first at the recent Millrose Games in New York City. The annual event is considered one of the world's most prestigious indoor track meets.

Blake is also an accomplished classical pianist who enjoys playing the music of Mozart, Bach and Chopin.

Blake said his favorite subjects over the years at DeMatha, which is an all-boys school sponsored by the Order of the Most Holy Trinity (Trinitarians), were his honors classes in trigonometry and geometry and counts math teacher Virginia Mentz as an inspiration.

The now retired Mentz "helped me to gain confidence and encouraged me to continue to work hard so that someday I

could go to a top university."

In addition to his favorite subjects and his favorite teacher, Blake said he most enjoyed "the brotherhood that is here" at DeMatha.

"From the first day I walked in, I felt welcomed. And here, they offer a lot of variety of clubs and activities to choose from," he said. "I really enjoyed the brotherhood and sense of community here."

DeMatha graduate Daniel Smith seeks to 'help my community now, not later'

By Richard Szczepanowski

The Catholic Standard (May 23, 2024)

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Daniel Smith '24 will attend Xavier University in Cincinnati, after the school awarded him a Community Engaged Fellowship. This scholarship is given to students who want to continue their commitment to service.

"We will do 10 hours of community service a week," he explained. "I will be working with kids at a local school. I am really excited about this opportunity. I think it's pretty cool."

Smith is entering Xavier's Philosophy, Politics, and the Public honors program. This four-year course of study is designed to help students "understand the diversity and complexity of the public sphere through demanding academic study."

While at DeMatha, Smith worked at the food bank at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Takoma Park and said he was most moved when he served at the Oscar Romero Center in Camden, N.J. That center offers an immersion experience where students work with and live among the less fortunate people they serve, and learn about the issues facing the urban poor.

"To see how hard it is for those people kind of impacted me a lot," he said.

Smith's interest in working with students at a Cincinnati school seems to be an inherited trait. Both of his parents are longtime educators. Smith's mother, Elizabeth, taught at the now-closed St. Mark's School in Hyattsville and is currently a Pre-K teacher at St. Bernadette's School in Silver Spring. His dad, Patrick, is an English teacher at DeMatha.

Having a parent teach at his high school was not a problem,



*"Here (at DeMatha)
you can take your
time to be excellent.
Each kid here can be
special in his own way,
and it is great to be
around that kind of
environment."*

Smith said. "Dad was pretty good about it. I never had him for class, so there was no pressure," he said. "He let me do my other thing. He let me learn and grow. It was nice having him here."

Smith also has a brother who is a teacher.

His family attends St. Mark the Evangelist Parish in Hyattsville. Smith's four older brothers all graduated from DeMatha, and his sister graduated from the Academy of the Holy Cross in Kensington.

Smith's interest in community service also seems to run in the family. A brother and a sister are social workers who worked for Catholic Charities. He also has a brother who worked in Ireland to help children affected by "The Troubles." That is the name given to the three-decade-long conflict between Catholics and Protestants and unionist and republican factions in Northern Ireland.

"I like the idea of doing community service, because I want to know how I can help my community now, not later. Wanting to make an impact is something DeMatha gave me," he said.

Outside of his classwork and his community service, Smith is a member of the National Honor Society and played varsity soccer for three years – serving as captain of the team his senior

year – and was manager of the varsity tennis team.

Looking back on his education at DeMatha, Smith said the school, "let me be a sponge, where I could absorb all I could and learn all I could from the people around me."

"Here (at DeMatha) you can take your time to be excellent," he said. "Each kid here can be special in his own way, and it is great to be around that kind of environment."

Stags Win WCAC Track Championship

DeMatha's outdoor track team sent their coach out in style by winning the 2024 Washington Catholic Athletic Conference championship. Seniors Anthony Waterman, Caleb Barley and Chase Lopez led the way with first-place performances.

Less than two weeks later, Stags coach Buddy Crutchfield announced that he was leaving. In his eight years at the helm, minus the two seasons the WCAC championship was not contested (2020-21), he guided DeMatha to two second-place finishes and four WCAC titles.

The Stags seized the crown May 18 at Good Counsel with 180.5 points. McNamara was a distant second, 61.5 points behind. DeMatha was runner-up to Carroll in 2023. Crutchfield said the difference this year was the Stags' depth.

"We had at least three athletes with the opportunity to score in all [17] events," he said. "Our depth pool was pretty strong."

Waterman, an All-American who's heading to the University of Kentucky, won the 300-meter hurdles in 36.91 seconds. It's the fastest time in Maryland this season and ninth-best in the nation.

"Anthony is an outstanding athlete," Crutchfield said. "He's been with us since ninth grade and has worked really, really hard to become the hurdler that he is, to become the athlete that he is."

"There's no doubt in my mind that he's going to definitely compete at Kentucky."

Barley, who joined the Stags as a junior, showed why he's one of the top field athletes in the DMV. He captured the



Chase Lopez '24 (left) and Caleb Barley '24 were named Outstanding Male Athletes at the WCAC Track and Field Championships. Chase won the 800- and 1600-meter races, and Caleb won the discus and the shot put.

discus in 148 feet, 5 inches and the shot put in a meet-record 57 feet. He's going to High Point University.

"He did everything it took to be successful," Crutchfield said. "He wanted to be the best in the area, and he was definitely the best in the WCAC."

Lopez is a three-year soccer player who started running track as a junior. He did so well that he won the 2023 WCAC cross country individual title. In the WCAC outdoor meet, the Fairleigh Dickinson University recruit added league championships in the 800 (1:54.51) and 1600 (4:14.13). Both are meet records.

"Chase is something else," Crutchfield said. "He works very hard and is an exceptional athlete."

Waterman was second in the 110 hurdles (13.88), and Lopez took the same spot in the 3200 (9:20.92).

Sophomore Darrell Carey placed second in the long jump (22-01) and high jump (6-3). Junior Noah Hopes, in his first year jumping, was runner-up in the triple jump (44-0).

In the relays, L.J. Williams, Joshua Akodua, Austin Williams and Antonio Reddick finished No. 2 in the 4x100 (42.49). Joshua Gresham, Myles Dixon, Joshua Virgil and Waterman were second in the 4x400 (3:17.8).

Beyond the performance of his athletes, Crutchfield is quick to credit his team's success to his assistant coaches: Harry Allen, Nazell Alston, Anthony Awkward, Anthony Battle, Alfred Buckley, Khyla Link, Lenetta Mallory and Kollin Smith.

"My assistant coaches are the heart and soul of DeMatha track," Crutchfield said.

Allen, who has been with the Stags since 2021, is succeeding Crutchfield as head coach.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BRYSON BACKUS '26

SWIMMING & DIVING

DeMatha (18-0) placed second in the WCAC Championships, second in the WMPSSDL Championships and third at Metros. It was the Stags' most points ever in the WCAC meet, and junior **Joshua Lopez** won four silver medals. Freshman **Alexander Jungbluth** won a bronze and three silvers. DeMatha's 18 victories is a school record and capped its fourth undefeated season. The Stags' finish in Metros was its highest since 2010. The meet, which brings together top local public and private high schools, featured 36 boys teams. In addition, throughout the season, the team broke 11 of 12 varsity swimming records.

Lopez was named second-team All-Met, while Jungbluth, junior **Jayson Ross** and sophomore **Seamus Rooney** garnered honorable mention. This is the most Stags ever recognized in a single season. Lopez (500-yard free) and Ross (50 free) also earned national acclaim as All-Americans.

Seniors **Aidan Pereira** (UMBC), **Chengetai Zamchiya** (Babson), **Harry Rothmann** (Florida State), and **Andrew Righi** (West Point) were selected to the National Interscholastic Swimming Coaches Association Academic All-America team. Of the more than 353,000 students competing in high school aquatics, only about 2% are recognized as All-Americans. Over the past 20+ years, DeMatha has had more athletes receive this honor than any other high school in the DMV.

The Stags' 3.645 team GPA in 2023-24 was the highest of any boys team in Maryland.

OUTDOOR TRACK

Anthony Waterman '24 earned All-America honors twice with two second-place performances in the 110-meter hurdles. At the New Balance Nationals in Philadelphia, he crossed the finish line in 13.55 seconds. At the Brooks PR Invitational in Renton, Wash., his 13.51-second performance was a personal best and a new Maryland state record.

BASKETBALL

DeMatha (24-12) concluded the season by downing Bullis, 74-68 in double overtime, to win the Maryland Private School State Basketball Tournament championship. The Stags, under second-year coach **Mike G. Jones**, finished with a final Washington Post ranking of 10th. Sophomore **Ashton Meeks** and senior **Malcolm Thomas** were named honorable mention All-Met.

DeMatha opened the season by winning three games in New Orleans to capture the Newman Invitational Tournament. The Stags defeated Newman in the championship game, 66-58. Meeks was named MVP.

DeMatha has won 20 or more games in 64 of the past 67 full seasons.



BASEBALL

The Stags (25-6), who advanced to the WCAC semifinals, recorded six shutouts and had two eight-game winning streaks. Committing to continue their careers in college were seniors **Tommy Dietrich** (Washington & Jefferson), **John DiMarsico** (Coast Guard Academy), **Manny Hall** (Frostburg St.), **Jalen Jackson** (John Carroll), **Niko Long** (Southern Wesleyan), **Charley Magoullick** (Rider) and **William Walker** (Morehouse). **Brooks Franklin** has pledged to attend Navy, and fellow junior **Bud Coombs** committed to play baseball and football at Maryland. Coombs was named second-team All-Met.

RUGBY

DeMatha won the Cocorico 7s championship in the fall with a 3-1 record and defeated one of the area's top club teams (the Roosters) in the title game. The Stags are the first team other than the Roosters to win the tournament. DeMatha had a challenging spring season, and despite great effort from the players, a last minute try by St. John's kept the Stags out of the playoffs.

Senior captain **Daniel Jackson** received a scholarship to play at Mount St. Mary's. He and sophomore **Jonah Tolliver** were named first-team All-Metro Area Varsity Rugby Conference. Senior **Jabari Johnson** and junior **Liam Donnelly** were named honorable mention.

TENNIS

DeMatha (7-4-2) closed the regular season with a big victory over Gonzaga and then placed second in the league tournament. Sophomore **Cody Gray** was runner-up at No. 1 singles, as was senior **Graham Fenn** at No. 5 singles. In addition, the Stags were runners-up in No. 2 and No. 3 doubles. DeMatha also finished second overall in 2022 and won the 2023 WCAC championship.

Jacob Poole '24 will play next year at Morgan State University. He and Gray were named honorable mention All-Met.



Joseph Vartabedian had an outstanding freshman season and was named honorable mention All-Met.

GOLF

DeMatha (7-4), which spent part of its Easter break training at the U.S. Navy Seal Museum in Fort Pierce, Fla., enjoyed another successful spring. The day after closing the regular season with a 5-4 victory over O'Connell, the Stags placed fourth in the WCAC Championships. Their overall total (393) was one of their better scores in recent years.

Freshman **Joseph Vartabedian** shot an even-par 71 at the University of Maryland to finish sixth in the league tournament and was named first-team All-WCAC and honorable mention All-Met.

INDOOR TRACK

DeMatha's 4x800 relay team won the prestigious Millrose Games. **Joshua Gresham, Chase Lopez, Kelvin Blake** and **Daden Grogan** placed first in 7:48.07. **Joshua Akodu, Franklyn Akabi-During, Anthony Waterman** and **Myles Dixon** ran fourth in the 4x200 (1:28.85). **Ashton McCullers '24** and Waterman were named first-team All-Met. **Caleb Barley** earned an honorable mention.

ROWING

At the Washington Metropolitan Interscholastic Rowing Association Championships, DeMatha placed second in the Varsity 4+, third in the 2nd Varsity 4+, fifth and sixth in the 3rd Varsity 4+ and fourth in the Novice 8+. This is the Stags' best performance at the event since 2017. **Gabe Scott '24** was selected first team All-WMIRA, **Daren Pefok '24** garnered honorable mention All-Met, and **Mekhi Akonnor '25** was named first-team All-Met.

In the season-ending Scholastic Rowing Association of America National Championship Regatta, two DeMatha boats (Senior 4+, Junior 4+) finished eighth in the nation. Both had a series of fantastic races against teams from all over the country.

On June 2, the team dedicated a new 8+ shell in honor of the late **Christopher Ridgeway '06**. While at DeMatha, Christopher rowed in the fifth seat, where this quotation was placed: "Stand up for what is right even if you are standing alone." He fully lived by this sentiment and passed it on to those with whom he worked and all the young men he coached here.



Mekhi Akonnor '25 is the fourth Stag rower to be named first-team All-Met.

LACROSSE

The Stags finished 9-8 to post another winning season. Highlights include a 9-7 win over Lucy Beckham High School, which went on to win its third-straight South Carolina 4A state championship; and a 10-9 victory over Paul VI in the WCAC quarterfinals. Junior **Matt Beachley** tied the game against PVI with no time left in regulation and scored the game-winner 1:14 into overtime.

Beachley was named first-team All-WCAC and honorable mention All-Met.

On June 6, **Justin Messersmith** was named head coach. He comes to DeMatha after serving as an assistant at Broadneck High School in Annapolis.

Justin played on two state championship teams at Kent Island High School. In those two seasons (2014-15), the Buccaneers were a combined 36-4 (.900). He also contributed to Kent Island's 2014 state title-winning wrestling team. Justin was a second-team All-American midfielder at Anne Arundel Community College and earned a scholarship to Division II Newberry (S.C.) College. He graduated in 2021 with a bachelor's in communication and media studies.



Judah Cooks was named head soccer coach in March. Judah has coached and developed area players for the past 20-plus years and was a member of D.C. United from 1998-2001. He also played at Maryland and for the U-17 and U-20 U.S. National Teams. He was a DeMatha assistant coach from 2005-09.

'60s

Michael Mewshaw '61 was given a copy of "The Inner Game of Tennis" in 1974 and began to play the sport. He recently reviewed the book's 50th-anniversary edition for The Washington Post, which includes this advice: "The secret to winning any game lies in not trying too hard."

James Brown '69 received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 45th-annual Sports Emmy Awards on May 21. He is a three-time Emmy Award winner. In April, Competitive Edge EQ named him the first recipient of the James Brown Community Spirit Award. On June 4, he anchored the CBS Evening News.



Five DeMatha "Preps," from left, **Charles Levie '65**, **Chad Casserly '67**, **James Casserly '64**, **George Krammer '65** and **Martin Salisbury '63** got together at Mother's North Grille in Timonium, Md., in June. Mother's is owned by **Dave Rather '86**.

According to Charles, the Preps were a group of students who lived in the monastery on campus and were studying to be Trinitarian priests. They lived a semi-cloistered life, meaning they could only talk about two hours a day. They spent most of their non-school time either in the study hall on the second floor or in the chapel on the first. While in school, they were allowed to talk to other students but only concerning academic issues. They all had Morgan Wootten for world history, Father Louis for algebra, Mr. Cullen for Latin and Father Michael for biology. Upon graduation, if they wished, the Preps entered the main monastery in Pikesville, Md., to continue their vocation.

Charles called the event, "a joyful afternoon filled with stories from school."

'70s

Perry Clark '70 was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in June. A head coach for 19 years, Perry directed programs at Tulane, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi and Miami (Fla.). In 1992, he was named National Coach of the Year. As an assistant coach under **Morgan Wootten** at DeMatha from 1975-78, he helped the Stags post a record of 107-8.

"Dead Wrong," starring Rob Schneider and Chet Hanks, which won best film at the San Diego Film Festival, is based on the book "Deadly Instinct" by **Ken Clark** (honorary grad, class of 1971). **James Behun '75** has a small role.

Dr. Victor McCrary '73 was re-elected vice chair of

the National Science Board, which serves as governing board of the National Science Foundation and advises Congress and the president on STEM research and education policy. He works as vice president for research and professor of chemistry at the University of the District of Columbia.

Katie Piper, daughter of **Mike Landi '76**, and her husband, Bobby, had a baby boy on March 1. **James Michael Piper '42** is a nephew of **Jason '03**, **John Paul '07**, **Christopher '10** and **Joe Landi '12**. Congratulations!

In June, **Tom Carruthers '77** wrapped up another tour as road manager for Ringo Starr and his All Starr Band.

Jeff Hathaway '77 was inducted into the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics Hall of Fame in June. Jeff served as AD at Connecticut, Hofstra and Colorado State and is a former chair of the DeMatha Board of Directors.

Bobby McQuillan '77 and his son, **Rob '02**, co-owners of Fun Guy Market in Meherrin, Va., were featured on America's Best Restaurants.

Kevin Dunn '78 was named chairman of the board of CDI on July 1. CDI is the largest wholesaler of alcoholic beverages in Connecticut. Kevin also joined the boards of Empire Merchants North and Empire Merchants Metro of New York.



These DeMatha graduating classes will hold reunions on campus this fall: 1979, 1984, 1989, 1993, 1994, 1998, 1999, 2003, 2004, 2008, 2009, 2014, 2018 and 2019. For more information, contact Ben Fleri '11 at bfleri@dematha.org.

The class of 1974 held its 50th anniversary reunion on campus June 6.



Tom Krawczewicz '81 was presented with a plaque in June by **Chris '97** and **Katie Hanley** for his 30-plus years in the classroom and 300 wins as DeMatha swimming coach. Chris is on our Board of Directors and competed on the Stags' first undefeated swimming team (1995-96).



Coleman Mellett '92 is honored each year with the awarding of the Coleman Mellett '92 Scholarship. "Coley," who died in 2009, was an extremely talented jazz guitarist with Chuck Mangione's band. In May, his parents, **Ken and Mary Ellen**, were on campus to recognize the latest recipients (from left), rising juniors Jaylen Goode and Jesse Kliman. They were joined by past awardee **Chris Peace '24**.

John Farrell '78 became executive director of Warrior Ethos in March. The organization provides assistance in the career planning, professional development and placement of service members, veterans, their spouses and caregivers throughout their transition.

Dr. Thomas Hibbs '78 co-wrote "Encounters with the Counter-Cultural Power of Silence" for the University of Notre Dame Church Life Journal. In June, his essay, "A Guide to Political Detox" was published in the Dallas Morning News. Tom is a philosophy professor at Baylor University.

Tom Ponton '78 was featured on NBC4 Washington and WJZ-TV in Baltimore in pre-St. Patrick's Day stories on how to give a good toast.

Paul Sciannella '79 retired as a senior information security specialist at the Federal Reserve Board and started a new business, Delmarva Accessibility.

'80s

Law.com named **Chris Campbell '84** and a partner its Litigators of the Week on Feb. 16 after they won a \$42.9 million verdict for mobile gaming client Skillz Platform. Jurors in San Jose, Calif., ruled that AviaGames willfully infringed on Skillz' patent pairing like-minded players.

Mike Keimig '87, president and CEO of Markel Surety

Corp., in Houston, was elected chairman of the Surety & Fidelity Association of America for a two-year term starting May 1.

Dave DiLuigi '88 and his wife **Regina** were co-chairs of the Catholic Charities Gala, which raised more than \$3.15 million to bring help and hope to those in need.

Paul Hackett '88 is a trade show carpenter with the United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America.



Jim Parsons '87 (left) led the Holy Redeemer College Park boys track team to the CYO championship on May 18. **Patrick Benko '99** guided Mary of Nazareth to second place and set three new CYO records.

Daniel de Weldon '89 starred in the sci-fi series "Chaser." The eight-episode drama, about a guy who discovers software that allows him to edit the last 24 hours of his life, began airing April 12 on Prime Video.

'90s

Howard head coach **Kenny Blakeney '90** and associate head coach **Rod Balanis '88** led the Bison to the MEAC championship and automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament for the second consecutive year.

Julian Ayers '92 retired as command sergeant major from the United States Army Band after a 26-year career.

Bryan Daniels '92 was a finalist for Washington Post Principal of the Year. He works at The Children's Guild DC Public Charter School.

Rev. Dr. Jonathan Allen '83 earned his doctorate of ministry degree.

Father Shaun Foggo '95 became pastor of St. Joseph in



Nnamse Ammons '99 has written a book, "Achieving Excellence: The Complete Guide to Earning a Full Athletic Scholarship in Non-Traditional Sports." He emphasizes the importance of balancing academics and athletics, and features topics such as understanding the landscape of athletic scholarships to developing discipline, time management and leadership skills.

Ammons was the first swimmer to be inducted into the DeMatha Hall of Fame (2022). He was named first team All-Met in 1999 after winning the Washington Prep School, National Catholic and Washington Metros championships in the 50- and 100-yard free. He earned a scholarship to Florida State University and competed in the U.S. Olympic Trials.

Ammons is principal at Apex International Consulting in Washington, D.C. He is also the author of "If You Can Swim, You Can Code."



Father Damian celebrated the funeral Mass for **Mrs. Doris Parker** in March. Father is pictured here with five of Mrs. Parker's grandsons, each of whom serve in the Navy (from left): **Billy Looney '02**, **Steve Looney '01**, **Michael Parker '12**, **Graham Parker '23** and **Matthew Parker '14**.

Beltsville, Md., in July. He taught and coached at DeMatha before being ordained a priest in 2013.

Dave Kolesar '95 was honored in April by the National Association of Broadcasters with its Radio Engineering Achievement Award. The tribute goes to individuals who are nominated by their peers for significant contributions to advancing broadcast engineering.

Matt Duffy '97 had several of his sculptures on display at Artomatic in Washington, D.C. Matt has numerous public art sculptures around the United States.

Tommy Paolucci '97, director of recruiting operations for Maryland football, was named February Terp of the Month.

Dr. John Bunce '98, is now assistant curator, South American ethnology, at the American Museum of Natural History in New York. He is also an assistant professor at the museum's Richard Gilder Graduate School.

'00s

Jonathan Woody '01 starred in May at the Kennedy Center and in New York as Apollo in Opera Lafayette's "Les Fêtes de Thalie."

Garrett Jackson '02 will be performing in London with the Jason Max Ferdinand Singers on their September trip to BBC Proms, the world's largest and longest-running classic music festival.

Mark Murphy '02 is the owner of Ingrained Floorcovering Solutions, providing the DMV with floorcovering sales, installation, cleaning and maintenance.

Blake Palmer '02 has a new job as a materials manager for Lockheed Martin.

Dr. Michael Bunce '03, head of research and head of design and analysis for MAHLE Powertrain, received the Society of Automotive Engineers Foundation's Young Industry Leadership Award. The honor recognizes individuals with

significant accomplishments who demonstrate leadership in their field and the promotion of STEM education.

Mike Ayala '04 left DeMatha after eight years as a history and social studies teacher to become

assistant principal at Annapolis Area Christian School (Upper School).

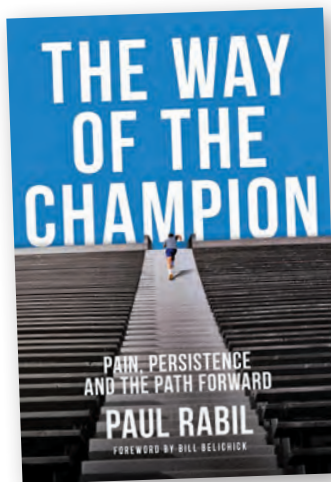
Chris Chambers '04 was recently promoted to president and global chief commercial officer of Reveal Lasers in Gambrills, Md.

Dan Favret '04 produced a WJZ-TV feature in March on **Garrett Degnon '18** of Johns Hopkins lacrosse, who wore No. 40 in honor of the late **Brendan Looney '99**.

Chris Duffy '05 has opened Empactart, a nonprofit dedicated to using art to inspire and heal communities. The company already has multiple national contracts to educate students and create public art.

Andrew Quinn '05 left DeMatha as a teacher and head soccer coach in June to take a job with the Department of Homeland Security.

Matthew Dantas-McCutcheon '06 is now a software development engineer II with Amazon Web Services.



Paul Rabil '04, cofounder of the Premier Lacrosse League and one of the greatest players in lacrosse history, is now an author. "The Way of the Champion" synthesizes the lessons he learned to develop a champion's mindset in business, sports and relationships. In May, Paul discussed the PLL Draft on SportsCenter. In June, he participated in the Olympic Torch Relay in France.



Jerami Grant '12 has joined the D.C. United ownership group as an investor.

Parnell Hegngi '08 is DeMatha's new director of soccer programming. He was associate head coach here for four years before a two-year stint at Elizabeth Seton High School. He played professionally in Germany.

Evan Kee '08 led the Apprentice School men's basketball team to the USCAA Division I National Championship in March. With their 73-68 win over Lyon College, the Builders (25-5) set the single-season school record for victories. In April, Evan was named head coach at Randolph College in Lynchburg, Va.

Rodney McLeod '08, a member of the DeMatha Board of Directors, announced this will be his final NFL season. A defensive back for the Cleveland Browns, Rodney played on the Philadelphia Eagles' 2017 Super Bowl championship team.

Eric Cortellessa '09 wrote a TIME cover story on Donald Trump in April and discussed it on several news shows.

'10s

Brian Alvarez '10 has accepted a position as vice president, partner with National Office Systems.

Luis Cortes '10 and **Karla Maraboli** were married April 6. Many Stags in attendance. Congratulations!

Arie Kouandjio '10 is a senior business rotation professional at NextEra Energy.

Michael Lowe '10 is a financial planner with Northwestern Mutual.

Jerrell Parrish '10 graduated in May from the UNLV PGA Golf Management Program.

Joe Sullivan '10 and **Shannon Rice** (Seton '11) were married April 20. Several Stags attended. Congratulations!



Cam Phillips '14 (right) has been hired as a graduate assistant football coach at his alma Mater, Virginia Tech. Phillips is the Hokies' all-time leader in receptions (236) and receiving yards (3,027). The hiring reunites Cam with former DeMatha head coach and Virginia Tech running backs coach **Elijah Brooks '02**.



Ja'Whaun Bentley '14 (center) of the New England Patriots was honored by the Touchdown Club of Washington, D.C., as its Pro Player of the Year. In 2014, the group named him Maryland High School Player of the Year. DeMatha football coaches **Deno Campbell '81** (left) and **Will Weathers '99** attended the recent event.

Dr. Zachary Gandee '11 is a resident in the Department of Anesthesiology at Brown University. He graduated from Thomas Jefferson University medical school in 2021.

Paul Bailey '12 is a new programmer on WPFW 89.3 FM.

James Robinson '12 left Delaware in March to join coach **Mike Jones' '91** basketball staff at Old Dominion. James helped lead Mike's Stags to three WCAC championships.

Bill Kerr '13 is now an assistant soccer coach at his alma mater, UMBC. Bill spent the past four years as the assistant coach at Stevenson University.

Chris Ordoobadi '13 played this past season for the Florida Everblades, which became the first team in ECHL history to win three straight Kelly Cup championships. The Everblades are the AA affiliate of the Stanley Cup Champion Florida Panthers. Chris turned pro in 2018.

Daniel Wolf '13 was promoted to sergeant in the U.S. Army on June 1. His duty station is Fort Cavazos, Texas, and he's presently deployed in Europe.

Andrew Boroski '14 has been promoted to senior relationship manager, government contracting group at M&T Bank.

Errol Clarke '14, a former DeMatha golfer, has been accepted into the Harvard Business School.

Mark DePrato '14 left DeMatha to become a proposal development specialist with CareFirst BlueCross BlueShield. Mark returned to campus to teach in 2020, and for the past two years worked in the Advancement Office and was head rugby coach.

Charlie Paul '14 and **Caitlin Kolb** (Seton '13) were married April 6 and had their reception in the Antler Room. Charlie is a grandson of **Morgan Wootten**; Caitlin is a granddaughter of **Ray Smith**. Congratulations!

Dr. Chad Lilley '15 earned a doctor of musical arts degree May 12 from the University of Missouri-Kansas City Conservatory. He received a bachelor's from Michigan in 2019 and a master's from Northwestern in 2021. He was DeMatha's first U.S. Presidential Scholar.

Ryan McFadden '15 of the Denver Post appeared on the Dan Patrick Show on March 5 discussing the Broncos' quarterback situation.

Dr. Ben Skinner '15 graduated with honors May 19 from the Edward Via Virginia College of Medicine in Blacksburg as a graduate with research distinction. He is now a resident in emergency medicine at Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center in Winston-Salem, N.C.



Caleb Dean '19 won the NCAA 60-meter hurdles (7.56) indoor championship to help Texas Tech capture the national crown. He added an outdoor national title by winning the 400m hurdles. His time of 47.23 is the second-fastest in NCAA history. He won two heats in the 400m hurdles at the U.S. Olympic Trials and was named Men's National Track Athlete of the Year.

John Berard '16 started a new job with Whiting-Turner Contracting Co. in Baltimore.

Beau English '17 graduated May 11 from the University of Richmond Law School. He pursued his law degree while playing quarterback for the Spiders. Beau led DeMatha to three straight (2014-16) WCAC championships.

Chase Young '17 signed a one-year, \$13 million contract in March with the New Orleans Saints.

Garrett Degnon '18 was a third-round (No. 18 overall) pick of the California Redwoods in the Professional Lacrosse League Draft. He finished his Johns Hopkins career with a school-record 46-game goal-scoring streak.

Eli Klopp '18 is working in Dallas as a life scientist for the EPA.

John Morgan '18 signed as a free agent with the New England Patriots, and Josh Wallace '19 signed with the Los Angeles Rams.

Nick Wolcott '18 graduated from The Ohio State University on May 5 with a bachelor of arts in criminal justice.

Melvin Yates '18 is a web/internet/intranet site developer junior at NGEN in Lanham, Md.

Carsten Kogelnik '19 is an investment banking analyst with Barclays in New York.

Justin Moore '19 played with the Milwaukee Bucks in the NBA Summer League. He also shared the Jack Kraft Award, given to the Villanova basketball player



From left, **Ryan Allen '17**, **Luke Farrell '14**, **LeRoy Allen '83**, **Terry Farrell '83** and **Spencer (Pokey) Allen '86** met by chance in Boston on May 12.

who commits to defending for 40 minutes.

John-Paul Teti '19 and **Elizabeth Greene** were married June 22 at St. Francis de Sales in Philadelphia. His brothers **Joseph '19** and **Lincoln '21** attended, along with several other Stags. Congratulations!

Jahmir Young '19 has signed a contract to go to training camp with the Denver Nuggets.

Chris Prokopchak '20 graduated from Penn State and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Marines.

'20s

Kansas center **Hunter Dickinson '20** was named a consensus second-team All-American. In April, he announced he would return to college for one more season.

Connor Feeley '20 graduated in May from the Naval Academy. In September, he will begin training at Naval Air Station Pensacola (Fla.) to become a Navy pilot.



Jack Bulger '20, an All-America baseball player at DeMatha, was named Mr. Commodore at Vanderbilt University's Golden Doves banquet. The award goes to a male athlete who exemplifies "leadership, dedication and excellence." Jack graduated this spring with a degree in economics.

Jack Smith '20 finished his college lacrosse career as Randolph-Macon's all-time scoring leader with 289 career points. One of the players he passed along the way was RMC Hall of Famer **Frank Smollon '93**. Jack and **Ryan Pritchard '21** were named USILA Scholar All-Americans, and Jack was also honored as a Division III third team All-American.

Elijah Hawkins '21 set the University of Minnesota record for assists in a regular-season game (17) and postseason game (15). He transferred to Texas Tech.

Colin Mester '22 received the Charles "Chip" Hart Award, presented to the Hobart

College oarsman whose determination and commitment throughout the season have been inspirational to the rowing team. **Owen O'Connor '22** is one of Colin's teammates.

Rodney Rice '22 will play basketball at Maryland this season.

Joel Ayers '23, a right fielder and catcher at Marywood University in Scranton, Pa., was named second-team All-Atlantic East Conference and Rookie of the Year.

Owen Kramer '23 is an intern at the NASA Center for Space Sciences and Technology at the UMBC Observatory.



Thomas Parsons '20 graduated from the University of Alabama with a bachelor's in management information systems and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army. Sharing in his achievement are his mom, **Lisa**, and dad, **Jim '87**.

54th Annual DeMatha Senior Boosters CRAB FEAST

Saturday, September 28, 4-7 pm

Adults \$85 advance/\$95 door • Kids (under 12) \$70 advance/\$80 door

Pay by Mail: Make checks payable to: DeMatha Senior Boosters with phone number on check. No checks accepted after 09-18-24

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Pay by Credit Card: store.dematha.org
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Questions/Seating Preferences: [demathacrabfeast@gmail](mailto:demathacrabfeast@gmail.com)

IN MEMORIAM

Ann Page Ayers, mother of David Page '86 and Julian Ayers '92. Grandmother of Julian Jr. '17, Joel '23 and Jason '28.

Marie Berard, mother of James '74. Grandmother of Michael '98, Russell '99, Kevin '06, Phillip '08 and Declan '19.

Tom Bergeron '80.

Dennis Bergman '63.

Doug Baldwin, DeMatha teacher in the 1970s and early '80s. Father of John '79 and stepfather of Ron Cancelose '78.

Terrence Brown, brother of James '69 and John '71 (dec.).

Alex Burtnick, former Spanish teacher.

Horace Cascio, father of Wayne '73 and Steve '76.

William Clements, father of Michael '78 and Steven '80.

Theresa Contino, mother of Tony '99.

Linda Day, mother of John '84 and Michael '88.

John Dean '61, brother of William '60 and brother-in-law of David Banwarth '66.

Joseph Dintino, father of Jimmy '89.

William "Bo" Ellis, Jr. '77.

Paul Griffin '93.

Sally Guaragna, mother of Al '74 and Sal '75.

Kenneth Hardie, father of Marco '00.

Robert Hawk, father of John '81, James '82 and Joseph '88.

Joseph Hunt '79.

Maura Jeffords, mother of Patton '23.

Charles "Chip" Klosek '94.

Kevin Knott '93, brother of Shawn '95. Father of Evan '22.

Carol Lawson, mother of Warren Williams '02.

Ella Lemon, mother of Joe '71 and Patrick '85.

Terry Lynch, father of Chris '06

Lucia Macaluso, mother of Anthony '09.

Butch McAdams, longtime coach, radio host and friend of DeMatha.

Daniel McMahon III, father of DeMatha Principal Dr. Daniel McMahon IV '76 and Timothy '78. Grandfather of Daniel V '05 and Lucas Farmer '13. Great grandfather of Troy Neel '27.

John Mitchell '85, brother of Joseph '82 and Jerry '86.

Joan Murphy, mother of Lloyd '87.

Suzanne Murphy, sister of Marilyn, former faculty member.



*The DeMatha community was deeply saddened to learn of the May 14 passing of **Frank Persico**, the father of **Rob '02**. Frank was a member of the DeMatha Board of Directors and chair of the Advancement Committee. He also did a tremendous job as chair of our 75th Anniversary Gala. Frank and his wife, **Stevie**, traveled to all seven continents. He is shown here in Antarctica. He will be missed.*

William O'Grady, father of Eamon '91.

Tommy Page '77.

Eileen Patrick, mother of James and Kevin. Wife of Jim (dec.), devoted DeMatha supporter.

David Pekar, father of Anthony '88 (dec.).

Frank Persico, former DeMatha board member and father of Rob '02.

James and Frances Powers, parents of Matt '77, Tom '78 and Paul '82.

Raymond Richardson, father of Travis '89.

Geralyn Lawrence Roberson, sister of Syd Lawrence '65 (dec.) and Fred Lawrence '80. Sister-in-law of Wayne Cascio '73.

Frank Scibek Jr., two-time president of the DeMatha Men's Club and father of David '79, Frank III '80 and Scott '86.

Shawn Settles '89.

Reginald Taylor, father of Kevin '81 and Kirk '93.

Carol Vander Velden, mother of David '86.

Dr. Dimitri Zafirooulos, father of Jim '82 and Steven '88. Grandfather of James '20.

DeMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Red & Blue

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2024 VARSITY FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

AUGUST

31 at Spalding 7 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

6 **Legacy Academy**..... TBD

13 **Freedom** TBD

20 at Roman Catholic 7 p.m.
(Philadelphia, Pa.)

27 at Washington 7 p.m.
(Massillon, Ohio)

OCTOBER

4 **Life Christian** TBD

12 at Gonzaga 2 p.m.

18 **Good Counsel** 7 p.m.

26 at St. John's 1 p.m.

NOVEMBER

1 **McNamara**..... 7 p.m.

Home Games in Bold

2024 VARSITY SOCCER SCHEDULE

AUGUST

29 at Severn 4 p.m.

SEPTEMBER

6 Churchill at Good Counsel..... TBD

7 at Whitman 7:45 p.m.

13 at Landon 3:30 p.m.

17 **Good Counsel** **3:30 p.m.**

19 at The Heights..... TBD

24 at Paul VI TBD

26 **St. John's** **3:30 p.m.**

OCTOBER

1 **Carroll**..... **3:30 p.m.**

2 **Leonardtown** **3:30 p.m.**

3 **Ireton**..... **3:30 p.m.**

8 at St. Mary's Ryken 6:30 p.m.

10 at Gonzaga 3 p.m.

15 **O'Connell**..... **3:30 p.m.**

17 at McNamara..... TBD

22 **John Paul the Great** **3:30 p.m.**