

A PUBLICATION FOR THE ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS OF FORDHAM PREP

RAMVIEW

WINTER 2024 | VOLUME 44, ISSUE 1

— For the LOVE of the — ARTS

An in-depth look at the Prep's visual and performing arts programs, their history, and the roles they play in the foundation of the broader curriculum.



FAITH, SCHOLARSHIP, AND SERVICE SINCE 1841



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

THE GALLERY WALLS

A LOOK AT PRESIDENT ANTHONY I. DAY'S GALLERY

RAMVIEW

VOLUME 44, ISSUE 1

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Fordham Prep's new president is nearly finished decorating his new space at Fordham Prep.

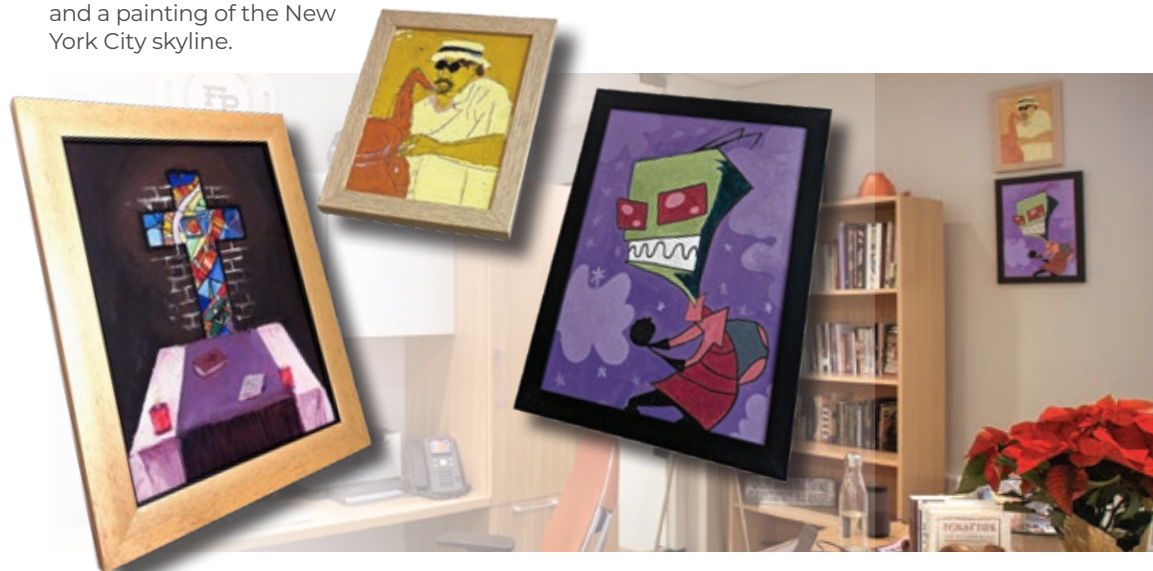


In the fall, President Day visited the Visual & Performing Arts Department to select some student artwork for his office.

"There were so many good ones," Day said of the collection of art that has amassed from former and current students. After some tough decisions, he walked away with a piece depicting the Prep's iconic stained glass cross in the Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola, a painting of a jazz musician playing the saxophone, *Invader Zim* fan art, and a painting of the New York City skyline.

Unfortunately, the paintings were not signed. However, we hope the alumni and current students who learn of these growing gallery walls know that their artwork is worthy of being framed and displayed in the President's office. Please email us at ramview@fordhamprep.org if you see your creation or know the artists!

Day also had the pleasure of commissioning a graphite drawing of a ram from Joshua Nieto '24. He is still at work on the drawing while its placement in the Admin Center is being decided on. ■



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Cover image by JP Feighery '03

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A PARTY AT THE PREP
IGNITE 2024

AN
EVENING
IN
Paris

**SATURDAY,
MARCH 2, 2024**
7:00 PM — 11:00 PM

MC and Auctioneer
Bruce Beck
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NBC 4 New York

To purchase tickets and sponsorships visit:
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**SUPPORT THE PREP'S
LARGEST BENEFIT
OF THE YEAR!**

The proceeds from the benefit will support
academic initiatives and student scholarships
at Fordham Prep.



IGNITE 2024: une nuit mémorable!

The Fordham Prep community is gearing up for **IGNITE 2024: An Evening in Paris on March 2.**

We're excited to welcome back our returning guests, as well as our new parents, for a night of Parisian fare, dancing, and surprises at the Prep. Though March may seem far off, the event is capped at 500 tickets, so don't wait to buy yours!

Let's backtrack for a moment to explain IGNITE for those who have never attended:

Fordham Prep's iconic spaces — Rowen Lobby, Moglia Commons, and Theatre Atrium — transform annually for themed IGNITE benefits, attracting sold-out crowds. Over 500 guests have attended each of the last four in-person benefits, solidifying IGNITE as a premiere affair on Fordham Prep's calendar.

IGNITE brings together current and past parents, as well as alumni. At last year's event, Under the Big Top in the Bronx, alumni guests represented classes from 1960 through 2015! Community involvement from the Prep's Mothers' and Fathers' clubs, student volunteers, alumni

sponsors, and others generate excitement in the months leading up to IGNITE each year.

Past experiences have featured strolling dinners, open bars, sponsored whiskey tables, live auctions hosted by MC and Auctioneer Bruce Beck (Lead Sports Anchor at NBC 4 New York), music, and dancing. It's more than just a party; it's a celebration that creates long-lasting memories.

IGNITE plays a crucial role in raising funds that help sustain Fordham Prep's commitment to providing a quality Catholic Jesuit education. The \$2.6 million raised at past events have supported educational programs, including iSTEAM and Global Education, tuition assistance via IGNITE Scholarships, and essential capital improvements including the new Fitness and Wellness Center, and the East Wing Project.

Be sure to get on our guest list before we hit maximum capacity. For more details, [visit **ignite2024.givesmart.com**](https://ignite2024.givesmart.com). We hope you'll join us for *une nuit mémorable*!

The proceeds from the Benefit will support academic initiatives and student scholarships at Fordham Prep.



A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY — YOUR WAY

“Fordham Prep is the gold standard for transmitting the values of faith, scholarship, and service to generations of young men. As with any institution, the Prep’s continued vitality is dependent upon a steady flow of capital gifts to fuel its mission. The Shea-McDonough Legacy Society is a principal source of capital gifts which spring from thoughtful estate planning by alumni, parents, and friends. Like other members of the Society, Connie and I have taken advantage of tax-efficient gifts such as naming the Prep as an IRA beneficiary.”

— Kevin Hackett '67

Planned giving is simpler than you may think, especially at Fordham Prep. If your goal is to conserve your estate and reduce future tax liabilities for heirs, consider the benefits of the Shea-McDonough Legacy Society.

Named in honor of longtime Prep faculty members and revered teachers Rev. Arthur V. Shea, SJ, and Harry McDonough, the Society recognizes donors who have named the Prep as a beneficiary in their will, insurance policy, or retirement account. Trusts, real estate, and the donation of non-cash assets are also viable estate gift options.

Working with your financial advisor, you can create a legacy gift that will memorialize the values most important to you, maximize your philanthropic giving, and ensure that the annual donations you made to the Prep throughout your lifetime continue to make an impact that will last beyond your years. If you’ve already included Fordham Prep in a bequest or

other planned gift, please let us know so we can express our gratitude and recognize you for your generosity as a member of the Shea-McDonough Legacy Society.

Few Gifts Are More Meaningful Than Education.

You can transform the lives of future Rams by including Fordham Prep in your estate plans. For many of our alumni, it is a wonderful way to show their appreciation for their own education and the positive impact the Prep had on their lives.

The Shea-McDonough Legacy Society celebrates gifts of all sizes. Together these gifts contribute to the strength of our endowment and provide the funding necessary for the future of the Prep.

To learn more and help get you started please visit: **prelegacy.org** or contact Suzanne Dowden, Director, Engagement & Development at dowdens@fordhamprep.org or 718-367-7500 x274.



VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS AT FORDHAM PREP

A Q&A with Dylan LaGamma '09, Chairperson, VPA Department

Q: Fordham Prep's history in the visual and performing arts (VPA) includes some illustrious names: Rev. John Leonard, SJ (dramatics), JK Johnson (music), Rev. Mal Fitzpatrick, SJ (art history), Douglas Otis (music), and Marilyn Honigman (visual art). How does the current department reflect upon and enhance that history?

A: As a department, we are staffed almost entirely by alumni who have studied here under many of the great music, visual, and art history teachers mentioned here and many more not referenced. Our work is informed by the experience we had with these dedicated Jesuit educators but, as they would have us do, we continue to look for ways to expand upon and transform our curriculum to meet current students where they are.

Q: Opportunity for students to participate in visual and performing arts has expanded greatly, both inside and outside the classroom, in the last 10 years. Freshmen will now have the choice to take music or studio art during their initial year at the Prep. What has this expanded access achieved?

A: Fordham Prep recognized a need for the inclusion of VPA opportunities within its curriculum, especially early on in a student's time at the Prep. More students have taken advantage of these opportunities and we have a steady trend of students returning each year to further their knowledge in a particular discipline or try a new discipline altogether. Our class numbers in music and visual arts have increased steadily. By offering Studio Art I at the freshman level we hope that even more students will progress to our highest levels, which include AP 2-D Art and Design and AP Drawing. However, it is most important that our freshmen will be able to take more courses that they desire.

Q: More and more students come to Fordham Prep with either experience or an interest in visual and performing arts. Participation is growing rapidly. How do you account for this growth?

A: We see ourselves as a school that is rigorous in its approach to academics and a place that fosters creativity and expression in all pursuits. We have expanded opportunities to reach those students by advocating for more course options as well as additional faculty and additional resources. Our theater department remains a crucial component of our identity. Each year, our Dramatic Society's performances capture a wide audience of prospective students and their families. Each open house opens with a performance from a student music group. Both get prospective students excited about the numerous opportunities we offer. They also witness the very public success our students have. Recently, Fordham Prep students have gone on to win awards and earn scholarships in their discipline and gain admission to prestigious universities and colleges like Pratt, NYU Tisch, Royal Academy, and Royal Conservatory, to name a few. Our students are recognizing that at Fordham Prep you don't have to be just one type of student. There are many students who are academically strong, committed athletes, and talented members of our Visual and Performing Arts community.

Q: As the department's tremendous growth continues, what are you excited about in the future? What does Visual and Performing Arts at Fordham Prep look like in the year 2034?

A: There are countless opportunities in the digital space that may make sense for our department. Expanding course options in photography, music production and DAW (digital audio workstation), and building upon our architectural drawing courses to include CAD (computer-aided design) are just a few of the 21st century opportunities we would like to pursue. However, there is still work to be done with the programs we currently offer. Augmenting and growing our physical footprint as well as developing our robust curriculum are high priority items over the next decade. Expanding visual art opportunities to include sculpture, ceramics, mixed media, and other 3D platforms are possible, as well as upgrading our music facilities to meet the demands of our performance ensembles with the right investment and funding. We dream big. My hope is that the next decade brings a building dedicated to visual, theatrical, and musical arts to our part of the historic Rose Hill Campus. ■



— For the LOVE of the — ARTS

ASK ANY ALUMNUS ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCE OF VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS AT FORDHAM PREP AND YOU WILL HEAR THE NAMES OF LONGTIME FACULTY MEMBERS DOUGLAS OTIS, FR. MALLICK FITZPATRICK, SJ, FR. JOHN LEONARD, SJ, MARILYN HONIGMAN, TJ O'SULLIVAN '98, DYLAN LAGAMMA '09, AND OTHERS WHO HAVE INFLUENCED THEM.



James Andrew O'Connor '94 as Sgt. Calhoun on the set of *Hightown*.

Visual and performing arts are given ample room to thrive at the Prep. Built in 1993 and christened in 1994, the 1,000-seat Leonard Theatre (named for Fr. John Leonard, SJ, "The Patriarch of Fordham Theater"), is home not only to the Fordham Prep Dramatic Society (FPDS) but also hosts scores of student events including the popular annual Christmas Assembly and productions. The Prep's iSTEAM initiative, founded in 2018, encourages students to think about art in connection to other subjects offering both academic classes and co-curricular activities in 3D printing, music theory, and other related courses. Recently, the Prep opened the Adlerman Makerspace and a new computer lab to facilitate these activities.

The history of the Prep's visual and performing arts department and programs spans nearly 170 years. It includes countless alumni, some of whom you may have seen on TV or heard on the radio, community members like Susan Cronin P'95 '98 (née McCarthy, Mount St. Ursula '65), who is dubbed the *prima donna* of the Prep stage, and current students whose artwork you've likely come across on visits to Shea Hall.

The department draws on its vast past to inform its future. And the future is bright — like a spotlight on center stage in the Leonard Theater.



ABOVE: Susan Cronin P'95 '98 (née McCarthy), Mount St. Ursula '65, in the role of Lady Alice More in the FPDS play *A Man for All Seasons*.

BELOW: Sophia O'Brien '23 (Holy Child) winner of the Roger Rees Award for her performance as Eponine in the 2022 FPDS production of *Les Misérables*.



To Act, or Not to Act?

The Fordham Prep Dramatic Society, which started as the St. John's Dramatic Society in 1855, performs a play and a musical each academic year. Upwards of about 80 Rams participate in the cast and crew of the productions, making it one of the most popular co-curricular activities at the school. This also includes girls from schools around the tri-state area who participate both on the stage and behind the scenes.

FPDS productions provide a chance for students to work together in new ways. They team-build while creating sets, rehearse lines with one another, and learn to share the spotlight with their peers.

The Prep is in debt to Fr. Leonard, who, according to archivist Louis DiGiorno '88 P'26, reportedly, "traveled all the way to Rome to ask Father General's permission to allow girls in the performances. Before 1964, of course, all female parts were played by Prep boys in wigs."

The girls (Cronin P'95 '98, her classmate Barbara Liston, and Deirdre Abbot from St. Catherine's) made their debut in the November 1964 production of *A Man for All Seasons*. Since then, several leading ladies of FPDS productions have gone on to receive award nominations alongside our Rams.

Before there was Leonard Theatre, plays were performed at Collins Auditorium on the university campus. The construction of Leonard Theatre was completed in 1994.

"I used to sneak out of swim practice to watch the rehearsals," remembers actor James Andrew O'Connor '94, a Bronx native. A Prep faculty member saw him and said, "If you're going to be in my theater distracting my actors, you need to be on stage," O'Connor recalls.

That is the short story of how O'Connor ended up playing "Tough Man" in the musical *Fiorello!* in his senior year at the Prep, which was the first time a performance was ever held in the new Leonard Theatre venue. "I was typecast even then," O'Connor laughed, noting his large frame makes him a top choice for roles that involve sizable men.

O'Connor was then offered to perform in a play at Mount St. Ursula. "It was wild," he said. "They offered me the lead role and I was so terrified. I wanted to play a comic or something!" he exclaimed. By then, he was hooked on acting.

While he didn't intend to study theater, O'Connor served as the Chairman of the Alternate College Theatre program at Holy Cross. He realized by his sophomore year of college that he wanted to pursue an acting career and went into the National Shakespeare Conservatory upon graduation.

"My parents encouraged me, which was rare," he noted. He's since worked in productions on Broadway, starred in television shows such as *Hightown* and *Gotham* (Sgt. Calhoun; Tommy Bones), and currently runs his own acting studio.

O'Connor stresses the importance of diversifying your portfolio, especially in an industry where, as he notes, 20% of the actors in the union make under \$20,000 a year.

"It's very reasonable for parents to be weary about a career in the arts. How do you encourage somebody that there's another formula? I don't believe in plan A and plan B or having a backup plan," he explained. "It's having a more comprehensive plan A. Something that gives you another skill set to monetize that is related to what you're passionate about doing in the arts," he continued.

continued...



FPDS cast members of *Something Rotten* performing in Leonard Theatre in December 2023.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE ARTS



Esposito handling Kermit the Frog during a production of the Muppets.

From the Prep to Puppets

Like O'Connor, puppeteer and puppet builder Arthur Esposito '93 knows how difficult it is to encourage a career in the arts with the current state of the industry. Nonetheless, he's had success and wouldn't dissuade anyone from pursuing their passion for performance.

At the Prep, Esposito was president of the Art Club, where he participated in activities such as painting murals on the walls of Shea Hall and helping with yearbook design. He took art classes with former Prep teacher Marilyn Honigman and his cinema class with Fr. Pierce Brennan, SJ.

"Ms. Honigman was super supportive of me, and gave me a lot of confidence to continue to pursue my interests," said Esposito. "Fr. Brennan exposed me to a lot of films that I had never seen before and allowed me to do projects that furthered my knowledge. At the time, the *Batman* movies were very big and he encouraged me to write and storyboard my own movie, which I did for that class," he recalled.

Esposito remembers working on a report on Walt Disney Animation for one of his classes at the Prep. He brought samples of hand-painted animation cels for his presentation on the subject for his classmates. He also recalls channeling his grief through a class project on the life of puppeteer Jim Henson, who died during his freshman year.



People think a career in the arts is unrealistic or unobtainable...

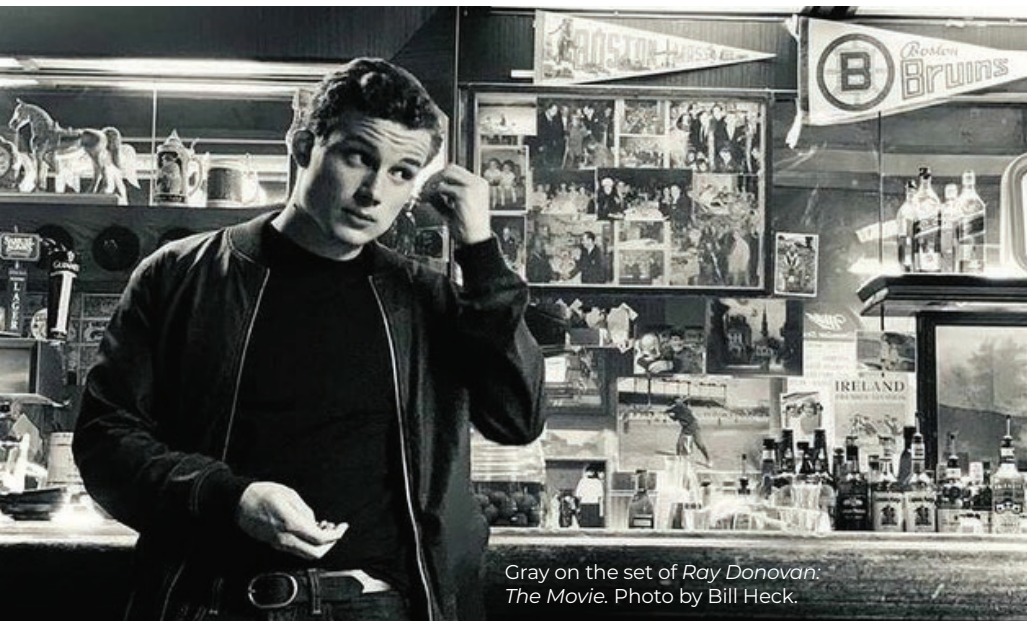
I get to be creative and play all day. I encourage students who are considering a career in the arts to give it a go."

— Arthur Esposito '93

"At the time, the Prep library had a wonderful microfiche machine that printed out old newspaper articles, and I used it to reference articles back to Jim's start in television in 1955. Who knew that Jim Henson would have such a lasting effect on my life and career path?" he pondered.

Esposito has gone on to work with the Jim Henson Company, Disney, and other large production houses. His notable works as a puppeteer include Freddy Fazbear and Golden Freddy in *Five Nights at Freddy's*, Baloo the Bear in Disney's 2016 *The Jungle Book* Live Action Film, and Kermit the Frog in *The Muppets* (understudy).

"People think a career in the arts is unrealistic or unobtainable. I'm living proof that that's not true," Esposito stated. "I've been able to make a good living at it and support a family of four. The best part is that my work never feels like work. I get to be creative and play all day. I encourage students who are considering a career in the arts to give it a go. If you're passionate about what you do and give it your all you will be successful. Personally, I wouldn't have it any other way!" he added.



Gray on the set of *Ray Donovan: The Movie*. Photo by Bill Heck.

A Community on and off Stage

For young alumnus Christopher Gray '15, a career in the performing arts was on the fence. Although he had done community theater since he was a pre-teen and went to acting classes in Manhattan until around age 14, he took a break from acting after middle school.

While at the Prep, Gray was part of the Creative Writing Club, moderated by Fr. Stanley O'Konsky, SJ. "He instilled in me a love for reading and writing," Gray stated. He remembers writing several screenplays in the club as well as a long-form narrative in Leonard Theatre for his senior thesis project. As a student-athlete on the track and field team, he unfortunately didn't have time to be a part of FPDS plays.

Gray intended to run track in college and study English at the University of Southern California. However, he became indecisive, and pondered the possibility of staying in NYC for acting. He wound up in a program at New York University Gallatin which allowed him to audition for shows, write essays on his work, and ultimately use his professional career as the focus of his studies.

In 2020, before the COVID-19 pandemic broke, Gray returned to the Prep at the request of FPDS moderator TJ O'Sullivan '98 to speak to the students in his Fundamentals of Acting class. Gray is ultimately happy that he decided to stay in New York to attend college and further his career.

The community aspect fostered at the Prep is one of the things he loves most about acting. "I would say my favorite thing about acting is the sense of joy — especially the sense of joy it brings within a community," Gray stated. "People want to be around that joy. They want to see that up on the stage. They want to see that on film. That's the stuff that kind of brings people together," he continued.

While starring as young Ray Donovan in the 2022 film *Ray Donovan: The Movie*, Gray reflected on the seven-season journey and the familial atmosphere developed amongst the cast of the show it is based on. "It was a surreal moment for me because it was kind of everything I wanted to do," he stated. "I was working with people that I've always looked up to. I thought to myself, 'At some point in my life, I will build this kind of family and theater troupe,'" he concluded.

“

I would say my favorite thing about acting is the sense of joy — **especially the sense of joy it brings within a community...** That's the stuff that kind of brings people together."

— Christopher Gray '15



The faculty cast and student crew of *A Few Good Men* in the spring of 2014.

BELOW: Viele as Lt. Daniel Kaffee, Zefran as Lt. Galloway, and Febles as Lt. Sam Weinberg in *A Few Good Men*.

A Few Good Faculty and Staff

On February 15, 2013, music teacher Douglas Otis and FPDS moderator TJ O'Sullivan '98 sat down for a post-mortem on the musical *Oklahoma*, which students had performed at the Prep the week prior. The exercise led to a discussion of what plays the Prep should license for the next year's productions.

"Those choices in large part depend on prospects for casting," explained Otis. "You can't pick a script only because you like it. There must be some degree of faith that you can cast it; who is available to play what parts. Some would say that is pre-casting — a real no-no amongst those in the high-school age group. However, it would be a difficult situation to put yourself into if you paid for the leasing rights to a script and then couldn't cast it," he went on.

They liked the idea of doing *A Few Good Men*, but while looking at the different roles, the two realized that the play wasn't castable for a student production. However, Otis noted, "certain faculty members would fit into particular roles really well."

The first on their list of choices was religious studies teacher Nelson Ritter '96 for the role of Capt. Jack Ross. Then math teacher Lauren Zefran for the role of Lt. Galloway.

"After that, the dominoes fell. We laughed at the prospect of a faculty production but concluded it might be fun," said Otis.



Classics teacher and school archivist Louis DiGiorno '88 P'26 informed the two that Prep faculty of the mid-1800s through the 1920s performed in the school's plays. There was no turning back once they had that tidbit of information from the source. Otis and O'Sullivan moved forward with notifying the 14 faculty members they had chosen for the main cast.

"We were all like, 'It's not gonna happen, because there's no way you can get all the faculty together in the same room,'" English teacher Michael Viele '01, who played the role of Lt. Daniel Kaffee, remembered.

In addition to Ritter, Zefran, and Viele, the cast featured George Febles P'15 '22, Daniel Nolan, Edward Jennings, Patrick Deane '88 P'25, and Matthew Bobo (social studies department), Chris Helmsley (math department), Russel Baker (modern languages department), and Randy Pedro P'17 '19 (Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, religious studies).

continued...

FOR THE LOVE OF THE ARTS

Otis starred in the play as well, with TJ O'Sullivan '98 helping to direct and handle tech. Five minor roles were given to Prep seniors. Kenny Dillon '14 and Andrew Schrynmakers '15 were instrumental crew members who helped with set design.

"Rehearsals were tough to pull off which is why it took 15 months to prep," said Otis. Some took the old-fashioned route of memorizing their lines from the script while others rewatched and

listened to their parts over and over on their commutes to work to learn them. And then, in a series of unfortunate events, the rights to perform the play at the Prep got denied.

"Reason? An Aaron Sorkin blackout. Certainly his choice," said Otis. "So if we were going to do it we would have to do it during the school day on Monday, May 19th as a 'no charge assembly,'" he went on.

Originally planned to run for three nights with proceeds going to an undetermined charity, the play became a one-night-only event on May 19, 2014. Of course, members of the Prep community flocked to Rose Hill in droves to see their favorite teachers perform. The production was a huge success, garnering praise from then-principal Robert Gomprecht '65 P'89 '94 GP '20 '24.

"Today's faculty performance of *A Few Good Men* was, as they say, a tour de force," said Gomprecht in a congratulatory note to the faculty and students in the cast and crew. "I doubt there are many schools with a faculty brave enough to attempt such a venture. And fewer still where the student body has given the faculty such a warm, energetic, and well-deserved ovation," he added.

“

I doubt there are many schools with a faculty brave enough to attempt such a venture. And fewer still where the student body has given the faculty such a warm, energetic, and well-deserved ovation."

— Robert Gomprecht '65 P'89 '94 GP '20 '24, former principal (1994–2015)



ABOVE: Wicks practicing the violin during lunch with an audience of Rams in what is now known as Moglia Commons.

LEFT: The Jazz Ensemble is a featured aspect of each Admissions Open House.

What Sound Do Rams Make?

Fordham Prep's ensembles, led by Visual & Performing Arts Chairperson LaGamma '09, are seen (and heard) at many events throughout the school year. The Jazz, Classical and Festival ensembles perform numerous community events during the course of the year. Students in the working Jazz Band are in quite demand, performing at the Prep's annual IGNITE gala, the Fathers' Club's Christmas Party in Manhattan, and the Prep's Hall of Honor Ceremony at the New York Botanical Garden. They even lend their talents to the St. Ignatius School Fundraiser in Central Park and entertain patrons of Alvin & Friends Restaurant in New Rochelle.

"What I miss most about performing in Fordham Prep ensembles is the experience of playing in a band," said former Jazz Band pianist and student at the Royal Academy of Music in London Luca Gierlinger '22. Trained as a classical soloist, Gierlinger embraced the opportunity to perform a different style of music. He's one of the many Jazz Band alumni who hold these performances dear in their memories of the Prep.

Violinist and violist Declan Wicks '19 played in the Classical Ensemble during his time at the Prep. As a British-American dual citizen who returned to the United States for his junior year of high school, he was grateful for the musical experiences at the Prep.

Wicks remembers getting along well with LaGamma, spending much of his free time practicing his instruments in the third-floor music room. He also performed in the orchestra pit for the 2018 FPDS production of *Newsies*.

Before coming back to America to attend the Prep, he didn't really have any confirmation of his skills as a musician. He'd begun playing the violin at age four when his mom accidentally signed them up for an instrumental "mommy and me" course in New York. Still, he remembers instructors in London being quite reserved about his talents in his early teens.

"I was just starting out and I was like 13, so there's no way for them to really kind of have an idea of, you know, how good I was going to be or anything," he laughed.



Organist and music teacher Kenneth Farnum '75 leading the MultiQuire with Stephanie Gregory (Archbishop Molloy) at the Prep's Visual & Performing Arts Spring Event in 2023.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE ARTS

Rock," Bart Howard's "Fly Me to the Moon," and Ralph Manuel's "Alleluia."

The MultiQuire consists of Rams and girls from other high schools such as Archbishop Molloy, King School (Stamford, CT), and St. Catharine Academy (Bronx, NY). Together, they add exciting vocal harmony to the third-floor hallways during rehearsals and events in Leonard Theatre. Ram vocalists also perform at Archbishop Molloy's concerts.

The experiences offered by music teachers at the Prep give students an opportunity to perform for the community while also building confidence and creativity. Outside of bands and choirs, students in LaGamma's rigorous AP Music Theory course learn these skills through other means.

"Students in the class analyze and respond to music, looking at singing and melodies and then breaking them down to learn how and why they work together," said LaGamma about the course. One of the projects for the class is to write a piece of music on a chosen medium and explain the process of how the elements combine to create a cohesive work.

He continued lessons in New York with teachers who were also on the quiet side about his skills. "It's really hard to get that kind of positive reinforcement that can be really encouraging," Wicks noted.

Not only did Wicks find the confirmation that he needed at the Prep to continue pursuing his talents, but he also picked up a few valuable time management skills that served him well while studying at the Royal Academy of Music.

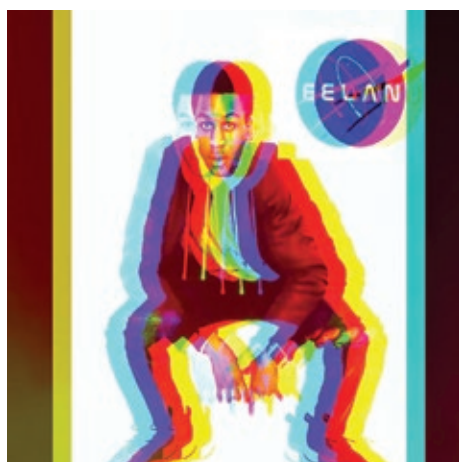
When Queen Elizabeth II died in 2022, Wicks was chosen to play in a string quartet for the Coronation Concert of King Charles III, which was televised by the BBC on May 7, 2023. Wicks had to juggle rehearsals with his regular coursework and other responsibilities.

"It was a little bit chaotic," Wicks recalled. "Between the logistics of trying to figure out what you're supposed to do and where to go, I think the work ethic I learned at the Prep really helped.

Taking advantage of every free moment you have and really planning your time was really helpful," he added.

Other Rams choose to use their voices as their instrument. The Liturgical Choir, led by Kenneth Farnum '75, is a staple at school-wide masses. They lead the school through various Catholic hymns, accompanied by Farnum on the piano. A group of students from the Liturgical Choir also blessed the Prep community with their voices in a music video filmed in the Chapel of St. Ignatius Loyola on Ash Wednesday in 2023. They sang "Kyrie Eleison" by M. Joncas, assisted by former Prep religious studies teacher Christopher Holownia, SJ.

Farnum also leads the Prep's MultiQuire along with Stephanie Gregory from Archbishop Molloy High School in Queens. The MultiQuire performs an eclectic mix of songs at the Prep's arts events, including favorites such as "Elijah



The cover art for "Really Mad" by Elan Suave. Griffiths earned the nickname "Elan" from his older brother.

Boogiedown Beats

Sometimes Prep students begin toying with their own beats outside of required coursework. This was the case for Bronx native Ethan Griffiths '21 (stage name Elan Suave) as a freshman at Fordham Prep.

Griffith became interested in music production after seeing his older brother Dornell Henriques (Nellz Supreme), an All Hallows grad, making his own tunes. His brother's influence led him to try mixing for himself.

"I was like, you know what, I feel like I can do this. I have the voice. Let me just try it," he remembers thinking to himself. "And so I released my first song in freshman year," he continued.

The song, called "Really Mad," was released on Soundcloud in the spring of 2018. To his surprise, the hip-hop track was a hit among his classmates.

"I wanted to get some friends at school to hear it just to see if they liked it or not. It was actually pretty good feedback. It kind of inspired me to make more music and really take it to the next level," Griffith stated.

He is especially grateful for the encouragement of his fellow Rams, longtime teacher Mr. Randy Pedro P'17 '19, and math teacher Omar Ward '92 P'22 '24.

"My time at Fordham Prep gave me that confidence to feel like I can do this," Griffiths explained. "I can go anywhere, market my music, and be successful," he added.

Griffiths is currently studying music business and marketing at Howard University. Since sharing his first song on Soundcloud in 2018, he has released five EPs and several singles.

continued...

“

My time at Fordham Prep gave me that confidence to feel like I can do this... **I can go anywhere, market my music, and be successful.**

— Ethan Griffiths '21

FOR THE LOVE OF THE ARTS

“

I thought it best to depict Mary looking out from a boat on a journey in a dark ocean; she is not interfering with the tide of the ocean but rather **she is a beacon of inspiration who always watches over the people on the boat throughout the journey.**”

—Joshua Nieto '24

Discovering Traditional and Digital Art

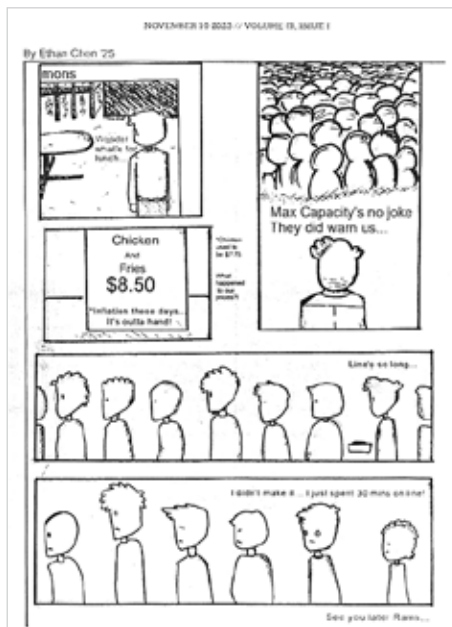
When moving into his office, new Fordham Prep president Anthony Day was eager to decorate it with student-produced pieces. So, he took a walk to the art studio on the third floor. There he found an overflow of artwork left behind by former and current students.

While picking out a few pieces to have framed for his office, Day remembers art teacher Michael Weldon '86 pointing out a student walking by the classroom, Joshua Nieto '24.

“We spoke briefly about his art and he told me he'd like to create a piece for my office,” said Day. Nieto, who specializes in graphite drawings, sent Day a few samples of his work via email and they agreed he would create a commissioned rendition of a ram for the President's Office.

Day has amassed quite a few pieces for his office walls while perusing the art classroom. “If [the ram] doesn't fit in the remaining space, we can hang it somewhere in the building for everyone to enjoy,” Day said, smiling.

While drawing comes naturally to some, many are moved to discover the medium in alternate ways. “I started drawing to pass the time during COVID,” said Aden Bedford '24, who creates portraits of his friends and family. His extensive art portfolio includes self-portraits, drawings of siblings, and more.



Courses at Fordham Prep such as AP 2-D Art & Design and Computer Graphics & Web Design give students like Nieto and Bedford a chance to refine their art skills in the classroom. Outside of the classroom, students are forging their own opportunities to explore visual art in co-curriculars like the Newspaper Club.

Ethan Chen '25 joined the Newspaper Club this school year and decided to try something new with *The Rampart*, helping to produce the first-ever comic for the issue alongside fellow Ram Haralamby Mila-Rus '25.

“I've been drawing comics since about first or second grade,” Chen stated. He was a bit on the fence about putting his work out for the community to see, but being able to create the comic with a friend made the experience less daunting.

“I was pretty nervous about it, but since I did this with a friend it gave me more confidence to put myself out there,” Chen noted. The resulting piece was inspired by criticisms the students had during orientation regarding the new bell schedule and the effects of inflation on the price of food in Moglia Commons.

TOP LEFT: A drawing by Joshua Nieto for the 2023 Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Mass booklet cover.

TOP RIGHT: Aden Bedford '24's self-portrait.

MIDDLE RIGHT: Fr. Fitzpatrick (RIP), former Prep counselor and art history teacher, in the Prep's Art Reference Room.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Comic by Ethan Chen '25 and Haralamby Mila-Rus '25 in Volume III Issue of *The Rampart*.

“

The curriculum attempts to train students to not just identify the pieces of art but also to **think critically about them and their relationship to society.**”

— Paul Lauber '08, Art Teacher

Of course, one doesn't have to paint or draw to appreciate visual art. AP Art History, a course taught by Paul Lauber '08, exposes students at the Prep, prehistoric art (cave drawings) to contemporary works like *The Gates* of Central Park.

“My two goals are to prepare students for the AP test and foster a love of art,” said Lauber.

As a Prep student, he took Intro to Fine Arts with Otis, Studio Art I with Marilyn Honigman, and Art History with Fr. Mallick Fitzpatrick, SJ. His studies in Fr. Fitzpatrick's class nurtured his growing interest in art history.

After finishing college, Lauber returned to the Prep to teach English. In his second year on the faculty, he began a three-year journey of teaching the Art History course with Fr. Fitzpatrick.

Fr. Fitzpatrick retired from his 50 years of service to the Prep in 2009. He passed away in April of 2019.

Lauber continues to teach the Art History course at Fordham Prep, which became part of the AP program in 2015. He gets students to engage with the 250 pieces of art in the curriculum through group presentations and discussions on how the works are connected to history, religion and culture.

“The curriculum attempts to train students to not just identify the pieces of art but also to think critically about them and their relationship to society,” he explained.

Lauber notes that multiple students in the program have earned 5's on the test, which is the highest mark available on the AP exam.



FP3D's display of work at spring 2023's iSTEAM Expo included a 3D printed chess set, replica dinosaur skulls, and more.

The Future of Visual Art

Each May since 2022, the Prep's hosts its iSTEAM Expo to celebrate projects that students have worked on during the year. Moderated by Mario Caraballo, the 3D printing club (FP3D) displays the many objects they have masterfully created at the expo, which draws curiosity from parents and fellow students. Throughout the school year, the club's 3D-printed sculptures are also on permanent display in the Prep's McNamara Library.

It's rather exciting to have the opportunity and space to experiment with such technologies that blend creativity and scientific skill. While many students in the club are aware of how game-changing 3D printing is, some are still surprised by the level of impact the technology can have in the world.

“There was a news report I saw a while ago where doctors were talking about 3D printing human hearts for those who need transplants,” said computer science teacher and Assistant Director of Technical Operations Danielli Antoniou one day in the Adlerman Makerspace.

The students grabbing materials for the 3D printer stopped in their tracks, eyes widened at the thought of saving lives with functional 3D-printed art. They began talking about a future where students on service trips could potentially help build 3D-printed houses alongside architects.

The students grabbing materials for the 3D printer stopped in their tracks, **eyes widened at the thought of saving lives with functional 3D printed art.**

Michael Doyle, FAIA '69 one of the founders of the award-winning firm Acheson Doyle Partners Architects remembers graduating on the cusp of computer technology's impact on the field of architecture. He had become interested in the field through a class at Hughes Hall with Fr. Nicholas Lombardi, SJ '61 that touched on Greek architecture and city planning.

“Computers were just becoming popular in the 70s. Then it was a super acceleration of the technical ability of what the computer could do. We didn't even think of AI but the first 3D modeling was phenomenal on even a small scale,” Doyle remembered. “I think [3D-printing] is a genuine reality that you'll see in modular home construction and different pieces of facades of buildings in the restoration work that architects do,” he added.

The future of visual and performing arts at the Prep indeed rests on the edge of endless possibility. ■

SUPPORTING STUDENT PASSIONS



TJ O'SULLIVAN '98 | Director of College Counseling and Fordham Prep Dramatic Society (FPDS) moderator

Believe it or not, acting wasn't on Director of College Counseling and Fordham Prep Dramatic Society (FPDS) moderator TJ O'Sullivan '98's mind until the 8th grade. He played basketball and baseball growing up, as well as hockey in middle school, as co-curricular activities.

"There was a music teacher at my middle school named Joe DeSanctis who did a review show and it sparked this world I didn't know anything about," O'Sullivan remembers. "I had no idea what musical theater was," he noted.

When it was clear that organized sports was not in his future, O'Sullivan figured he would give this new world of theater a try. "I auditioned and I didn't leave the room after that," he laughed.

However, when he arrived at Fordham Prep, the Dramatic Society was quite selective when it came to casting its plays.

"I was cut from the play the first time I auditioned but everyone made the musicals," he said, thankful that he didn't give up. He made the cast of several FPDS plays thereafter.

O'Sullivan went on to perform in musicals at Mount St. Ursula as well throughout his time at the Prep. Some of his fondest high-school memories involve his time on the stage.

O'Sullivan loved theater so much that he was eager to major in performing arts. While his parents were supportive, he recalled, they also urged him to consider

more conventional majors. With this in mind, he decided to study business at Fordham University before realizing it wasn't for him. He switched to a psychology major while taking on performance, production, and directorial choreography side gigs. "I was still living at home," O'Sullivan explained, "and my parents were concerned that a career in the performing arts was not as steady as others." Considering this, O'Sullivan decided to head back to school and received a master's degree in school counseling at Manhattan College.

He became eager to return to Fordham Prep, periodically checking in on employment opportunities over the years with former teachers such as Dennis Ahern '63 P'01. He worked at the Prep in a temporary capacity in 2008. When that ended, he moved on to other schools. Luckily for both him and for Fordham Prep, he returned home to Rose Hill as a school and college counselor in 2010 and has been here ever since.

"I was in the same class as (principal) Dr. Joe Petriello '98, which is interesting because I now report to him," O'Sullivan

laughed. "It is interesting coming back to work here alongside teachers who taught me. It was a good time when I was here — I liked it so much I came back," he continued.

He combined his passion for theater and psychology working alongside Otis on FPDS productions while focusing on students' social-emotional health and helping students with college applications. Otis was a mentor to O'Sullivan, teaching him the ins and outs of producing, the importance of organization skills, being of service to students, and defending their passions. O'Sullivan praised Otis for helping him channel his passion for defending the betterment of the student experience and opening opportunities for them to shine.

When Otis retired from the Prep, O'Sullivan took over directing FPDS productions. His first order of business was to maintain the no-cut policy for students who want to be in the plays. He has built an inclusive program where passionate students can participate regardless of their experience or skill level. Participation in shows skyrocketed with upwards of 75 students, on average, involved in FPDS productions.

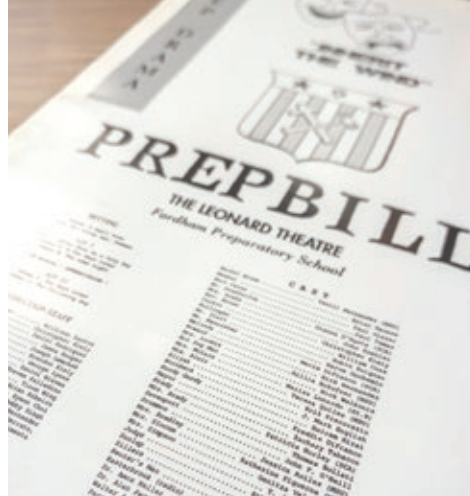
O'Sullivan also made changes to the production calendar to help seniors who were in the midst of both submitting college applications and performing in the fall FPDS production.

"We had 80% of our students applying to college the weekend of November

1st, so during intermission, I would go to my office to submit an application and then come back to the theater to call act two,” he remembered. He moved the fall production to December to avoid the insane conflict between his two worlds.

O’Sullivan names *The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged) (Revised)* in 2018 and *Les Misérables* in 2022 as his favorite Prep shows to produce thus far. The latter was the first musical he ever saw on Broadway in the 10th grade. He notes how difficult the demand of being in such high-caliber productions is, especially for high school students. He never thought he would run the FPDS back in the late ’90s and takes great pride to honor those leaders before him and the Leonard Theatre. O’Sullivan and his team have helped FPDS become an award-winning company. He challenges student performers to go beyond their perceived limitations and never accept indifference or mediocrity — that they should believe in themselves and follow their passion. That FPDS is a family, where the company bow (cast and crew) is the final bow — everyone together.

ABOVE: O’Sullivan was cast as the Judge in the 1997 FPDS production of *Inherit the Wind*.



O’Sullivan received his MA in School Counseling from Manhattan College in 2008 and later added his MSEd in School Building Leadership in 2021 from Fordham University. He also introduced a full-year academic course in the Visual and Performing Arts department called Fundamentals of Acting. This past fall he was selected as an inaugural winner of the National Catholic College Admission Association Lifetime Achievement in Catholic Education Award in 2023. The award celebrates his dedication to promoting the value and benefit of Catholic institutions for higher education and the mentorship he provides to younger counseling professionals.



Find what you are happy doing and what you are passionate about. Trust yourself.”

— TJ O’Sullivan, Director of College Counseling and Fordham Prep Dramatic Society moderator

O’Sullivan’s advice as a Director of College Counseling to students afraid of pursuing a career in the performing arts is simple: “Find what you are happy doing and what you are passionate about and the money will come. Trust yourself.”

In the spring of 2020, five graduating seniors went on to pursue acting and performance majors at their colleges of choice, a record number for the Prep and a memorable achievement in a long line over the course of the last 14 years.

“Maybe one day they’ll end up owning a theater company or find their way back to Fordham Prep running the Dramatic Society,” he said. ■

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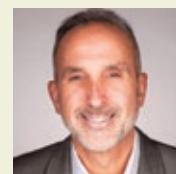
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Christopher M. Santomero '87, P'22

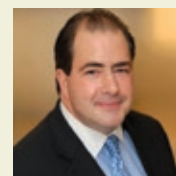
Neil A. Scanlon '94, P'25

Fordham Prep wishes to express profound gratitude to Tom Huvane '84, Ray Dorado '75, Dr. Kirk Sperber, and Christian Talbot for their dedicated service as members of our Board of Trustees. Their terms ended in June 2023. We are grateful for their steadfast commitment to the Prep's Catholic Jesuit mission.

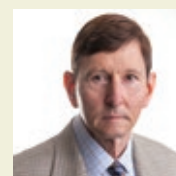
The Prep is thrilled to welcome our new board members: Marc Antonecchia Esq. '88 P'23, '25 (Partner at Holland & Knight LLP), Sean Gregory '94 P'24 (Senior Correspondent at *Time Magazine*), and Dr. Llew Hyacinthe '80 P'08 '15 (Physician and Urologist at SUNY Downstate Medical Center, University Hospital of Brooklyn), and Leslie Poole Petit, Ed.D P'18 '22 (Principal at Dominican Academy). Our new members began their board term on July 1, 2023.



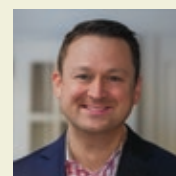
Ray Dorado, Esq. '75



Tom Huvane '84



Dr. Kirk Sperber, MD, PMH, MS



Christian Talbot

† Fordham Prep mourns the loss of trustee Kuni Nakamura '86. Read his obituary on page 39.

STUDENT REACTION



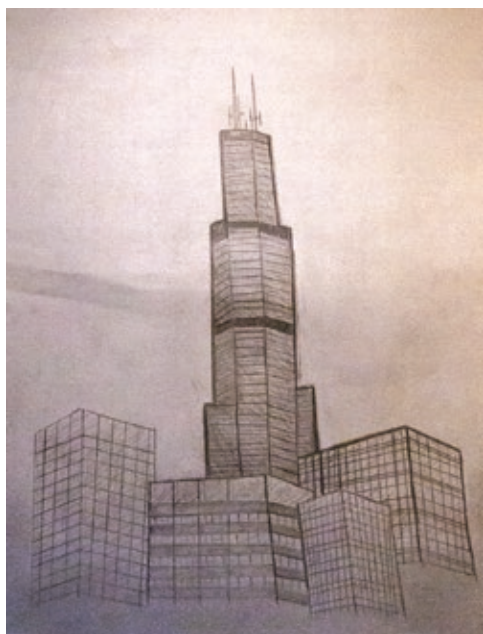
ADEN BEDFORD '24



DONOVAN BROOKS '24



JOSHUA CORDOVA '24



JUSTIN VILLANI '25



ACHILLES SIOUZIOS '25



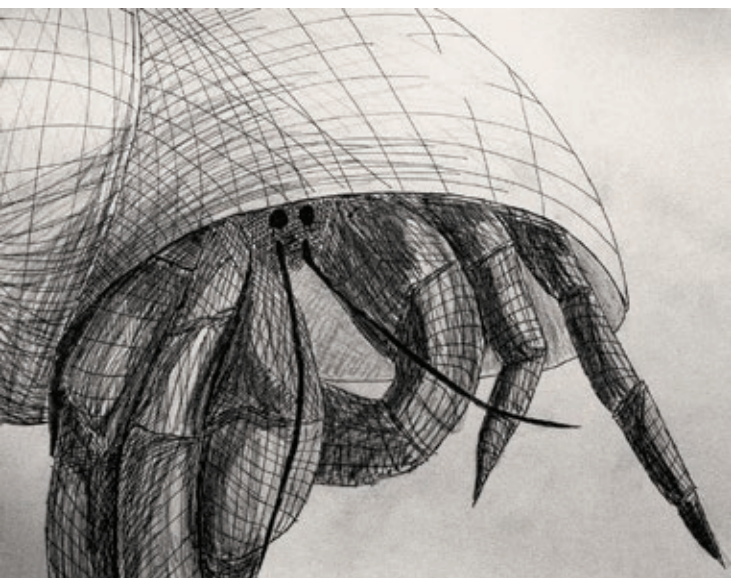
DALTON DANZA '25



MARCUS MURPHY '24



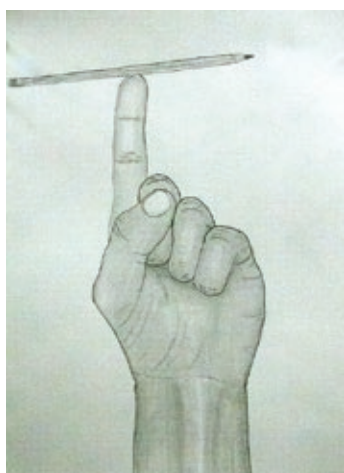
PHILLIP NGUYEN '25



ANTONIO DEFEO '24



MATTHEW WHYTE '24



GEORGE DOLCE '25



Yael GONZALEZ '24



TYLER GOH '24



NOAH REYES '24



ADEN BEDFORD '24

AT THE INTERSECTION OF ENTERTAINMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Growing up in the Bronx in the nineties, Stephen Blackwell '99 learned about Fordham Prep through the Higher Achievement Program. He participated in the program as a rising eighth-grader during the summer of 1993 and enrolled at the Prep the following year with some of the friends he made during those exciting summer weeks on the historic Rose Hill campus.

Blackwell remembers his time as a Prep student fondly. "I was pretty focused mostly on academics," he recalled. "There was music, sports, theater, and, obviously, a demanding curriculum. So it really had it all," he continued.

Coming from a musical family, his parents allowed him to perform in a band throughout high school with one caveat; he had to keep his grades up.

"I was performing on nights and weekends by the time I was 14 years old," Blackwell stated. "As long as I maintained my grades, worked hard, and studied hard I was able to pursue the things that I was passionate about," he added, noting that he was doing music internships by his junior year at the Prep.

Blackwell was a student of longtime faculty member Doug Otis, who taught him music theory for all four years at the Prep. The course was taught in Leonard Theatre, which had just been built when Blackwell entered his freshman year. "[The theatre] was really new," he remembered, "and the Prep was really dedicated to getting a lot of activity in there through performance and general assemblies. It was great to have that resource at the Prep," he added.

Stage time was of course at the forefront of Blackwell's core Prep memories. "When we were teenagers, Fordham Prep had a pretty famous Battle of the Bands. Those were my first performances," he recalled. "I haven't thought about this in a while and it's bringing a smile to my face," Blackwell beamed.

While he wasn't much of a theater kid, Blackwell would attend the Dramatic Society's performances in support of his friends on the cast and crew.



Nonetheless, Blackwell did enjoy performing at the school's annual Christmas Assembly as a student and remembers returning to Leonard Theatre as an alumnus to participate in the tradition alongside his friend Jeff Butkowski '99, the Prep's Director of Technical Operations.

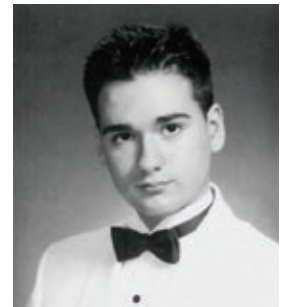
"I had known [Butkowski] in both high school and college before I started playing music with him, but we were both really precocious kids," Blackwell stated. While at the Prep, Blackwell joined a rock band called At a Loss, which Butkowski joined later on. The band was signed to Blackout! Records, put out an album titled *A Falling Away From* in 2004, and toured the United States.

"It showed me a lot," Blackwell said. "It brought me around the country, which was great, and I think the other side of it too is, I would say, for any who's younger and is responsible

Stephen Blackwell '99

Alumni, Music Department

CCO of Luminate, an entertainment analytics firm



LEFT: Stephen Blackwell '99 grew up in a musical household where he was exposed to his mother's singing and saw instruments, tapes, records, and stereos everywhere he turned. He got his first guitar in 1994.

ABOVE: Blackwell, senior year, Fordham Prep.

for performing or portraying something or getting in front of an audience or getting in front of a crowd: if you're able to build that muscle, when you're in your adolescence, and you're really comfortable with public speaking and comfortable with portrayal, that is going to benefit you for the rest of your life."

After graduating with a degree in English from Fordham University, Blackwell began writing music reviews for magazines. His skills as an editor led him to founding the culture and music brand Death & Taxes in 2007, which Spin Media acquired in 2014. Blackwell became CEO at Spin Media and went on to build a career in entertainment analytics, now serving as CCO at Luminate.

Somewhere along the way, Blackwell realized being in a band wasn't for him, but he is grateful for all the chances he had to be on stage. "When I started founding companies and becoming an executive, the transition to public speaking was very easy for me because of all those years of performance at a very young age," he noted.

Blackwell considers himself lucky to have worked with people in the industry who have contributed to his diversity of experience. At one point in his career, he realized that learning enough HTML and CSS to be able to communicate with engineers was important. He compared the realization to Metallica's attempt to write music for string instruments without knowing anything about writing classical music. "You can be a multimillionaire rock star and not be able to speak the basic language of music," he wrote in a Medium article over ten years ago.



The variety of experiences that Blackwell came to enjoy at Fordham Prep was made **worthwhile through the collaborative culture and healthy competition** he felt was facilitated amongst his classmates.

"I have been blessed to work at the intersection of technology and entertainment, whether that is music or film and television or a combination of both, throughout my entire career," said Blackwell. "As much as I would love to portray myself as an outstanding technical practitioner, I'm not," he laughed. "I learned as much as I could to pick up the lingo and be able to speak to people who were extremely talented technical practitioners. And that's been another very fortunate thing for me in my life. I have come across and have the good fortune of working with really, really elite talent," he continued.

The variety of experiences that Blackwell came to enjoy at Fordham Prep were made worthwhile through the collaborative culture and healthy competition he felt was facilitated amongst his classmates.

"I think one of the things that Fordham Prep did a really good job of when I was there, and probably still does to this day, is that it created a collaborative environment amongst peers," he began. "It also created a lot of healthy competition amongst peers, whether that's academically or otherwise. I think for anybody to thrive, you can't just have collaboration — you need collaboration and competition, simultaneously. I felt that my high school experience was tailored and curated in a unique way that made us want to compete, perform, and win," he continued, adding, "I think all of those qualities are really important to whatever field you're going to dedicate yourself to." ■

ABOVE: At a Loss band members (left to right) Aaron Bumpus, Stephen Blackwell '99, Greg Insero, and Jeff Butkowski '99.

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Members of the varsity soccer team.



During the fall, the Rams competed well on land, on and in the water, and in the lanes. There is much success to share from our fall sports season.

Matthew DeCarlo '24 bowls a strike on his way to a 200 plus game in a team victory over Archbishop Stepinac.



Soccer

The Varsity soccer team had a slow start to the season but finished strong with an impressive record of 10–3–5. The Rams clinched the second spot in the Archdiocesan AA Varsity League, among six competitive teams. Notably, they celebrated Coach McNamara's 500th win and orchestrated a thrilling comeback tie against Xaverian, with Jake O'Donnell '24's last-minute goal, equalizing the game at 2–2. The Rams would once again make it to the CHSAA intersectional semi-finals,

keeping the streak of consecutive semi-final appearances since 2002 alive. Unfortunately, their season would end there against Saint Francis Prep, the eventual champions.

Meanwhile, the JV soccer team faced and conquered adversity, finishing the season at 10–6. Their resilience shone through, overcoming a challenging loss to Saint Francis Prep and securing a significant victory against Iona Prep. The team's season ended in the second round of the CHSAA playoffs.

Bowling

The varsity Rams secured victories against top-ranked opponents Archbishop Stepinac and Sacred Heart. Matthew DeCarlo '26 led the team by turning in 200-plus games in both matches including a season-high 234. In addition, Valentino Freitas-Garrott '25 and Brunel Bawuah '27 performed well in big

matches. The JV team's successes against Iona Prep and Salesian High School propelled them to tie for third place in the league. Notable bowlers who played a vital role in this achievement are Alex Phan '26, Daniel Greenberg '27, Jesse Farina-Mosca '27, and Andrew Lee '27.

Freshman Swimming and Diving

The Fordham Prep freshman swimming and diving team had an excellent campaign securing runner-up positions in both the regular season and the CHSAA Freshman Championships. Notable achievements include Sean Flaherty '27 in the 100 IM and 50 Breast, Aaron Flores '27 in the 100 IM and 50 Breast, Marcus Pinzon '27 in the 100 IM and 50 Fly, Eric Diaz '27 in the 50 Free and 100 Free, Seraphin Akincilar '27 in the 50 Free and 50 Back, Javon Hopkins '27 in the 50 Free and 100 Free, Xavier Haughton '27 in Diving, Leonard Hutaj '27 in the 50 Fly and 50 Back, Nicanor Rios '27 in the 50 Fly and 50 Back, Garrett Hen '27 in the 100 Free and 50 Breast, David Cruz '27 in the 100 Free, and Aiden Murphy '27 in the 50 Back — all achieving top-12 finishes. The team's success underscores the depth of talent within the freshman roster and signals a promising trajectory for their transition to the varsity level, highlighting substantial growth within the Fordham Prep swimming and diving program.



Members of the Freshman Swimming and Diving team pose for a team picture after finishing in 2nd place for the dual meet season.



Cross Country

Our running Rams started the season strong at the Regis Invitational, Gabe Kramer-Griffith '25 and John Canale '25 both ran under 15 minutes. In Rochester, New York, at the McQuaid Invitational, one of the biggest high-school meets in the country, three of our boys ran under 18 minutes for the 3-mile course. At the Manhattan Invitational, the biggest high-school cross-country meet on the East Coast, the varsity ran well, with four members of the squad running under 15 minutes, despite the wet and terrible conditions. Kramer-Griffith led the varsity with a time of 14:25. At the CHSAA Intersectional championship, the team placed 6th, led by team captain David Rosado '24. The Sophomore team took 3rd at the Sophomore State Championships, led by Paxton Reyes '26, who broke 15 minutes for the first time. At the season's final meet, the annual Jesuit championship, the Rams ran strong and took 3rd as a team, led by Canale, who ran a huge PR to close the season, and Rosado. Both boys placed top 10 in the meet. Reyes also ran a PR of 14:43.

Members of the Sophomore Cross Country team pose for a picture after their 3rd place finish at the Sophomore State Championships.

continued...

Football

The Varsity Football team concluded the season with a final record of 6–5. The team produced convincing victories over Saint Francis (27–0) and Holy Cross (38–8), along with wins against Mount St. Michael, Christ the King, and Kennedy Catholic. While the Rams fell short in the playoffs, they were at their best for the 100th Turkey Bowl against the Knights of Xavier. On 4th and goal from the one-yard line, the defense stood tall and made the stop, securing both a 21–14 win and their place in Fordham Prep football history!

The JV football team finished their season with a 3–5 record, securing notable wins against Xaverian, Mount St. Michael, and Saint John the Baptist. While the JV Rams fell short in the first round of the playoffs, they certainly displayed their prowess on the gridiron.

The Fordham Prep Freshman Football Team finished the season with a 2–6 record. The team had victories over Holy Cross and St. Joseph by the Sea. The team worked hard all season, learning how to practice, study film, and develop fundamental skills at their various positions that are needed to win. The future of Rams football looks very promising as this team has lots of young talented players.

Varsity football players celebrate their victory over Xavier at the 100th Turkey Bowl.



Crew

The crew team had its best day of the fall at the Overpeck Fall Classic in Leonia, NJ. Robert Romani '24 took 1st place in the Men's Youth 1x. In the Men's Youth Novice 2x, Brian Hickey '26 took 1st place. In the Men's Youth Second Varsity 4x, stroked by Ryan Palumbo '25 and Aidan Pianetti '25, the Rams clinched the 4th and 8th places, respectively. The Rams also had another strong performance at the Head of the Passaic Regatta. In the Men's HS JV 4x, Ryan Palumbo '25 and Aidan Pianetti '25 secured 2nd and 9th place finishes respectively. In the Men's HS Novice 8x, Noah Franklin '27 stroked a 4th-place finish. The Crew team wrapped up its fall season at the Head of the Schuylkill Regatta, with Robert Romani '24 earning a silver medal. Adding to the team's achievements, the Men's Youth Second Varsity 2x, stroked by Ryan Palumbo '25, secured a commendable 4th place. Overall, the program showcased skill and determination across various categories during the season. ■



Robert Romani '24 strokes a top 10 finish at the Head of the Quinobequin Regatta in Boston.



Coach Pat Deane '88 P'25 (left) holds the Turkey Bowl trophy next to Matthew Moorehead '24 (right), who holds the Presidents' Trophy for being named game MVP.



The Fordham Prep Rams celebrate their win against Xavier at the historic 100th Turkey Bowl on November 23, 2023.

RAMS' TURKEY BOWL WINNING STREAK CONTINUES AT HISTORIC 100TH GAME

In front of a crowd of over 5,000 and thousands more watching at home and online via the YES Network, the Fordham Prep Rams defeated their archrivals, the Knights of Xavier, in the historic 100th edition of the Turkey Bowl, one of the oldest high school football rivalries in the nation.

Pre-game festivities at Moglia Stadium on the historic Rose Hill Campus, which is home both to the Prep and Fordham University, included a Fan Fest with food from vendors Grey's Donuts, Mike's Deli, Pugsley Pizza, and Fox Street BBQ & Grill as well as face painting, balloon making, and bounce houses from Clowns4Kids, and two live rams from All Creatures Great & Small. Before the coin toss, as is tradition, senior players from both teams participated in the tradition of presenting their families with flowers in recognition of their final high school football game.

BOTTOM ROW: Pre-game festivities at the 100th Turkey Bowl included live rams, face painting, bounce houses, balloon making, food, and the presentation of flowers to senior moms.

After an exciting entrance from the Rams and the singing of the national anthem by Noah Rodriguez '24, it was time for the Rams and the Knights to battle it out on the gridiron.

Fordham Prep won the toss and elected to receive.

The Ram offense came out firing on all cylinders to open up the 100th Turkey Bowl. Quarterback Matthew Moorehead '24 connected with Jake Brodick '24 for a 20-yard completion on the first play of the game. Back-to-back runs by Jack McKillop '25 would bring the Rams deep into Xavier's territory at the 20-yard line. On 3rd down, Moorehead would connect with Kailer Sato '24 for a big gainer that if not for an amazing strip by a Xavier linebacker would have resulted in the first touchdown of the day, as the fumble was induced on the Knights' 1-yard line.

This set the stage for the first of many big plays by the Ram Defense on the day. With the Knights backed up on their own 1-yard line, Will Dessoffy '24 took on three blockers allowing Patrick Sohr '24,

James Rice '25 and Sean Rooney '25 to combine for a crushing tackle resulting in a safety.

On the ensuing kick return, McKillop scampered up the Prep sideline taking the ball all the way to the Xavier 15-yard line. Disaster struck again as the Rams fumbled the football on 1st down for their second turnover of the day.

With stellar play from the defensive line, the Ram defense answered the bell. Defensive tackles Albee Cornachio III '24, Patrick Keeley '25, and Christian Dimitri '24 dominated the Xavier Knight offensive line, forcing a quick three and out for the Xavier offense.

The Ram offense would struggle to find its footing on the following drive, culminating in yet another turnover in Xavier territory.

This was of little concern to the Ram defense as they were playing with tremendous confidence and physicality. On 3rd down, Sohr made an amazing shoestring tackle forcing back-to-back 3 and outs for the Knights offense.

continued...



TURKEY BOWL: WINNING STREAK

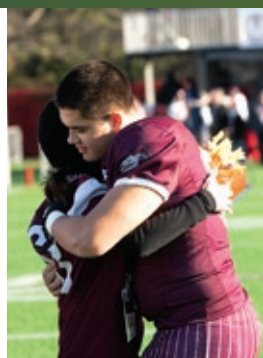
The Ram offensive struggles would continue on the following drive with a crucial dropped pass and a miscue in the wide receiver corps. With an errant punt, the Knight offense found themselves in Prep territory for the first time.

The Xavier offense was able to chip away at the Ram defense, finally punching it in from the 1-yard line. The PAT was good and the Knights were now up 7-2 early in the 2nd quarter.

Fortunately, the Rams were able to get some momentum going with a key completion from Moorehead to Will Wood '24 on 3rd and 9. From their own 35-yard line, the Rams once again found themselves in 3rd and long. Ever the cool customer, Moorehead connected with Lucas Occascio '24 for a 60-yard screen TD pass for the first Prep touchdown. The two-point conversion was good, making the score 10-7.

The Knight offense refused to go away and was able to put together a solid drive ending in the second touchdown run of the day. The point after touchdown was good, making the score 14-10.

With only a couple minutes left to play in the first half, the Ram offense started the drive at their own 15-yard line. The offensive line, led by Joe Reagan '24 and Albee Cornachio '24, began asserting their will. Creating great running lanes for the Prep running backs and clean



LEFT: Ram mascot launches 100th Turkey Bowl hoodies into the crowd. MIDDLE AND RIGHT: Pre-game festivities at the 100th Turkey Bowl included live rams, face painting, bounce houses, balloon making, food, and the presentation of flowers to senior families.

pockets for Moorehead to throw. While the drive stalled out at the Xavier 35-yard line at the end of the first half, the Ram offense had demonstrated an ability to move the ball on the ground and in the air. Several great catches were made on this drive by Wood and Brodick.

Down 14-10 at halftime, Coach Pat Deane '88 P'25 delivered a fiery message to his team. He implored the Rams to play their game, execute their assignments, and minimize their mistakes. Deane reminded them that this was one of the biggest games in Fordham Prep football history and that together they would win it.

The Ram defense continued their dominance in the second half, forcing yet another 3 and out for the Knight offense, highlighted by Dimitri and Dessofoy combining for a sack.

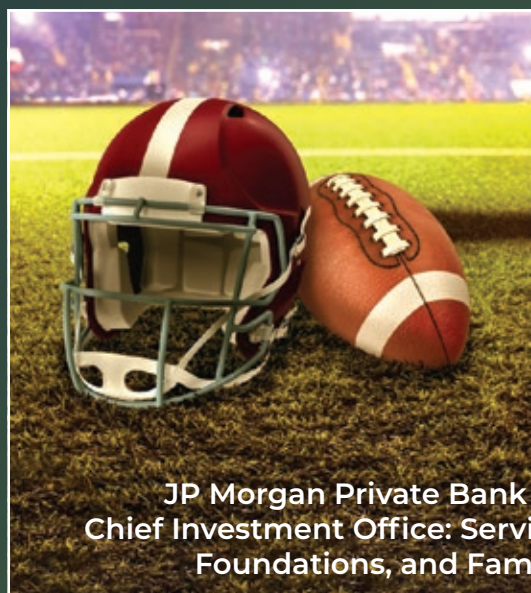
The Ram offense started the next drive in great field position at their own 40-yard line. Soon finding themselves in third and long, Moorehead called Brodick's number and delivered a strike to Brodick for a huge completion, making it 4th and 1.

It was at this point that the Ram offensive line truly took over the game, highlighted by a 4th down McKillop 25-yard run down to the Xavier 10-yard line.

After another fumble (but retained possession) and a deflected pass with an open receiver in the endzone, the Rams had to settle for 3, making the score 14-13.

The Ram defense yet again stood tall and forced another 3 and out after a combined tackle for loss between McKillop and Dimitri on 2nd down and a big hit on 3rd down from Rice and Rooney.

— SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR 100TH TURKEY BOWL SPONSORS —



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Foundations, and Family Offices**

OUR ALUMNI SPONSORS

Jim Rowen '82

Mario Gabelli '61



Joe Moglia '67

AND THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR FANS FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND DEDICATION!



ABOVE LEFT: Rams football players entering Jack Coffey Field for the 100th Turkey Bowl. MIDDLE: Noah Rodriguez '24 singing the national anthem at the 100th Turkey Bowl. RIGHT: Wide receiver Jack Brodick '24 makes a contested catch while getting both feet in bounds on a crucial 3rd down.

The Ram offense took the field on their own 45-yard line. With a blitzing line-backer in his face, Moorehead connected with Sato for 8 yards on 3rd and 5.

Later in the drive, the Rams found themselves in a crucial 4th and 6 from the Xavier 35-yard line. With ice in his veins, Moorehead connected on a strike to Brodick, who had a defender draped all over him.

On the first play of the 4th quarter, Moorehead connected with Brodick one final time for a 20-yard touchdown pass on a play the Rams were saving for exactly this moment. This put the Rams ahead 19-14 and in a position where they had to go for the two-point conversion. With one more trick up their sleeve, the Rams offense executed a rub concept

freeing McKillop in the endzone. The two-point conversion was good and the Rams were now up 21-14!

Continuing their excellent play, the Ram defense held tough and forced a Xavier punt that took a bad hop and was fumbled by the Ram returner. The Knights recovered the ball for a first and 10 from the Ram 47-yard line.

The Knights methodically moved the ball down the field until they found themselves in a 4th and goal situation from the 1-and-a-half-yard line with 20 seconds left in the game.

The Ram defense had been excellent all day and needed one more big play. With their backs against the wall and the odds stacked against them, the Rams

rose to the challenge one final time. Defensive lineman Keeley shot his gap and combined for the game-winning tackle with Sohr and Dessoify.

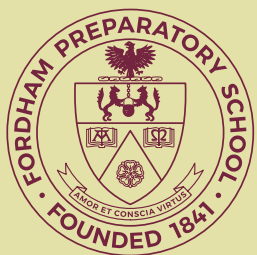
The Ram offense assumed the victory formation and went to a knee on consecutive downs as time expired.

Playing through a torn labrum, Quarter-back Moorehead was named Most Valuable Player, connecting on 17 of his 29 throws for 222 yards and a pair of touchdowns.

The victory in this historic matchup is Fordham Prep's 55th win in the series and fourth win in a row. ■

LOOK SHARP & TEE-TALLY AMAZING!

Make a gift to the Prep's Annual Fund of **\$50 or more** between today and February 14th and we'll send you a pair of limited-edition **Fordham Prep - You're Always from the Bronx** socks as our way of saying thanks!



Faculty Members Who Shape Lives



When Christian '24 began his studies at Fordham Prep he was met by a world-class faculty with a Jesuit mission that would unite his passions. Christian spoke four languages and studied classical music prior to attending Fordham Prep, and during the pandemic he created a mental health concept app. But he was looking for a way to create a future around these interests. Inspired by Fordham Prep's commitment to interdisciplinary learning and faculty members like Mr. Baker, who didn't just teach Spanish but immersed students in Latin culture and accompanied them abroad, Christian found the intellectual community he needed to illuminate his future, studying the critical intersection of language, music, and neuroscience.

YOUR ANNUAL FUND GIFT PROVIDES OUR STUDENTS WITH FACULTY WHO DRIVE IMPACT.



Fordham Prep faculty make you feel part of a family. They create connection, and it becomes less of a class and more of a conversation between the teacher and the student. I'm learning so much more than I ever have, and I'm inspired by the mission of my school.

— Christian '24



Donate Today

fordhamprep.org/donate

FORDHAM PREP ANNUAL FUND

All gifts made to the Fordham Prep Annual Fund help us attract and retain top-tier faculty members and deliver immersive learning experiences as part of a college preparatory education in the Catholic Jesuit tradition.



NYAC BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHRISTMAS PARTY

On Tuesday, December 5th, the Board of Trustees hosted members of the Fordham Prep community who have supported our mission with their time, effort, and resources for a night of Christmas cheer.

Trustees welcomed members of the Rams Union Giving Society, the Young Alumni Brotherhood Society, and our hardworking volunteers at the historic New York Athletic Club to share in the spirit of the season and to say “thank you” for their support.

The crowd of over 300 celebrated with their classmates and current and past Prep parents, and met with President Anthony Day. It was a fantastic kick-off to the holiday season. The dedication of our Rams Union Giving Society members ensures that we can continue to provide an exceptional Catholic Jesuit education to our students. We are especially grateful to our loyal Prep volunteers and members of the Young Alumni Brotherhood Society for their tireless efforts in strengthening our community.

We hope you and your families enjoyed a wonderful holiday season filled with warmth and happiness! ■

ATTEND FUTURE RAMS UNION EVENTS!

To be invited, become a part of the Rams Union by making a gift of \$1,000 or more in support of Fordham Prep: fordhamprep.org/donate.



AROUND THE PREP

Meet the 2024 Arredondo STEM Scholarship Winners

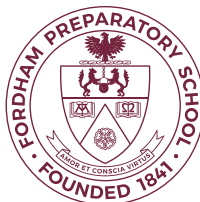
Fordham Prep is pleased to announce the Class of 2024 recipients of the Angeles T. Arredondo (ATA) Foundation STEM Scholarship: Charles Nordin, Jr. '24, Aakaash Raja '24, and Rafael Nieto '24.

The Prep is fortunate to partner with the ATA Foundation for a third year, allowing three outstanding Rams to benefit from their generosity with college scholarships.

The ATA Foundation's dedication to Fordham Prep and our students and their support of the iSTEAM initiative is represented in the astounding commitment of \$425,000 in scholarships over a five-year span. Every year, a new cohort of deserving students is awarded to benefit from this generous initiative.

This scholarship requires candidates to excel in six advanced STEM courses during their first three years, including subjects like AP Chemistry, Geometry Honors, and AP Physics. The three students who achieve the highest GPAs in these STEM courses are bestowed with this prestigious scholarship.

Our three winners in the Class of 2024 will officially receive their awards later in the academic year.



To learn more about iSTEAM at Fordham Prep, visit www.fordhamprep.org/academics/isteam.



1ST PRIZE WINNER Charles Nordin '24 (\$50k Scholarship)

Nordin appreciates the rigorous coursework that he was presented with in his iSTEAM classes.

"Fordham Prep's iSTEAM program has encouraged my love of mathematical and scientific thinking through challenging and hands-on coursework in AP Physics, Chemistry, and Calculus. The program has also brought me

to find God in all things through the perspective of the sciences and to think about how my learning can be used at the service of humanity and for God's greater glory, not just for myself," he said.

In addition to being the co-president and co-founder of the Prep's Math Club, Nordin has served as a singer and cantor in the Liturgical Choir. He's a member of the Ministry Leadership Team, which has allowed him to help lead a Freshman Retreat as well as an Emmaus Retreat for juniors.

Nordin hopes to study theology or mechanical engineering in college next fall at a Catholic college in the Northeast or Mid-Atlantic region of the United States.

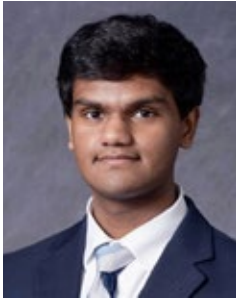
"Charles was bright and curious by nature," recalls Matthew DiStefano from the Prep's Science Department. "He approached his studies with a dedicated commitment to doing his best each day. Charles was diligent and thoughtful, giving careful consideration to each assignment, demonstrating a strong passion for learning, and a genuine interest in the subject matter," he added.

continued...



Charles was diligent and thoughtful, giving careful consideration to each assignment, demonstrating a strong passion for learning, and a genuine interest in the subject matter."

— Matthew DiStefano,
Science Department



2ND PRIZE WINNER
Aakaash Raja '24
(\$25k Scholarship)

For Raja, the iSTEAM program at Fordham Prep was an integral part of his self-discovery as a high school student.

"Each math and science class I have taken pushed me to learn both the subject and something new about myself," he began. "This is largely due to the amazing individuals who teach me these subjects. The instruction is incredible, and the teachers are all patient and interested in seeing us learn. Furthermore, my talks with them about topics beyond the realm of classwork have been part of the spark that began my decision to include science or math somewhere in my next step. I am grateful for Fordham Prep's guidance in helping me realize that I wish to study the harmonizing of the insight of quantitative subjects on questions that arise in the humanities," he explained.

Outside of the classroom, Raja has worked with the Greenhouse Club to grow food for the pantry at Part of the Solution (POTS), and served on the FitzSimons Civics Symposium Committee. Raja helped found the Math Club and is part of the History Bowl Team, Dean's Council, Hunger Awareness Committee, and Rams for Justice, a club that raises awareness and funds to combat issues of injustice in our society. He is also the co-chair of the Student Life Committee (SLC) and a Student Representative on the Student Wellness Advisory Team (SWAT) — both of which have given Raja a taste of what it's like to help craft policy.

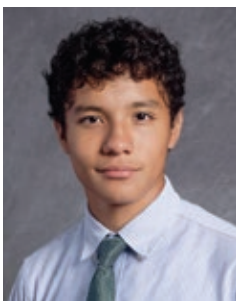
In college next fall, Raja plans to major in mathematics and government or the intersection of both subjects.

Anthony DiFato '99 of the Prep's Science Department describes Raja as a "complex thinker." He stated, "Aakaash would always break down a problem or concept into its various layers highlighting the subtle layers of complexity present. He was one of the most insightful and thoughtful students in the class. He would always pose questions about connections to various ideas or areas of study. He's very much a Renaissance man."



He would always pose questions about connections to various ideas or areas of study. He's very much a Renaissance man."

— Anthony DiFato '99,
 Science Teacher



3RD PRIZE WINNER
Rafael Nieto '24
(\$10k Scholarship)

The Prep's iSTEAM program helped solidify Nieto's interest in pursuing a career in the medical field.

"Taking as many of the highest level science and math classes offered at the Prep as I could has allowed me to delve into the

major fields of study that make up a pre-med curriculum in college and determine that medicine is indeed my passion," Nieto noted. "I am thankful for the opportunity to have been offered such courses and rigor with which to challenge myself and hone in on my interests in biology, chemistry, and medicine to eventually integrate the natural and human sciences and mathematics into one profession," he continued.

In addition to being one of the Prep's javelin throwers on the track and field team and a soccer player, Nieto helped found the Math Club with Nordin and Raja. He's also a member of Speech & Debate, the Yearbook Club, the Student Life Committee, and the Business Club.

Nieto intends to study pre-med with a major in biochemistry or neurobiology at a college in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, or on the West Coast of the United States.

"I would describe Rafael as an extremely devoted student. While there were many things that came to Rafael easily, he never took that for granted," said Dean of Faculty and math teacher Claire McCarrick. "While his superior grades are certainly an added bonus, learning is what brings him joy. Rafael is a student who is intrinsically motivated and seeks to understand rather than to simply recall information," she added. ■



While his superior grades are certainly an added bonus, learning is what brings him joy."

— Claire McCarrick '96,
 Dean of Faculty and Math Teacher

Men and Women for Others From 3,600 Miles Away

In June 2023, science teacher Jennifer Muller, Dean of Students Steven Pettus P'17 '19, and math teacher Omar Ward '92 and P'22 '24 accompanied a group of students to Morocco as part of the Prep's a Global Education program.

The group, which included 25 Prepsters, landed first in Portugal before heading to Spain for the first leg of the journey. After two days of exploring Spain, the group crossed the Strait of Gibraltar into Tangier, Morocco.

The students and chaperones learned about the history and culture of Morocco through walking tours of Marrakesh, camel rides on the beach, encounters with local musicians, and visits to the blue city of Chefchaouen.

One can imagine that after such experiences, no one wanted the trip to end. Nonetheless, after 10 days abroad, the students and chaperones flew back to the United States.

Muller remembers their hosts for the trip, Saïd and Stafford, fondly. Saïd, who grew up in Morocco as part of the Berber people, and Stafford, an American, have been married for 10 years.

"We built a really great relationship with Saïd and Stafford while we were there," Muller stated. "He's so knowledgeable about Morocco in general, and she has such a different view of the country as someone who is an American citizen with a Moroccan visa," she continued.

The chaperones kept in touch with the host family after the trip, communicating with them almost daily.

On September 8th, 2023, the first day of the school year, news broke of a 6.8 magnitude earthquake that struck near the town of Oukaïmedene in western Morocco. The earthquake and aftershock that followed damaged much of Marrakech, where the host family resides, as well as settlements in the Atlas Mountains, causing a death toll of nearly 3,000. Injuries totaled 5,500.

"As soon as the earthquakes happened, I received messages from [Global Education directors] Teresa DiVita-Geremia and Pierre Chavez as well as [Director of Campus Ministry] Mike Kravatz P'23 and [Director of Christian Service] Paul Homer



ABOVE: Saïd, Melissa Remhild P'25, and Stafford in Marrakesh, Morocco. Remhild's women's yoga retreat group took some time out of their trip to volunteer in the Atlas Mountains sorting clothing donations and helping with other post-earthquake tasks.

BELOW: Fordham Prep students riding camels on the beach in Morocco.

reaching out to find out if we still had communication with our hosts. Then the conversation immediately shifted to 'What can we do to help? There has to be something we can do,'" Muller recalled.

Thankfully, the host couple was able to message Muller, reassuring everyone at the Prep that they were doing okay. Unfortunately, they could not stay in their home with their two children as the cracks in the walls from the earthquake became a safety hazard. In addition, Saïd's family in the Atlas Mountains were suffering from a lot of devastation due to the destruction of their tented homes.





“ This is our donation from Fordham Prep in NYC. We are hoping to buy some tents for people in the mountains that were affected after the earthquake.”

— Stafford Jackson, Chaperone

Stafford in a Facebook video while holding an envelope which contains the donation from Fordham Prep in NYC. The envelope has the note that reads, “We are thinking of you and wish you all of the best.”

The students who participated in the Morocco trip along with members of the Prep's student clubs, Unicef and Just Serve, got to work in those first few days of school to raise funds for those affected by the disaster. They held a bake sale, which raised nearly \$600, the equivalent of 6,000 Moroccan dirhams.

However, getting the funds raised to Morocco was proving to be a bit of a challenge.

“It's really hard because you can't just send things to Morocco. I can't just mail Stafford a letter,” Muller explained. “We knew that the money we raised could really make a change so we started talking about how we could possibly get all these funds over to them,” she continued.

Carter Remhild '25, one of the students who went on the trip to Morocco, overheard Muller talking about the obstacles the Prep was facing with the fundraiser during his Physics Honors class.

“My son mentioned to her that I was going on a women's yoga retreat in Morocco, which I've never done before, and I was like, ‘What are the chances of this happening?’” said Melissa Remhild P' 25. “I couldn't believe it. Like, the moons were aligned for all of us,” she exclaimed.

Remhild was actually considering skipping the retreat because of the earthquake, but after speaking with people who were already on site, she was persuaded to take the trip.

“[Mrs. Muller] told me that they had raised all this cash and couldn't

figure out how to get it to them,” Remhild said. “She gave the money to me and I met the couple at the hotel in Marrakech that I was staying in,” she explained.

Remhild recalls that the couple had nothing but nice things to say about the Prep students they hosted that summer. “[Stafford] said she was a little nervous at first, but then she told me how amazing the boys were. Their character, their personalities, and the ‘men for others’ — I guess it trickles into their travels to other countries,” Remhild remarked.

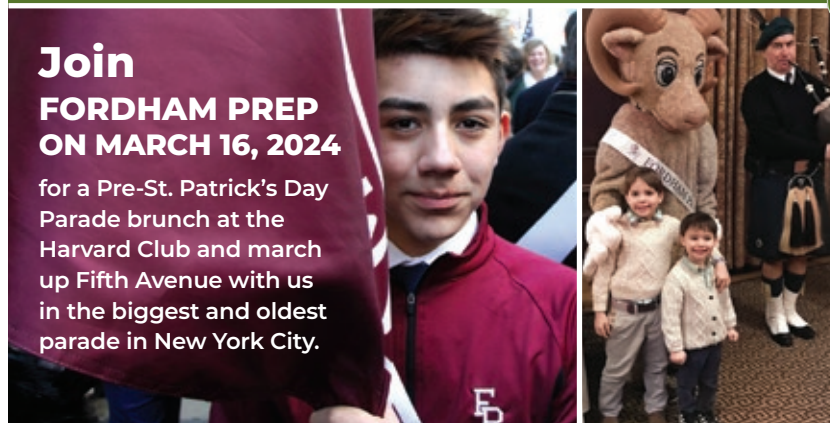
The money that the Prep donated was able to finance two tents for families in the Atlas Mountains and sponsored a third. This, Remhild noted, was incredibly helpful in combating the cooler fall and winter months on the horizon. ■



ST. PATRICK'S DAY BRUNCH & PARADE

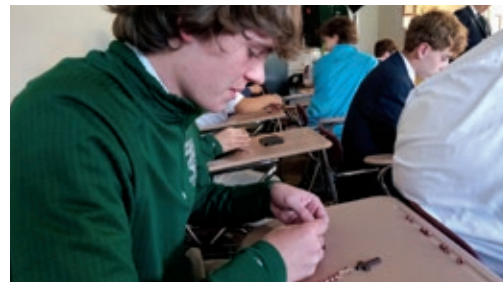
**Join
FORDHAM PREP
ON MARCH 16, 2024**

for a Pre-St. Patrick's Day Parade brunch at the Harvard Club and march up Fifth Avenue with us in the biggest and oldest parade in New York City.



CELEBRATING A VENERABLE CULTURE

In a poignant tribute to one of their own, Fordham Prep's student-run Irish Club launched the Sean Tallon '92 Fund, dedicated to preserving the memory of a heroic alumnus who tragically lost his life on September 11, 2001.



Tallon, a U.S. Marine and New York City firefighter, was deeply connected to his Irish heritage and the Prep community. As a part of this initiative, the Tallon family has pledged their support, including both a contribution to the fund and the donation of Sean's artifacts, which will be showcased in the upcoming "Sean's Locker" exhibit in Rowen Lobby, set to open in the spring of 2024.

"Sean was a hero. He was also a great proponent of Irish American culture, he loved the Prep, and he loved the Irish-American experience. He was involved with so much of the Irish and Irish American culture," said school archivist and Irish Club moderator Louis DiGiorno '88 'P26.

The Tallon Fund, spearheaded by former Irish Club moderator Ryan

Fedak '09 and DiGiorno, came about while planning last school year's Irish Heritage Month activities for the club. The fund honors Sean Tallon's sacrifice and ensures his memory at the Prep for years to come. Funds raised will both support a rising senior who is active in the Prep's Irish Club and subsidize club activities, allowing students to experience Irish and Irish-Catholic culture.

The impact of this scholarship on Fordham Prep students extends beyond financial assistance. It fosters a sense of pride and awareness of their Irish heritage.

"The Irish Club provides something that ensures students are aware and can be proud of this venerable heritage which has had such a great impact on our country, on the New York area in particular, but also in the history of our school," DiGiorno said,

noting that Fordham's founder, Archbishop John Hughes, was an Irish immigrant.

As preparations for the "Sean's Locker" exhibit continue, DiGiorno emphasizes its significance as a permanent reminder of what it truly means to be a man for others.

"It will be a reminder of what it really means to be a man for others to the boys in an extraordinary way," said DiGiorno, who is working to finalize the exhibit. "His family members are extraordinarily grateful and happy that Sean's memory is going to continue to live on in a place that meant so much to him," he added.

To donate to the Sean Tallon '92 Fund, please visit www.fordhamprep.org/giving/tallon.

TOP LEFT: Items donated by Sean Tallon's family for the "Sean's Locker" exhibit.

TOP RIGHT: Eileen Tallon P'92 GP'22, Ryan Fedak '09, Rosaleen DaRos (née Tallon) P'22, and Louis DiGiorno '88 P'26 at 12 Cox Street in Yonkers, New York, the residence at which the meeting to establish the Tallon Fund took place. It was the location of Sean Tallon's departure on the morning of September 11, 2001, to which he would sadly never return.

BOTTOM LEFT: Dean Connor Brown '09 leads bagpipe lessons with members of the Irish Club.

BOTTOM RIGHT: In honor of Our Lady (and their cultural heritage), the Irish Club created "Penal Rosaries" and distributed their handiwork for a prayer service held in the Peter Arabia '76 Prayer Garden this past fall.

SAVE THE DATE

SATURDAY, MAY 4, 2024

FORDHAM PREP REUNION

For classes ending in a 4 or 9

CLASS Notes

1913 & 2001

Years ago, Mrs. Anne Goswami P '01 answered the call to find the earliest known Prep ring in response to an article in Fall 2011 *Ramview* by school historian Lou DiGiorno, class of 1988, "Lords of the Rings."

It turns out, not only was Anne a Prep mom, but a Prep granddaughter as well — and, in fact, still had the class ring of her grandfather, **John Michael Karl, Class of 1913: by far, the**



earliest known Fordham Prep ring in existence.

Eighty-eight years after John first wore his class ring, his great-grandson, Blaise Goswami, would receive a Prep ring of his own, marking him as a member of the Class of 2001.



John Michael Karl and some of his books, certificates, and math quizzes from his time at Hughes Hall.

Last spring, the Goswamis donated both John's and Blaise's rings to the Prep asking only that the rings be kept together always as a testament to their family's Rose Hill legacy. In addition, they donated some of Grandpa John's books, certificates, and even a math quiz from his Hughes Hall years — amazing and irreplaceable glimpses into school life in the early 20th century. Our thanks to the Karl-Goswami family for sharing their story and their Fordham Prep treasures with the Rams of today and the Rams of generations yet to come.

1955

Daniel Melia, the grandson of Tom Comerford '55, is a junior at Fordham University and is an Honors student. Tom spent 17 years connected to Fordham through his time as a student at the Prep and in the Summer Camp Programs, then as a student at Fordham University and Fordham Law School. Not to mention his Golden Ram status and 68 years of being a Fordham Prep Ram!



Pictured in front of Hughes Hall: Frank Suozzi '58, Tony Spohr '58, Larry Ricciardi '58, and Jim Melican '58.

1958

Sixty-five years after they graduated from the Prep, Class of 1958 members Frank Suozzi, Tony Spohr, Larry Ricciardi, and Jim Melican take every opportunity to gather and reminisce about their time at the Prep.



Students from Fordham Prep, Prep teacher Mike Kravitz, and other Viva House volunteers pictured with Brendan Walsh '60, at left in dark blue shirt, and his wife, Willa Bickham, standing below.

1956

The Williams and Creegan Family claimed their Big Top Experience: "Keepin' It Old School" — dinner with our Fordham Prep Archivist, Lou DiGiorno '88. They had an evening of reminiscence and tales of their shared Fordham Prep legacy. Lou presented the Williams and Creegan

Family with a blowup of the 4/20/56 *Rampart*, the front page of which mentioned the Paul Williams Quartet, the band that rocked Hughes Hall back in the mid-1950s, headed up by none other than drummer Paul Williams '56, late husband of Phyllis Williams, father of Patreece Williams Creegan P'24, and grandfather of Paul Creegan '24.



Left to right, top row to bottom: Lou DiGiorno '88, Patreece Williams-Creegan, Patrick Creegan, Phyllis Williams, Paul Creegan '24, and Paige Creegan.

1957

Old friends from the Class of '57 Jeanne McAnaney (widow of Ed McAnaney '57), Helen Waters (widow of Marty Waters '57), and John Hoey '57 caught up with each other at the Prep's Annual President's Reception and met Prep President Anthony Day.

1958 & 1959

Richard Sartore '59 and Edward Sartore '58 have been enjoying retirement and traveling. Most recently visiting relatives in Italy and toasting their time at Fordham Prep.

1960

Three 1960 Fordham Prep grads — Jack Geraghty, Jack Bergen, and Brendan Walsh —

set out on paths that would clash as the Vietnam War unfolded. Geraghty enrolled in the U.S. Naval Academy, Bergen enrolled in the U.S. Military Academy, and Walsh enrolled in LeMoyne College. Walsh left the seminary in 1967, became active in the antiwar movement and protested the draft while Geraghty and Bergen rose in military ranks and came home from the war with Bronze Stars. During the war, Walsh turned their home into a Catholic Worker house called Viva House where they serve meals, provide shelter and tackle the complex problems of poverty and violence. Despite their different paths, Geraghty and Bergen nominated Walsh for Fordham Prep's Hall of Honor for his 50-year effort to combat poverty in Baltimore. Geraghty and Bergen traveled to Viva House with 8 Fordham Prep students and 2 staffers to deliver more than 150 bags



Pictured: Anthony Day, Helen Waters, Jeanne McAnaney, and John Hoey '57.

of food collected during the Great Ignatian Challenge during the Prep's annual Hunger Awareness Month. The Prep's class of 2023 also voted to donate their class gift to the Brendan Walsh Service Endowment.

1962

Patrick Swift '62 recently retired from his position at WNYW Fox Broadcasting after 44 years and is looking forward to the next act in his life.

Jim Buckman '62 was recently awarded the *Victory Bell Award* by Fordham University for his contributions in launching the New Era Fund which supports Fordham's men's and women's basketball programs.

1969

Michael Doyle '69 and Acheson Doyle Partners Architects (ADP) and the firm recently received a Chairman's Award from the NY Landmarks Conservancy for its accomplishments in the architectural realms of hospitality, education, and sacred sites. Doyle, a principal and founder at ADP, delivered the acceptance speech on behalf of the firm.

Members from the class of 1969 gathered for their yearly Christmas Dinner at Ciao's Restaurant. This year 32 classmates came together for dinner and were joined by President Anthony Day. A few alumni even traveled from Virginia, Florida, and Colorado to attend!



Bob Jennett '69, Steve Mulligan '69, Tom McEvily '69, and Scott McGuirk '69.



1976

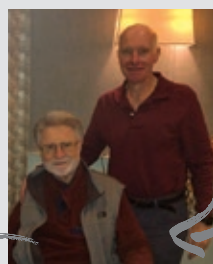
The books collected during the "Helping a Ram Brother Help Others" Drive (as well as the Prep's pledge of additional support) were delivered to Hall of Honor inductee and founder of the Covenant School, Matt Fitzsimons '76, by the Prep's archivist, Louis DiGiorno '88 P'26, and former Prep faculty member Ryan Fedak '09. Matt was so very grateful for the generosity of the Fordham Prep Community. He went on to note that his short time at the Prep — he only came here for one year after his first high school closed in 1975 — has changed his whole life. He credits his lifelong Prep friends and this extraordinary community of "Men for Others" for supporting his efforts to educate deserving children — first in Hartford and now in Bridgeport.

1978

Frank Silva '78's son Julian transferred to GA Tech for Computer Engineering from Kennesaw State University after making the Dean's List. His daughter, Renee, graduated from MIT and now works for Microsoft. Frank is enjoying retirement, and his wife, Dr. Johnette Brown-Silva, still works as a Scientist at USDA.



Mike Hickey '69, Jim Muckell '69, and Dan Ottaviano '69.



Bernie McAvoey '69 and Bob D'Adamo '69.



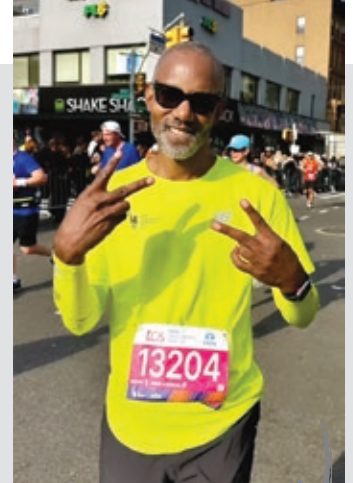
1983

Ted Cleary '83 has published a novella titled *At the End of the World* through Silver Song Press.

John Nicholas '83, owner of East Hampton Shucker Co., has developed a new kind of oyster shucking tool, one that takes the risk out of opening and eating oysters. This tool has been patented as the "East Hampton Shucker" and John hopes that it allows more people to more easily and safely enjoy oysters as well as help expand oyster businesses, which would have the added effect of cleaning waterways since oysters are natural algae filters. If you're interested in the East Hampton Shucker Company or the Shucker that John created, you can find more at easthamptonshucker.com.



John Nicholas '83 pictured using the *East Hampton Shucker* he created and patented.



Aaron R. Ganaway, III '83 ran in the TCS New York City Marathon in 2023.

Jim Salerno '83 was recently honored with a Veritas Award by the Dominican Sisters of Sparkill at the Sparks of Light Gala. Jim is the CFO for Frankie's Place Counseling & Prevention Services in Fort Meyers, Florida, his wife Michelle runs this facility and together they work with clients who need mental health, addiction, and substance abuse services. Jim has been involved with the Sisters of Sparkill since grammar school and has been working on a sainthood cause for a former parish priest at St. Brendan's.



Nick Katsoris '84 pictured on the right.

1984

Nick Katsoris '84 is the founder and President of the Loukoumi Foundation, an organization that recognizes the importance of youth participation in community building. Recently at the 9th Annual Loukoumi Foundation Make a Difference Awards, Fordham Prep was honored alongside 14 children, schools, and organizations that are changing the world one good deed at a time.



Tim Neale '69, Greg Harris '69, Ken Fredyna '69, and Anthony Day.



Pictured left to right: Paul Homer, Peter Mach '91 and Pete McNamara.

1991

Peter Mach '91 recently traveled from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam to NYC and attended the Prep's annual Oktoberfest event. He also visited the Prep and caught up with a few of his teachers, Mr. Paul Homer and Mr. Peter McNamara.



Dru Ryan '94 and Omar Berrios '94 pictured at a soccer game.

1994

Dru Ryan '94 and Omar Berrios '94 have been friends for over 30 years and recently met up to watch the Aston Villa Football Club play a game in Florida. Dru and Omar have been friends since Ms. Conway's Religion class at the Prep!

1997

Kevin Hayes '97 and Kevin Gregory '97 recently visited the Prep and spoke to the Business Club.



2001

Kevin Phipps '01 is the program lead of the Rising New York Road Runners at MS 127X Castle Hill in the Bronx. Kevin began running in 2019 when he signed up to run the TCS New York City Marathon to fundraise for Autism Speaks. Kevin formerly coached at Fordham Prep before pursuing a career in counseling at MS 127X. He started a Rising NYRR running program for 7th and 8th graders and enjoys coaching young athletes to learn and grow.

2002

Dr. Roger Nani '02 and his wife, Leah, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Elise Catherine, on June 23, 2023. Elise is the little sister to their son Luke, age 3. Roger is currently a Principal Scientist, Organic Chemistry at Detect, Inc. in Guilford, CT. Roger attended Boston College after Fordham Prep and received his PhD in Chemistry from Caltech in 2013. He completed his postdoctoral research at the National Cancer Institute in Maryland. Roger encourages Prep students to pursue studies in Chemistry, Biology, Biochemistry and other STEM fields, and he thanks the science teachers at the Prep who helped shape his career.



2003

Mario Campanelli '03 and his wife, Fani, welcomed their daughter, Valentina, in November 2023.

Glenn Petriello '03 celebrates his engagement to Laura Ricca in Italy.



Pictured left to right: Michael Avallone '76, Andrew Avallone '03, and Bonnie Avallone.

Andrew Avallone '03 and his wife, Bonnie, recently got married in Belgrade, Serbia with fellow Rams Jordan Treibert '04, Nick Phillips '05, and his uncle, Michael Avallone '76, in attendance.

2004

Joe Altenau '04 was featured as an Outsports Power 100 Honoree for his involvement in the National Hockey League with the New York Road Runners. He is also a board member of Homefield Alliance, a network of LGBTQ executives and administrators in sports.



Frank Sabatino '04 and Dunwoodie Pizzeria were creative agents in this year's Great Ignatian Challenge, donating over 300 pounds of food!



2006

Eric Collazo '06 is the Principal at the Washington Leadership Academy in Washington D.C. where he is focused on raising the academic and future prospects of low-income Black students through computer science programs guided by diverse teachers. From the last school year, the WLA has seen a significant increase in the school's statistics. 74% of students were accepted into one or more colleges where 30% of students are the first to attend college in their families, and 64% of students plan to attend college compared to the previous 45% statistic.



2007

Nicholas Figueroa '07's book club, Latinos Urbanos, recently went on a Back to School Backpack Donation Tour where they visited four schools and handed out backpacks filled with school supplies to students. The book club used funds donated by Bad Bunny and Cheetos, as well as books donated by the Norwood Community Library, to donate a total of 120 backpacks filled with essential school supplies and age-appropriate books.

Nicholas Figueroa '07 was named Professional of the Year by the National Association of Latino Fraternal Organizations (NALFO).



2007, 2008 & 2011

College Counselor Kenneth Tejada '07, Young Alumni Board Adjunct Calvin McCoy '08, and Ernest Esparza '11 chaperoned a George Jackson Initiative field trip to Rutgers University and Seton Hall University.



2007 & 2017

David Ryan '07 and Nick Lamari '17 recently player-managed in the shadow of the National Baseball Hall of Fame against each other for the second straight season at Cooperstown's historic Doubleday Field for a regular season matchup in the Hudson Valley NABA Westchester Division. Though Lamari's Westchester Yankees won the home-field advantage in their Men for Others coin flip, Ryan's Sound Shore Pirates prevailed in a 12-5 win. Ryan currently works in Human Resources at Columbia University, while Lamari is entering his 3L year at Elisabeth Haub Law School at Pace University. They'll face off again later this summer at Clover Stadium, the home of the Rockland Boulders.

2008

Daniel Altenau '08 and his wife Elizabeth welcomed their daughter, Penny Jeanne Altenau, into the world on August 16, 2023.

Kevin Javier '08 welcomed his third child, Kaden, on November 10, 2023.

2008 & 2010

Gregory Accarino '08 and John Accarino '10 ran the New York City Marathon together on November 5, 2023.



2009

Ryan Fedak '09 and his wife, Briana, welcomed the birth of their son, Luke Robert Fedak, on September 7th, 2023!

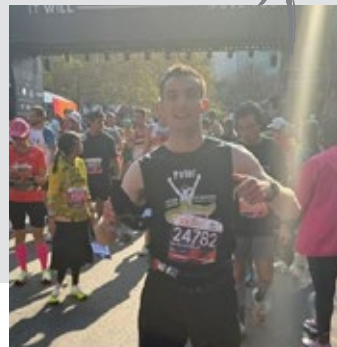
2012

Ciarán McGoldrick '12, won Food Network's *CHOPPED* on their 12/26 episode, "Uni-Versed."



2014

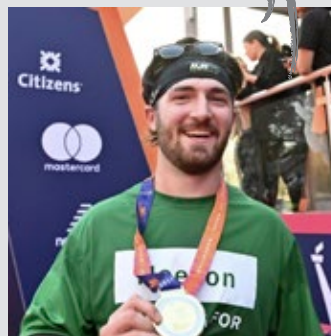
Peter Carty '14 ran the New York City Marathon on November 5, 2023.



2015

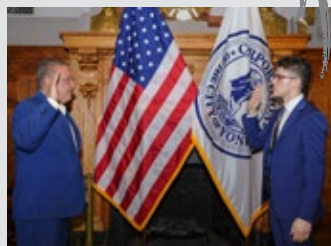
Cameron Young '15 shares his love of golf and Fordham Prep with his son, Henry!

Danny Neeson '15 ran the New York City Marathon in November 5, 2023.



2018

Christian Gjellaj '18 comes from a family of Albanian immigrants and was appointed to the Yonkers zoning board by Mayor Mike Spano. He's now part of the volunteer board and will add his ideas and expertise to help continue the mission of making the city of Yonkers thrive.

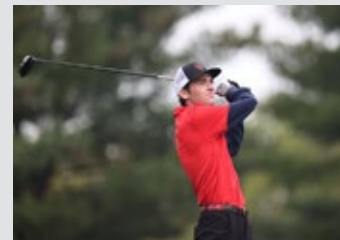


Mayor Mike Spano swearing in Christian Gjellaj '18.

2020

Aidan Curry '20 was named 2023 Pitcher of the year in the Carolina League.

Colin Coogan '20 plays on the Catholic University of America's Golf team. Recently the team finished second at the Cardinal Fall Classic, led by Colin who finished just a shot back of the individual championship score of 140.



Claudio Galea '20 was named to the Dean's List at Tufts University. He is currently studying biology and community health at Tufts. Throughout college, he volunteered in clinics and interned as a research assistant. He is set to graduate in 2024.



2023

Augustine Daudu '23 (Ithaca '27) worked with students from Columbia University during the summer of 2023 on *Maggie* with a scene filmed in the office of Librarian and Media Specialist Eleanor Friedman P'26 in the Prep's McNamara Library!





Malachy Roache '23 with Nelson Ritter and Craig Smith.

Malachy Roache '23 is currently studying at Trinity College Dublin and met up with his former teachers, Mr. Nelson Ritter and Dr. Craig Smith, at Bewley's while they were traveling to Ireland.

Sean Reidy '23 was recently named the Atlantic 10 Men's Cross Country Rookie of the Week. He finished second place at the Fordham Fiasco as a member of the Fordham University Cross Country Team.

Wyatt Forte '23, author of "Those Not So Little Voices," is on *Bedford & New Canaan Magazine's* 18 Under 18 list!

Matt Antonecchia '23 was the IGNITE 2023 winner of a



Gardens Tour at the New York Botanical Gardens. He was joined on the tour by his classmates, Jackson Dellaflora '23 and Ryan Irving '23, as well as Prep teacher Pete McNamara.

Will Lulka '23 is currently playing soccer at Dartmouth after being named MVP of the Fordham Prep Soccer team in 2020–2021. ■

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM You!

Thank you to all who shared their news. We look forward to hearing more of your updates for the next edition of Class Notes!

Share your updates at fordhamprep.org/classnotes.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Current President Anthony Day and current Chairman of the Board of Trustees Mario Ciampi '78 were joined by former President, Rev. Christopher Devron, SJ, former Board Chairmen Paul Brusco '82 and Jim Rowen '82 and five current and former board members at the Columbus Citizens' Foundation Gala in October 2023.



Left to right: Jim Conforti '82, Paul Brusco '82, Maurice Hyacinthe '77, Rev. Mario Powell SJ, Mario Ciampi '78, John Haley '87, Llew Hyacinthe '80, Jim Rowen '82, Rev. Christopher Devron SJ, and Anthony Day.

The Fordham Prep Fathers Club (FPFC) hosted families from the REACH program for a field day and lunch.



Fordham Prep's Retirees had their first lunch together in early October to gather and talk about their time teaching and working at Fordham Prep.



Michael Look P'18, John Schrynmakers P'15, Fred Berrios P'17, and John Daly P'15 attended the 2023 Past Parents Reception.

Michael Look P'18, John Schrynmakers P'15, Fred Berrios P'17, and John Daly P'15.

The Prep's Business Club visited Jerry Wolf P'12,'16 at Oppenheimer and Brian Gavin COO of BAAM to learn more about the businesses. ■



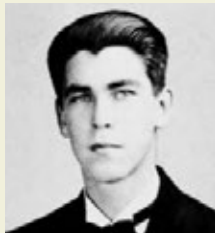
IN MEMORIAM

These pages include all alumni that the Prep was informed have passed away since the publication of the last *Ramview Magazine*.

ALUMNI



Louis Bocchetto '65



Robert Brannigan '49



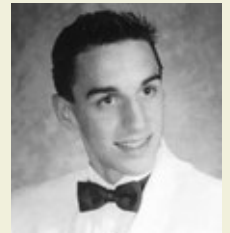
William Breitling '59



Mario Calabro '82



Roger Cardoso '08



Daniel Doherty '04



Paul Donohue '66



William Eggert '68



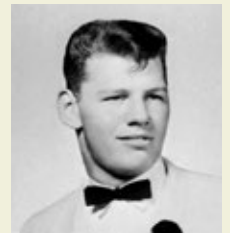
Ed Ferraro '65



Larry Firrantello '71



Dennis Goin '63



Richard Herzing '60



Alfred Kelly '47



Robert Kelly '60



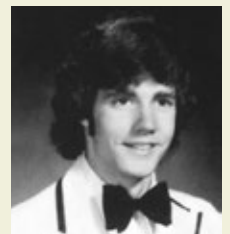
John Lyons '64



Rev. Gregory Lyttle '60



Gerald McCarron '84



Dennis McCormack '76



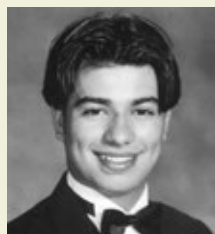
Terence McGrath '51



Michael R. Meng '71



Daniel Minogue '54



Alex Molina '96, P'15



William Morrison '60



Robert O'Donnell '64



Richard O'Hara '47



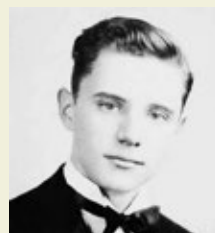
Daniel J. O'Neill '55



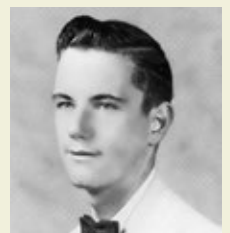
Dr. Thomas Palmieri '56



Joseph ("Mike") Payne '63



Donald Powers, MD '47



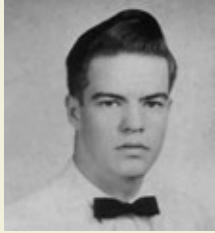
Lawrence Reilly '57



Salvatore Rosato '55



Ed Ruggiero '57



Thomas Shea '56



Arthur Sikula '74



Gerard Smith '44



Lawrence Sturniolo '57



James Tierney '59



Thomas Tobin '62

COMMUNITY

Josephine Abplanalp P'75

Wife of Robert '39; mother of John '75

Gayle Bragaglia P'03

Mother of Enrico Bragaglia II '03

Catherine Bryceland P'87

Mother of Chuck '87

Patrick Conway

Former Fordham Prep computer science and math teacher

Else Duke P'73,'76

Mother of Eric '73 and Richard '76; grandmother of John Duke '08

Patricia Gillin GP'20

Grandmother of William Lefever '20

Lawrence Karpin P'79

Father of Steve '79

Joseph LaRosa P'90

Father of Robert '90

Barbarann McLoughlin P'15,'20

Wife of Bill McLoughlin '87; mother of Brendan '15 and Michael '20

Maureen McRaith-McGowan P'88

Mother of Matthew '88 and Joseph '88

Peter Nurzia P'15

Father of Christian '15

Patrick O'Connell

Former Fordham Prep English teacher

John O'Donnell P'03

Father of Peter '03; uncle of Patrick Breen '01

Carol Robles-Román P'23

Mother of Andres Román '23

John Van Clief P'26

Father of Connor '26

Joseph W. Reda P'80,'85, GP'17

Father of Lou '80 and Michael '85; grandfather of Joseph '17



KUNI NAKAMURA, Class of 1986 and member of the Prep's Board of Trustees, passed on October 15th, 2023. Kuni was a beloved father, son, husband, friend, and member of the Fordham Prep Community.

He was a loyal friend known for his joyful carpe diem approach to life, entrepreneurial spirit, steadfast ability to get things done, and his generosity and willingness to always help others.

A proud Prep alumnus, Kuni established the **KEN C.D.F. Foundation Kuni Nakamura '86 Endowed Scholarship**, which ensures that students of all economic backgrounds are able to receive a Prep education by supporting middle-income students who would otherwise be unable to attend Fordham Prep.

As an influential member of the Prep's Board of Trustees, Kuni had a prominent voice in the many decisions that shape the future of the Prep and its students. He hoped that his impact upon the Prep would be to help secure a promising educational future for less fortunate students. Kuni had a passion for mentoring and guiding students through their education which drew him to join the Prep's Board of Trustees where he could be deeply involved in the future of young students.



Kuni was a kind, caring, humble man with a generous spirit. His presence is deeply missed among the Fordham Prep Community. ■



ABPLANALP MEMORIAL EXHIBIT HONORS MATRIARCH

By Louis DiGiorno '88 P'26

Our prayers continue to go out to the Abplanalp family, who lost their matriarch this past August, Josephine “Josie” Abplanalp, mother of John, Class of '75. She joins in eternity her beloved husband, Robert, Class of '39, who had gone on to his reward some twenty Augusts earlier.

Josie and Bob Abplanalp hold a unique place in our school's history. It would not be untrue to say that during the logistically difficult and financially troublesome era of the late 1960s and early 1970s, as the Prep legally separated from the University to become a standalone institution unto itself, the Abplanalps' devotion and support were foremost among the forces that kept Fordham Prep from closing its doors forever and becoming nothing more than an interesting footnote in the story of Rose Hill. As has been said, in Fordham Prep's greatest time of need, the Abplanalps gave our school nothing short of a future.

In memory of these extraordinary Prep parents, benefactors, and former trustees, Alma Mater has restored and displayed the last of the original desks that furnished “the new Prep building,” or Shea Hall, when it first opened to students in the fall of 1972: an enduring testament to Mr. and Mrs. Abplanalp's remarkable generosity.

The desk has been fitted with a memorial plaque in the style of Shea Hall's early 1970s signage, a picture of Robert and Josephine selected by their daughter, Marie, and Bob's 1939 yearbook portrait. In addition, we have added a framed matchbook from Mercurio's, the restaurant where the Abplanalps had their first date back in 1955; a mid-century magazine advertisement for the Precision Valve Corporation, the Yonkers-headquartered company Bob had founded in the late '40s; and a six-ounce glass container section of a vintage Precision Valve paint sprayer — repurposed as a pen and pencil holder.

May Josephine and Robert rest in peace, and may they never be forgotten here at the school they helped save. ■

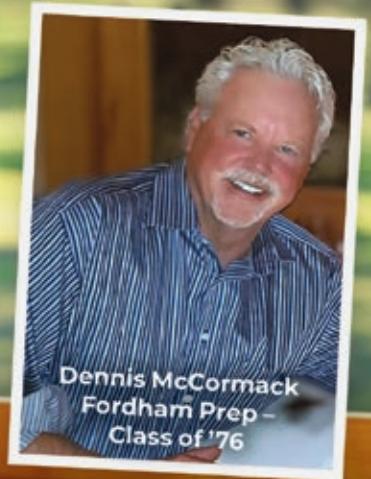
LEFT: The Abplanalp Memorial Exhibit in Shea Hall.

RIGHT: Close-up of Robert and Josephine Abplanalp photos and memorabilia.

BELOW: Close-up of Robert Abplanalp's advertisement for the Precision Valve Corporation and special pencil cup.



Honoring Intentions



Dennis McCormack '76 had such a great experience at Fordham Prep, both as a student, and later, in Administration, as the Development Director, that he talked about it his entire life.

Sadly, Dennis passed away last year, but his widow Laurie says he always **"attributed Fordham Prep with teaching him how to excel beyond what he thought was possible."** Dennis frequently talked about making a planned gift in honor of his years on Rose Hill, but unfortunately it was something he didn't put in writing.

Determined to carry out the gift that Dennis had intended, for the school that meant so much to him, Laurie has made an estate gift in his honor. "It's about people believing that being philanthropic and leaving behind something for others is a priority for them," she says. "Dennis

believed in that and I only wish we had done it sooner so he could have seen the start of his legacy."

Laurie's decision to make Fordham Prep a beneficiary of an IRA is a simple way to create a legacy. "Estate gifts can grow with you, allowing you to give a larger gift than you may have thought possible. We knew this was something we wanted to do. I feel fortunate that I can honor Dennis in a way that will support students whose lives will be forever changed by their own experiences at the Prep. Hopefully, those same students will continue

"Estate gifts can grow with you, allowing you to give a larger gift than maybe you thought possible."

— Laurie McCormack

Dennis' legacy through their own future philanthropy. That would be a wonderful testament to the brotherhood and commitment that a Fordham Prep education fosters among all its Rams."

Consider making Fordham Prep a beneficiary of your future generosity by writing the Prep into your estate plans. Without a will in place, your assets will be divided according to state law, with no regard for your interests or intentions, so be sure to make this important task a priority.

We're here to help. Learn more about becoming a member of the Shea-McDonough Legacy Society and the gift that best meets your charitable, family and financial goals at **Preplegacy.org** or contact Suzanne Dowden, Director, Engagement & Development at 718-367-7500, ext. 274 or dowdens@fordhamprep.org.



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THE PREP SHOPPE

From your young Ram
to your Golden Ram,
the Prep Shoppe serves
all your Fordham Prep
apparel needs!

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fpshoppe.square.site

