

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

RAMVIEW

SUMMER 2023 | VOLUME 43, ISSUE 2

A CELEBRATION OF
BELONGING



FAITH, SCHOLARSHIP AND SERVICE SINCE 1841

THE LASTING IMPACT OF BELONGING



As you will read in this issue of *Ramview*, our theme this past academic year was **BELONGING: FIND YOUR PLACE AT THE PREP**. It was encouraging to see how that sense of belonging continues to empower and enrich the lives of our students. As Interim President this year, I had the added opportunity to experience the lasting impact of belonging on our alumni.

At the many alumni gatherings I had the honor to attend this past year, it was a joy to witness the amazing loyalty and commitment to Fordham Prep throughout our alumni network. You shared how you experienced belonging at the Prep in so many ways, foremost through the care and dedication of your teachers. The ways you continue to stay connected to and supportive of your classmates is a testament to the belonging you still feel to one another.

You are a testament to the transformative and enduring power of belonging. You have carried the values instilled in you during your time at the Prep and translated them into action in your respective fields and communities. You also turned them into action in your support of the Prep. And, importantly, your dedication to justice, service, and a commitment to the common good serves as an inspiration to current and future students alike.

In the past year, I understood better how similar the bonding among alumni is to that of the Prep students I've taught and coached over the past three decades. I shouldn't have been surprised. Belonging is at the very core of our mission as a Jesuit institution. Living the Jesuit ethos, the Prep's faculty and staff ensure that every individual, regardless of their background or circumstances, feels accepted, supported, and connected within our community. Through this deep sense of belonging we empower our students to discover their true potential and have the confidence and skills to become agents of positive change in the world.

From the moment students walk through our doors, we strive to create an environment that fosters inclusivity and celebrates the unique gifts each person brings. In today's society, that's become

increasingly challenging. Our dedicated faculty and staff work tirelessly to cultivate a sense of belonging in every classroom, where students are encouraged to express their thoughts, challenge assumptions, and engage in open dialogue. By embracing diversity and honoring the inherent dignity of each individual, we create a space where all voices are heard and respected.

Most importantly, fostering a belonging environment is at the heart of our Jesuit Catholic mission to be men and women for others. By engaging in service projects and advocacy initiatives, our students learn the importance of compassion, empathy, and solidarity. They discover that their actions have the power to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others, and, in turn, find a deeper sense of belonging to a global community.

As my time as Interim President comes to a close this summer, I am immensely proud of the enduring legacy of belonging that the Prep imparts upon its students and is sustained by you, our alumni. It is my hope that you will carry this spirit with you wherever you go, and that you take solace in the knowledge that you will always belong to the Prep community. Knowing our new President, Anthony Day, well from his days as a Prep teacher and from working with him to prepare for his new role, I am absolutely confident that you will find him ready to carry on these important values. I look forward to working closely with him in the months and years ahead as we continue to make our alumni proud of their alma mater.

In conclusion, thank you! I am profoundly grateful to all our alumni and benefactors who have supported me and the Prep community throughout this year. Your kind words, notes of support and encouragement, and continued financial support for our students have been a great inspiration and have instilled in me an even deeper sense of belonging at the Prep.

May God bless all Rams!

Brian J. Carney
Interim President, A.M.D.G.

RAMVIEW

VOLUME 43, ISSUE 2

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CORRECTIONS

Winter 2023 Ramview,
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In the cover story, "You're Always From the Bronx," (page 7) we mistakenly listed the instrument played at Pugsley's Pizza as a harmonica. It is a saxophone.

The *Ramview* News article, "Meet the 2023 Arredondo STEM Scholarship Winners," (page 17) incorrectly states that the scholarship requires candidates to take two advanced STEM courses. It actually requires six.

Our recap article on the 2022 Hall of Honor Ceremony (page 29) misspelled the last name of Tim Brighton '61 as Bryden.



SO MANY GREAT PLACES IN THE BRONX!

Enthusiasm for our cover story in the Winter 2023 issue of *Ramview* really took us aback! Our community LOVES its home borough. Many alumni and friends reached out to add their favorite Bronx spots to the list. So here they are... in no particular order!

- 1. MARIO'S RESTAURANT**
2342 Arthur Avenue
- 2. EGIDIO PASTRY SHOP**
622 East 187th Street
- 3. PASQUALE'S RIGOLETTO**
2311 Arthur Avenue
- 4. DILILLO'S PASTRY SHOP**
610 East 187th Street

- 5. WHITE CASTLE**
550 East Fordham Road
- 6. DOMINICK'S**
(Owned by the
DiPaolo Family P'09)
2335 Arthur Avenue

You can view more small businesses owned by members of the Prep community in our Small Business Directory. If you're a small-business owner affiliated with the Prep, we invite you to join our growing directory by submitting your company's information at fordhamprep.org/sbd.



There is one word that will immediately come to mind when future generations look back on the class of 2023: resilience.”

— Student-selected speaker Onyinye Okonkwo '23 (right) shared his reflections on behalf of the class of 2023.



GRADUATION DAY 2023

His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, at the Prep's 178th Commencement Exercises.

Members of the class of 2023, their families, faculty, staff, and trustees gathered at St. Patrick's Cathedral, just above the burial crypt of Fordham Prep's founder, Archbishop John Hughes, on May 31st for the Prep's 178th Commencement Exercises.

The afternoon began as Principal Joseph Petriello, PhD '98 introduced His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, who gave a brief word before the formal opening of the ceremony.

"I just stopped by — easy since I live next door — to welcome you to our beloved St. Patrick's Cathedral," he began, "and publicly to thank Almighty God for the gift that Fordham Prep is to all of us." Cardinal Dolan went on to offer his congratulations to the graduating class and their families.

After the singing of the national anthem and an invocation of the Holy Spirit by Prep Chaplain Jim Coughlin, SJ, it was time to hear reflections from the class of 2023. Harvard-bound Onyinyechukwu "Onyinye" Okonkwo '23 was selected by his classmates for the task.



"There is one word that will immediately come to mind when future generations look back on the class of 2023: resilience [defined as] 'the capacity to withstand and to recover quickly from difficulties, toughness,'" Okonkwo stated. He recounted the abrupt closure of the class of 2023's freshman experience when the pandemic shut everything down. Transitioning to a hybrid model in 10th grade and having to adapt to new schedule matrices each school year were just a few of the factors that contributed to the class of 2023's resilience. "We did not let the setbacks and uncertainties stop us from having an amazing four years," he noted.

Okonkwo explained that community and brotherhood were the hallmarks of what made the class of 2023's Prep experience a great one. He remembered picking up where they left off in junior year seemingly easily, as the class returned to in-person learning and events such as the basketball championship game and performances by the Dramatic Society. While he admits it seemed daunting at first, completing his senior Christian Service requirement became one of his favorite parts of senior year.



“We built back all that was lost as brothers, as fellow Rams, and as members of a truly historic class,” he shared.

“The next few years of our lives are going to be different and it will take some time to adjust to that next transition. There will be more times when it feels like we’re trudging up the stairs against the tide all over again. But,” Okonkwo assured his classmates, “we’re good at adjusting so there’s no doubt in my mind that the strength and resilience that we have built over the last couple of years will carry us through.”

Before the conferral of diplomas, Graduation Speaker Tania Tetlow, President of Fordham University, addressed the graduating class.

“Ever since I got the invitation to speak to you today I’ve been asking myself, ‘What did the teenage me need to know?’” Tetlow began. She advised the class of 2023 to choose the classes taught by those who are known to be good teachers “because good teachers can make you excited about any subject,” to not waste time doubting themselves when they mess up, and to choose their friends carefully.

Through her own anecdotes of finding herself as a college student and learning from her mistakes, she spoke to students about the tools they have been given through their Jesuit education at Fordham Prep.

“(You have) seeds planted deeply in you to be open and curious,” she reminded the class of 2023, “willing to be challenged, searching for truth with determination and humility, to be grateful, leaning into the possibilities of life, finding the best in people, to be brave enough to really know yourself, to resist the temptation of cynicism, to have the courage to hope, and most of all, to be men for others.”

Tetlow encouraged the class of 2023 to think back to this moment of joy in times of adversity. “When you’re struggling, I want you to remember this feeling sitting here basking in the overwhelming love and pride of your friends and families and teachers. This is how much God loves you every moment of every second of every day of the rest of your life,” she concluded.

Before the ceremony concluded, retiring faculty and staff members in attendance (David Gelpi, PhD P’12, Michele Gedeiko, and Nervana Repetti) as well as Edwin Gonzalez were honored for their combined 117 years of service to the Prep.

Interim President Brian Carney was also recognized for his leadership, support, and dedication to the Prep during this transitional school year. ■

Read more about our retirees on page 35.



TOP LEFT: 2023 Commencement Speaker Tania Tetlow, President of Fordham University. Twenty graduates of the Prep’s class of 2023 will attend Fordham University this fall.

TOP MIDDLE: Tania Tetlow hugs Brian Carney after the Chairman of the Board, Mario Ciampi ’78, presents him with a medal for his service to the Prep.

RIGHT COLUMN: Religious studies teacher David Gelpi, PhD P’12 (photo top) and Business Office staff members Nervana Repetti (photo middle) and Michele Gedeiko with her daughter Allie (photo bottom) were gifted Ram sculptures during the 2023 Commencement ceremony.



The class of 2023 continues to mourn the loss of Nicolas “Nico” Nuño ’23, who passed away shortly before graduation.

RAMS ON THE ROAD

BEGINNING FALL 2023

For more information visit fordhamprep.org/alumni-events



THANK YOU!

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BELONGING AT FORDHAM PREP

A Q&A with Joseph A. Petriello, PhD '98



Q: You have “belonged” to the Prep community since you arrived at Rose Hill as a freshman in 1994. During your time as a student, back then what made you feel like you “belonged” at the Prep?

A: When I started Fordham Prep as a freshman in 1994, I definitely felt a sense of belonging from the ways in which my teachers provided support in and out of the classroom. They helped me feel accepted and valued as a new member of the Prep community by getting to know me as a person who brought my own interests and gifts to my new school. Some of my freshman teachers, like Christopher Lauber '79, P'08 and Peter McNamara P'11 '12 '17, are still providing that sense of welcome, presence, and care to our students today! My retreat experiences on Emmaus in junior year and Ad Amorem in senior year also invited me to a deeper experience of belonging. Receiving the gift of those retreats led by Fr. Stan O’Konsky, SJ and Fr. Charlie Sullivan, SJ is something I will always fondly remember. These sacred times of prayer and fellowship were not only experiences of Prep brotherhood, but life-changing encounters with God’s friendship among us. Our retreats are truly one of the defining experiences of belonging at the Prep.

Q: The most challenging transition for Fordham Prep students is the one they make when they enter the community as freshmen. What does Fordham Prep do to make them feel welcome? What programs help build their sense of community?

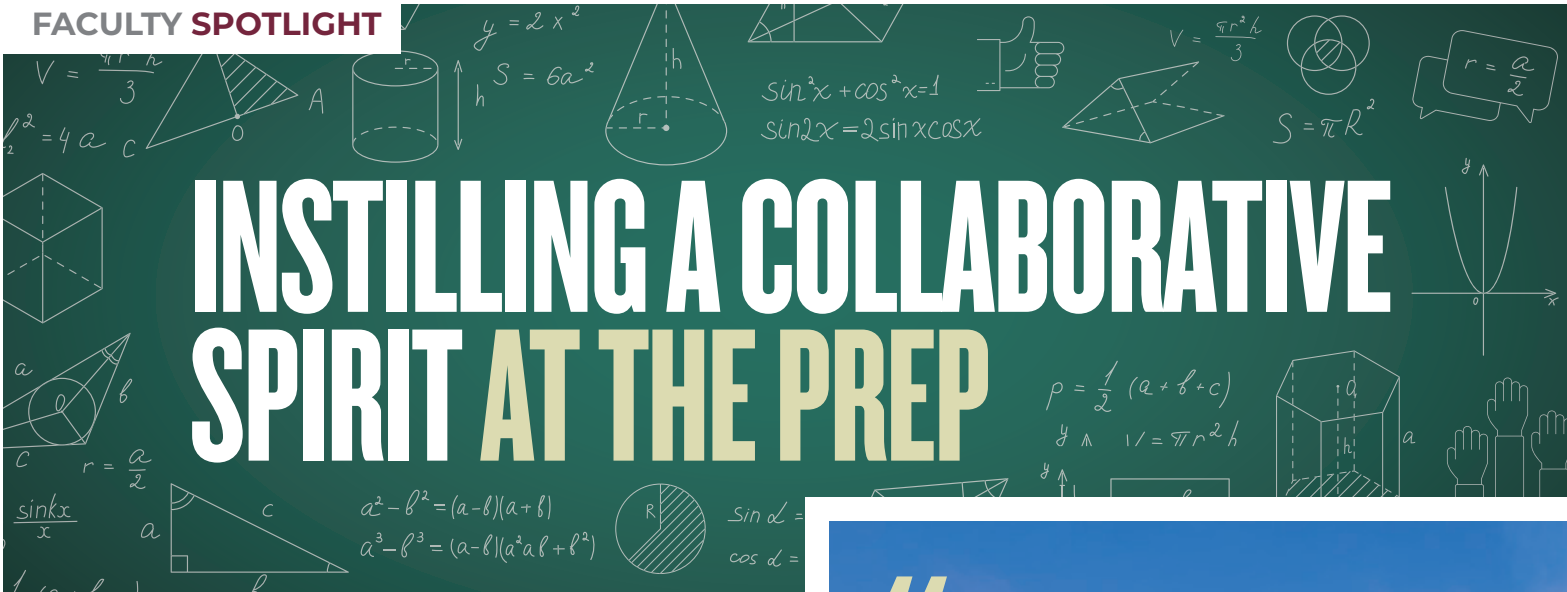
A: The transition from middle school to high school can be a significant one, and we want our freshmen to feel welcome and build a sense of community from the very start of their time on Rose Hill. On the morning of the first day of Freshman Orientation in September, our newest Rams are seated in the back pews of the Fordham University Church for our Freshman Induction Ceremony and welcomed by our President. During this ceremony, we call each freshman by name, and he walks up the center aisle accompanied by upperclassmen Big Brothers to meet his mentor and find a place to sit with his freshman mentor group. It is a beautiful ceremony that tells each and every one of our freshmen that they are recognized, and they belong here. Later in the year, the Freshman Retreat provides an opportunity for them to reflect on their faith and spiritual growth, to build relationships with their classmates, and to understand the Catholic, Jesuit values that shape our way of proceeding at the Prep. This year I once again gave a faith talk to a small group on retreat which is always a moment for grace for me personally during the three-day retreat focused on “Faith Through Brotherhood.”

Q: Fordham Prep is also trying to create a community where parents feel welcome. What opportunities do parents have to participate in the life of the Prep? Do you have a favorite parent activity or program?

A: Involving parents and caregivers in the life of the school is a valuable way to build a strong sense of community and support the growth of our young men. The Fordham Prep Mothers’ Club (FPMC) and Fathers’ Club (FPFC) are the primary ways that our parents feel welcome and have the opportunity to get involved in the life of the school. In fact, when I started as Principal in 2016, it was members of the FPMC and FPFC who first reached out to graciously welcome me back to the Prep. Our parent clubs provide volunteer opportunities, fundraising events, guest speakers, and faith sharing that allow them to build community together and in partnership with our administration, faculty, and staff. Prep parents are tremendously generous with their time — whether it is volunteering at an Open House, serving dinner at the Freshman Retreat, or organizing end-of-season dinners for our athletic teams — these are just a few ways that they support our community. With so much to choose from, I would say that my favorite event to engage with parents is our annual Ignite fundraiser. With over 500 guests in attendance, I am always excited to spend time with so many current and past parents, and to listen to them share stories about the impact the Prep has not only had on their sons, but on their own lives as well. We are blessed that so many parents of alumni are still very involved in supporting our mission.

Q: Year after year, incoming families tell us that they are most drawn to the Prep’s sense of “community.” Can you give us one word you would use to describe the Prep community? And why?

A: One word I would use to describe the Prep community is “engaging.” There’s always so much going on at the Prep that it’s tough to keep up! From our rigorous academic programs to our abundant extracurricular activities and athletic offerings, we offer countless opportunities for our students to engage in learning, discover their unique interests, and build relationships with others. Our commitment to faith, service, and justice further emphasizes our mission to engage students in meaningful ways that invite them to share their gifts with others. Listening to my seniors reflect on their volunteer experiences in service class, I know how much of an impact this wonderful program has on them each year. Furthermore, our strong network of alumni and parent involvement creates a sense of engagement and belonging that extends well beyond graduation. The Fordham Prep experience should not be limited to four years. It has the potential to be a lifelong engagement in a community devoted to faith, scholarship, and service. ■



INSTILLING A COLLABORATIVE SPIRIT AT THE PREP

While celebrating Women’s History Month and her first year as Fordham Prep’s Dean of Faculty, Claire McCarrick is also reflecting on her completion of the Jesuit School Network (JSN) Seminars in Ignatian Leadership program.

The two-year program brings together leaders from Jesuit schools around the United States for spiritual and professional development. She applies the concepts learned during program retreats and sessions to her job each day as she helps enhance faculty growth, development, and culture.

“I really felt a desire to serve and to help our faculty,” replied McCarrick when asked why she decided to apply for the role last year. Now in her 16th year as an educator, McCarrick joined the Prep’s Mathematics Department in 2013. She previously taught at Cardinal Spellman High School, her alma mater.

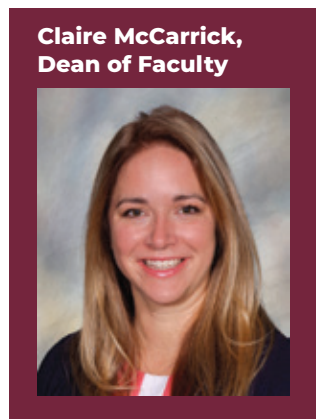
Perhaps one of McCarrick’s biggest projects this school year is helping to facilitate faculty growth and development through a partnership with the Middle States Association. The program, dubbed the Rev. Stan O’Konsky, SJ Seeking Excellence in Teaching Initiative, encourages teachers to invite colleagues into their classrooms for continued feedback on their lessons throughout the school year. Currently in its pilot phase, the program not only helps teachers improve lesson plans but also fosters collaboration among the faculty.

“I think it’s important to instill a sense of collaboration,” McCarrick stated. “In order for people to feel comfortable collaborating they need to know each other personally, and finding ways to help people get to know each other better helps foster belonging,” she continued.

McCarrick shared a photo of herself and two other Jesuit school leaders sporting the shirts at the Franciscan Renewal Center in Scottsdale, Arizona, where she was participating in the JSN Seminars in Ignatian Leadership at the time.

“I love bringing people together as much as possible. I have such great love, admiration, and respect for the people here.”

— Claire McCarrick
Dean of Faculty





Members of the Fordham Prep faculty and staff wore purple, green, or women's appreciation t-shirts that read "As Strong As the Woman Next to Me" on International Women's Day.

McCarrick has also been instrumental in developing increased collaboration between the numerous female members of the Prep's faculty and staff. In preparation for Women's History Month, McCarrick brainstormed with members of the Prep's new Women's Circle — Maureen Martinez, Carol Isabel, Sarah Porter, and Molly Lieberman from the Counseling Department — on ways to foster a sense of belonging for women working in Jesuit schools.

The Women's Circle is a group created by and for the women of Fordham Prep. Inaugurated in December 2022, the group was formed to find unique opportunities to connect, communicate, and support one another.

The result of the brainstorming session was an International Women's Day celebration during which all members of the faculty and staff at nearby Jesuit schools and offices were invited to show their support by wearing purple, green, or a women's appreciation t-shirt.

In addition to her responsibilities as dean and her work with the Women's Circle, McCarrick teaches Precalculus Honors. She is also a member of the Prep's Diversity Committee, Crisis Team, Academic Committee, and the Benevolent Fund.

"Claire has been an incredibly welcoming and unifying presence all throughout the school year. The positive and cheerful energy she brings to everything she does is something I myself and others in the building emulate as well," said new social studies teacher Gillian Bennis.

McCarrick is one of many faculty and staff members who have appeared as guests on the student-run podcast *Ramblin*.

"I love bringing people together as much as possible. I have such great love, admiration, and respect for the people here," McCarrick explained. "We can only do what we do well if we're in community with each other and a lot of these activities help bring about a sense of community," she added.

"Being a new teacher at Fordham Prep, I appreciate seeing a woman in a position of authority," said English teacher Samantha Lala. "Claire goes out of her way to bring an uplifting and enthusiastic atmosphere to the entire school, for she brightens the day of both the faculty/staff and the students. Claire's leadership and commitment to community are qualities that make her a positive role model for women aspiring to be in leadership positions," she continued. ■

Ramblin': A Student Podcast from Fordham Prep
(Season 2, Episode 4 featuring Ms. McCarrick)

View on YouTube: <https://youtube/E8Ht2vBVDSQ>

STUDENT REACTION

A POEM

by Posse Scholar
Matthew Velez '23



Hustling and bustling on Boogie Down's streets,
Each part vital to the rhythmic flow,
Just another day in the Bronx, it beats.

Abuelitas roll their rattling carts and meet,
Loaded with plastic bottles, off they go;
Hustling and bustling on Boogie Down's streets.

Ruby hydrants burst, extinguishing the heat,
And children splash, "Woah!"
Just another day in the Bronx, it beats.

Bodegas are the hearts, it's time to eat.
Bacon, egg, 'n cheese! ¡Café con leche!
Hurry up, you're so slow!
Hustling and bustling on Boogie Down's streets.

Abandoned buildings are memoirs, incomplete,
Damaged souls sleep in the debris, cold and low.
Just another day in the Bronx, it beats.

Pumpin' the blood with hip-hop, never obsolete,
Got the borough bumpin', inspiring to grow!
Hustling and bustling on Boogie Down's streets,
Just another day in the Bronx, it beats. ■

A CELEBRATION OF

BELONGING

“ We always emphasize community and *belonging* in everything we do, but we wanted to be more intentional and deliberate about that this year,” said Interim President Brian Carney about the 2022–23 school year’s theme.





Sophomores pose for a group photo after the October 21, 2022 DBJ Summit.

During the height of the COVID pandemic, it became difficult to amplify that aspect of the Prep experience. Between hybrid learning, event cancellations, and the faces of the community hidden with masks, creating an environment of belonging at Rose Hill was challenging. The inspiration for the theme came from the realization that the last two years were so different for students, especially underclassmen, who were trying to find a way to fit in at the Prep. The theme set the right tone for a year that felt like a fresh start for everyone.

“It’s just an opportunity for kids to hear from each other, learn from each other, and hopefully, understand how they can support each other.”

— Erica Keough, College Counselor and Assistant Director of DEI

DIGNITY, BELONGING, AND JUSTICE

There are numerous programs that allow students to “find their place at the Prep,” as seen on the “Belonging” graphic that has adorned physical and digital spaces during the year. With over 55 co-curricular activities and 40 interscholastic teams, there is no shortage of activities during which students can connect with each other.

Transitions are often challenging. This is especially true of a transition to a new school and a new community of peers. The Prep’s Department of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) works to ensure every Prep student has a chance to make their voice heard during Dignity, Belonging, and Justice (DBJ) summits. The summits are formatted as workshops that allow the student body to discuss issues in society and their effects on the Prep community.

“The workshops give students the opportunity to examine issues related to how they fit into this environment and areas where there might be challenges to fitting in,” said Religious Studies teacher and Director of DEI Randy Pedro P’12 ’17. He runs the workshops in the lower level of the Fordham University Church along with College Counselor and Assistant Director of DEI Erica Keough.

The DBJ workshops started in 2008 as a voluntary overnight retreat for students. During the pandemic, the retreats were held during the day at the Prep without the overnight component.

“The kids loved it,” Keough shared. “It was like a deep dive into our culture in America and how it’s reflected in our corporate community. Every time we would do [the workshops], the kids would say, ‘I wish every kid at Fordham Prep could participate in this,’” she continued.

The workshops have evolved to cycle through the entire sophomore class from September to May. This gives students a year of acclimating and observing Prep life before taking on the summits.

“One of the issues that kids have brought up in our workshops is that kids will sometimes make jokes that make fun of other kids,” Keough explained. “Maybe it’s race-related, maybe it’s sexuality related. And they think that it’s just being funny and that’s not really hurting anyone. Then some of the kids at whom these jokes are directed have an opening here to sort of say, ‘You know what, it’s not funny.’”

The overall goal of the DBJ summits is to continually garner feedback from students on how to make Fordham Prep a better environment for fostering belonging.

“We’re just facilitating conversations,” Keough stated. “We’re not saying that anybody has to be any certain way. It’s just an opportunity for kids to hear from each other, learn from each other, and hopefully, understand how they can support each other in a more appropriate way so that we can make a community where everyone feels they belong,” she added.

A CELEBRATION OF BELONGING

AT THE MARGINS

Fordham Prep's Christian Service requirement gives students the chance to bring what they've learned about belonging to institutions outside of the Prep. From writing Valentine's Day cards for residents in assisted-living facilities to mentoring middle-school students, the experience is an exercise in building community.

"While reading their service journals, you get a sense of how much they feel part of the community that they've been serving," said math and French teacher Patricia Morris, Ph.D. who helps run the Prep's Christian Service Program.

The service sites are always thankful for their volunteers, leading them to express their gratitude in a variety of ways, including awards and gifts. Director of Christian Service and Religious Studies teacher Paul Homer notes that the sites are often sad to see Prep students leave once they've completed their hours.

"There are certainly days that are difficult for (the seniors) during those 70 service hours, but by the end I think they really feel to be a genuine part of whatever site they're at," he stated. "The staff and the people that they serve know them by name, you know? Many times at the after-school program sites,

the children are all upset and holding on to (the Prep senior's) leg screaming, 'You've got to come back!'" he laughed.

Sometimes, the students do such a great job of fostering belonging that they'll go above and beyond their service hours, often returning to volunteer during the holidays. Math teacher Arianne Dempsey, who assists Homer and Morris with Christian Service, believes the program brings out what Fr. Greg Boyle, SJ,

describes as "serving at the margins" to transform oneself and the community.

"These people who are so isolated and on their own look forward to seeing our students and they feel like they are a part of Fordham Prep," Dempsey remarked. "It's like creating that feeling of belonging and making sure that other people who don't have that feel a part of it," she concluded.

Fordham Prep students work at a variety of sites for their Christian Service projects, including senior-living facilities, after-school programs, and food pantries across New York City and Westchester.



“While reading their service journals, you get a sense of how much they feel part of the community that they’ve been serving.”

— Patricia Morris, Ph.D., Math and French Teacher

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

It doesn't end with students, faculty, and staff. As Pedro states,

"It's the mission of every constituent in our community to care. If even one person in our community feels like they don't belong, we haven't achieved our mission."

DEI has made a conscious effort to include parents in the conversation of helping their sons feel at home every day at Rose Hill. Their insight is quite valuable to the DEI team, hence the creation of the Parent Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Group. The group is led by Prep mothers, fathers, and guardians.

"We want parents to help guide us and understand their [sons'] needs and how the school can best fulfill them. What are the needs that they see as opposed to the needs that I see?" Pedro explained. The group focuses on *cura personalis*, care for each individual student, with the help of the Prep's current families.

President of the Mothers' Club Tania Sanchez P'23 learned early on how important the parents of the Prep are in the welcoming process for families. "The summer before my son's freshman year, my family and I received a welcome package which included a tote bag and a beautiful message from the past presidents of the Mothers' Club, Rene Chao P'19 '23 and Rosanna Ciccone

P'17 '19 '21. I knew then this was an organization I wanted to be part of and support," she said.

Although the Prep has changed physically over the years, its Jesuit foundation is unwavering. Alumnus Dave Guerrero '91 P'23 is grateful for the chance to give back to the community as Fathers' Club President while his son, Andrew '23, got to experience the Prep in a different century.

"I've always felt welcomed by the Prep community from day one of my freshman year through today," he stated. "The teachers and coaches supported me as a student-athlete, and I (saw) that same genuine sense of care for my son. The Prep staff go above and beyond for the students."



It's the mission of every constituent in our community to care."

— Randy Pedro P'12 '17, Director of DEI

ABOVE: Randy Pedro P'12 '17, Director of DEI.

Here we highlight just a few of the numerous members of the Prep community who feel and create a sense of belonging both on and off the Rose Hill campus.

Robert Disney '23



Robert Disney '23

Robert Disney '23 played soccer and participated in track and field at Fordham Prep. He was also part of the Kawaida Club, Environmental Club, and the Ministry Leadership Team, and journeyed to Camden, New Jersey and Scott County, Tennessee for Christian Service trips.

"I felt a sense of belonging at the Prep when I went on my Ad Amorem retreat," he recalled. The three-day Ad Amorem retreat for seniors provides an opportunity to reflect on God's presence in their lives while deciding on a college and professional career. "I got to see another side of my teachers and classmates which brought us closer together," he added about the experience.

Disney will miss going to homeroom each morning, where he would catch up with his track teammates and coach George Febles P'15 '22. He is grateful for the relationships he formed and the people who accepted him for his genuine self.

As he moves onto college at Fordham University, Disney will carry with him all that the Prep taught him about creating an environment that fosters belonging. "You should always be open to including and accepting others just like the Prep did for me," he noted.

Robert is grateful for the relationships he formed and the people **who accepted him for his genuine self.**

Milena Carrese



Milena Carrese

Now in her second year as a Prep employee, Assistant Director of Admissions Milena Carrese found the process of getting settled to be quite easy due "to the welcoming environment."

"I think the community here is a big part of why I feel like I belong," she began. "I think from the jump, all of the faculty and staff have been incredibly welcoming, whether it's saying hello in the hallways or asking about my dog or about my apartment search," she continued.

Carrese loves seeing student ambassadors and teachers engage with prospective students during Ram for a Day, a program that allows eighth graders to experience a day of high school at Fordham Prep.

"One of the biggest points of feedback we get from Ram for a Day is that the student walks away really feeling like they were welcomed into the student

body," she noted. "They always comment on how at lunch everyone was talking to them and how the faculty would ask them questions about themselves in the classes that they would attend, and how different coaches would approach them in the building and encourage them to come here and say, 'You'd be a great fit for 3D Printing or for eSports or for the football team.' I think that that gets them really excited about envisioning themselves and their future here."

In addition to hosting tours of the Prep for prospective students and parents, Carrese chaperoned a Sophomore Discovery retreat in her first year and helped lead the final DBJ workshop of this past school year.

"I think that there's an investment here beyond just what you're doing," she explained. "On a day-to-day basis, there's a true interest in us as a person and you know, wanting to make sure that you're happy and feel supported here. The students are respectful and friendly, you know, holding the door open, carrying a box for you across the hall if it's heavy, making a point to pop in the office and chat. So I think that overall, it's been a really cool environment," she added.



I think the community here is a big part of **why I feel like I belong.**

— Milena Carrese, Assistant Director of Admissions



Cathy McNally P'26

Cathy McNally P'26

If you're a current or prospective family, you've probably met Parent Ambassador Cathy McNally at one of the Prep's Admissions events. She also frequents Mothers' Club events, and is part of a growing network of Prep moms in Manhattan, Queens, and the Bronx who get together for dinners, concerts, chats, drinks, and shopping regularly.

"When my son visited Fordham as Ram for a Day, he returned home and marveled about the delicious lunch offered," said McNally. "More importantly," she went on, "he spoke about how accepted and welcomed he felt throughout his day at the Prep. He commented that the teachers were engaging, took an interest in him, and despite the fact that he was an eighth grader, were interested in what he had to say. For him, that fostered a feeling of belonging."

She loves how much the Prep is dedicated to providing a space for students and families of different cultures to feel welcome in the community. Her son, Shoni '26, is part of the Prep's Irish Club, runs cross-country, and engages with his teammates outside of school.

"We have the feeling of belonging because the internal and external work that the Prep does reflects in the school's philosophy, its culturally responsive teachings," she stated. "We are impressed by the diverse selection of books required for readings. It clearly shows us the community is committed to ensure that each student's idea and culture is represented, assimilated, and heard, and its willingness to engage in conversations with families. There is a really warm sense of community and care that is quite special," she added.



The teachers were engaging, took an interest in him, and despite the fact that he was an eighth grader, were interested in what he had to say. **For him, that fostered a feeling of belonging."**

— Cathy McNally P'26, Parent Ambassador



Joe Altenau '04

Joe Altenau '04

Class Representative Joe Altenau '04 is an alumnus of the Prep's track and field program and a member of the Young Alumni and Mission Effectiveness committees. One of his fondest Prep memories is his junior Emmaus retreat, an experience that allowed him to explore his relationship with God, his family, and his friends.

"The experience brought together students from different communities, clubs, teams, and other backgrounds and allowed us to focus on our similarities rather than our differences," he remembered. "The time spent with the group allowed me to be vulnerable and open up with classmates that I may not have been close with before. It was truly one of the most important moments of my time at the Prep, especially when thinking about belonging," he noted.

Altenau has served as a table host at several of the Prep's Alumni Senior Breakfast events. "I love to share my experiences with current students

to help prepare them for what life in college will look like as well as what to expect when they graduate," he responded when asked why he enjoys giving his time for the event. "I'm so thankful for my time at Fordham Prep and for experiences I had, friends I made, and lessons I learned from the faculty and staff. Connecting with the current students helps remind me of all I have to be thankful for because of Fordham Prep," he continued.

As a track and field alumnus, Altenau notes that the popular phrase, "It's never too late to join track and field," extends to all aspects of Prep life, even for those who have long graduated.

"It is never too late to join something new or to invite someone you may not have spoken to in a while to join as well," he explained. "For those Prep alumni who may not have been to a reunion or Turkey Bowl in a while it's never too late to come back and visit. If you haven't talked to classmates in a while, it's never too late to rekindle the friendship and sense of belonging," he added.



It's never too late to **rekindle the friendship and sense of belonging."**

— Joe Altenau '04, member of the Young Alumni and Mission Effectiveness committees



Bill Perry '64

Bill Perry '64

From 1965–66, Hall of Honor member Bill Perry '64 was Assistant Moderator of the Dramatics Society, one of the Prep's oldest and most popular co-curricular activities. From 2016–19, he served as Advisor to the Prep's Board of Trustees.

"At his induction into the Hall of Honor, Dr. Frank Holbrook '45 referred to the Prep as 'home.' Can any word better connote an atmosphere of 'belonging' than that?" Perry asked. "Classes, sports, clubs, and faculty relationships promoted supporting each other and engendered strong friendships. Our Class of 1964 remains close after almost 60 years and similar unity permeates many other Prep classes. Belonging is a hallmark of the school," he continued.

Perry, Guerrero, and a whopping 11,000 alumni representing the Prep's classes of 1960–2015 were part of an initiative to bring back the feeling of belonging during the pandemic when the Class of 2020 was told they might not be able to have an in-person commencement ceremony. They banded together to write letters to each Prep senior

welcoming them to the "Long Maroon Line," an effort that produced at least five notes per graduate. Fortunately, the Class of 2020 did graduate in person, and this project became a prime example of alumni continuing to be men for others.

In 2021, Perry released a book titled *The Things He Taught: Charles W. DaParma, Jr. '45 of Fordham Prep*. Profits from sales are donated to the Prep's Charles W. DaParma '45 Classics Scholarship. Perry is also involved in the creation of other scholarships such as the Class of 1964 John Vrionis Scholarship and the Murray Award, which recognizes a senior who embodies the same qualities of courage, love for his neighbor, and final sacrifice as Robert C. Murray '64.

Gratitude both for his parents and their sacrifices and the Prep itself for offering him a scholarship inspire him to give back to his alma mater. "If a scholarship recipient understands that others (primarily unknown to him) are committed to his well-being and education, he can begin to realize that he is a member of a unique community," Perry said. "Appreciation, in turn, can engender gratitude — which leads to many positive actions and outcomes," he added.



Our class of 1964 remains close after almost 60 years and similar unity permeates many other Prep classes. **Belonging is a hallmark of the school.**

— Bill Perry '64, Hall of Honor member



Anna Nicaj P'22

Anna Nicaj P'22

Parent Ambassador Anna Nicaj P'22 is one of the many past parents who are still involved on campus. She assists in the running of the Prep Shoppe, greeting students with a smile as they shop for merchandise that showcases their love for the school.

"As an ambassador, I strive to be helpful with any questions that parents have from making introductory phone calls to meeting them on Accepted Students Night," Nicaj stated. "Feeling reassured as a new Prep parent was important to me, and I make sure that I extend the same feeling to new parents."

Alumni mothers of the Prep such as Nicaj remain in contact with each other well past their son's graduation. They often meet up again at Prep events and sometimes make plans to hang out on their own.

"Gathering for occasions outside of the Prep is something I really enjoy. From dining out, or just having a cup of coffee at home with Prep moms is something I always look forward to," she said. "We may have all met at Fordham Prep, but the friendships will last well beyond graduation. I'm grateful for the years my sons have spent here and the wonderful community everyone has built here," she added. ■



We may have all met at Fordham Prep, but the **friendships will last well beyond graduation.**

— Anna Nicaj P'22, Parent Ambassador

SPORTS ROUNDUP

Seniors (left to right) Max Del Pino, Ryan Neville, Nick Stellabotte, and Danny Drotos hold their framed plaques on Senior Day.



Baseball

The spring sports season was another successful one for the Rams with multiple CHSAA titles. We also said farewell to the 16 spring season student-athletes who will be participating in athletics at the collegiate level.

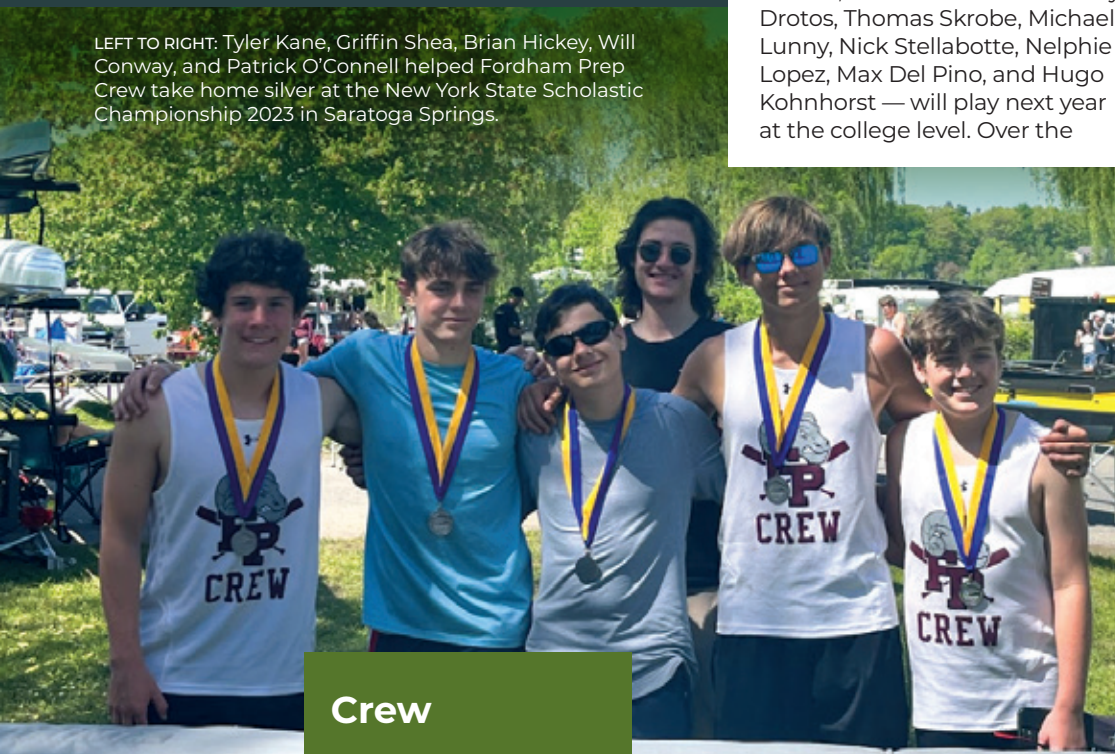
The Rams finished the regular season with a 12-12 overall record in "AA" Division play. The team was led by a core group of seniors, seven of which — Danny Drotos, Thomas Skrobe, Michael Lunny, Nick Stellabotte, Nelphe Lopez, Max Del Pino, and Hugo Kohnhorst — will play next year at the college level. Over the

Easter break, the Rams traveled to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina, where they picked up a win over Edgewood City and dropped a second game to Bowling Green.

After a strong push to end the regular season, the Rams began the playoffs by defeating St. Joes by the Sea on a walk-off single by Hugo Kohnhorst in the third game of the series. After a 6-0 loss to Iona Prep, the Rams defeated Archbishop Stepinac in an elimination game before falling 4-2 to Kennedy Catholic to finish their 2023 campaign.

The JV team finished the regular season with a 10-10 record. They ended their season with a playoff loss to St. Joe's by the Sea. The Freshmen team finished the regular season with a 12-5 overall record. They ended their season with a playoff loss to Archbishop Stepinac.

LEFT TO RIGHT: Tyler Kane, Griffin Shea, Brian Hickey, Will Conway, and Patrick O'Connell helped Fordham Prep Crew take home silver at the New York State Scholastic Championship 2023 in Saratoga Springs.



Crew

The Varsity and Freshman Crew teams spent their spring break in South Carolina training and honing their skills, rowing three times a day starting at dawn. The team then had their first spring season race in Philadelphia at the Manny Flick Regatta. Tyler Kane, Patrick O'Connell, Will Conway, Brian Hickey, and Griffin Shea won third-place in the Freshmen boys 4+ race.

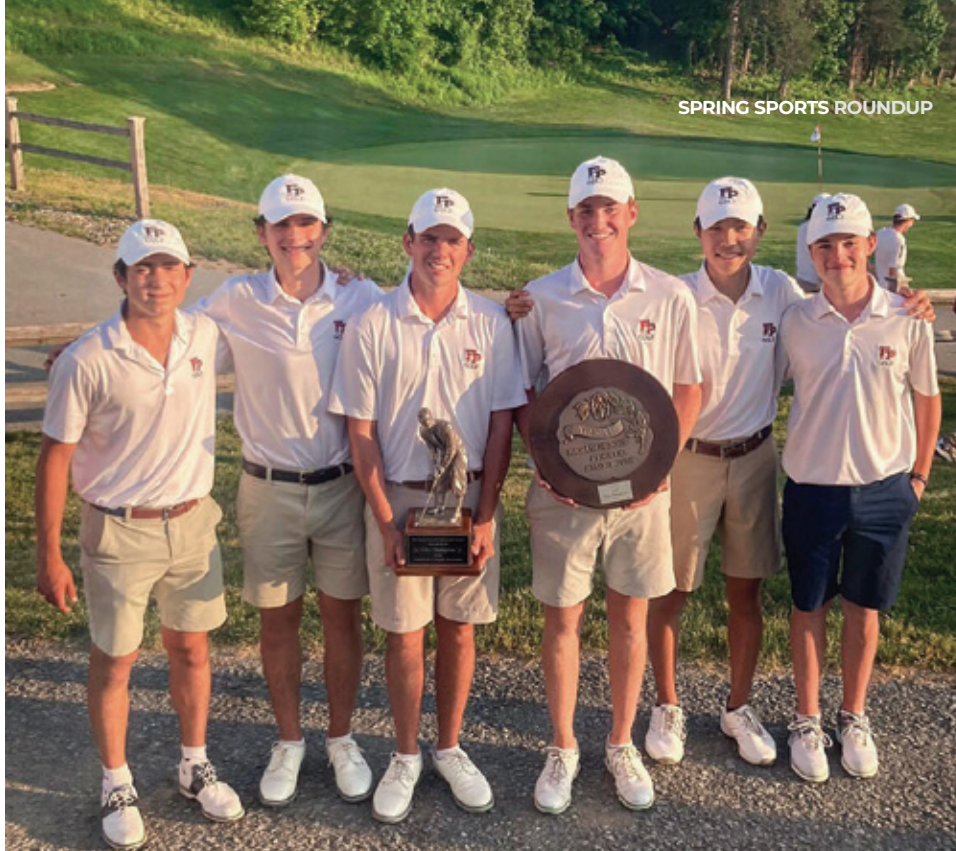
Varsity and Freshmen Crew later performed well at the 2023 Saratoga Invitational, where Robert Romani '24 won third place in the Boys 1x. A week later at the NYS Scholastic Championship 2023 in Saratoga Springs the Freshmen 4+ boat won second place. It included Tyler Kane, Griffin Shea, Brian Hickey, Will Conway, and Patrick O'Connell.

The Crew teams finished the spring season back in Philadelphia at the Stotesbury Cup Regatta, the largest high-school rowing regatta in the world with over 4,000 competitors and 180 teams from the U.S. and Canada. Robert Romani '24 advanced to the second round where he finished in fourth place in the 1x race.

Golf

Varsity Golf finished another impressive regular season led by key performances by Robert Moran '23, Timmy Doheny '23, Amos Choe '24, and Cormac Smith '25, among many others. A highlight of the season was defeating the previously undefeated Iona Prep team 3–2 in thrilling fashion. Robert Moran posted the best score of the match with a one-under 35, Cormac Smith turned in an even par 36, and Timmy Doheny won on the first playoff hole. Amos Choe, Nico Conte, and James Davis all recorded impressive rounds in the win. The Golf team then finished the regular season with a 5–0 win over All Hallows. Cormac Smith led the field with a one-under 34, Timmy Doheny was even par, and Amos Choe was one-over.

In the first round of the CHSAA playoffs, the Rams swept St. Francis Prep. Amos Choe, Nico Conte, James Davis, Timmy Doheny, Connor Molloy, Robert Moran, and Cormac Smith all contributed in the win. The Rams then went on to defeat Iona Prep in a thrilling comeback victory in the semifinal round of the playoffs. Timmy Doheny had the best score of the match with an even-par 36, along with a win on the first playoff hole. James Davis, Connor Molloy, Robert Moran, and Cormac Smith all contributed with solid rounds in the win. Amos Choe was the hero of the match, winning on the second extra hole to secure the victory. In the final, the Rams successfully defended their CHSAA title by defeating Regis in the longest match in league championship history. This is the team's sixth league championship in the last 10 years.



Lacrosse

The Varsity Lacrosse team finished with a 9–9 record during the regular season. In early April, the Rams hosted the first annual Jesuit Classic in collaboration with Belen Jesuit and McQuaid Jesuit High Schools. During the weekend, the program celebrated Len DeLucia P '09 Day with a pregame community Mass and lunch to honor the legacy of the beloved former Prep lacrosse coach. Over the Easter break, the Rams traveled to North Carolina and dropped a close game to the 2022 North Carolina State Champions, the Cannon School.

Highlights from the Varsity Lacrosse season included a program record of 64 goals scored by PJ Cunningham '24, along with key contributions from seniors Charlie English, Tommy Gies, Jack Freel, Jack O'Leary, and Lewis Moore, among many others. The Rams ended the season with a 14–6 loss to Iona Prep in the first round of the CHSAA playoffs.

The JV Lacrosse team finished the season with a 9–5 record, ending the season with a loss to Archbishop Stepinac in the CHSAA semifinal round of the playoffs.

TOP: In the longest match in the history of the league, the Golf team defeated Regis on May 30th to retain the CHSAA City Championship trophy.

BOTTOM: Senior members of Varsity Lacrosse gather together for a group photo on Senior Day.

Tennis

Varsity Tennis led a successful spring campaign with key contributions from both underclassmen and senior leaders of the team. After a close loss to Iona Prep to open the season, the team bounced back with a 5-0 sweep of St. Francis Prep. Griffin Bounds, Sebastian Abela, and Fabrizio Sares McCabe all won in singles while doubles remained undefeated. Matteo Antenucci and Cam Kwas at #1 and Julian DiMeo and Finn Evans at #2 all won in straight sets.

The team finished the regular season with a close 3-2 win over Iona Prep. Sebastian Abela and Julian DiMeo won at #1 and #2 singles while the #2 doubles team of Zach Woloff and Reid



Chapski clinched the victory. With the win, the Rams secured the second seed in the playoffs.

Varsity Tennis persevered with a huge 3-2 win over Iona Prep in the semifinal round of the CHSAA playoffs. Griffin Bounds and Sebastian Abela won in straight sets at #1 and #2

singles while the #2 doubles team of Fabrizio Sares McCabe and Reid Chapski clinched the victory dominating the 10-point match tiebreaker. With the victory, the Rams advanced to the CHSAA Championship match where they faced off against Xavier High School at the National Tennis Center in Queens. The Rams played well but ended up dropping the match to the Knights.

Varsity Tennis gathers as a team before their home match against Xavier High School.

Rugby

The Varsity Rugby season had started with great expectations with the incoming abilities of the rising JV players and key returning seniors such as Connor Molloy, Stephen Johnson, Daniel McCuster, and Michael Spolar. The team gained momentum early in the season by winning two key matches in the annual Jesuit Cup Tournament and defeating St. Anthony's High School 32-5.



Over the Easter break, Varsity Rugby traveled to South America and recorded two victories against tough Argentine opposition. They showed great character on and off the field as representatives of the Prep culture. It was the first time in Prep Rugby history in which Fordham Prep won multiple international matches.

The JV Rugby team finished the regular season with an impressive 7-3 record including scrimmages. The highlight of the season came in a 36-17 victory over Gonzaga Prep from Washington DC.

Varsity Rugby faces off in a scrum against St. Anthony's High School.

Outdoor Track & Field

Varsity Outdoor Track & Field enjoyed another successful season in a busy spring campaign, winning the CHSAA City Championship and narrowly finishing as runner-ups at the CHSAA State Catholic Championship. In early April, Coach Chavez' throwers went out and dominated the inaugural Pierre Chavez meet. Juniors Gaspare LoDuca and Ojilvy Sanchez took first and second in the discus, while Raphael Nieto took second in the javelin. Jaylin Santiago and Dakota Strain went 1-2 in the 400-meter dash in state-leading times, and senior Ergi Agaj won the 1600-meter run. A few weeks later, both the Varsity and JV teams repeated as Jesuit Champions over Regis and Xavier High School.

At the historic Penn Relays in late April, the 4x400 of Doody (51.24), Chrostowski (50.97), Strain (49.10), and Santiago (49.40) claimed the fastest time of the day at that time. Sean Reidy '23 later took home the gold at the Ridge HS Mile (4:20.09) in early May, and Jaylin Santiago broke Chris Balthazar's '19 Fordham Prep Record for the 200-meter, taking 3rd at the Loucks Games in a blistering 21.74. At the Hellgate Relays, Robel Wondwosen '23, Jack Gallagher '23, Hayden Padilla '23, and David Rosado '24 won the distance medley, and Gaspar Lo Duca '24 became a Javelin Champ.

The Prep won the CHSAA City & Archdiocesan Champs behind 1-4 sweeps from the hurdlers and vaulters led by juniors A. Pimentel and O. Sanchez. Jaylin Santiago was named meet MVP with 400-meter intermediate hurdles (ranked 4th in state) and 400-meter wins. Sean Reidy claimed the 800-meter title and carried the team across the finish line.

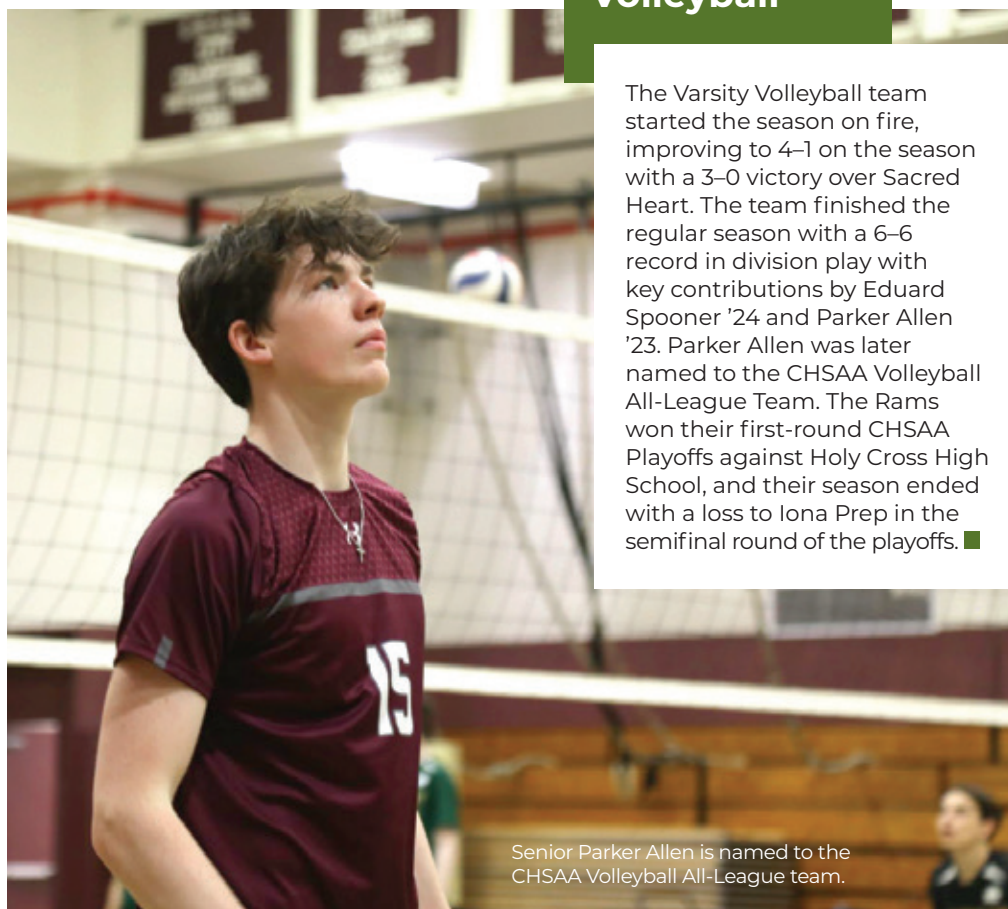


At the CHSAA State Catholic Championship, the Freshman Track & Field team took third place, led by 800-meter and 110-meter hurdle champions Paxton Reyes and Wyatt Zachery, and 1-2 pole vault finishers Tyler Williams and Chris Bustamonte. Paxton Reyes also became the Freshman State Catholic 800-meter Champion. Gabriel Kramer-Griffiths led the Sophs, as he won the Sophomore 800-meter run and joined Charles Moran, John Canale, and Adriel Grullon as 4x400-meter relay champions. Jonathan Bailey continued his hurdle dominance with a win in the 110-meter hurdles. Wyatt Zachery '26 became the first Fordham Prep freshman ever to break 40 feet in the triple jump.

The Outdoor Track & Field team gathers for a group photo under the roof at a rainy Icahn Stadium as CHSAA City Champions

Volleyball

The Varsity Volleyball team started the season on fire, improving to 4-1 on the season with a 3-0 victory over Sacred Heart. The team finished the regular season with a 6-6 record in division play with key contributions by Eduard Spooner '24 and Parker Allen '23. Parker Allen was later named to the CHSAA Volleyball All-League Team. The Rams won their first-round CHSAA Playoffs against Holy Cross High School, and their season ended with a loss to Iona Prep in the semifinal round of the playoffs.



Senior Parker Allen is named to the CHSAA Volleyball All-League team.

MORALITY, LOVE, GOOD DEEDS



JIMMY CORBETT '99, USMC (Ret) | Alumni, Fordham Prep Track & Field, and Baseball Player

“There are very few places I can fall into and be myself,” Jimmy Corbett '99, USMC (Ret) told Lauren Zefran and Theresa Murray's junior mentor groups during the Prep's inaugural Military Vocation Day in May. “Those are my family, the military, and this school,” he continued.

During Corbett's visit, he took some time to sit in the Moglia Commons, basking in the memories of his time as a student.

“Some things are very similar and some are really different,” he stated when asked what the Prep was like when he attended in the late '90s. “The thing that I remember most is the passion that the faculty had and the people that the president brought to speak to us at our assemblies,” he continued, recalling the day actor Chazz Palminteri visited the Prep in 1996.

Corbett played baseball and ran track and field all four years at the Prep under renowned coach and social studies teacher George Febles P'15 '22. In 1997, he set a record with the 3,200-meter relay team.

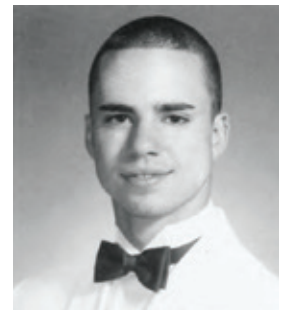
“I think we were in my sophomore year when we bought the first City Championship under Mr. Febles to the Prep,” he smiled. “To see him coming full circle at his Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony this past fall was pretty awesome,” he added.

After the Prep, Corbett went on to play baseball at Saint Leo University, a small NCAA Division II Catholic school in Florida. The events of September 11, 2001 made him realize Saint Leo wasn't where he wanted to be.

Corbett chose to leave college early in order to serve his country. He enlisted in the Marine Corps, serving for 10 years before being decommissioned when he got his degree in 2012.

“I think that military services and veterans are potentially misunderstood,” he replied when asked about the inspiration for Military Vocation Day. As a chair of the Prep's Alumni Veteran's Network, Corbett helped recruit a group of alumni who could speak to juniors about exploring military service as an option after graduating from the Prep.

“For me, there's a direct connection between the morality that is taught here at the Prep and its practical application in the military,” Corbett explained. “Most decisions that are made don't have life or death consequences, and don't have to be considered necessarily on a daily basis like that. But in my profession, in the Marine Corps and in the military in general, those decisions do have consequences: life or death. Sometimes, you may consider the situation where you don't get that decision. And so be prepared morally, mentally, and physically — but specifically, morally — to make a decision



LEFT: Corbett speaks to Prep juniors on May 1, 2023 for Military Vocation Day.

ABOVE: Corbett, senior year, Fordham Prep.

“MORALITY AND LOVE ARE SO INTERTWINED. IN THE MILITARY, WE’VE GOT TO LIVE LOVE AND GOOD DEEDS.”

— Jimmy Corbett '99

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Back Row: Coach DeRosado, Alexander Hyacinthe, David Hanson, James Corbett, Timothy Collins, Anthony Chiodi, Maximilian Kvetan, John Pears, Matthew Keller, Coach Swann
Middle Row: David Roberts, Michael Downey, Charles Boyer, Phillip Giovatto, Lloyd Nolan, Timothy McKeane
Bottom Row: Anthony Nigro, Joseph Brandon, Marvin McClary, Adam Shea, Brett Yoro, Dennis O'Sullivan



TOP: Corbett (top row, fourth from left) poses with the freshman baseball team in 1996.

ABOVE: Members of the Prep's Alumni Veterans Association, a group formed to inspire students and alumni to remain focused on service to the community, pose for a photo with social studies teacher Daniel Nolan, US Navy (Ret), on Military Vocation Day. (Left to right: Tom Kelly '64, Ralph Dangler '84, Al Naclerio '67, Jimmy Corbett '99, Jack Bergen, Gerry Byrne '62, Mike Corcoran '61, Pat Ford '02, and Daniel Nolan.)

where you're going to put people potentially in harm's way, I believe is a fantastic burden, but at the same time, quite necessary," he continued.

While walking through the Hall of Honor, Corbett looked up and noticed the school's Christian Service banner, which includes the quote attributed to St. Ignatius Loyola: "Love ought to manifest itself in deeds rather than words." The phrase brought him back to his service in the military.

"That applies directly to military service," he stated. "Morality and love are so intertwined. In the military, we've got to live love and good deeds," he added.

Corbett is grateful to the faculty, staff, and administration for providing him with a stable moral compass through a Jesuit education. He believes that the military could use a few good Fordham Prep men.

"I think that finding people who are driven to make the world a little bit better of a place — there are probably very few other collections of people like that outside of Fordham Prep," he noted. ■

AROUND THE PREP



LEFT TO RIGHT: Augustine Daudu '23, Ryan Irving '23, Peter Canale '23, and Colin van Hoek '23 pose with the *Ramblin'* sign, a gift from the Office of Alumni Engagement after the student-hosts mentioned it would make a great addition to the set in episode one of season two.

Ramblin' Crew Prepares to Sign Off

It may be hard to believe from the camaraderie on each episode of the student-run podcast *Ramblin'*, but student hosts Peter Canale '23 and Ryan Irving '23 didn't know each other very well before embarking on the endeavor.

While Canale had been friends with podcast producer Colin van Hoek '23 for a little over a year before the podcast started, Irving was merely an acquaintance of Van Hoek.

The idea for the podcast stemmed from Canale's desire during the initial months of the COVID pandemic in the spring of 2020 as a way to supplement the "big brother" program at Fordham Prep where upper-classmen teach the younger students the ropes of being a Ram.

"During COVID-19 we didn't have any of that and I felt kind of lost," Canale began, "so I wanted to create something that would facilitate that," he continued.

At that point, he did not have a topic for the podcast, but he was certain that he wanted to start one. Canale asked numerous administrators including Principal Joseph Petriello PhD '98. To a person, his idea was received enthusiastically.

A few months later, Canale secured a moderator — Dylan LaGamma '09 from the Visual & Performing Arts Department — as suggested by his older brother, then-senior Dominic '20. All that was left was to find a co-host.

"One day we all happened to be going home at the same time," Canale stated, remembering how he met his co-host. Van Hoek ended up introducing him to Irving on that October afternoon in 2020.

"I remember you said you needed a co-host, and we didn't really talk about it again for another week or two," Irving recalled. He then sent a text to Canale referencing the conversation about the podcast and they planned a Zoom meeting with LaGamma.

"That Zoom call was super awkward because I didn't really know Ryan or Mr. LaGamma," Canale laughed, realizing that he had only been to a few of LaGamma's History of Jazz classes by that point.

The name of the podcast came from Dominic Canale. *Ramblin'* is a spin on *Horsin' Around*, a show within the television series *BoJack Horseman*. The student hosts toyed with the idea of naming the podcast *Ramblin' Around* but ultimately decided on simply *Ramblin'*.

The first episode went off without too much of a hitch. Van Hoek offered to help film and create the original logo, which he remembers kept refreshing on the tablet screen while filming. They began filming the *Ramblin'* premiere about Fordham Prep sports, but none of the teams were playing during the pandemic, so they moved on to talk about food for the rest of the episode.

"For the first episode, we didn't have what most production teams have, like close bonds," Irving noted, before Van Hoek interjected with "or a plan."

"It was kind of just this thing where we're like we were just going to go for it, and it ended

up being a really great thing. So I think we were all really happy with that. And from there, we kind of had this new confidence," Irving continued.

Other students at the Prep loved the food topic, and the upper-classmen seemed to be enjoying the podcast. For episode two, Augustine Daudu '23 joined as associate producer by invitation from Van Hoek.

"I think Colin had brought it up in a few FPTV meetings and asked if I wanted to help out so I was like 'Okay!' I just felt like we were two people sitting with foreigners," Daudu said, remembering how awkward it was being around other students he didn't know well. He went on to note that the previous *Ramblin'* set in the Global Education room caused him and Van Hoek to have to clumsily crawl underneath tables to get the equipment set up.

Van Hoek's proudest moment as producer of the student-run podcast happened while editing episode six, featuring former assistant principal Dennis Ahern '63, P'01. The episode included an inset of the Italian restaurant scene that the student hosts discussed with Ahern, and this particular inset format became the norm for *Ramblin'*.

"I remember Mr. LaGamma emailed me after school when I sent him the first draft and he was like, 'You made a visual language for *Ramblin'*. That's really impressive.' I was so honored because it was exactly what I wanted to do as an editor," Van Hoek said.

The student-hosts also host a live version of *Ramblin'* during Fordham Prep's open house events, which are a huge hit with prospective students and parents alike.

"*Ramblin'* has become, by far, the most talked about aspect of our Open House," said Brad Serton '95, Director of Enrollment and Marketing. "Prospective students love it because the boys are so authentic and genuinely funny. Their parents love it because they can see their sons growing into young men just like Peter and Ryan."

"I remember one guy had come up to me during the open house and said 'I think you changed a lot of people's minds about coming here,'" Canale remembered.

Serton added, "I joke with the boys that I don't know what I am going to do without them at next year's Open House."

Rumor has it that other Catholic Schools in Westchester and New York City are trying to follow suit with student-run podcasts of their own. As moderator LaGamma states, *Ramblin'* is "one of the most authentic ways to learn about Fordham Prep," so why wouldn't every high school want to have its own student-run podcast?

With graduation on the horizon for the entire *Ramblin'* crew, they're excited about finding students who are interested in continuing the podcast. However, the crew wants to make sure they can find a group of students that can come into the open roles similar to how they fell together.

"Right now, the conflict we have is just trying to make sure that we could maintain that sort of balance and the luck that we had. It'll be hard to force it," Van Hoek stated.

Van Hoek is set to attend film school at New York University in the fall. Irving has an interest in majors related to the entertainment industry at Harvard University, while co-host Canale is interested in attending business school at Wake Forest University. Daudu, the recipient of Ithaca College's prestigious 4-year full scholarship, is interested in studying at the Park School of Communications.

While the student hosts and producers love sharing their

Ramblin' currently, has three seasons and 20 episodes.



talents on *Ramblin'*, the task of running the podcast is no easy feat. They spend almost eight hours working on each episode, from planning, to set-up and editing.

Daudu feels that the phrase "Every movie is a miracle" applies to the *Ramblin'* podcast as well. "Just being able to finish an episode and knowing that at some point it will be on Schoology (the Prep's internal school distribution system) — I just feel like every podcast episode is a miracle," he said. ■

RAMBLIN' CREW'S FAVORITE EPISODES

CO-HOST
Peter Canale '23

Season 1, Episode 6
featuring Mr. Ahern '63

CO-HOST
Ryan Irving '23

Live Episode: October 2022
Open House featuring
Dr. Smith & Liam Tully '24

Season 3, Episode 3
featuring Ms. Bennis

PRODUCER
Colin van Hoek '23

Season 2, Episode 3
featuring Mr. Jennings

Season 2, Episode 6
(Hot Ones) featuring
Dr. Smith & Mr. Palombi

Season 3, Episode 2
featuring Mr. Hemsley

ASSOCIATE PRODUCER
Augustine Daudu '23

Season 2, Episode 7
featuring Mr. Nolan

2nd Annual FitzSimons Civics Symposium Incites Lively Discussion

The goal of the FitzSimons Civics Initiative, made possible through the generosity of Dennis FitzSimons '67, is to cultivate an understanding and appreciation for the U.S. system of government, a recognition of the importance of free speech, and respect for multiple points of view, and to learn the skills necessary to successfully navigate today's digital news and information ecosystem.

Fordham Prep held its 2nd Annual FitzSimons Civics Symposium on April 18th, 2023, featuring Nick Ohnell Fellow and head of research for the Policing and Public Safety Initiative Rafael Mangual and president emeritus of New York University John Sexton.

In the weeks leading up to the event, students on the Symposium Committee put together several presentations to inform their peers about the topics that were to be discussed.

The event's topic was on the Supreme Court and its handling of both the Second Amendment and affirmative action cases. The repartee filled the Leonard Theatre with cheers and applause from Prep students during



Dennis FitzSimons '67 (front row, right) with alumni guests at the 2nd Annual FitzSimons Civics Symposium while a student asks the panelists a question about precedents.

continued...



LEFT: Symposium coordinators, student committee members, and the event's moderator and panelists pose for a group photo on stage with Principal Petriello, PhD '98 and Interim President Brian Carney.



RIGHT: Panelist Rafael Mangual hugged moderator David Hiller at the end of the Symposium as students cheered.

an almost two-hour long program of discussion, opinion, and questions from the audience.

Moderator David Hiller, former president of the McCormick Foundation, began the conversation by asking the panelists to introduce themselves and explain how they came upon their chosen professions.

Mangual explained that he had planned to go into the military but ended up being recruited to play college baseball. While in college, he became interested in the work of several scholars at different think tanks, leading him to law school at DePaul University in Chicago.

"I made my way west the way many men in their mid-20s make their life decisions," he laughed. "It was dictated to me by my now wife who is originally from the city of Chicago," Mangual continued.

When it was Sexton's turn to talk about his path to law, he admitted, against his late wife's advice to never mention it, that he "stopped (his) formal education in the 10th grade (at Brooklyn Prep)."

"And from that point on," Sexton added, "I effectively wrote 19 doctoral dissertations — 18 of them were the National High School debate topic for that year and the 19th was my doctorate in religion here at Fordham (University)."

Sexton spent much of his time after high school coaching speech and debate. However, his GPA as an undergraduate was low since he skipped classes often. He remembered Rev. Timothy Healy, SJ, stopping him on his way across Edward's Parade to express his disappointment in him and tell him to join the new theology PhD program.

Sexton thought that he wanted to teach high school for the rest of his life after that but his friends told him, "There's something else out there. You should go to law school. You've always said you wanted to go to law school," Sexton recalled.

A friend of Sexton's at Harvard University convinced the school to admit him, but he couldn't attend since he was committed to remaining a high school teacher in New York for the next three years.

"That's what we do, we Jesuit-educated people — especially ones from Brooklyn," he laughed, explaining his commitment. Harvard allowed him to defer his enrollment for three years so that he could honor his commitment.

The conversation moved on to discuss the role of the Supreme Court in the United States. Mangual used Homer's *The Odyssey*, specifically the part where Odysseus demands that his ship crew tie him to the mast and put beeswax in their ears so as not to be swayed by the siren song, to make his point — just as his law school professor had years ago.

"The rope and the beeswax is to that crew what the Constitution is to this country," Mangual explained. "It is a set course that we have been put upon that is supposed to keep us on that course so that we cannot be swayed by our passions, i.e., the siren song. So if in fact you have written law that is supposed to be binding, you need an arbiter to tell us what that law means and that's where the Supreme Court's authority comes from," he continued.

Sexton commented on the Supreme Court's process thereafter. "If you remember nothing from me coming out of today, remember this," he told the audience. "The Bill of Rights is a

counter-majoritarian document," he said before detailing how the Supreme Court can strike down a bill with only nine justices after an entire majority of legislators and an executive have agreed on it.

"That's a remarkable thing to think about in what we call a democracy," Sexton stated.

The panelists ended the first half of the Symposium with a discussion on Constitutional originalism, gun control, and precedents, among other topics related to the Supreme Court.

After the intermission and a student poll on affirmative action and political polarization, the conversation intensified. Mangual and Sexton had a few disagreements during the discussion about affirmative action.

Mangual cited the two pending Supreme Court cases against the University of North Carolina and Harvard University regarding the consideration of race in the admissions process. Sexton expressed that he is okay with working to obtain a "sufficiently diverse class" using several factors, including the boxes prospective students check off under race on applications.

"I don't think race should be considered at all," Mangual said before Sexton interjected with, "You can consider GPA, though?"

"Yes," Mangual responded.

"And you can consider athletic ability?" Sexton asked.

"Sure," replied Mangual adding, "You can consider all the things that the Constitution does not prohibit you from considering."

Leonard Theatre erupted in applause.



The panelists then went head to head on a discussion of why the Civil War was fought, Mangual stating that it was over racial discrimination and Sexton arguing that it was fought “as affirmative action to put in (places such as higher education) people who had been deprived in our society and who are still deprived by our society.”

Students asked meaningful questions about affirmative action during the second Q&A session. Despite the seemingly intense second half, the panelists and moderator exchanged hugs on stage.

“It was wonderful to see how all our students responded so warmly to our Symposium guests, especially when they eagerly approached the stage to speak individually with our guests after the Symposium ended,” said Symposium coordinator Eleanor Friedman P’26, the school’s librarian and media specialist.

This year’s Symposium marked new social studies teacher Gillian Bennis’ first time co-coordinating the event alongside Friedman.

“The engagement between the students and the panelists was so good to see,” said Bennis, reflecting on the event.

“It’s hard to get students to want to stay after class has ended,” Interim President Brian Carney noted after the event. “[The panelists] really left them wanting more,” he laughed. ■

Watch the **2nd Annual FitzSimons Civics Symposium** and learn more about the Civics Education Initiative at <http://fordhamprep.org/fitzsimonscivics>.

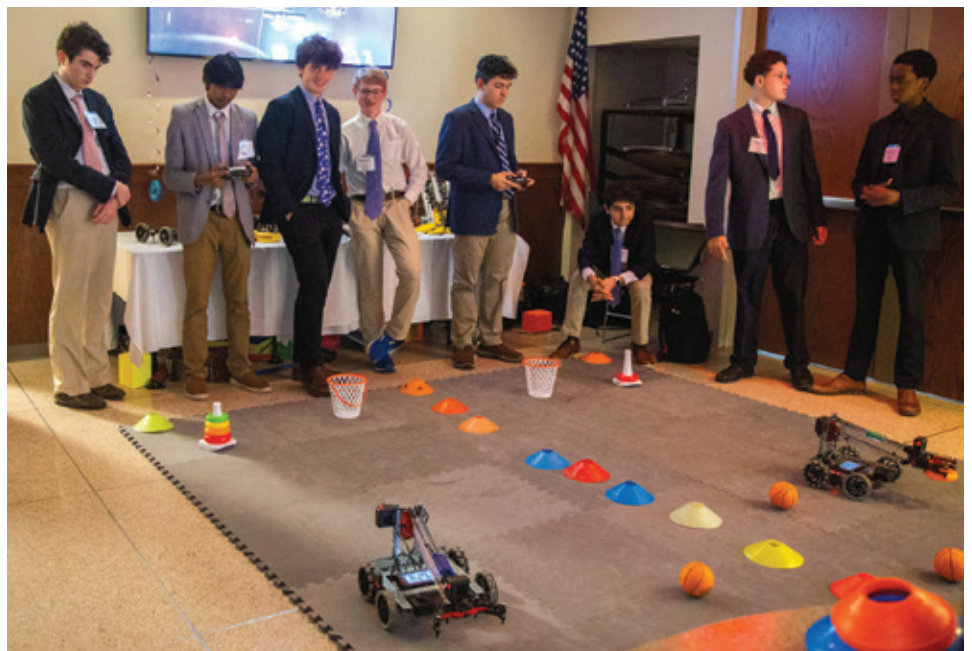
Super Smash Bros, Robots, Fried Eggs, Oh My!

To say that the 2nd Annual iSTEAM Expo at Fordham Prep was a wild ride through technological wonder would be an understatement. Over 100 guests had the opportunity to learn about the Prep’s iSTEAM happenings from clubs and courses such as Cybersecurity, Robotics, Aviation, eSports, Computer Science, Sports Analytics, and more. Exhibits included a robotics pit, a 3D printer in action (printing the face of Ryan Irving ’23), a presentation on Walter Berry’s basketball stats, a Bluetooth-powered rotary phone station, two flight simulators, and an eSports arena, to name a few.

“Your innovative enthusiasm and passion for robotics, cybersecurity, coding, eSports, aeronautics, and so many other areas of our iSTEAM program is an inspiration to us old-timers,” Principal Joseph Petriello, PhD ’98 expressed candidly after the ChatGPT-written portion of his speech. He then thanked Jimmy ’23 for bringing back childhood memories with the sound of the rotary dial phone.

Raymond Gonzalez, EdD spoke about the Sports Analytics Club’s effects on his recent experiences as a spectator of sports.

continued...



TOP: Guests battle it out with eSports Club member Stephen ’23 in Super Smash Bros during the 2nd Annual iSTEAM Expo on May 4, 2023.

BOTTOM: Robotics Club members go head to head on the basketball obstacle course.



LEFT: Mehr '23 and Gabriel '26 cook an egg on the bed of a 3D printer at the iSTEAM Expo.



RIGHT: The Sports Analytics Club presented their data on basketball player Walter Berry during the iSTEAM Expo.

“Why was I thinking in terms of runners in scoring position, WHIP, and all these other stats that I didn’t care about two years ago? Because my students have become my teachers,” he stated.

Gonzalez gave the floor to Sports Analytics Club President Onyinye '23, who talked about his love for Sports Analytics. “The project is really enjoyable, even through all the stress that it brings. Sometimes we stay in our classroom for over an hour after school just bringing ourselves to exhaustion, putting together the slides for our portfolio or metric stats and everything, but we do it for the love of the game,” he explained.

He also reflected on the club’s trip to Barclay’s Center in March, where they got to meet their data partners (NBA analyst Kelsey McDonald and Dr. David Rosenthal from St. John’s University) as well as NBA great Buck Williams, the subject of their 2022 project. “When I saw him my jaw dropped. He’s so tall!” Onyinye said as the crowd laughed.

New chair of the Computer Science Department Thomas Noone gave a brief talk on developments in robotics, the first year of the Prep’s new iSTEAM courses (Cybersecurity and Computer Science A), and the accomplishments of several student-founded clubs. This was Noone’s first iSTEAM Expo.

He also gave an exciting update on eSports. “Our Fordham Prep eSports team has just begun competing in the newly formed CHSAA Division for eSports. They actually had a match this afternoon and they won so that was great,” he stated.

He segued to introduce the next student speaker, Robotics Club member and Computer Science Club founder Chimdindu '23.

“Four years ago, when I first came to the Prep, I knew even then I wanted to do something with computer science,” he stated. “Using my free time freshman year, I took many online courses and watched videos by the dozen on topics ranging from data science to web development. In the Computer Science Club, I taught much of what I knew to its club members, and as I like to say, as I taught, I was also learning,” he continued. He went on to note that the new Computer Science class with Danielli Antoniou inspired him to choose software engineering as his college major.

Mehr '23 closed with a Science Prayer in English and then in Punjabi by John Haag '84 P'14 '17. “In English,” he explained, “what this means is ‘We seek your blessing and pray for your guidance to channel our efforts so that your creative work benefits all of humanity.’”

After dinner, members of the Prep’s 3D Printing Club, FP3D, made a little snack using heat from the bed of their 3D printer. Mehr bravely tasted the egg after Gabriel finished cooking it over hard. The effort received a thumbs-up from Mehr.

Here’s to next year’s iSTEAM Expo! ■

Learn more about the program at
[https://www.fordhamprep.org/isteam.](https://www.fordhamprep.org/isteam)



Students pose for a group photo at the 2nd Annual iSTEAM Expo.



At Home Away From Home

Fordham Prep's Global Education program exchanges to Milan, Italy and Dublin, Ireland allow students to meet and learn about the cultures of students from other Jesuit high schools. For Colin Healy '21 and Giancarlo Perrini (former student of Istituto Leone XIII), the 2018–19 school year's Milan exchange created a friendship that continued well past the reciprocal trip's end date.

However, Healy almost wasn't a part of the experience. He noted that while intimidated by the thought of being a host brother and participant in the reciprocal Milan exchange, he had applied at the suggestion of his parents and initially was rejected. In an unexpected turn of events, a spot opened up for him over the summer and he began warming up to the idea of the experience.

He remembers telling himself, "You know what, maybe this is something that was meant to be," after receiving notice about the open spot from the Global Education team. He decided to accept the host brother role and the opportunity to travel to Milan.

Healy welcomed Perrini from Istituto Leone XIII to New York in November 2018. After picking him up from the airport, they drove to Pelham to enjoy hamburgers.

"On the questionnaires that we filled out to swap with our Italian counterparts, we had to write down our favorite food and his favorite food was hamburgers," Healy explained. "So [my dad and I] figured for the first night we'd take him to get a hamburger in Pelham," he continued.

For the duration of the trip, Perrini and the other students from Istituto Leone XIII went to classes at Fordham Prep with their host brothers, enjoyed tours of Rose Hill and New York City, attended the Turkey Bowl, and participated in Thanksgiving traditions.

Thanksgiving dinner with the Healy family is one of the many moments that gave Perrini the feeling of belonging despite being miles away from his home in Italy.

"Since the holiday is a traditional and cultural moment in the United States that we don't have in Italy, I was honored to participate in Thanksgiving with Colin's family," stated Perrini. "I got to meet all his relatives that came over that day and it was great to feel that sense of family that I feel when I'm at home in Milan," he continued.

The feeling of family went much deeper for Perrini. During his visit to New York, his host brother's father, Christopher Healy '85, provided a fatherly presence that was missing from his life since his own father passed away in 2016.



"Living with the Healy family where I felt fatherly love again was amazing," said Perrini. "That was probably the thing that I loved the most," he added.

Serving as a host brother and meeting students from Istituto Leone XIII left Healy excited for the Prep's reciprocal visit in February 2019, especially since the ice was already broken from the Italian students' November visit. Prep students attended classes with their host brothers, enjoyed spectator sports, toured art galleries, visited cathedrals, saw the scenic Arno River, and more in Italy while staying with their host families. While the experience took Healy out of his comfort zone, he thinks about it often. For him, it was "a top three Fordham Prep experience."

continued...

TOP LEFT: Colin Healy '21 (front row, second from left) and Giancarlo Perrini (front row, third from left) pose for a group photo with participants of the Milan Global Education exchange at Fordham University Church in the fall of 2018.

TOP RIGHT: Colin Healy '21 (right) and Giancarlo Perrini (left) reunited almost four years after their Milan exchange at Fordham University's Gorman Moot Courtroom on the Lincoln Center campus in winter 2022.

BOTTOM: Colin Healy (back row, right), Giancarlo Perrini (front row, first from right) and the other participants of the Global Education exchange outside of Milan's San Siro Stadium in February 2019 before a fútbol (soccer) match.

Healy and Perrini kept in touch via phone after the Global Education exchange. When the pandemic began, the two checked in with each other frequently, hoping each other's families were doing okay in the midst of growing concerns over the virus.

When it came time for Perrini to choose his home for the next four years in higher education, he consulted with Healy on the idea of possibly attending Fordham University as opposed to a school in Italy.

"He already had some experience and some familiarity with Fordham," Healy stated. "So I said to him, 'You already know a little bit about Fordham. If you go (to Fordham) you'll have that

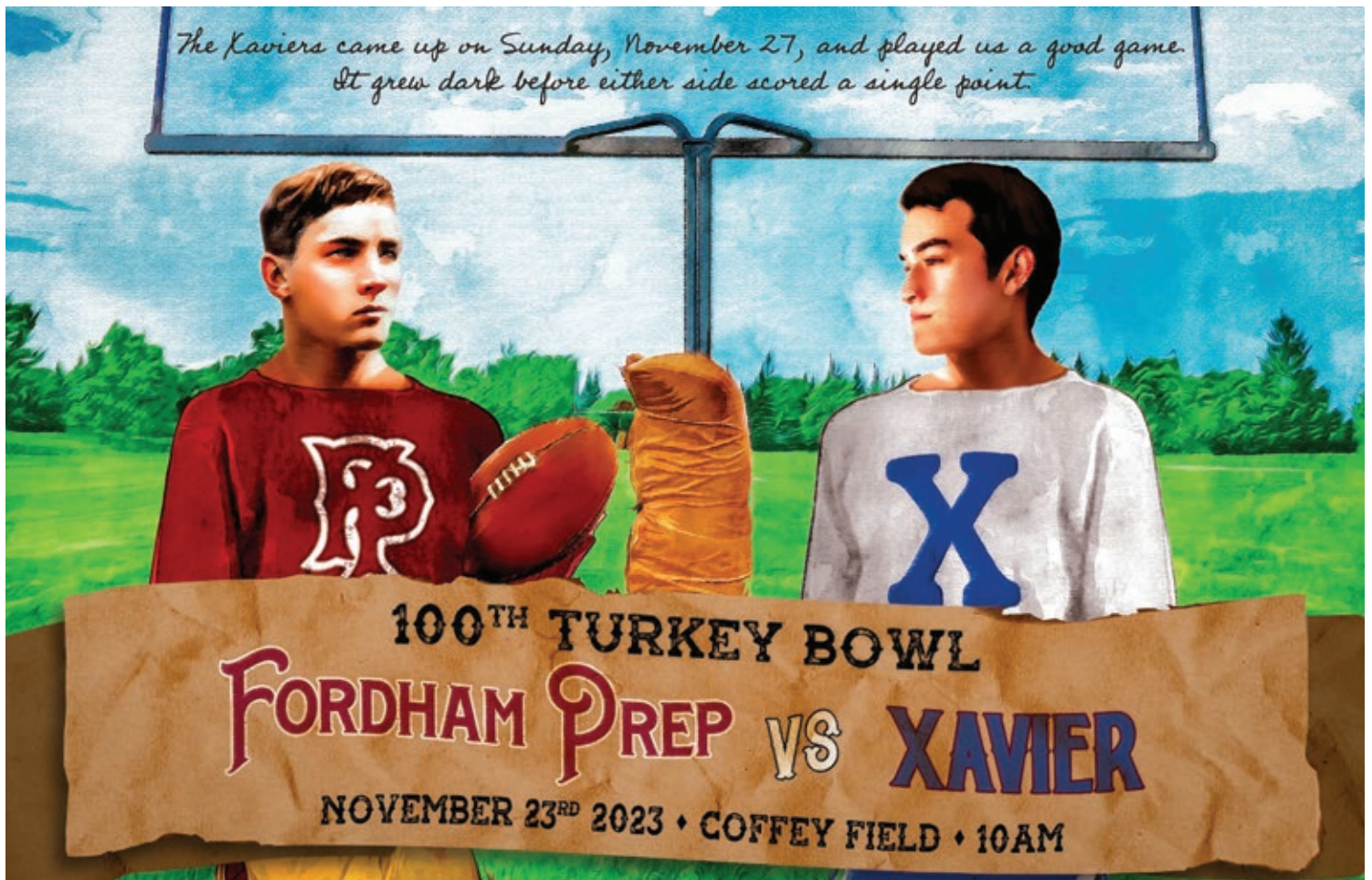
experience and it'll be a great opportunity for you to be in New York City. It's a great place to be and go to school,'" he recalled. This advice plus the Gabelli School of Business' high rankings was enough to convince him that he should attend Fordham University.

He and his exchange brother finally had the chance to meet again in person for the first time since 2019 during the holiday season in December 2022. They caught up over dinner in Manhattan.

While Healy is currently attending college at Holy Cross in Massachusetts, he has plans to study abroad in Florence, Italy where he's likely to hark back to his

2019 visit to Arno River. Perrini is debating whether he wants to return to Italy after completing his degree at Fordham University to help run his family's two companies. Ultimately, Perrini is enjoying getting a new perspective on the business world through his studies in the United States.

"Here I have the chance to select my courses and there's more engagement between the students and with the professors. It's really different from how it was in Italy," said Perrini. "At Fordham, we do a lot of practical research but in Italy, it's more theoretical study. The most interesting thing is seeing how everything I'm learning applies in the real world," he added. ■



CLASS Notes

Thank you to all of the members of the Alumni Veterans Network for visiting the Prep for our inaugural Military Vocation Day!



PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Tom Kelly '64, Ralph Dengler '84, Al Naclerio '67, Jimmy Corbett '99, Jack Bergen '60, Gerry Byrne '62, Michael Corcoran '61, Patrick Ford '02, and Daniel Nolan.

1952

Kevin Guidera '52 was inducted in the Southampton School District's Wall of Distinction for 30 years of teaching seventh and eighth grade as well as coaching basketball and being the Director of the Southampton Youth Baseball League.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to our parishioner, Kevin Guidera (pictured right with his wife Sheila), for being inducted into Southampton School District's Wall of Distinction for 30 years. In addition to teaching seventh and eighth graders, he coached baseball and was the director of the Southampton Youth Baseball League. He was also president of the Southampton's Teachers Association for 10 years and served on the negotiating team. Outside of school, he and his wife belonged to Our Lady of Poland parish for over 60 years and served as lectors and Eucharistic Ministers. Kevin was also a member and chairman of the Southampton Village Zoning Board of Appeals for 35 years. Congratulations Kevin on this well deserved honor!



Armed Forces Past," about his experience after serving in the Marine Corps from 1966–1969 that was featured in *Variety Magazine*. You can read Gerry's article on *Variety Magazine's* website.

1964

For the 59th consecutive year, members of the Class of '64 met for their Annual Ascension Thursday dinner. This year, 22 classmates, from as far away as San Diego, Boston, and South Carolina, came together at 25 North Ristorante in Mamaroneck. A good time was had by all!



1967

Joe Moglia '67 was awarded "Chanticleer of the Year" by Coastal Carolina University for the profound impact his efforts have had on not only athletics but the university as a whole.



1968

Tom McGuire '68 plays an acclaimed solo show titled "A Bronx Accent from Brussels — a Tribute to the Frank Sinatra Songbook."



1960

Lou Fiore '60 has worked with the Monitoring Association to announce the establishment of the Louis T. Fiore Electronic Communications Scholarship, which is intended to promote careers in electronic communications.

1965

Fordham University Athletic Department dedicates the "Frank McLaughlin Family Court" inside of the Rose Hill Gymnasium in honor of Frank McLaughlin '65, who has devoted nearly six decades to his alma mater.



The class of 1968 celebrated their 55th Reunion with five days of celebratory events, including a Yankees game, dinner, and seeing their classmate, Tom McGuire '68, perform his show "Tom McGuire: A Bronx Accent from Brussels — a Tribute to the Frank Sinatra Songbook."

1962

Gerry Byrne '62 wrote an article titled "A Marine Corps Birthday Story: PMC Vice Chairman Reflects on

Bob Gomprecht '65 was the keynote speaker at the Prep's National Honor Society Induction Ceremony.





1969

Classmates from the Class of '69 gather three times a year for dinner and conversation about life after Fordham Prep. In attendance at the most recent gathering was Vito Catania, Robert Galasso, Frank Petrasovits, Mark Mauriello, Fred Miller, Jim Morley, Jim Glass, Bob Jennet, Jack O'Connor, Tom McEvily, Tim Vance, Kwok Soohoo, Scott McGuirk, Vic Piacentile, Mike Hickey, Tom Hickey, Vin Torna, Gerry Chomiak, John Luetich, Bob Bishop, and Ken Fredyna.

Denver Frederick '69 recently wrote a book on philanthropy and the nonprofit sector titled *The Business of Giving*:

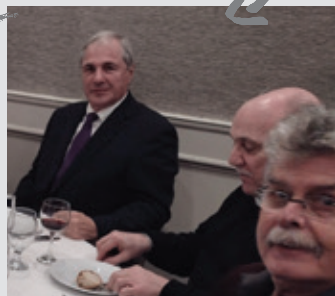


New Best Practices for Nonprofit and Philanthropic Leaders in an Uncertain World. It's the best insights from the hundreds of interviews he's done with

nonprofit CEOs and subject experts for "The Business of Giving Radio Show and Podcast."

1971

Following their 50th Reunion in 2022, the class of 1971 has continued to gather for periodic dinners and Zoom sessions to remain better connected with one another even when they're spread across the globe from Japan to NYC.



Joe Federici '71 created a five-minute video about the class of 1971's Prep experience in honor of their 50th reunion in 2022 which has now been added to the digital archives of the Bronx County Historical Society.

1973

Orest "OJ" Kozicky '73 joined the St. John's Riverside Hospital Medical Group after 34 years of private practice. His daughter, Orysia, got married in April and is an attending physician at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. OJ's son, Mark, is the Associate Director of the Internal Medicine training program at St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers.

Charles Santangelo '73 is a Cybersecurity Policy Advisor for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, his wife, Kathy, is a flight attendant for Delta Airlines, and their son is a sophomore at Virginia Tech. Charles is still a Yankees fan!

Ed Lang '73 currently serves as a Lead Investor for a number of private equity investments, including AZROS, a waste services company in Phoenix, and Verde River Vineyards in Cottonwood, AZ.

Bernhard Helgason '73 has authored a theory on restructuring the international monetary system now at the embryonic stage of academic validation. Bernhard has also created and produced some music, including a version of "The Star Spangled Banner" that Lin Manuel Miranda said was "a wonderful rendition of our national anthem."

Francis O'Connor '73 now works as the UBS Financial Services Executive Director.

Julio Diaz '73 has retired from his position as Associate Athletic Director at Fordham University.

Christopher Schipper '73 is happily married and retired with four children and four grandchildren. He's spending his time playing golf and serving on not-for-profit boards.

James Yan '73 is the President at Vista Radiology Medical Associates and is a Neuroradiologist and Musculoskeletal Radiologist. He has two daughters, Olivia Marianne, who has recently graduated from UC Santa Cruz with a Masters degree in Applied Economics, and Isabelle Erin, who is a junior at Georgetown University's Business School.

Gennaro Castricato '73 has two children, Sara, who is currently a student at Fordham University, and Louis, who is currently in a PhD program at Brown University.

Albert Nemeth '73 has recently sold his practice, the Advanced Specialized Laser Center, and is en route to retirement. He is celebrating 40 years of marriage with his wife, Nancy, and they have two splendid sons as well as two precious grandchildren (so far!).

Eric Duke '73 is the President and Owner of All Mobile Video.

John Reilly '73 has recently retired from his position in Information Technology Management at Caltronics Business Systems.

John Handrakis '73 is a Professor in the Department of Physical Therapy at the New York Institute of Technology.

A note from Ralph Ianuzzi '73: "I loved and will always cherish my days as a student in the three-year class of '73. The four-hour daily subway ride, to and from Brooklyn, was an education in and of itself. The two long and hot summers on Rose Hill and one great summer in France are indelibly etched in my memory. If given the chance, I wouldn't change one moment of any of those years."

David DeCrane '73 is a Writer-Producer at Reel One Entertainment in California.

Ronald Sancetta '73 is a self-employed OB-GYN.

James Sedgwick '73 is a self-employed Electrical Engineer.

Neil Tarangioli '73 works at St. Thomas Aquinas College as their Tennis Coach.

Joseph Vinti '73 is enjoying hobbies like autocross racing, drag racing, and more!

Rashad Kaldany '73 has recently taken a new position at Blue like an Orange Sustainable Capital.

1976

Matthew Fitzsimons '76 has founded the Covenant School of Bridgeport, a school for deserving young men in the Bridgeport, CT area. He is looking to build the school's library and classrooms. If you have any pre-loved books you'd like to donate, please let us know.

1978

Charles Brucaliere '78 works as an Art Director for Forbes Inc.

Michael Micalizzi '78 is a Chaplain for the NYC Department of Education.

Robert Rodriguez '78 is a Senior Account Executive at Tag Worldwide.

1983

Elias Papson '83 has retired from his position as VP and Asset Treasurer at Plainfield Asset Management.

Col. William C. DeMaso, USAF '83 works in Business Development at Lockheed Martin.

Felipe Estevez '83 has three children, Valentina, Rudy, and Nico.

Louis Gambetta '83 has spent 29 years in a private practice and 29 years happily married to his wife, Mary Judith. He has two sons, both Notre Dame grads, Matthew, who is an Architect, and Joey, who is a Robotics Engineer.

Scot Killen '83 is the Director of Rowing at Fordham Prep.

John Nicholas '83 is the Founder and CEO of East Hampton Shucker Co. You may have seen him at Ignite 2023 or Reunion 2023 shucking oysters!



1986

Julio Ricardo Valera '86, President of the Futuro Media Group, is the 2022 Pulitzer Prize Winner in Audio Reporting for "Suave,"

a brutally honest and immersive profile of a man reentering society after serving more than 30 years in prison. The Futuro Media Group is recognized with this award for a distinguished example of audio journalism that serves the public interest, characterized by revelatory reporting and illuminating storytelling.

1987

Prep Trustee Chris Santomero '87 hosted fellow '87 classmates at a dinner party prepared by Prep faculty/staff Nelson Ritter '96, Pat Deane '88, and JP Feigherty '03 that he won at the Prep's IGNITE Auction Benefit.

1988

Thomas Andruss '88 works as a Senior Project Manager at iiPay.

The son of Robert Gorman '88, Robert J. Gorman III '23, will be graduating from the Prep this year!

Dennis Miller '88 is the Director of Montgomery County, PA Veteran Affairs.

1992

Peter Stark '92 and his 13-year-old daughter, Ruth, choreographed for the Grand Haven Musical Fountain, one of the world's largest musical water fountains. Their first produced themed water show, "Encanto," premiered in late August 2022 with 3,500 people in attendance. Their volunteer community choreographing service for the Grand Haven Musical Fountain has produced 15 songs, including the Armed Forces theme melody, which will be used in their July 4th and August Coast Guard Festival Water & Fireworks Show.

1993

Mark Tully '93 has earned a certificate of High Honors on the National Greek Exam! Upon Mr. Distinti's recent excavation of the Classics Office, he discovered an unrepresented certificate and ribbon for senior Mark Tully '93. Tully actually took the National Greek Exam in the Spring of 1993 — nearly 30 years ago! Today, he is a long-graduated, successful alum and a current Prep parent.



1996

Colin O'Neill '96 posing with "Big Merino" in Goulburn, NSW Australia. Rams represent!



LEFT TO RIGHT: Tom Giordano, Chris Santomero, Patrick Sullivan, Paul Boccardi, Rev. Michael Greco, OFM, Cap, Tom Okon, George Stohr, Tim McGrath, and John Haley.

Michael Mondrone '93 recently got married on June 25th, 2022 at the Bronx Zoo.

Nicholas DeMatteis '93 works as a Managing Director at Ameriprise Financial.

Frank Menard '93 has accepted a new position as a Project Manager at Columbia University.

1994

Trustee Charon Darris '94 was interviewed by *Higher Education Digest*, where he talked about his career in business and finance, how he got to where he is, and advice he has for young professionals.

Daniel Padernacht '94 married Diane Badin on June 3rd, 2023.

Capt. Brendan D. Delaney '94 was promoted to FDNY Battalion Chief on February 7th. Delaney '94 has been a member of the FDNY for 20 years and is assigned to the 6th Division in the South Bronx in his new rank.



1998

Gabriel Irizarry '98 donated a copy of his new book, *I Soy Latino*, to the Prep and wrote a note of dedication inside. Irizarry '98, collaborated with classmate Anastasios Chirstoforatos '98 who is the photographer for *I Soy Latino*. We're honored to have this copy of Irizarry '98's book in our library!

Peter Corritori '98 works as Regional Vice President at Catalyst Funds.



Capt. Brendan '94 with his wife, Claudine (Fordham Prep's Development Associate!), and their three children, Robert '27, Owen, and Isla.

David Cronin '98 works as an Assistant District Attorney at the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office.



Special thanks to Niall Henry '98 (pictured, left, with JP Feighery '03, right) for hosting a post-Reunion gathering of the Prep's EDC team at his restaurant, Tryon Public House! Visit Niall at Tryon Public House or one of his other spots in Inwood or Washington Heights.

2004

Justin Rodstrom '04 welcomed a daughter, Charlotte, on May 3rd, 2023.

Matt Vazquez '04 welcomed a son, Dominic, in January 2023.

2000

Francis Lively '00, CEO and President of the LCP Group, L.P., is the newest board member for the International Center for Finance at the Yale School of Management.



2001

Kevin Phipps '01, Tom McShane '10, and Ryan Fink '10 ran the New York City Half Marathon in March 2023.

2005

Kevin O'Neill '05 was the featured speaker at this year's Alumni Senior Breakfast. He encouraged the Class of 2023 to be resilient as they prepare for a new chapter in their lives.

2002

Joe Flucus '02 was inducted into the Fordham Prep Track and Field Hall of Fame.

2007

Dr. Nicholas Figueroa '07 just accepted a full-time Lecturer of Spanish position at Columbia University. Since graduating Dr. Figueroa has been a lecturer at Princeton University. He also started a book club two years ago focusing on Latino/a authors. In addition, he created and gave several scholarships to middle-school students/families who are in academic/financial need in the Bronx, and was one of the recipients and winners of musical artist Bad Bunny's *Deja Tu Huella* contest.

2003

Nicholas Jammet '03 is the Co-Founder of Sweetgreen, a popular salad chain restaurant. *Inc.com* magazine recently highlighted the growth of Sweetgreen and its founder, Nicholas, who credits the company's culture as its main ingredient for success.

Pete O'Donnell '03 welcomed the birth of his child, Griffin Miles O'Donnell, on August 2nd, 2022.

Ravi Kantha '03 has two children, Cole (4) and Isabelle (2)!

Jon Bednarz '07 was inducted into the Fordham Prep Track and Field Hall of Fame.

2008

Chris Cavanaugh '08 celebrated the birth of his first child, Chase, in February 2022.

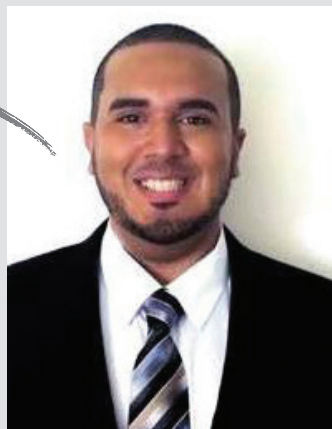
A note from Bradley Reid '08: "Support the Equitas Group!"

Yohannes Constable '08 recently graduated Anesthesiology residency at Duke University Medical Center as Chief Resident in June 2022. This year he is a Critical Care Fellow at Vanderbilt University Medical Center, and will be an Adult Cardiothoracic Anesthesia Fellow next academic year. He's looking forward to completing his training!

Jose Rodriguez '08 and Anthony Matos '08 joined forces to start Shubox. Shubox makes it possible for banks to instantly assess small businesses and project future growth, allowing them to underwrite loans earlier in a business's life cycle and measure the impact of those loans on the business over time.

Benjamin Hellier '08 works at the New England Barn Company as a Carpenter.

Calvin McCoy '08 and Jan-Michael Llanes '08 rode the Five Boro Bike Tour the day after their reunion!



2009

Wayne Seaton '09 was inducted into the Fordham Prep Track and Field Hall of Fame.

James DeLucia '09 was the featured speaker at the Prep's Chapter of the Italian National Honors Society Induction Ceremony.

2010

Nick D'Angelo '10 is an Associate at David, Polk & Wardwell Law and he delivered his first Oral Argument in front of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in November 2022.

Jack Walsh '10 married Adrienne Anderson on January 21st, 2023.

Nicky Dover '10 celebrated his marriage to Kirsten Madsen on April 1st, 2023.

Mark O'Connor '10 married Kelly Fitzpatrick on May 20th, 2023.

Joe Dieguez '10 welcomed a daughter, Emily, in February of 2023.

Chris Reyes '10 (l.) and Mike Finnegan '10 (r.) ran into each other in Lisbon, Portugal — at an Irish pub of all places!



2011

David Young '11 got engaged to Dana Gibbs (Fordham Prep's Communications Officer!) on December 27th, 2022.



2017

Class of 2017 grads (l. to r.) DJ Griffin, Jack O'Neill, Andrew Dell'Orto, Aiden Suttlehan, and Joshua Johnson joined President Brian Carney and Vice President Jose Gonzalez at our DC Alumni Gathering Event in May 2023!



2013

Patrick Anderson '13 is an MBA student at the Yale School of Management.

Itua Udeubo '13 is publishing his first book, *Parade of Streetlights*, coming out June 3rd, 2023.

Luis De La Garza Villaris '13 attended Northwestern to receive his undergraduate degree. While there, he met his wife, Jasmine. After they got engaged, he went to NYU to pursue his MB. Luis graduated last spring and he and Jasmine got married shortly after. They are moving to San Francisco in the coming months and are excited for the future!

Brian Hommel '13 works as a Manager at S&P Global.

Robert Beale '13 works as an Internal Medicine Resident at Weill Cornell.

2015

Golfer Cameron Young '15 helps his son, Henry (FP class of 2039!), learn the ins and outs of professional golf during the Masters Par 3 Contest at Augusta.



2019

Michael Calamari '19 broadcasted for Fordham University's basketball team this season for WFUV Sports.



Michael Barrett '19 is about to graduate from Notre Dame and has been awarded a Fulbright Scholarship. He will be an English Teaching Assistant in Germany next year.

Chris Balthazar '19, a student at Columbia University, won the 100- and 200-meter races at the Ivy League Championships on May 7th. Congrats, Chris!

Ryan Fodero '19 recently graduated from Providence College where he studied Economics and Biology. He was recently featured in an article by the *Providence College News* discussing his unique choice to major in both Economics and Biology and how Ryan sees these interests as deeply woven together. While at the Prep, Ryan created the Mock Investment Club, where he and other students built economic and financial projection models as well as used MarketWatch to simulate stock trading. He will be taking the MCAT exam in the fall and has plans to apply to medical school after working for two years in consulting.

2019 & 2020

Class of 2019 & 2020 grads (pictured l. to r.) John Tenney '19, Hugh Dillon '19, Owen Mosher '19, Thomas Zarkowski '19, Michael Miles '19, William Lefever '20, and Andrew Wetty '19, who are all currently Georgetown University students, joined President Brian Carney and Vice President Jose Gonzalez at our DC Alumni Gathering Event in May 2023!



Declan Wicks '19 is a second-year student at Royal College of Music in London and was chosen to be a part of a string quartet to perform for King Charles II's Coronation Concert on May 7th at Windsor Castle.

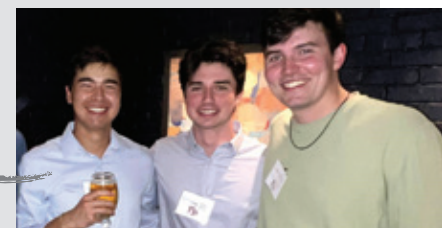
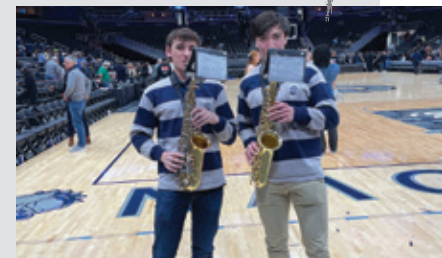
2020

Sean Scanlon '20 won The Patriot League Player of the Week for Holy Cross Baseball with a .474 batting average in early March.



2021

Aidan Murphy '21 (l.) & Nicholas Vianna '21 (r.) performed with the Georgetown Pep Band this past weekend. Both alumni participated in AP Music Theory while at Fordham Prep.





Jack Kelly '21 of Brown University's Swim & Dive team qualified for the NCAA Swimming & Diving championships in late March.

Thomas Volgende '21 is part of a band that is touring with John Anderson from the band Yes this summer across Europe.



2020 & 2022

Carmelo Musacchia '22 (l.) and Eric Yost '20 (r.) played in an exhibition game for Northeastern baseball against the Red Sox at the JetBlue Park in Florida.

2022

Michael Croke '22 tied for 8th place for Fordham University Track and Field in the pole vault at February's Atlantic 10 Indoor Track Field Championship.



Luca Gierlinger '22 is a student at Royal College of Music in London.

2023

Graham Kortye '23 was featured in *Harper's Bazaar Brazil* for his fashion brand, Gallows Humor. He is attending the New School with plans to transfer to Parsons.



Augustine (Gus) Daudu '23 received the Park Scholarship at Ithaca College and will begin his freshman year in the fall!

Fordham University President Tania Tetlow visited Fordham Prep on November 28th, 2022 for a live version of the student-run podcast, *Ramblin'*, in Leonard Theatre. Prep juniors and seniors listened as hosts Peter Canale '23 and Ryan Irving '23 interviewed her about her experience starting college at age 16, the benefits of a Jesuit education, her favorite foods, and more. ■



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.

WE'D LOVE TO HEAR FROM You!



COMMUNITY NEWS

Former Assistant Principal Theresa Napoli is finishing up her first year as Principal of the Ursuline School.

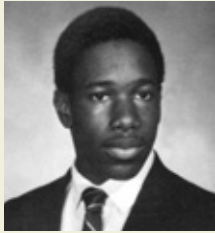
Fordham Prep's Pole Vault coach Jerry Cahill has defied the odds and completed the TD Five Boro Bike Tour after three organ transplants. After being diagnosed with cystic fibrosis at age 11 he didn't let it slow him down and continued to fight for his dreams of becoming an athlete like his brothers. Jerry received a lung transplant in 2012 and a liver and kidney transplant in 2021. After a long and difficult recovery, his athletic passions only grew larger and he was dedicated to return to his active lifestyle. Jerry completed the 40-mile Five Boro Bike Tour alongside his doctor, Dr. Selim Arcasoy, who has been treating Jerry for over a decade.

Mike Greco, the founder of Mike's Deli and grandfather of Christian Greco '15, was honored with a street-name dedication in Little Italy celebrating over 60 years of service to the community.

IN MEMORIAM

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

ALUMNI



Ancel Bowlin '85



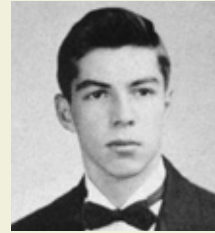
Christopher Burkart '66



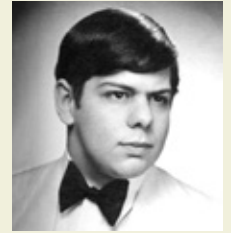
Raymond Carotenuto '78



Christopher Crespo '86



Ralph DeNunzio '49



Matthew DiGiorgi '71



Frank Drehwing '51



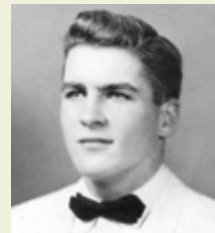
Jim Duhig '52



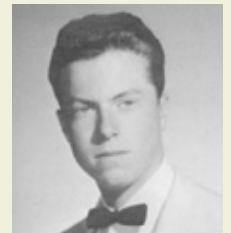
Adolph Ehbrecht '51



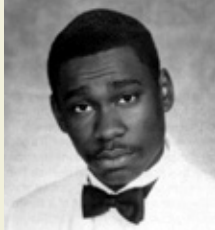
Edward Ferraro '65



John Fitzgerald '52



Gerry French '64



Joe Grant '01



Gerard Gruenfelder '63



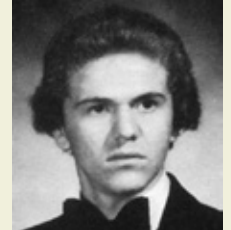
John Halligan S.J. '47



Joseph Hamilton '47



John Kirk '56



Nicholas Kojac '81



Luigi LaPietra '84
P'22



John B Lazzari III '59



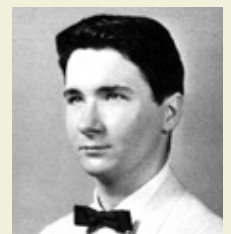
Nick Lucivero '73



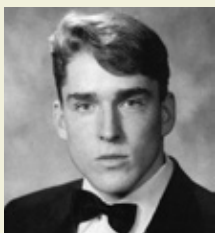
Edward McAnaney II '57



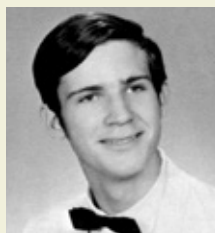
Daniel McCarthy '85



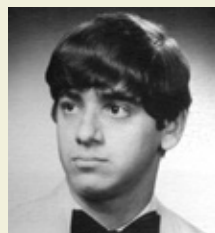
Thomas J. McGovern '62



Dennis McMahon '92



William Meehan '70



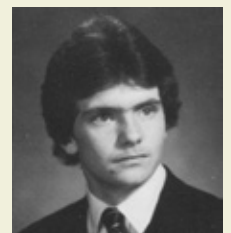
Michael Moschetta '72



Nicolas Nuño '23



James O'Brien '53



John O'Malley '84



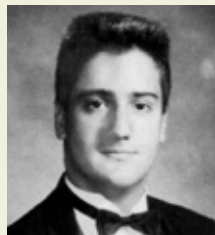
ALUMNI CONTINUED



Paul Philbin '59



John Pierce Sr. '74



Neil Rapawy '90



Edward Reilly '44



Ruben Rivera '88



Joseph Rossano '55



Charles Schnakenberg '67



John Sheehan '51



Edward Silliere '76



Thomas Sullivan '70



John Toolan '48

COMMUNITY

John Lawry GP'18 '24
Grandfather to Christian Dimitri '18 and Nicholas Dimitri '24

Michael Fitzsimons P'96 '02
Parent of Michael J. Fitzsimons '96 and Joseph B. Fitzsimons '02, brother to Dennis Fitzsimons '67

Dr. John Nikol
Former Social Studies teacher and chair of Social Studies department

Gary Brätt P'96
Father-in-law to current FP teacher Meg Brätt

Marilyn Hermann Dengler
Wife of Norbert Dengler '49

Dr. Alvin Phipps P'01
Father of Kevin Phipps '01 and former FP faculty member

Jack Hanlon P'78
Father of Chris Hanlon '78

Richard Powers GP'23
Grandfather of Jack Powers '23

John Moriarty
Brother of Joanne Aventura, former Mother's Club President and current co-President of the new Past Parents Association and uncle of Christopher '15, Matthew '18, and William '21

James V. Brennan
Father of former Director of College Counseling Maura Brennan

Jack Swartz
Father-in-law of Dr. Martin Carney, current Prep teacher

Rosemary Agnes Reiss P'75 '76 '77 '81 '84
Mother of Paul '75, Gregory '76, Mark '77, David '81, and Steven '84

MaryAnn Manfredonia P'94
Mother of Ralph Jr. '94

Maura Burke
Wife of John Burke '70 and sister-in-law of Robert '70 and Michael '66

Sister Patricia Walsh, SC
Sister of Brendan Walsh '60 (2022 Hall of Honor Inductee)

John Brennan P'80 '83 '85 GP'19 '25
Father of Patrick '80, John '83, James '85; grandfather of Seamus Cooper '19 and Conor Cooper '25

Anthony and Kathleen Shaw P'75 '78 '82
Father and mother of Brendan '75, Ronald '78, and Eamonn '82

Rocco Pallone P'91
Father of Philip '91

Paul Gomprecht
Brother of former Prep Principal Bob Gomprecht

Andrew Shaw
Family member of Desmond Shaw '73

Clifton Crossdale P'14
Father of Malik '14

Robert McGrath P'87
Father of Timothy '87

Vincent Murray P'98 '01
Father of Vincent '98 and Michael '01

Peter and Lois Stark P'92
Parents of Peter '92

Andrew J. Maloney P'81 '85 GP'22
Father of Andrew '81 and Patrick '85; grandfather of Andrew '22

Ledy Castillo
Former Cater to You staff member

TRIBUTE TO RETIREES



Michele Gedeiko

By Patricia Morris, PhD

*Modern Languages, Math Department,
Christian Service*

One of the most welcoming and impressive groups of people with whom I have been privileged to work at Fordham Prep has been the people of the Business Office, and while I am happy for her, one person I will miss

greatly when she retires at the end of this school year is Michele Gedeiko. But for doing financial aid, I would most likely not have gotten to know her well, so that has been a blessing for me, and, as many of you would attest, our community will be the lesser without her.

Michele is a warm, faithful, fun, and endlessly kind person. We joke that we take turns being generous so that we don't give away too much money, but in truth she has generosity in abundance. For 28 years she has not only shared with us her expertise, honed at Coopers & Lybrand, but her family as well. How wonderful to hear about her boys and to see her daughter, Allie, grow up to become an expert in her own right! We hear stories about the farm, about the family, we've shared the loss of loved ones, and we see her joy when she speaks about her grandson.

Michele is an expert in her field: precise, detailed, thinking two or three steps ahead of every decision, and with a memory like a steel trap. She enjoyed so much working with three Fordham Prep Presidents — Frs. Parkes, Boller, and Devron — and successive Boards of Trustees, on so many projects that have benefited our community. And she cares enormously — about employees, retirees, and about helping the families who entrust us with their sons.

We lose much when we lose Michele, but what we've gained, the other side of the balance sheet, is precious: a testament to joy in giving, faith in good times and bad, fun in the trenches, and love. Mostly love.

Michele, don't be too complacent: we know where you live! Expect company!



David Gelpi, PhD P'12

By Matt DiStefano

Science Department

As the school year ends, it is with great admiration and respect we bid farewell to one of our most enthusiastic and dedicated teachers. After many years of service, Dr. David Gelpi, a teacher, moderator, and talented photographer, is retiring.

Dr. Gelpi was more just a teacher to his students. He was a mentor, friend, and a role model. His passion for teaching and his love of the subject matter were contagious. His elective classes were always very popular because students knew that they would be challenged to think critically, explore outside of their comfort zone, and grow spiritually.

One of Dr. Gelpi's other passions is photography. He could often be seen at school events, camera in hand, capturing the most poignant and memorable moments. His photographs are a testament to his talent and his love of the school community. He will leave behind a visual legacy that will be cherished by generations of students and staff.

As we bid farewell to Dr. Gelpi, we cannot help but feel a sense of loss. His presence in the school will be greatly missed. I know personally how much I will miss the many conversations and good times we had together during the school year. He was someone who had the special ability to lift the spirits of the people around him. We will feel a deep sense of gratitude for all that he has done. **He has touched the lives of countless students and has left an indelible mark on the Prep community. His legacy will live on, not only through his teachings and photographs but through the lives of those he has influenced.**

Dr. Gelpi, we thank you for your years of service, your dedication to your students and the school, and for being an inspiration to us all. We wish you a well-deserved retirement and hope you will stay in touch. Your impact on our lives will not be forgotten, and you will always hold a special place in our hearts.



Edwin Gonzalez

By Mike Higgins P'26

Chief Administrative Officer

Edwin was the quietest and most unassuming person in the world. When you get to know him, he could really tell some stories. **A simple, direct person but someone you could count on. A solid worker that you could absolutely rely on.**

He loved his native island of Puerto Rico and traveled there frequently.

continued...



Nervana Repetti

By Brian Carney
Interim President

For the past 28 years, Nervana (“Nevie”) Repetti has exemplified unwavering dedication, impeccable professionalism, and genuine compassion throughout her tenure as Assistant Business Manager at Fordham Prep. As Nevie prepares to bid farewell and embark on a well-deserved retirement, it is with deep gratitude and admiration that we reflect upon her remarkable journey as an integral member of the Prep community. Over the years, Nevie has played an invaluable role in nurturing the school’s financial stability and fostering an environment where both students and staff could thrive.

For Nevie, the role of an assistant business manager extended far beyond a mere job description. Her unwavering commitment to excellence, attention to detail, and reliability made her an indispensable figure in the school’s administration. Colleagues and friends could always count on Nevie to lend a helping hand, provide sound advice, and ensure that financial matters ran smoothly. Her integrity and trustworthiness served as a bedrock for the entire Prep community, inspiring confidence and fostering a sense of security for all involved.

Beyond the realm of numbers and spreadsheets, Nevie demonstrated a deep-seated compassion and a genuine concern for the well-being of the students, faculty, and staff. She recognized that the heart of any educational institution lies in its people, and she made it her mission to support and uplift everyone who crossed her path. Whether it was assisting families with financial matters, helping faculty and staff manage and understand budgets, or lending a listening ear to someone in need, Nevie always went above and beyond to ensure that the Prep community thrived in a spirit of compassion and care. She also

generously assisted with programs outside her department, happily working at countless open houses and engagement events.

Nevie actively participated in the Prep’s faith life, demonstrating a deep reverence for faith and fostering an environment where students and colleagues could grow spiritually. Her dedication to our Catholic Jesuit mission was evidenced as she regularly participated in daily mass, spiritual conversations, and our faculty retreats, along with being an important contributor on our liturgy committee.

As Nevie prepares to embark on a new chapter of her life, her legacy at Fordham Prep will forever be etched in the memories of those who had the privilege of working alongside her. **Her unwavering dedication, professionalism, and compassionate spirit have left an indelible mark on the Prep community.** Her impact on the financial stability of the school, dedication to the community, and embodiment of Jesuit values have enriched the lives of all of us. We express our deepest gratitude for her years of service and wish Nevie joy, fulfillment, and continued success in all her future endeavors. ■

A very special thank you to Brian Carney for serving the Prep as Interim President this past school year. We are grateful for your leadership. AMDG!



We also wish the following faculty and staff well in their future endeavors as they move on to new positions and new places for the greater glory of God:



Ryan Fedak '09



Nicholas Genovese



Anthony Kurtin



Christopher Holownia, SJ



“I will always be a Ram.”

Turning pride into support.

Vince DonVito '82 carries his Fordham pride with him. Despite living in Los Angeles, Vince has always stayed connected with Fordham Prep, attending his reunion every five years without fail, serving as class alumni rep, and keeping in touch with classmates and friends.

Vince says he's part of a great class by chance, but part of a great school by choice. “I entered the Prep at 13 as a boy and left at 17 well on my way to manhood, and that was due in large part to the experiences that Fordham and the Jesuits offered us,” he says. “From its excellent reputation and incredible history, the Prep continues to excel in every area and

“It was always my goal to give larger somehow, and this is how I can do that.”

— Vince DonVito '82

remains a sought-after choice for parents who value a mission-driven education for their sons — steeped in faith, scholarship and service.” Vince recognizes that it's through the thoughtful loyalty and financial commitment of the Prep's long maroon line of alumni that the Rose Hill campus continues to flourish..

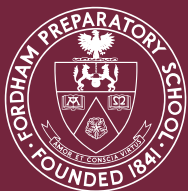
“For many, it's taken for granted that Fordham Prep will always be there,” says Vince, “but it has to be supported to grow and thrive.” And he is doing his part, first through service, and now financially, through a provision in a life insurance policy that will support the Prep long into the future.. “I was inspired by the gifts I saw my classmates making,” says Vince. **“It was always my goal to give larger somehow, and this is how I can do that—to give to the place that gave me so much.”**

Vince hopes his story will help foster a sense of giving to others, not out of obligation, but in keeping with the

motto of the Prep instilled in all its students to be “*men for others*”. He asks every Ram to reflect on their own years at the Prep and consider ways to ensure that future generations of students have the same opportunities.

One way to do that is to make a Legacy gift in your estate plans. Planned gifts and bequests cost you nothing during your lifetime but have a tremendous impact on our ability to continue to offer the education of a lifetime to the next generation of students. Think you're too young to make estate plans? It's never too soon to make a plan for your financial life and support the things most important to you.

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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