



stepinac news » 2019



STEPINAC UNVEILS
IT'S TWO NEW

ACTIVE LEARNING CENTERS

MODELED AFTER COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S CLASSROOMS, THE NEW STATE-OF-THE-ART LEARNING ENVIRONMENT WILL CONTINUE STEPINAC'S MISSION TO PREPARE STUDENTS FOR POST-SECONDARY SUCCESS. STORY ON PG.15



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Vice Principal for Academics

Mr. Dennis Buckley '82
Vice President Advancement

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Mr. Keith Sunderland '94
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Mr. Patrick Massaroni '06
Br. Fred Sambor, fms
Mr. Paul Thomas '80

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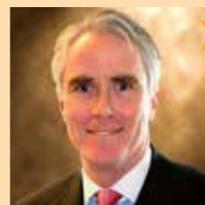
DATES >>
TO REMEMBER

Open House II
Sun., October 27, 2019

TACHS Exam
Fri., November 8, 2019

Registration
Class of 2024
Wed., March 4, 2020

Board of Trustees News



JOHN P. CAHILL '77
STEPINAC TRUSTEE, NAMED CHIEF OF STAFF,
SPECIAL COUNSEL TO ARCHBISHOP OF NEW YORK

Cardinal Dolan has appointed John P. Cahill to the newly created position of chief of staff and special counsel to the Archbishop of New York. The appointment became effective April 8. Cahill has most recently served as senior counsel

at the law firm of Norton Rose Fulbright. He also served as secretary to the governor from 2002 to 2006 during the administration of Gov. George Pataki. As chief of staff and special counsel to the Archbishop, he will coordinate the legal and communications response on behalf of the Archdiocese regarding various legal and legislative matters, oversee the continuing energetic response and reform in the archdiocese in the face of the sexual abuse crisis, advise the cardinal on various internal and external issues, and assist the Ccardinal in the administration of the Archdiocese.



JIM SCULLY '80
PARADE GRAND
MARSHAL

TOM ULRICH '82
PAT MASSARONI '06
AIDES TO THE
GRAND MARSHAL



Jim was the Grand Marshal for the 22nd annual White Plains St. Patrick's Day Parade, this past March. The parade aims to "celebrate the contributions of the history, culture of the Irish." It began with an invocation by Rev. Thomas Collins '79 before Grand Marshal Scully lead the route. Tom Ulrich '82 and Patrick Massaroni '06 escorted Jim along the route as aides to the Grand Marshall



Kevin Keane '74
Chairman,
Board of Trustees

**On behalf of the Stepinac High School
Board of Trustees,**

I wanted to thank all of you for the many ways you believe in and support Stepinac. From the dedicated teachers, students and families, alumni, coaches, administrators, the list goes on; you've all helped make Stepinac thrive these past 71 years and especially the past ten years.

Ten years ago, when we became independent, a Board of Trustees was formed to govern Stepinac. We were charged to stay on mission and to enhance the educational and spiritual experience, while providing the resources to be nationally recognized in our arts and athletics. The technological and physical plant enhancements the past ten years have transformed Stepinac into an educational destination!

**The technological
and physical plant
enhancements the past ten
years have transformed
Stepinac into an
educational destination!**

The Board of Trustees is comprised of dedicated professionals, who bring their own unique style and professional skill set; accounting, legal, finance, education, technology, to name a few. Their work on committees (admissions, technology, advancement, curriculum, and physical plant) is what has set Stepinac apart from other schools in the area.

I am grateful to the many individuals, organizations and companies who have partnered with Stepinac because they believe that our students will hold the key to making the world a better place. I pray that God will bless everyone for their support and for the difference that they make in our students lives, and consequently, on our future.

Sincerely,

KEVIN KEANE '74
Chairman, Board of Trustees



Fr. Thomas Collins '79
President

Dear Fellow Alumni and Friends of Stepinac,

This year, we will be celebrating our tenth anniversary as an independent Catholic college preparatory school. In 2009, the Archdiocese announced that its 11 member schools of the Catholic High School Association of New York were to become independent from the diocese.

We accepted the challenge head on and in the course of ten years we; doubled our enrollment, were nationally recognized as a leader in technology, instituted our own honors academy, received accreditation from the Middle States Association, offer The AP Capstone Diploma, saw our drama club soar to new heights and have been crowned state champions in both basketball and football.

On a daily basis I am reminded of how honored I am to lead this great institution. Our students' accomplishments in the classroom, theater, athletic arenas, labs, and in the chapel are too numerous to recount. Our students make us proud each and every day; living the Stepinac mission and ever-trying to be men for and with others.

In our 2007 capital campaign, our tag line was, "Knowledge and Faith: Our Foundation, Our Tomorrow". That tomorrow has been realized with all of the fruits of our labor from the last ten years – and our new tomorrow is just as exciting and eagerly anticipated! We look to add more Active Learning Centers, send students to elite colleges and universities and to continue to be the leading light as the standard bearer for curriculum innovation by educators across the nation and around the world, Stepinac provides students with the most advanced learning platforms to assure that they will succeed in college and beyond.

We ask for you to help us continue our mission by supporting Stepinac. With your participation and that of others, we will go forward and build upon our long and storied history. Your participation makes a difference and sends a powerful message to our students, parents and faculty.

It is my intention to always make you proud to support Stepinac and I am devoted to protecting its very special legacy for us and for the generations to follow!

Peace,

REVEREND THOMAS COLLINS '79
President

military alumni



REAR ADMIRAL WILLIAM KELLY '83 APPOINTED SUPERINTENDENT OF THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD ACADEMY

Rear Admiral William G. Kelly assumed the duties of the 42nd Superintendent of the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut, May 30, 2019. He reported to the Academy after serving as Assistant Commandant for Human Resources in Washington, DC. As Superintendent, Rear Admiral Kelly oversees the Coast Guard Academy's recruitment, accession, education, development and graduation of cadets with a Bachelor of Science degree, prepared to serve as officers in the United States Coast Guard. He leads a diverse faculty and staff who carry out a comprehensive 4-year program that combines academics, athletics, leadership and professional development to develop leaders of character ready to serve their country and humanity.



ROCCO ANGIOLELLI '92 AND MIKE RODICK '97 DEFEND THE ARABIAN GULF

GO STEPINAC! Unbelievable coincidence or destiny? Two Stepinac alumni meet as Commanders in the defense of the Arabian Gulf. US Army LTC Mike Rodick '97 (left), US Command 1st Battalion, 43rd Air Defense Artillery and US Air Force Lt. Col. Rocco Angiolelli (right) '92 commands the 727 Expeditionary Air Control Squadron. Mike is a graduate of the Class of 1997 and Rocco is a graduate of the Class of 1992. Both have served together in the Middle East in charge of the defense of all air and ground forces. The likelihood of both graduates serving together in command together is amazing. Both agree they are the men they are today because of the education of Stepinac and mentors like you!



VICE ADMIRAL ALBERT KONETZNI '62 SUBMARINE HEADQUARTERS BUILDING NAMED IN HONOR OF HIM

Apra Harbor, GUAM — The Commander, Submarine Squadron 15 (CSS-15) headquarters building in Guam was named in honor of Vice Adm. Albert H. Konetzni, Jr., during a ceremony April 19. Konetzni was the Pacific Submarine Force commander who saw to the squadron's reactivation in 2001, which included forward-deploying of three attack submarines out of Guam. "Vice Adm. Konetzni has been a mentor of mine for decades," said Adm. John Richardson, the U.S. Navy Chief of Naval Operations. "He taught me in clear terms that the three most important things about leading in our Navy were the people, the people, and the people. His focus on our Sailors – loving them, inspiring them to perform, and holding them to high standards – changed my thinking forever. His service and relationships in the Pacific are still defining the terms of our operations and partnerships there. This is such a fitting tribute to Admiral Al Konetzni."



BRANDON COLEMAN '15 AND MATTHEW DESJARDIN '15 GRADUATE FROM U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

Brandon (left) and Matt (right) were among the approximate 1,200 men and women of the U.S. Naval Academy's Class of 2019 who were commissioned as officers during graduation ceremonies on May 24 in Annapolis, Md. Coleman and Desjardin, who excelled academically and athletically as Stepinac students, earned the Naval Academy's honor following four years of challenging study and training as Naval Academy midshipmen. Coleman will begin extensive training as a naval aviator and Desjardin will join the Marine Corps officer ranks. At Stepinac, Coleman was a two-sport athlete (football and basketball) and led the Stepinac Crusaders varsity football team to the 2014 CHSFL AAA Championship, an undefeated 12-0 season and its first state crown. Desjardin was an outstanding member of the Crusaders track and field team, who earned all-county honors in the 2014 long jump category and was named team MVP all four seasons. He was also a member of Stepinac's National Honor Society chapter.

athletics

STEPINAC REPEATS AS THE WINNER OF LOHUD'S TOM WHELAN ALL SPORTS AWARD

Stepinac wins the award in back-to-back years for winning or challenging for city championships in several major sports, including football, baseball and basketball.

Stepinac, the repeat winner of this award, faced stiff competition from Rye Country Day, Iona Prep and Harvey. Those schools might've produced a higher quantity of success, but Stepinac won or challenged for city championships in several major sports. The football team won CHSFL and Catholic state titles for the second straight year. The baseball and basketball teams overcame slow starts to reach the city championship round against arguably the best competition in the state. "We are proud to be named the Private School of the Year in back to back years against such great private-school athletic programs in the Westchester area," Stepinac athletic director and football coach Mike O'Donnell said. "As we just saw with the U.S. women's soccer team, doing anything back to back is a difficult task. It's always about the kids for us. We are proud of their accomplishments."

FOOTBALL

Stepinac Football Wins CHSFL AAA Championship Fourth in Five Years

Stepinac hoisted the Michael Cunnion Memorial Trophy again, after beating Cardinal Hayes High School, 29-18, to capture their fourth CHSFL AAA Championship in five years. The Crusaders beat Hayes, 29-18, to repeat as AAA

Champs. "What we went through at 1-4 and coming out and winning every game since, makes this feel even more amazing," commented quarterback Joey Carino. The junior quarterback had a remarkable game for the second seeded Crusaders, while completing 10-of-16 passes for 234 yards and three touchdowns without an interception.

State Champs Again!

The Crusaders put on a performance to remember, dominating the Buffalo-based Red Raiders 49-7 in front of a capacity crowd at Archbishop Stepinac High School to repeat as state champs and become the first host school to win the state final game. "It was an unbelievable day," said Stepinac head coach Mike O'Donnell, who was unfazed by having a bucket of ice water poured on his back during the final seconds of the game on a brisk late-November afternoon.

Crusaders Fall in City Finals

For the better part of two and maybe three seasons, Stepinac shot the ball better than any team in the CHSAA. But in the fourth quarter of the city championship at Fordham, the Crusaders' greatest strength became a weakness at the most inopportune time. The defending champs went 0 for 17 and were held to just four points in the fourth quarter by Christ the King, which rallied from a 14-point second-half deficit to stun Stepinac 61-56 at Rose Hill Gym. CTK began to aggressively trap stars R.J. Davis and Adrian Griffin Jr. in the final seconds of the first "Their game plan worked in the second half," Stepinac coach Pat

Massaroni said. "It got us." The tactic had been deployed by other opponents recently. This time, the Crusaders couldn't make enough shots to counter it. "They have a great coach and their game plan definitely worked," said Davis, who had two points in the second half after erupting for 20 in the first. "We had some open shots that we normally make that we couldn't knock down. Hats off to them for playing great defense on us."

BASEBALL

Baseball Team makes it to the Finals

Stepinac Baseball continued to have success in 2019. The Crusaders finished the year 19-11, #5 in the Lohud Westchester/Putnam rankings & #8 in the NYSSWA "AA" NY State rankings. After battling several key injuries during the season, the Crusaders went on an amazing run all the way to the CHSAA "AA" Championship Game. Stepinac earned byes through the first 2 rounds of CHSAA playoffs, and then swept St. Joseph by the Sea in a best of 3 3rd Round series. After a tough opening round loss in the Championship Tournament, the Crusaders battled to win 4 straight elimination games, knocking off St. Rays (12 inning comeback win), All Hallows, Molloy and Iona Prep. Several Stepinac players earned individual honors including Michael Becchetti (Lohud "9 That Shine" & 1st Team All Star, CHSAA 1st Team All-League), Dominic Nicolo (Lohud 2nd team All Star, CHSAA 1st Team All-League), and Izaiah Walker (Lohud 2nd Team All-Star, CHSAA 1st Team All-league, 2 time CHSAA Player of the Week). The following members of the Varsity team will continue their

baseball careers in the NCAA, Michael Becchetti (Fairfield University), Dominic Nicolo (Southern Connecticut State University), Izaiah Walker (Southern Connecticut State University), Christopher Fox (Dominican College), Nickolas Venuti (College of Mt. St. Vincent), and Johnathan Delango (College of Mt. St. Vincent). We look forward to another successful season for Stepinac Baseball in 2020!

BASKETBALL

Varsity "B" Basketball League Champs

The 2018-2019 Varsity "B" Basketball season started off on a high note by winning a pre-season tournament at the Hackley School. This would prove to be a foreshadowing of things to come. This eclectic team had five teammates that started off playing together at St. Barnabas CYO and six multi-sport varsity athletes that formed a solid base for the squad. Four students played three sports; Malik Grant, Colin Sharkey, Mike Cally and Aidan Flood (son of Rob '87). Two students managed to play four varsity sports; James Donovan and Nate Henderson (son of Sean '89). "Winning consistently requires the right combination of skill, effort, commitment and attitude" according to second year Head Coach Matt Hanley "practicing at 6:30am requires a commitment level that is atypical for high school". In the end after posting a 20-2 record, Varsity "B" captured the 2019 City Championship. After graduating all but two players from last year the 2019-2020 team will have a totally different look.

"We are proud to be named the 'Private School of the Year' in back to back years against such great private-school athletic programs in the Westchester area."

Mike O'Donnell
Stepinac Athletic Director
and Football Coach



STUDENTS IN THE NEWS

Each year, Stepinac students provide over 25,000 hours of community service as part of their curriculum requirements – but more importantly it gives them the Christian Foundation of service.

Here are just a few examples of our student accomplishments:

» Adrian Griffin Jr. & R.J. Davis.

PICK UP BIG-TIME COLLEGE OFFERS

Stepinac rising junior Adrian Griffin Jr. and rising senior R.J. Davis both received a great deal of attention on the first day that colleges were allowed to offer Scholarships

Griffin, the 6-foot-6 shooting guard, who helped the United States Men's Under-16 team win gold at the FIBA Americas U16 Championship in Belém, Brazil, received offers from four of the top programs in the country: Duke, Kansas, Villanova and UCLA. Later, he also received offers from Michigan and Vanderbilt.

This past season, the 15-year-old had averages of 20.9 points, 10.9 rebounds, 3.9 assists, 3.5 blocks and 2.4 steals per game while also shooting 48 percent from the field and 44 percent from 3-point range, despite dealing with a foot injury during the season. With his six newest offers, Griffin, a consensus five-star recruit, now has offers from 18 Division-I schools.

Rising senior R.J. Davis, who has shot up the recruit rankings this offseason, picked up offers from UCLA and Vanderbilt on Friday. The 6-foot-1 guard, who is named to the all-tournament team in the NBPA Top 100 camp at the University of Virginia this summer, is already Stepinac's all-time leading scorer. He led the CHSAA this past season in scoring with 25.4 points per game, while also averaging 7.0 rebounds, 4.9 assists and 1.7 steals per game.

He shot 49 percent from the field, 34 percent from 3 and 84 percent on free throws. Davis, a four-star recruit, also has offers from: Florida, Marquette, Northwestern, Indiana, Pittsburgh, Providence, Georgetown, Iona, Cincinnati, Penn State, Yale, Seton Hall, Maryland, Illinois, St. John's, Fordham, Old Dominion, Saint Louis, La Salle, Manhattan and UMass.

» Jeremy Fuentes

PICKS UP TWO MORE AWARDS!

Jeremy Fuentes, Stepinac Junior, Won another top acting accolade for his Performance in A Bronx Tale—this time the 2019 Metro Award! Jeremy won the Metropolitan High School Theater Awards (Metro) Outstanding Acting Performance for his lead role as Calogero in Stepinac Theatre's recent national high school premiere of A Bronx Tale, the Broadway hit musical. Also at the 2019 Metro Awards ceremony, Stepinac Theatre won the Outstanding Lobby Design award for A Bronx Tale.

This award follows on the heels of Jeremy's capturing the coveted Best Actor Roger Rees Award for Excellence in Student Performance for the same role. In his freshman year, the talented Fuentes joined the acclaimed Stepinac Theatre and captured the lead actor 2017 Metro for his performance in the title role of The Hunchback of Notre Dame musical which also earned Stepinac the year's best musical production award.

» Stephen Buckley

ATTENDED HIGHLY SELECTIVE HARVARD PRE-COLLEGE PROGRAM

The Harvard program's "intent is to have students learn rather than to achieve grades, thus giving them the ability to grow as individuals with their peers." To participate in the program, Buckley selected an advanced course in computer science, which was part of a very unique, two-week immersive, collaborative and residential experience at the venerable learning institution.

In January, the academically high-achieving student, who has been pursuing advanced studies in engineering as a member of Stepinac's groundbreaking Honors Academy, was notified with exciting news that he had been accepted to attend Harvard's highly selective program.

The noncredit course was part of a very unique, two-week immersive, collaborative and residential experience at the venerable learning institution. According to the Harvard University Extension Program, the course "challenges students to diplomatically converse, debate and engage." individuals with their peers."

» Kevin McKenna

REPRESENTS USA IN THE 2019 INTERNATIONAL BOWL X VS CANADA

Kevin competed with Team USA as they took on Canada in the 2019 International Bowl X on January 11 in Dallas, TX.

Kevin helped Team USA cruise to a 61 - 7 victory by returning a punt for a touchdown in the 2nd quarter. McKenna has been a rock on Stepinac's defense the last two seasons. He has started at inside linebacker on the last two championship teams and already combined for 206 tackles. Expect the Utah lacrosse commit — who has also been offered a preferred walk-on spot on the football team — to receive more touches on offense as a senior. Kevin was named to the Lohud Super 11 pre-season football team. He, along with senior quarterback, Joey Carino, were tabbed as two of the best 11 in Westchester and Rockland. The three-year standout at linebacker had 10 tackles in Stepinac's 34-14 opening day win over PSAL power Lincoln at Rutgers University, but he had a major impact in all three phases. McKenna blocked a punt. He also served as the team's long snapper and downed one punt at the 1 and hustled to make an open-field tackle on another. Even so, his two most impressive plays may have occurred from the center position. On one punt, McKenna snapped the ball and dashed through a series of blockers to record an open-field tackle. On another, he hustled downfield and downed a punt at the 1. McKenna's play helped Stepinac improve to 1-0 and earned Lohud Player of the week accolades for his efforts against Lincoln.

(l-r): Adrian Griffin Jr., R.J. Davis, Jeremy Fuentes, Stephen Buckley, and Kevin McKenna





Kevin Keane, Fr. Collins, Sylvia Simmons, Nate Henderson, Lisa Henderson Natalie Tahal, Xavier Flores, John Stone



Fr. Collins, RJ Davis, Tom Martin, Kevin Keane



Fr. Collins, Omar Loayza, Peter Fitzgerald, Kevin Keane



Fr. Collins, Declan Bruton, Tom Devine, Kevin Keane

trustees reception

Stepinac's 2019 Trustees Reception was very a special evening which honored a group of loyal friends of Stepinac, who have immeasurably enriched our school and who have made a lasting contribution toward strengthening Stepinac's position as THE Catholic High School in the County of Westchester.



THE HONOREES AND THEIR AWARDS WERE:

The Distinguished Alumnus Award
MR. THOMAS MARTIN '65

The Community Citizens Award
Sound Associates
T. RICHARD FITZGERALD '58
PETER FITZGERALD '65

The Partner in Education Award
Healy Electric
THOMAS DEVINE

The Student Enrichment Award
THE LADY CRUSADER'S
AND CRUSADER MEN'S CLUB

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE HONOREES WHOSE SELFLESS DEDICATION AND CONTRIBUTIONS PERSONIFY STEPINAC'S IDEALS.



A BRONX TALE

Another National Premier for **the drama club**

“Now, after attending the first licensed production of our show at the Stepinac High School, in White Plains, NY, I find myself amazed and thrilled to see how well this show works on the stock and amateur level.”

ALAN MENKEN
CELEBRATED COMPOSER

Stepinac's Theatre program had an outstanding year. They produced the National High school premiere of **A Bronx Tale**, the musical. The creators, renowned actor Chazz Palminteri and celebrated composer Alan Menken, attended performances of the show and offered their critical praise. Menken stated: "When we opened our stage musical adaptation of A BRONX TALE we surprised the entire Broadway community with the extent of our critical acclaim and our passionate audience support. Now, after attending the first licensed production of our show at Stepinac High School, in White Plains, NY, I find myself amazed and thrilled to see how well this show works on the stock and amateur level." The leading actor of the show, **Jeremy Fuentes '20**, was also nominated for the National High School Jimmy Award for Outstanding Lead Actor in a High School Musical. Jeremy won the 2019 Roger Rees Award for Best Leading Actor in NY State. The 2018-2019 season also included the mainstage production of THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT-TIME as well as the student lab production of CLUE. The year concluded with the Alumni Theatre production of Into the Woods.

alumni stories



PAUL THOMAS '80, INDUCTED INTO CHSAA HALL OF FAME. On May 29, Paul was inducted into the Catholic High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame Class of 2019. Paul spent 20 years as a teacher and coach at Mount St Michael Academy. Three of the freshman Mountaineer teams led by Thomas won the CHSAA "A" Championship. He also became the Publisher and Editor of the CHSAA Basketball Playoff Journal, a job he has maintained for the past 20 years. Paul serves as an advisor for the CHSAA. In 2004 Paul returned to Stepinac to lead the school's Advancement Department. He is also the Co-Founder of the Catholic School League of Westchester (CSLW), an elementary school basketball league for boys and girls grades four through eight. Thomas also is a Board of Governor of the Catholic High School Football League.



PAT AUSTIN '65, PJ AUSTIN '88, PATRICK AUSTIN III '19, THREE GENERATIONS OF CRUSADERS! We believe it is our first triple legacy of graduates. Congratulations to a storied Stepinac Family.



DANIEL AHEARN '05 INDUCTED INTO STEPINAC'S CENTER ICE CLUB. Dan was captain of the Crusaders Hockey Team for two years and, in his senior year, was named to first team all-league for the CHSHL and first-team all-league Westchester County/Journal News and was voted all county defenseman by The Journal News. After graduating from college in 2009, he returned to Stepinac to help coach the Crusaders varsity team. Dan was inducted in Stepinac High School's Center Ice Club during a hockey alumni dinner held at the school. It was followed by an alumni hockey game at Ebersole Ice Rink. Ahearn earned the distinguished honor for his significant contributions to the Stepinac team both as a key player and the more than 10 years he has served as an assistant coach, the crowning achievement of which occurred in 2017 when the Crusaders captured the CHSHL championship title and finished the season undefeated as well.



EDWARD RUSH '76 NAMED "CAREER CHIEF OF THE YEAR" The NY State Association of Fire Chiefs has named, Chief Edward Rush (left in picture) of the Hartsdale Fire District "Career Fire Chief of the Year". The award was presented on June 13, 2019, during the NYS AFC 113th Annual Conference & FIRE 2019 Expo. NYS AFC's Fire Chief of the Year Award honorees are association members who have been selected for demonstrating exemplary leadership, innovation, professional development, integrity, service to the public, and contributions to the fire service, as well as outstanding support in efforts to meet the objectives of NYS AFC. Edward Rush started his fire service career as a volunteer firefighter with the Elmsford Fire Department and subsequently made it a career when he was hired by the Hartsdale Fire District in Westchester County. He has served as Hartsdale's fire chief since 2009 and continues to serve as a volunteer in Elmsford.



FRANK BENSEL '86 WINS WESTCHESTER OPEN. Longtime competitors Greg Bisconti and Frank Bensel '86 (right) chat on the Country Club of Darien putting green before heading out for a two-man playoff to decide the 97th Westchester Open. Bensel captured the championship with a birdie on the first extra hole this past summer.



LOOKING BACK TEN YEARS OF INDEPENDANCE

IN 2009, STEPINAC BECAME INDEPENDENT.

The announcement to the Stepinac Community was made by then President of the School - Rev. Msgr. Anthony Marchitelli.

An excerpt from his message reads:



“ The Archdiocese of New York has decided that the eleven member schools of The Catholic High Schools Association that were administered by the archdiocese will now operate independently. Stepinac will now be an independent school of the Archdiocese of New York, governed by a newly formed Board of Trustees, who will have the sole responsibility to operate the school. The archdiocese will continue to own the property and be responsible for maintaining the building. ”

Looking back, our Leadership shared a vision to build on our traditional strengths and adapt to an always changing future. Our community of alumni, parents and friends chose to invest their time, talent, and treasure in that vision and since 2009, we have invested in:

THE CAMPUS science labs, cafeteria, building enhancements, and turf sports field.



New Turf Athletic Complex



Front Terrace renovation



New Parapets and Railings



New Ron Tedesco Physics Lab

TECHNOLOGY Implemented its wireless campus initiative, introduced the all-digital textbook library, Innovative curriculum development, two new Active Learning Centers and Engineering Maker Space Lab.



Active Learning Center



Visitors from around the Globe, learning from Stepinac



All Digital



Mastronardi Tech Center

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS Honors Academy for advanced study in; law, finance, engineering, and health sciences, AP Capstone Diploma - the only independent school in Westchester County to offer it. National Honor Society, as well as Honor Societies in Math, Science , and Spanish



AP Capstone



Honors Academy



NHS Induction Ceremony



Tech at the Forefront

Today we can show remarkable returns for Students



SAT
and other test
SCORES ARE UP



Stepinac Institutes Honors Academy September 2016

GRADUATES
got into more selective
COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES
(including Ivy's for 3 years in a row)

INCREASE
IN COLLEGE
SCHOLARSHIPS



Stepinac becomes first school in the nation to go to all digital text books - September 2013

THE INSTITUTION >>

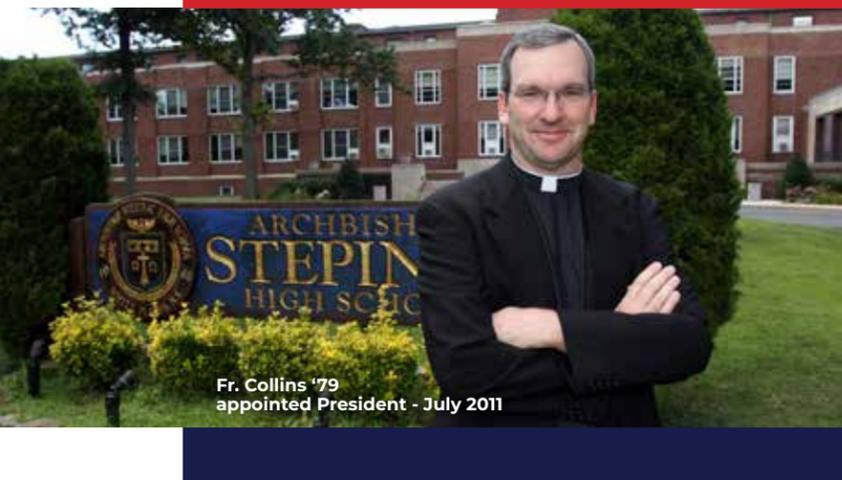
ENDOWMENT GREW
from \$400,000
to \$2.4 Million



Drama Club Wins Metro Award for Phantom of the Opera - Spring 2012

66%
INCREASE
IN ANNUAL
FUNDRAISING

AN OVER 50% INCREASE
in enrollment
SINCE 2009



Fr. Collins '79 appointed President - July 2011

classroom stories



ACTIVE LEARNING CENTERS UP AND RUNNING

When the new school year began in September, one of the highlights was the two new active learning centers that were designed to take Stepinac's pioneering personalized blended learning program to the next level.

Modeled after Columbia University's classrooms, the new state-of-the-art learning environment will continue the Stepinac's mission to prepare students for post-secondary success in a globally competitive world. The non-traditional, 21st century learning spaces significantly enhance the students' learning experience and help prepare them for what they will expect when they enter modern day university classrooms and cutting-edge workplaces. The innovations help improve academic performance by heightening interactivity between the student and instructor and between students themselves when they collaborate in problem-solving assignments.

The learning centers are equipped with numerous touch-interactive displays with high performance front-facing speakers, and numerous inputs for all video formats. They also provide built-in browser, white boarding, and wireless sharing without requiring a computer. The new software unleashes full potential of media-rich lesson planning. The new technology will also allow real-time access to subject matter experts and lecturers located around the world, brought live into the classroom via a state-of-the-art video conferencing capability. Finally, the rooms are equipped with premier Steelcase® furniture that will allow students to collaborate better, concentrate better, experiment better and learn better.



Modeled after Columbia University's classrooms, the new state-of-the-art learning environment will continue the Stepinac's mission to prepare students for post-secondary success in a globally competitive world.

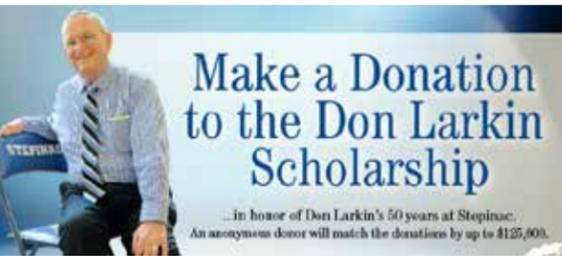
STEPINAC WINS EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP AWARD FROM FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

In a related curriculum innovation development, Stepinac recently won the prestigious Fordham University Graduate School of Education's Catholic School Executive Leadership Award in recognition of its outstanding STEAM program.

Stepinac was the only high school of the Archdiocese of New York to earn the honor for the STEAM interdisciplinary approach to learning that combines Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math. Stepinac's comprehensive STEAM curriculum provides opportunities for all students and teachers to collaborate and engage in innovative ways through project-based learning. The Honors Academy in Engineering and Health Sciences has led the way in tackling real-world problems like the Flint, Michigan Water Crisis and Climate Change threats. Frank Portanova, Vice Principal for Academics and Curriculum, said: "Stepinac has long been a practitioner of STEAM which encourages students to think more broadly about real-world problems and to equip them with the critical thinking and problem-solving skill sets they will need to succeed in college and in their future careers," adding: "The Fordham University honor continues Stepinac's tradition of being recognized by renowned educational institutions as a standard bearer of curriculum innovation."



around the campus



Good Luck in your retirement "Ad multos annos" If you would like to contribute to The Don Larkin Scholarship, contact Dennis Buckley '82 at dbuckley@stepinac.org. If you want to send Don a card wishing him well, send it to Stepinac HS, c/o Paul Thomas, 950 Mamaroneck Ave, White Plains, NY 10605 and we will forward it to Don!

DON LARKIN RETIRES

This past June, Don Larkin officially retired from Stepinac. He has worked at Stepinac for 56 years, beginning in September, 1963. "The Lark" served as a language teacher, basketball and soccer coach, Athletic Director and completed his career as the Coordinator of Student Activities. In recognition of his 50th anniversary in 2013, the alumni honored him with a scholarship in his name and named the lobby outside of the auditorium and gymnasium as Don Larkin Hall, or "The Lark" for short. He was the first faculty member who reached 50 years teaching at Stepinac (Ron Tedesco, followed one year later).

"To me, it's not really about how many years I've worked here at Stepinac. It's more about the number of students' lives I hope I have impacted in a positive way," Larkin said. "From the moment I first entered the doors of Stepinac High School, I was amazed at how friendly and amiable a place this was for the students and the entire community. I've always been happy here and I have loved, and still love what I do."

"The special thing about Stepinac is that students always come back to visit, and many students have come back to work here," Larkin said. "That's when you know you've done something right!"

STEPINAC ACCREDITED BY THE MIDDLE STATES ASSOCIATION

As of March 2019, Stepinac has received a full renewal of the school's Middle States Association accreditation. In 2017, Mr. Matt Hogan was selected as the internal coordinator for The Middle States Association at Stepinac and began working towards the two-year process for accreditation. The in-depth nature of the accreditation saw involvement from all members of the Stepinac Community; administration, faculty, coaches, parents and most importantly the students who all worked together in cohesive teams to highlight the best Stepinac has to offer and help organize the course of action for an even brighter future. The process culminated with a visiting team made up of faculty and administration from outside schools who audited the work and documentation compiled by Mr. Hogan and the teams of stakeholders. At the end of their visit, the team of five submitted a strong recommendation to the Middle States Association for accreditation and a glowing report of the Stepinac community as a whole recognizing and highlighting the "Family that is Stepinac."



STEPINAC HIGH SCHOOL'S LADY CRUSADERS HONORS TWO LONG-TIME SUPPORTERS AS MOTHERS OF THE YEAR

Cathy Russo (left), and Vera Corato (right) were honored as Mothers of the Year at the Annual Spring luncheon. The Stepinac parents' organization recognized the two Stepinac mothers for their "longstanding, tireless dedication and generosity to support the school's mission."

REGIONAL RECEPTIONS

Stepinac Alumni were hosted at numerous Regional receptions this past year. Fr. Tom spread the good news about Stepinac to alumni at the following events; Scottsdale, AZ – hosted by **Paul Rubeli '61**, Jupiter, FL – hosted by **Bruce Wernert '69**, Naples, FL – hosted by **Alex Marasco '70** and Saratoga, NY – Hosted by the Alumni Association



Saratoga (above)
Naples (below)



in memorium



RICHARD NAGLE '59

Dick passed away on December 27, 2018. Dick was born in the Bronx, and raised in Tarrytown. His large family includes two children, two stepchildren, and five grandchildren. He and his wife, Jeanne, live in Croton-on-Hudson. Fire-fighting and acting figured prominently in Dick's life. His brother John (Stepinac Class of 1961) was the Fire Chief in Tarrytown, and Dick also pursued a career as a fire-fighter, starting with the White Plains

Fire Department for three years. After this, he joined the New York City Fire Department, retiring as a Lieutenant. He worked as a Fire Safety Director for Grand Central Terminal, followed by service as Fire Chief for the Ridgefield Connecticut Fire Department, and, finally, Dick took up the demanding role of Director of the New York State Fire Academy. He led a double life, his career as an actor could have easily been predicted. Dick's parents met doing shows together at St. Simon Stock Parish in the Bronx. Dick trod the boards at Stepinac, receiving the Best Acting Medal at graduation. He followed with a major in Theater Production at Catholic University in Washington, D.C. Dick was the founder of the Stepinac Alumni Theater in 1964, the longest continuing Alumni activity, and was an avid supporter of all Stepinac Theater programs. Dick was President of The Stepinac Alumni Association, Dick served on the Stepinac Foundation Board, and he started the Stepinac Holy Name Society for Alumni First Responders.



JOHN RITCH '53

John died on June 15, 2019. He grew up in Dobbs Ferry N.Y. and attended Dobbs Ferry public schools until the 8th grade. John attended Stepinac H.S. from 1949 to 1953. He played basketball for three years, football for 3 years and track for 1 year. He received the Con-Ed athlete award for basketball in 1953. John was the first Stepinac player to score 1000 points and has held this career record of 1204 points at Stepinac for over 60 years.

John played End and Tackle on the football team for 3 years. John was inducted into Stepinac's Hardwood Club (Basketball Hall of Fame) in 2011. John received numerous Athletic Scholarship offers for basketball to colleges including U.N.C., U.S. Naval Academy, Villanova, Georgetown, and Providence College. Ultimately John attended Providence College from 1953- 1957, and graduated with a B.A. in Economics. He also attended Cornell University and received a degree as Mutual Gains Negotiation Facilitator. While at Providence he was the starting center on the varsity basketball team and was captain his senior year. He was leading rebounder in all four years and leading scorer in his freshman and senior years. He was the first 20-20 player (more than 20 points and 20 rebounds in the same game). He had multiple double-double games. Senior year he was named team MVP. John enlisted in U.S. Marine Corps O.C.S., and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant. He served 3 years active duty and 8 years in the Reserve. John retired as a Major, permanent rank Captain. On September 21, 1957 John married his wife Ann Thomson. After leaving the Marine Corp he worked for the Telephone Company as a negotiator in Labor Relations for over 30 years.



IN MEMORIUM

- John Millett '51
- Joseph Malara '53
- Gerard Moran '53
- John Ritch '53
- John Autorino '54
- Richard Mullen '54
- Edmund Drake '55
- Roger Bernardi '56
- Robert Galgano '56
- Joseph Maloney '56
- Robert Marcato '56
- Maurice Flood '57
- Stephen Shea '57
- John McGuirk '59
- Dominic Minnitte '59
- Basil Moore '59
- Richard Nagle '59
- Lawrence Patterson '60
- Roger Foraste '61
- Anthony Wilson '61
- Robert Riker '62
- Paul O'Connor '63
- James Baker '64
- Richard Cerone '64
- Oliver Hernandez '64
- Stephen Koller '64
- Stephen Leonard '64
- Douglass Lubbers '64
- Douglas Ogden '64
- Peter Ryan '64
- Peter Slater '64
- Duff Smith '64
- Donald Craig '66
- John Kiyak '67
- Michael Hurley '69
- Edward Mayer '69
- Edward Mileti '71
- Paul Chebetar '73
- Robert Marchionni '73
- Kevin Morgan '73
- James Turnesa '74
- Joseph Cardinale '78
- James Meskill '82

FACULTY

Rev. Adrian Piotrowski OSC



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PARENTS OF ALUMNI: PLEASE FORWARD IF YOUR CHILD HAS MOVED

WINNING AT ALL LEVELS



save the date

UPCOMING CALENDAR OF EVENTS

stepinac.org

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Alumni Mothers' Brunch | November 10 |
| Fall Play/Musical | November 22, 23 & 24 |
| Hardwood Club Induction Ceremony | December 12 |
| Basketball Reception - Fort Meyers | December 18 |
| Tom O'Toole Basketball Game | TBD |
| Crusader Classic III at the County Center | January 3 |
| Basketball Homecoming | January 31 |
| 24 Hour Giving | February 14 |
| Florida - East Coast (Fort Lauderdale) | TBD |
| Florida - West Coast (Naples) | March 17 |
| 10th Anniversary of Independence Gala | April 2 |
| Holy Name Mass | April 26 |
| Spring Musical | May 1, 2, 8, 9 & 10 |
| NYC Regional Reception | TBD |
| Legacy Reception | May 19 |
| 69th Commencement | May 21 |
| Golf Outing | June 2 |
| Saratoga Reception | July 31 |