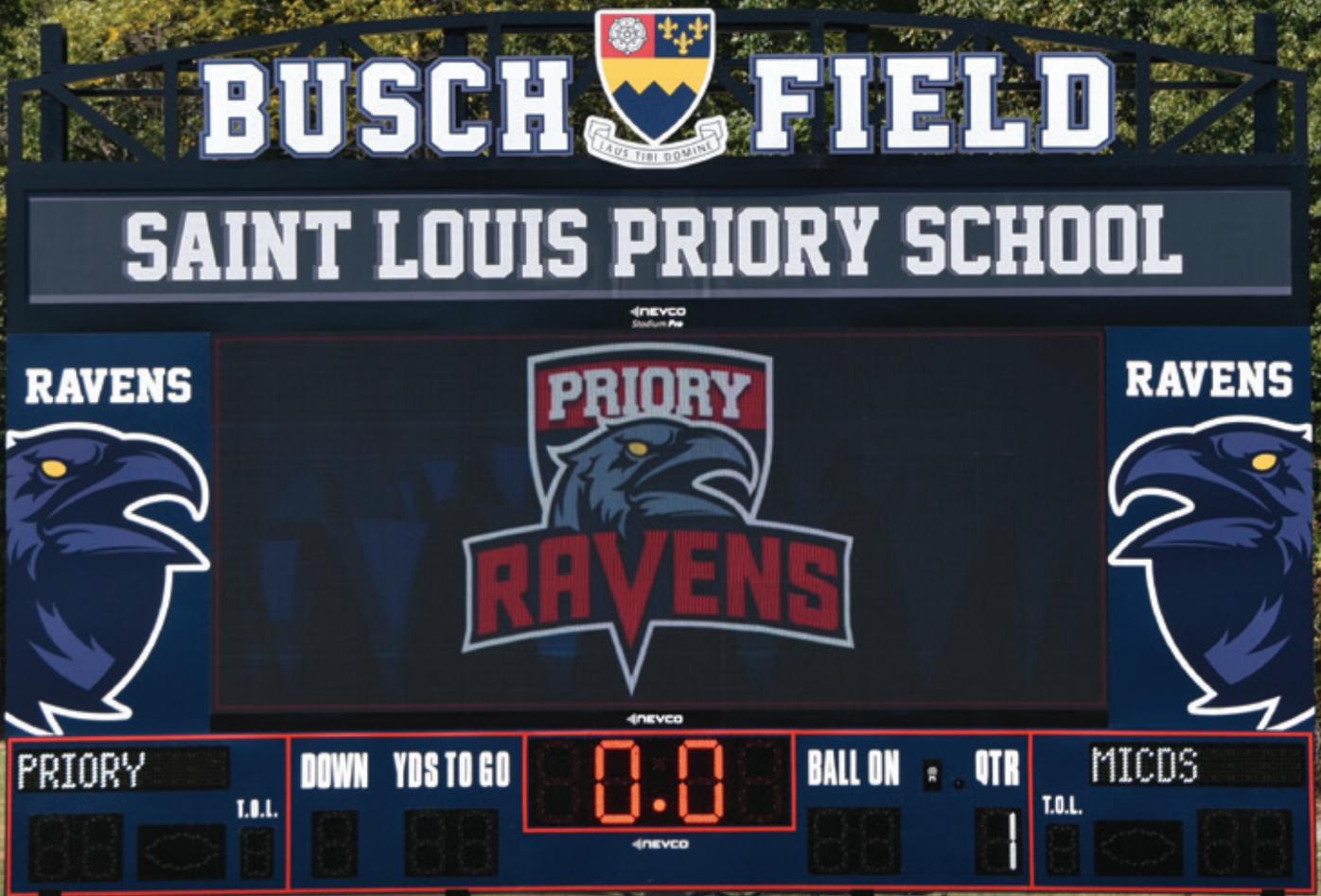


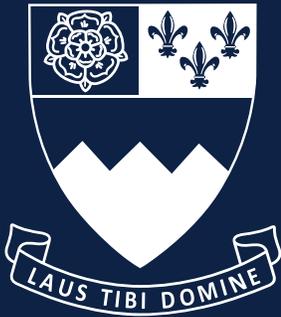
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FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Friends,

When Priory was founded in 1956, one of its core objectives was to send young Catholic men to colleges and universities that exercised great influence in American society. Our founders' emphasis on classical education, Oxford traditions, and English discipline created an ideal formation, and the systematic outreach by the first monks to elite universities on both coasts paved the way for our students to be admitted and successful in their university careers.

Over the decades, Priory's commitment to college preparatory education has not wavered; we have consistently sought to provide our students with exceptional preparation for university learning and life, even while the landscape of university admissions, campus life, and intellectual culture has changed dramatically.

In 2023, as a Supreme Court Decision, new Federal financial aid regulations, and intense demand for university access have all changed the college admissions landscape, my colleagues and I are undergoing a process of discernment. What does excellence now look like in college admissions? How should Priory define success in college preparation for the future? How should our students and families prepare for an experience that is guaranteed to be filled with exhilaration and uncertainty, stress and relief?

This edition of *Priory Magazine* invites you to join in our reflections. You will hear from our Director of College Counseling, Nikki Hostnik, about the high quality of our students' preparation and her office's work. You will also hear from some of our younger alumni about their experiences.

As you will see, access to college is only a small part of Priory's college preparation. University life means little without having first received a foundation in faith and tradition, exposure to the world of ideas and peoples, and mentoring in the humanity that is needed for healthy relationships.

We'd love to hear your own stories about the experiences, practices, and beliefs that have made your life exceptional. Let us know how Priory can continue to prepare new generations for success at college and beyond. Send us an email, a letter, a message, or—even better—come visit us on campus soon.

Laus Tibi Domine,



Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02
Headmaster



Connecting with Colleges

Priory's exceptional College Counseling Program is uniquely multi-faceted

As she planned a trip to the East Coast a few months ago, Priory's Director of College Counseling, Nikki Hostnik, thought it would be a nice idea to briefly check in with two Priory alumni now attending Yale University in Connecticut.

Brett Phelan '18 is in his second year in a cell biology PhD program at the Ivy League school, and Sami Haddad '21 is a Yale undergrad pursuing a double major - in economics as well as in statistics and data science.

She expected the conversation would take no more than 30 minutes. "I thought, 'I'll buy them a cup of coffee and it will be great,'" Hostnik recalls.

But upon arriving in New Haven and sitting down with the two alums, Hostnik found that Phelan and Haddad were as grateful for the opportunity to reconnect as she was.

Phelan, who graduated from Princeton University in 2022 and is now in the PhD program at Yale, fondly recalls, "Mrs. Hostnik helped me choose schools which fit my personality and academic interests, advocated for me during the application process, and helped me advocate for myself in essays, interviews, and email correspondence."

Haddad's memories are similarly positive. "Many schools can prepare a kid academically for college," he says, "but not many schools have the people to shape the students into the best versions of themselves... Priory did both for me."

Hostnik laughs as she remembers the New Haven get-together. "We had so much fun talking about Priory and St. Louis and their college experiences. I think two or three hours later I said, 'I have to go! I have appointments!'"

"It was just wonderful to see them," she says.

A Five-Year Series of Important Conversations

It's no surprise that Priory's College Counseling team is so positively connected with the school's alumni. The detailed process of learning about each student and his family - their hopes and dreams, their wants and needs - begins early at Priory.

How early? When boys are in their eighth-grade year, the school offers a presentation for their parents to explain the college counseling timeline.

The following year, Hostnik and her College Counseling colleague, Susan Lutz, host a college kickoff night for freshmen and their parents. The focus on this evening is not about particular schools or the mechanics of college applications, she says. Rather, Hostnik and Lutz emphasize the life skills Priory seeks to cultivate in the young men

"Many schools can prepare a kid academically for college, but not many schools have the people to shape the students into the best versions of themselves..."

Priory did both for me."

— Sami Haddad '21



△ Associate Director of College Counseling, Susan Lutz, with Director of College Counseling, Nikki Hostnik

during the college selection process, as well as the important message that the College Counseling team “is here for you all four years” to help and support students and their families.

“We are mindful that this is probably the first major multi-tasking activity a student has that has a relatively big consequence,” Hostnik says. The College Counseling team guides the students through the process as they hone skills in four areas:

- **Self-awareness**, as they reflect on the “what” and the “why” of their college goals, and as they learn to articulate these goals.
- **Tolerating uncertainty** and learning how to handle failure - “because that will happen if you push yourself in this process,” Hostnik observes.
- **Navigating complexity**, staying ahead of multiple deadlines, organizing their applications, scheduling visits with college reps, etc.
- **Communication**, especially with their parents, the College Counseling team, and college admissions professionals.

During sophomore year, all students attend a weekly college counseling seminar.

“When I start that sophomore seminar every winter term, I look forward to working with a new set of students,” Hostnik says. “It’s the perfect time to get to know them on the classroom level. I’m really excited about every new class.”

> Nikki Hostnik with Sami Haddad '21 and Brett Phelan '18

In the seminar, “we start to peel back the curtain of everything college, being mindful not to stress the students out,” she says. “It’s an important process, but it can be fun, too!”

Washington University in St. Louis and Saint Louis University have hosted the sophomores for college visits, to give the students a sense of what a college tour feels like. Following the visits, Hostnik says, the class “debriefed on what they learned, and about how the students can guide the process when they eventually tour colleges with their parents.”

Last year, Hostnik welcomed representatives from three colleges and universities to lead a mock admissions workshop in which the sophomores were required to make admissions decisions - whom to admit, waitlist, or deny - based on the information contained in the made-up college applications they reviewed. The exercise helped the students understand that college admissions can be “a subjective, human process,” she says.

As juniors, “the students start meeting with us a lot,” Hostnik says. They begin test preparation and take their first official PSAT, ACT, and SAT. Then, with their parents, they attend a college kickoff meeting in December.



"I'm so proud of them every year. They have worked hard, and each one of them is ready to take the great next steps to the exceptional life that he's been building throughout his time at Priory."

– **Nikki Hostnik**, Director of College Counseling

During junior year, both students and parents complete detailed surveys for the College Counseling team. The student survey asks questions like:

- "What colleges interest you right now - and *why*?"
- "What classes have inspired you?"
- "What are you excited about in this process and what are you nervous about?"

Among its questions, the parent survey asks:

- "What are your hopes and dreams for your son in this process?"
- "What is the role of financial aid for your family?"
- "What does success mean for you in this process for your son?"

The survey results guide important conversations with Hostnik or Lutz between January and April of the student's junior year.

The individual family meetings "are something I take really, really seriously," Hostnik says. Noting all family situations are unique, she emphasizes that Priory's approach to college counseling "is not one-size-fits-all."

Senior Year: It's Getting Real

As senior year approaches, the pace of the college selection process quickens.

"The fall season is unavoidably intense," Hostnik notes. "It's a lot for the students to take on, so we take it on with them with the spirit that we're all going to get through it together."

Both Hostnik and Lutz have worked as admissions counselors at the collegiate level. Hostnik started at Priory in 2017 and was promoted to lead the College Counseling team in 2021. She says her own college-selection experience as a high school student helps motivate her in her current role.

"Thinking back, the experience I had when I was in high school was somewhat disappointing," she recalls. "I didn't get any personal attention. I was told by my counselor, 'These are the schools that fit you,' but nobody asked me what fit."

Priory's approach, Hostnik emphasizes, is student centric. "We have an open-door policy," she says. "Students never need an appointment to meet with us."

Outside of Priory, this year Hostnik serves as the immediate past president of the Missouri Association for College Admission Counseling (MOACAC), which supports both high school college counselors and college admissions professionals across the state.

As the organization's president last year, she spearheaded the development of a program through which college counselors working in underfunded Missouri high schools could access grant funds for professional development. Hostnik says she's grateful for the support Priory's leadership gives to College Counseling, because she knows that not all counselors are so well supported. Helping "give back" to colleagues across the state was an important initiative for her.

In August, each rising Priory senior and his parents meet again with Hostnik or Lutz to revisit previous conversations and go over things that may have changed since their last meeting - based on learnings from summer college tours, new thinking from the student, and the like.



Susan Lutz (below) and Nikki Hostnik (above) working with students on their college essays.

Rising seniors have an option to participate in a summer workshop at Priory focused on college application essay writing. In the fall, they take a college counseling class with Hostnik and Lutz, during which they work to complete their college applications.

More than 100 college reps visit the Priory campus in September and October. "For the size of our school, it's amazing," Hostnik says.

"Schools from Boston College to Notre Dame to USC, all across the country, find a way to get here in the fall to meet with our students."

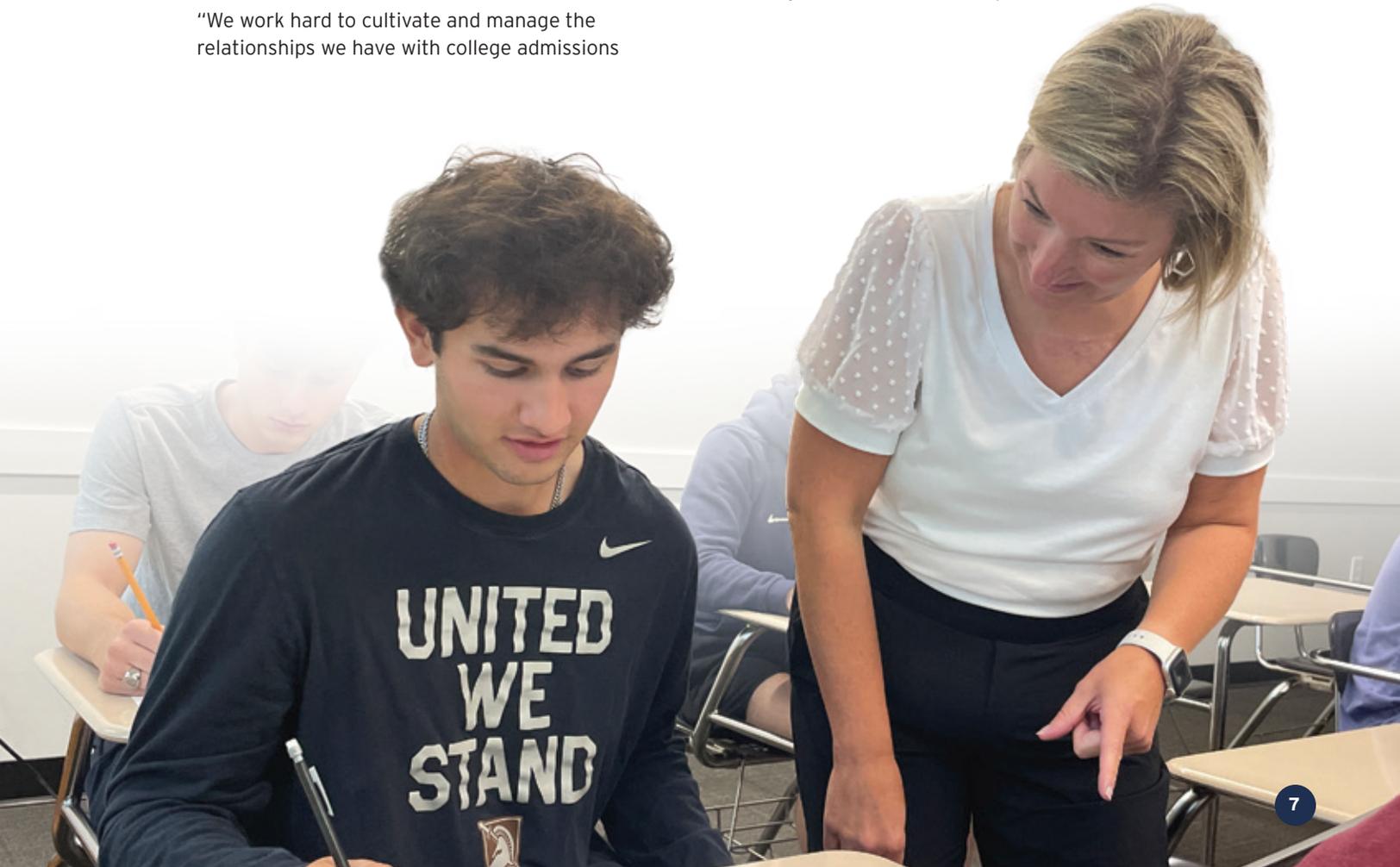
"We work hard to cultivate and manage the relationships we have with college admissions

reps," she notes. "We are partners with them. We educate them on what Priory means - the special presence of the monks, the exceptional faculty and the rigor of the curriculum, the Medieval Arts Guild. We continue to remind them what's so special about Priory."

Priory seniors submit a total of around 600 college applications each year, with the school preferring to limit the number of applications to no more than eight per student. Hostnik notes that the national average for college-applications-per-student currently stands at 18 - but that Priory students and families tend to be fine with applying to about eight schools because "they feel we have created a list that balances risk, finances, hopes and dreams - and they can really do a good job of narrowing down their options."

Finally, at graduation, Hostnik celebrates the hard work and success of the young men she sees in front of her.

"I'm so proud of them every year," she says. "They have worked hard, and each one of them is ready to take the great next steps to the exceptional life that he's been building throughout his time at Priory."



Exceptional Young Alumni

Reflect on Their College Selection Process and Lessons Learned

Jacob Conard '19 is working on his master's degree in electrical engineering at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. He has competed in Division III cross country and track and field each year at Case Western. He hopes to work for a major analog circuit company upon earning his master's degree.

Peter Conard '23 attends Tufts University in metropolitan Boston. He is studying engineering, with a potential focus of study in material science engineering. He is part of Tufts' Division III rowing team, after rowing for three years while at Priory.

Devin Kancherla '21 attends Harvard University, where he is pursuing his bachelor's degree in neurobiology with a minor in classics. He is on the editing board of Harvard's classical journal, *Persephone*.

Sohan Kancherla '18 earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard University in 2022. He is employed by Lazard, an investment bank in New York City, in the company's Mergers and Acquisitions group.

Andrew Johnson '19 graduated from Santa Clara University in California with a degree in political science. He recently was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army and is attending the University of California, Berkeley School of Law to pursue a career in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps.

Thomas Johnson '21 is a junior at the University of Southern California (USC), studying journalism. He has written for both of USC's student publications - *Annenberg Media* and the *Daily Trojan* - and he is a member of the school's ultimate club team.

"At Priory, we were encouraged to engage with our teachers, ask questions, seek advice, and so on. **That skill has been super useful in college for me so far.**"

- Devin Kancherla '21

Ramzi Haddad '16 attended Princeton University, where he majored in history and played on the school's baseball team. After college internships with Major League Baseball and Nike, and a post-collegiate role with Anheuser-Busch's innovation team, he decided to attend law school, which he began at UCLA this fall.

Sami Haddad '21 attends Yale University, where he is pursuing a double major - in economics as well as in statistics and data science. He was one of 20 Yale students, along with 10 West Point cadets, selected as fellows in the Peace and Dialogue Leadership Initiative, a joint Yale and West Point initiative aimed at fostering substantive dialogue, thoughtful leadership, and military-civilian relationships through study of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Joey Braby '18 earned his bachelor's degree in accounting and information systems from the Quinlan School of Business Honors Program at Loyola University Chicago. After achieving scores of over 90 percent in all four sections of the CPA exam, he accepted a role as an auditor with FORVIS, one of the nation's top 10 public accounting firms.

Luke Braby '20 is a senior at the University of Notre Dame majoring in computer science in the school of engineering. Over the summer, he worked in Washington, D.C., as a software engineering intern with Volexity, a leading provider of cyber threat intelligence and incident response services.

Joseph Gioia '19 graduated in May from Rice University in Houston with a computer science degree. After collegiate software engineering internships at Centene and Meta - the parent company of Facebook - he recently accepted a position in software development with ExtraHop Networks, a cybersecurity company in Seattle.



Jacob Conard '19



Peter Conard '23



Thomas Johnson '21 and Andrew Johnson '19 with their parents Theresa and Brett Johnson



Devin Kancherla '21 and Sohan Kancherla '18



Ramzi Haddad '16 and Sami Haddad '21



Joey Braby '18



Luke Braby '20



10 Joseph Gioia '19

What's your opinion about how well Priory prepared you for college and ultimately for life after college?

Joseph Gioia '19: "Priory's college counseling prepared me not only for the application to college, but also for all the applications I had to do while being a college student. Whether it was research opportunities or internships, it was extremely helpful to have this experience."

Jacob Conard '19: "Of course, transitioning from high school to college will always be a big step, but fortunately I have already experienced many of the tasks I find myself now doing at college. In some way or another, I did similar things at Priory and am now better equipped to handle the situation."

Peter Conard '23: "I think Priory did a great job at preparing me for college... Every teacher I had throughout my six years helped me wherever I needed or helped me when I didn't know I needed it... Priory develops a unique culture... and creates lasting friendships."

Joey Braby '18: "I currently work as a public accountant. We have a "busy season" each year. During this time, accountants need to work extended hours... Priory trained me well for this type of lifestyle... Priory's sports program taught me how to use working out as a tool to relax my mind and focus on non-work-related matters. Most of all, Priory's unique experience allowed me to obtain a camaraderie with my classmates, which I try to emulate in the workplace."

Was there anything that surprised you about your college selection process or your early college experience?

Sohan Kancherla '18: "The whole exercise of introspection and reflection that the college application process stresses really showed me what I value in my own life, and what I wanted to prioritize moving forward into higher education... Having complete freedom to choose what I wanted to do outside of class was daunting at times when I first began at Harvard, but learning from Priory to create structure around athletics, spiritual groups, and pre-professional extracurriculars helped to round out my schedule."

"Priory's college counseling prepared me not only for the application to college, but also for all the applications I had to do while being a college student."

– Joseph Gioia '19

Devin Kancherla '21: "At Priory, we were encouraged to engage with our teachers, ask questions, seek advice, and so on. That skill has been super useful in college for me so far. The ability to establish meaningful connections with professors and other faculty members opens doors to research opportunities [and] internships, and simply enhances the overall learning experience."

Sami Haddad '21: "For some [college] decisions, there is a shock that you did not get admitted; for others, there is a shock that you did. I was shocked when I got into Yale... After I decided, I was just nervous to arrive on campus. I did not know if I would fit academically or socially at Yale. Once I arrived, I was thrilled to realize my nerves were unneeded. Priory had prepared me just right. I could handle the more challenging academic workload and quickly made friends. My first year was less stressful and more fun than I imagined."

What would be your advice to current Priory students and their families as they're working with College Counseling at Priory and considering which colleges to apply to?

Andrew Johnson '19: "Look at everything the school has to offer and don't be hung up on arbitrary rankings. Tour the campus and try to get a feel for it. I promise you that you will end up where you need to be."

Thomas Johnson '21: "I would say just listen to your gut. Many people choose their major or future college based on what their parents do or want, which is not necessarily a bad thing, but I think people should make the choice that's right for them. The college counselors helped me realize what I truly wanted, rather than what I thought I wanted, and along with the help of my parents, of course, I was able to end up at USC."

Luke Braby '20: "For parents, I would say that the best thing they can do is support their son along the way. Let them decide where they want to go first and then see where they want your help. If they know exactly where they want to go and it's a realistic goal, don't stress them with applications to colleges they're not interested in. The college application process can be difficult for students as well as parents, so use the college counselors as your resource. They're there to support you."

Ramzi Haddad '16: "I remember being a junior in high school and thinking about colleges. In my head, the formula was simple: the better the school, the better my future. What I've realized in the years since graduating is that your education is what you make of it. Your dedication, or lack thereof, is ultimately of far more importance than the school you attend. So, try not to get too wrapped up in the school and, instead, start thinking about what you're going to do once you get there."

Teaching Excellence

Swigelson shares talents and passion at Priory

There's a saying "you may not always end up where you thought you were going, but you always end up where you are meant to be." That can be said for the 2022 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award winner Kayce Swigelson, who's on her second tenure at Priory.

Swigelson, a St. Louis native, attended high school at St. Joseph's Academy and college at Truman State University. She earned a bachelor's degree in French and minored in English and translation. During her time at Truman State, she studied abroad in Angers, France, attending L'Université Catholique de l'Ouest.

▼ Kayce Swigelson



"Living with a family and studying in France was pattern-changing for me. Nothing is better for a language learner than to be forced into cultural and linguistic immersion," says Swigelson.

She added, "I thought I knew a lot about the French language and culture before I went, but I realized how much I didn't know until it became experiential. Because of French, I was exposed to an entire new tranche of people, ideas, inspiration, beauty, and critical thinking skills."

Swigelson earned her master's degree in French and Francophone Literature from the University of Notre Dame where she also taught French courses to undergraduates and translated 18th and 19th century primary documents for a book called *American Jesuits and the World*.

Soon after Notre Dame, Swigelson taught French as a lecturer at the University of Missouri-St. Louis for a year but was looking for something more.

"I was teaching a few undergrad classes as a lecturer and decided that I wanted to stay in teaching, so I was looking for more solid full-time work in March 2010," she says. "The only job that popped up was at Priory. I had heard of Priory but didn't know anything about it. I didn't have the time or luxury to wonder too deeply if I'd want to teach high school or how I felt about teaching boys."

"It was a leap of faith. I've been in a lot of schools, and I never found an equal to Priory's rigor, advanced curriculum, wise old-school approach, sharp students, witty and accomplished colleagues, and trust it has in its teachers to be the best in their respective fields. I'm not a person you'd imagine flourishing at a school for boys, but that's the adventure of following God's creative lead."

Swigelson was at Priory until 2014; however, after a few stops teaching in the Archdiocese and working with middle school immigrants in Parkway School District's English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program, it was time for a return in 2019.

There are so many things that draw a person to work and be at Priory whether that be the monks, the Benedictine culture, the rich history, the students, the delicious lunches, or the overall family environment you feel on campus.

"It is not a place to be overwhelmed or intimidated by passing trends or outside pressure because of that strong Benedictine stability - it is not a house built on sand," Swigelson says. "While faculty have come and gone, new building projects are conceived, and there is more technology, you will still see a navy blazer whirring by, overhear a conversation about quantum physics and chicken tendies, and see a teacher sitting next to a student in the hallway working together on a concept."

"The essentials have not changed, and that is what makes this school so special:

it is from years - centuries even - of slow growth, commitment, and expertise of Benedictine spirituality."

- Kayce Swigelson, French teacher

"The essentials have not changed, and that is what makes this school so special: it is from years - centuries even - of slow growth, commitment, and expertise of Benedictine spirituality. The monks and lay faculty are committed to the idea that we are working with kids who are *imago Dei*. This transfers palpably onto the boys who leave the school not only armed with sharp intellect and independence of mind and critical thinking, but we hope, like David, as men after God's own heart."



According to Swigelson, the faculty are second-to-none and some of the best at what they do, supporting each other, bouncing off ideas, and are truly a family.

"It's an iron-sharpens-iron experience to move forward with such intelligent, witty, serious, creative, and capable people every day. We are a weird, nerdy little family - laughing and out-punning each other, bouncing ideas, and helping each other in practical and abstract ways. The bright and brilliant friends I've made here whom I trust and love have made all the difference."

Swigelson, who's also an Advisor, wanted to change things up and established "SwigVisory," allowing students to decompress but still having competitions with each other, brainstorming ideas, and sharing how the days, weeks, and months are going while wearing horned helmets.

They also watch films about tough life choices and many of the students come away from SwigVisory all with the same sentiment, "She makes everyone be seen; she wants to help everyone succeed."

"The word 'Advisory' didn't have enough flair for us, so we changed it to SwigVisory, and to put a face on it, we became the SwigVikings," said Swigelson. "Advisory has become our favorite part of the day because everyone (including me) can file in, drop our heavy loads, and just breathe a little and be together."



^ English teacher Judy Mohan recognizes Kayce Swigelson at a school assembly as an Emerson Excellence in Teaching awardee.

"No one has to perform or get a grade, and the younger and older kids can mix and relate and laugh and banter. On the surface it seems just like a break in the day, but it's a vital space for connection, relief, relation, and an amping up of our weirdness in the 'free space' of the day's bingo card."

Last year, Swigelson was a 2022 recipient of the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. The program annually recognizes educators in the St. Louis metropolitan area - from kindergarten teachers to college professors - who are examples of excellence in their field.

She was nominated for the award by Judy Mohan, English teacher, who says Swigelson embodies passion for her craft.

"From the moment a student enters her classroom, he is enveloped with French culture. To help the students master their vocabulary, she creates scavenger hunts, and students can be seen roaming the halls to complete their tasks," says Mohan.

"I was so honored and grateful for this recognition in a challenging profession," says Swigelson. "In the end, excellence comes through inspiration and support from Priory colleagues whose friendship and intellects, I believe, are unmatched, and who are all deserving of this award. It comes from students who trust us with their minds, spirits, and holy purpose. Most importantly, it comes from God's grace. May any glory from it go to Him."

"In the end, excellence comes through inspiration and support from **Priory colleagues whose friendship and intellects, I believe, are unmatched...**"

– **Kayce Swigelson**, French teacher

W E L C O M E

N E W E N R O L L M E N T S

59

Total new Form I through
Form VI students

40

Different feeder schools

4

Exchange students

18

Different parishes

30

Different ZIP codes represented
with new students

50%

New students who have an
alumnus connection (sibling, father,
grandfather, or uncle)



GRADUATION 2023

Priory's Class of 2023 celebrated graduation on May 21 in the Saint Louis Abbey Church. Students, their families, faculty, and staff enjoyed the beautiful sunny day as 52 students became graduates and a part of a robust alumni group.

Speakers included faculty member and Class Mentor **Dr. Andrew Davis**, and valedictorians **Riley Carlin** and **Evan Hugge**. Carlin is a freshman at the University of Notre Dame, and Hugge is furthering his studies at Boston College. **Drew Limp**, who is attending the University of Southern California, addressed the crowd as the recipient of the Claude I. Bakewell, Jr. '61 Memorial Award.

Headmaster Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02, along with Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76, handed out diplomas to the graduates.



Class Mentor Dr. Andrew Davis



Drew Limp '23,
Bakewell award recipient



Valedictorian speakers
Riley Carlin '23 and
Evan Hugge '23



Matriculation List

The 52 members of the Class of 2023 are attending the following schools as freshmen for their 2023-24 school year:

Auburn University	Saint Louis University
Baylor University	Truman State University
Benedictine College	Tufts University
Boston College	United States
The Catholic	Military Academy
University of America	at West Point
Davidson College	University of Alabama
Florida Institute	University of Arkansas
of Technology	University of Dayton
Fordham University	University of Missouri
Indiana University,	University of Notre Dame
Bloomington	University of South Carolina
Kenrick-Glennon Seminary	University of
Lafayette College	Southern California
Loyola University Chicago	University of Tulsa
Miami University of Ohio	University of
Missouri University	Wisconsin, Madison
of Science & Technology	Villanova University
North Carolina	Wake Forest University
State University	Washington University
The Ohio State University	in St. Louis
Purdue University	
Rockhurst University	

SENIOR FACULTY AWARDS



Dr. Kellen Plaxco



Tyler Orf



Dr. Andrew Davis



Steve Oslica

Classroom Instructor

Presented to the faculty member who inspires students with a mastery of the subject matter and has the ability to convey it to them.

Honoree: **Dr. Kellen Plaxco**, theology teacher

Coach

Recognizes outstanding instruction in athletics – instruction to various levels of talent, helping students reach their potential and above all, making it fun.

Honoree: **Tyler Orf**, head lacrosse coach and history teacher

Class Mentor

Presented to the faculty member students have been able to turn to when the going was rough, and whose opinion they admire and respect.

Honoree: **Dr. Andrew Davis**, mathematics teacher

Shield Yearbook Dedication

Presented to the faculty member(s) who most contributed to the success and well-being of the Senior Class.

Honoree: **Steve Oslica '05**, former assistant director of communications and marketing



Improvements Bring New Life to Campus

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN PROJECTS COMPLETED

We can't thank our amazing donors enough for their generous support!

Nearly everywhere you look at Priory, students, faculty and staff, and visitors are enjoying campus updates.

Priory's comprehensive facilities renovation is now substantially complete. Students are enjoying the new classrooms and indoor commons facilities.

From new carpeting in the lobby and main hall, to an updated faculty lounge and outdoor amphitheater, the new amenities and spaces have made a big impact.

Common areas are outfitted with charging stations, ping pong tables, foosball tables, and even a café in the main commons.

The pond and fountain have been refreshed and new landscaping is taking shape. New walking paths have been paved, and the outdoor entertainment area is ready for hosting events.

Freshly painted hallways and new furniture make the school look great and provide comfortable and abundant seating.

New A/V equipment in every classroom on campus enhances access and streamlines functionality and connectivity for all students and teachers.

The Kevin Kline Theater has been upgraded with all new seating as well as improvements for light, sound, and storage.

Our Form I and Form II students are learning and playing in the newly-updated wing with all new classrooms, a testing center, and of course the indoor and outdoor commons.

New state-of-the-art scoreboards allow for game-day excitement.

We hope you'll visit us and check out everything that's new at Priory, which was made possible by generous donors. Thank you!





Updated entrance with new overhang and benches



Updated Form I and Form II wing with new commons



Arts & Science Center and sundial feature



Updated Commons



Updated Kevin Kline Theater



New furniture allows for comfortable breaks and studying.



A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held on September 16 to celebrate new spaces.



New video scoreboards have added a lot of excitement to athletic games.

NEW AND RETURNING

Faculty and Staff



Brian Archibald, a St. Louis native, joined Priory as a new math teacher. He graduated from Lindbergh High School before earning a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's degree in education from Truman State, where he also played football. He's taught math locally

for 22 years, and he is passionate about high school football and wrestling, which he coached for 21 and 15 years, respectively. Brian is married and has three sons.



Denny Bardos joined Priory as our new director of enrollment management. He brings to Priory 25 years of admissions experience (17 years in higher education and eight years at independent schools) and has a bachelor's degree in psychology with a math minor from

Christian Brothers University. He is married with two adult children and a son in high school. A native of Tennessee, he is enjoying the Priory community and excited to learn more about the St. Louis region.



Natalie Covey joined Priory as the new director of advancement. She is responsible for managing the Advancement Department and overseeing the growth of the Priory Fund and the stewardship of our community of donors. Covey is an alumna of St. Joseph's Academy and

the University of Missouri-Columbia. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in communications. After graduation, she worked at Drury Hotels where she spent more than 16 years in a variety of roles, including national sales director. Covey brings a wealth of experience in customer relations, event organization, and managing/developing teams and volunteers. She lives in Chesterfield with her husband Matt, three kids, a dog, and a guinea pig.



Father Francis Hein, O.S.B., has been a monk of Saint Louis Abbey since 2004 and currently serves as the associate pastor of St. Anselm Parish. A native of Saint Louis, he worked in the hospitality industry prior to joining the monastery and holds multiple degrees in

Japanese, international business, theology, and business administration. Over the years, he has taught part- and full-time at Priory and served for three years as an instructor and campus minister at Portsmouth Abbey School. Father Francis is excited to be returning to the classroom as a part-time theology teacher.



Emily Lawson joined Priory as a new math teacher, and holds a bachelor's degree in history and a master's degree from Eastern Kentucky University. She also has a master's degree in curriculum and instruction (emphasis on mathematics) from the American

College of Education. She is entering her 10th year of teaching mathematics and taught at Saint Andrew's Episcopal School in Austin, Texas, and Cabrini Academy in St. Louis. Emily recently relocated back to St. Louis from Austin, Texas, with her husband, three sons, and two goldendoodles.



Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B., joined Saint Louis Abbey in 1999 and currently serves as the pastor of St. Anselm Parish. A native of St. Louis, he attended Bishop DuBourg High School before earning a bachelor's degree in English at Webster University and a master's

degree of divinity from Saint John XXIII National Seminary. Over the years, Father Aidan has taught theology and medieval arts at Priory and was excited to return to the classroom as a part-time theology teacher.



Laura Rayhawk is Priory's newest counselor. Laura is an alumna of St. Joseph's Academy and is married with five children. She holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a minor in family studies from Miami University (Ohio) and a master's degree in human

development and school counseling from Saint Louis University. During her graduate studies, she provided counseling to local parochial and public school students, and for nearly a decade worked at Washington University School of Medicine, where she served on a therapeutic research study aimed at reducing symptoms of pediatric depression and strengthening family relationships. Her professional research also focused on understanding the emotional and cognitive development of children from pre-school through adolescence.



Whitney Wallace joined the Advancement Team as assistant director of special events and community relations. She oversees Priory's major community-building and fundraising events throughout the year and serves as liaison to the Fathers' Club, Mothers' Club, and

Xanadu Committee. Her experience includes working in hospitality and events across multiple industries. Much of her career has been dedicated to planning and executing weddings, nationally televised competitions, corporate events, and marketing for private country clubs, national kennel clubs, corporate pet care, and non-profit organizations. She is also a doting "dog mom" and loving aunt to her niece and nephew.



Bill Redman, a new science teacher at Priory, taught high school physics and chemistry for the past 30 years, much of it at St. John Vianney. He has a bachelor's degree in education from Southeast Missouri State and a master's degree in chemistry from Missouri S&T. His educational

philosophy is rooted in showing the scientific evidence for the genius of God in creation. He and his wife Shelly have two daughters— one adult and one in high school. Fishing and gardening are two of his favorite pastimes, and he enjoys teaching an adult Sunday school class at his church.



Eric Schweain holds two undergraduate degrees from Columbia College in biology and education and a master's degree in education from Southwest Baptist University. He spent the past 28 years teaching in the Rockwood School District, where he taught

courses in biology, environmental science, biochemistry, earth science, and physical science. He also coached basketball, golf, football, and track. He and his wife have three adult children, with whom he loves to spend his free time and travel.

MASTER ICONOGRAPHER

Over the summer, friends of Priory had the opportunity to attend a five-day iconography workshop led by master iconographer **Father Alex Echeandia Loro, O.S.B.** The five-day course allowed attendees to learn about the mysteries of religious art, including faith, beauty, and truth. Each attendee created and took home their own handcrafted icon of Christ Pantocrator. Participants were encouraged to pray throughout the process.

Father Alex apprenticed in Guatapé, Colombia, studied under Aidan Hart at the Prince of Wales' School of Traditional Art, and completed his training at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv Oblast, Ukraine. He and Priory Headmaster Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02, became friends during their monastic studies in Oxford, England.



Welcome Chilean Exchange Students

The Priory community welcomed four exchange students from Colegio San Anselmo and Colegio San Benito in Chile. Next summer, six Priory students will have the opportunity to participate in a summer immersion and service opportunity because of the partnership between the schools. Priory students will be able to spend part of their time living with a host family and attending classes at San Anselmo, which is a co-educational day school in suburban Santiago de Chile. During this time, they will help plan an entirely student-run service project in rural Chile. They will also travel to a village in Chile, where they will live a community life of recreation, meals, and prayer

while carrying out the project. The experience will be open for rising juniors and seniors or graduating seniors.

Priory's four Chilean exchange students along with their mentors - pictured left to right: **Jack Mantovani '26**, 10th grade exchange student **Vicente Varleta Cabello**, **David Swallow '26**, **Sam Palka '26**, **Gavin Holekamp '27**, **Austin Kovac '27**, **Jonathan Sadasivam '27**, **Joseph Frei '24**, **Freddy Essen '27**, and 9th grade exchange students **Pepe Zalaquett McKay**, **Mateo Vial Quinteros**, **Tomás Ferrer Deimel**, and **Walker Bealke '27**.



SAINT LOUIS ABBEY JOURNAL



MY DEAR FRIENDS,

Greetings to you from the heart of sweltering St. Louis! It's hard to imagine, as I write this, that we will ever be cool again, but we know relief will come... eventually. With school about to start and there being 100-degree heat, we can count our air-conditioned buildings as a blessing. It's instructive to reflect that what was once considered a luxury is now understood to be a necessity!

To reflect upon this past year, filled with its many challenges, not least of which was the tragic loss of several members of our Abbey and School family, is to be confronted not only with the fragility of our lives in this world, but also with the profound abundance of God's grace in the midst of every trial. For this we are all grateful and ask the Lord's continued providential care for us all.

We begin this new school year with the promise of many good things to come: a healthy enrollment, wonderfully new and improved facilities (and scoreboards!), and a cadre of incoming faculty and staff, whose enthusiasm and expertise will enhance in many ways the Priory experience for our students and their families.

In the monastery, we continue to observe the regular round of prayer and celebration of the Sacraments, and our community life remains much the same as always. Most of the community remains here on campus, though Father Ambrose continues his ministry in the Falkland Islands, and Brother Hugh will be shifting his studies for the priesthood to our monastery of Sant' Anselmo in Rome. Father Cassian remains on his one-year sabbatical, as he hikes the Appalachian Trail. In the end, it is the routine of the monastic life, with its daily round of prayer, worship, and service, which provides for us monks the foundation on which to build a truly rich and vibrant spiritual life. It is our hope that we can share the fruits of that life with all of you.

So, I end by quoting Saint Paul's own words to his beloved in Ephesus (Ephesians 3:15-21):

This, then, is what I pray, kneeling before the Father, from whom every fatherhood, in heaven or on earth, takes its name. In the abundance of his glory may he, through his Spirit, enable you to grow firm in power with regard to your inner self, so that Christ may live in your hearts through faith, and then, planted in love and built on love, with all God's holy people you will have the strength to grasp the breadth and the length, the height and the depth; so that, knowing the love of God, which is beyond all knowledge, you may be filled with the utter fullness of God.

Glory be to Him whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; glory be to Him from generation to generation in the Church and in Christ Jesus for every and every. Amen.

May God richly bless you all. *Laus Tibi Domine!*

Yours in the Lord,

Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B.

Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76

SAINT ANSELM PARISH NEWS

Dear Abbey and Priory Families,

As I write this, the school year is in full swing. The summer events seem a distant memory, and we find ourselves in the realities of the winter season. The spring and summer were full of exciting events and activities in the parish.

As is usual for summer, the focus was around youth ministry. However, we also enjoyed activities in other areas of parish life, in our RCIA program, the *Totus Tuus* children's summer camp, Catechesis of the Good Shepherd, and the proud moment of seeing one of our parishioners enter the seminary.

We'll begin with the events in Youth Ministry under the guidance of Director of Youth Ministry, Courtney Rockamann. In June, the teens traveled to Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas for the Life Teen Leadership Conference. This trip included eight high school upper classmen. The program focused on forming young people to take on leadership roles of faith in their parish and school communities.

This group also traveled to the Steubenville Conference at Missouri State University. The event is a high-energy youth conference where thousands of teens gather to encounter Jesus Christ through speakers, the Sacraments, small group discussions, and fellowship with other teens.

In addition to the annual trips, a contingency of our youth group ventured to Camp Hidden Lake located in the wilds of northern Georgia. This program is also run by Life Teen, which is a ministry within the Church whose mission is to serve young people within a Catholic community, to help them grow in their knowledge of the faith, find answers to their questions, and to experience Jesus in a personal way. Camp Hidden Lake is a week of exciting outdoor activities

▼ **Father Aidan** attended the Life Teen Leadership Conference with high school juniors and seniors. The conference was held at Benedictine College in Atchison, Kansas.

including high ropes course, climbing wall, and time at beautiful Hidden Lake. Holy Mass, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, and Confession were offered daily. There were also evening conferences supporting the young people in their life of faith.

This summer, we hosted for the third year the *Totus Tuus* summer camp for children up to junior high. Operated in conjunction with the Office of Youth Ministry in the Archdiocese, it is held on several parish campuses each summer. The week-long program is loaded with activities from faith formation, formation on prayer and the Rosary, and plenty of fun and games. The children also participated in holy Mass each day. We continue to develop the work of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd. This is a Montessori-based faith formation program for children aged three to 12 years. This fall we were excited to begin the second level of formation in this program.

Our associate pastor, Father Francis Hein, O.S.B., has been hard at work developing our Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) program in the parish. We currently have a dozen people in varying stages of their formation. This has been a great blessing for our parish community, and our group will, God willing, be initiated into full communion with the Church this spring.

Last but certainly not least, one of our very own, John Bytnar, began discernment to the priesthood at Kenrick-Glennon Seminary in the fall. John has been a faithful participant in our youth ministry program for his high school career. We're very proud of John and support him with our prayers for wherever the Lord may be calling him. We're thankful for your prayers for John!

Thank you again for your generous prayers and support of the Abbey family.

May God continue to bless you and your families,

Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.
Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.





Members of the Youth Ministry attended the Steubenville Conference at Missouri State University.



Saint Anselm Parish hosted *Totus Tuus* for its second year. The week-long camp is organized by the Archdiocesan Office of Youth Ministry. Kids and leaders had a lot of fun.



Senior send off



Life Teen Camp at Hidden Lake in Dahlonega, Georgia



Life Teen Camp at Hidden Lake in Dahlonega, Georgia

IN MEMORIAM

FEBRUARY 1 - JUNE 30, 2023

Dr. Raymond Beidle, parishioner

Russell Belcher, son of Tim Belcher '06

Dr. Jim Bruno, former faculty member

Bill Bussmann '67,
brother of Paul Bussmann '75

Dr. Joan Carter, parishioner

Dr. Eliot Casey, Confrater, husband
of Confrater Joan Casey, father
of Christopher Casey '87
and Ryan Casey '95

Joseph Castasus, parishioner

Charles Donovan '76

Jim Dowling, brother of Father Finbarr

Major Sean Flachs '01

Frank Foran, father of Connor Foran '08

James Fort, grandfather
of Jahaad Fort '22

Ann Hegeman, mother
of Chris Hegeman '89

Benedict Janson, grandfather
of Matt Kinnison '15

Katherine Joyce, mother
of Cole Joyce '23

Jeff Kochelek, Abbey Society
Board Member, husband of
Abbey Society Board Member
Mary Kochelek, father of
Douglas Kochelek '02 and
Evan Kochelek '05

Claudia Luning,
wife of Mark Luning '73

Joan Lunt, parishioner

Edward Massey, father of
Ned Massey '78 and Michael Massey '82

Barbara Maxwell, grandmother of
faculty member Jon-Pierre Mitchom
and great-grandmother of
Jon-Paul Mitchom '28

Ryan McArdle '03, brother
of Daniel McArdle '01

Mary Ann Medler, mother of the
Hon. Jeffrey Medler '87, John Medler '81,
Dr. Robert Medler '82, and grandmother
of Jeffrey Medler '27

Barbara Osbourn, mother-in-law
of faculty member Stacy Arnett

Katherine Peterson, sister
of Dan Peterson '06 and
Charlie Peterson '10

John Richtarsic '61

John Rourke III '83, son of former
faculty member Madeline Rourke
(deceased), father of Jack Rourke '13,
Will Rourke '20, brother of
Edward Rourke '81 (deceased),
James Rourke '85, and
Father Paul Rourke, S.J., '90

Lori Salinas, mother of Nick Salinas '99

Dr. Louis Sindelar, Jr., grandfather of
Dan Croghan '10 and Colin Croghan '16

John Wilmsen, Sr., father of
John Wilmsen, Jr. '84,
James Wilmsen '86, Jeffrey Wilmsen '96,
grandfather of James Wilmsen '17,
Wilmsen Craig '19, and
Harrison Wilmsen '21



Alumnus Gives Back to Priory

WITH TIME, TALENT, AND TREASURE

With deep gratitude and a commitment to Priory, Ken Bower '89 has embarked on a remarkable journey of giving back

As a current Priory parent, former Board of Advisors member, and Abbey Society member, the alumnus is a major supporter of Priory in so many ways.

Bower's philanthropic endeavors speak to the enduring impact of a Priory education and the bond between an individual and the institution that played an instrumental role in shaping his future success. Bower currently serves as Chief Executive Officer and Managing Director of Clayton Financial Group, LLC.

In big ways and small, Bower continues to give back. He dedicated his time and talent to the scoreboard committee, hosted a Chilean student last year, and supports his son Joseph '25 in his Priory experience. Bower is also helping with one of Priory's strategic plan initiatives - to rejuvenate the Abbey Society.

Bower not only honors the cherished memories from his formative years, but also paves the way by example for future generations to forge their own paths to greatness within the very halls that once nurtured his dreams.

Giving Back

"Priory does an exceptional job in the formation of young men, and I credit Priory for fostering in me a sense of civic involvement," says Bower. He added that the overall Priory experience and formation happens in the classroom, in the corridors, and on the fields. "We all mirror the behavior of those around us, and when enough of the adults share the expression, 'To whom much is given, much is expected,' that message sinks in over time."

> Mary, Claire, Joseph '25, and Ken Bower '89



"Priory is important to me. Being a parent creates an easy opportunity to be on campus and to see how additional funding can beautify the campus, make the curriculum stronger, and enhance the school."

— Ken Bower '89

Bower recognizes that people give back in a variety of ways, and each contribution is extremely meaningful.

"For some that is volunteer work, and for others that may mean making a financial contribution. In my mind, helping others is a big part of the *Laus Tibi Domine* motto," he says. "Giving to Priory is important to me. Being a parent creates an easy opportunity to be on campus and to see how additional funding can beautify the campus, make the curriculum stronger, and enhance the school."

Catholic Education

According to Bower, the monks and the faculty are clearly the greatest asset of the school. He says he was proud to have the chance to attend an academically challenging school in a Catholic setting. Twelve of the 15 boys in his class at Oak Hill Elementary School came to Priory with Bower.

"Going into the Abbey for all-school Mass, class Mass, or an assembly was essential to my formation. The architecture was spectacular, and the venue commanded respect. Being in the church was a time to reflect and get centered," Bower says. "Outside the church, seeing the monks in the flowing black gowns reminded us that this place was unlike most any other high school."

"They made the difference, and it was an exceptional blessing to have so many of them in the classroom. The monks taught and coached, and they also had this special gift of devoting their lives to God. Most of us deep down were (and are) in awe of their capacity and their spirit of generosity."

Bower also says the faculty at Priory is second to none.

"Tony Finan was the most dominant influence throughout my six years at Priory. He was a lot bigger than any of us, maintained a towering presence across campus, and he and Joe Gleich

∨ Ken Bower '89 senior picture at Priory



really kept the school in line. Coach Finan was a superb teacher, a genuine leader, and a top-notch coach," says Bower. "Because of him, I had an introduction to the Ivy League, and without his guidance and encouragement, I wouldn't have played college ball at Dartmouth. He is a valued friend to this day."

The transition to college was made easier, according to Bower, because of the preparation he gained at Priory.

"At the end of six years, I was ready for a change of scenery. I knew that Priory would be a part of my life forever, and I was ready to transition to the next level. I thought Priory had prepared me well academically, but it was time to put that hypothesis to the test... and it was time to meet people from all over the globe and take on new challenges.

Every Contribution is Vital

Giving back to institutions that are meaningful to you and helping organizations for their future stability is important, according to Bower.

"The amount of a donation really doesn't matter," he says. "With such a small alumni base compared to other schools, getting as many people as possible involved makes a huge difference. It's up to all of us to support the mission of Priory, even if it's a gift of \$50."

Bower credits Priory for continuing to improve campus and facilities and keeping up with its competitors. The culmination of the Sharing the Promise, Shaping the Future capital campaign has elevated Priory.

"The STEM facilities, the renovated high school, and brand-new scoreboards - all of this is necessary and impactful," he says. "We are so proud of our school, our monks, our faculty, and our students. We want to show off our school and let the whole city know of our core strengths. Without 'fresh paint,' we won't be able to attract enough of the right kinds of students to maintain Priory's path of academic and athletic excellence."

Ken and his wife Mary recently celebrated their 20th wedding anniversary, and in addition to their Form V son Joe, they have a 7th grade daughter at Visitation Academy.



^ Joseph '25 and Ken Bower '89

Mary is also involved in the Priory and Abbey families, serving as the chair of the Priory Christmas Boutique and also serving as a teacher for PSR at Saint Anselm each Sunday.

Ken says, "Our 20th anniversary brought back memories from 2003 when Father Ralph Wright, O.S.B., married us at St. Francis Xavier Church at Saint Louis University, Mary's alma mater."

In addition to his generous gifts of time, talent, and treasure to Priory, Ken has been involved with more than a dozen non-profits, including the Saint Louis Zoo, Bethesda Health Group, Youthbridge, and Les Amis. "Each organization has a unique mission and serves an important constituency. Serving on a board of advisors is a privilege, a chance to learn, and a chance to be with other committed volunteers."

"Priory does an exceptional job in the formation of young men, and I credit Priory for fostering in me a sense of civic involvement."

— Ken Bower '89



Essay contest winner

Kingston Wins 2nd Place in Essay Contest

The Serra Club of St. Louis recognized **Sam Kingston '25** for winning second place in the annual essay contest. Sam read his winning essay to the student body and was presented with a \$500 check by Jeanne Fluri of the Serra Club. Also pictured is **Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.**, and theology teacher and faculty member **Steven Zaegel**.



Leadership summit

Haskell Continues Advocacy Work

Dawson Haskell '23 traveled to Washington, D.C., for a three-day annual leadership summit about his advocacy work with the United to Beat Malaria campaign through the United Nations foundation. He conducted meetings and was able to meet with Missouri members of Congress to speak about his senior thesis, *The Mosquito Effect: An Examination of the Mosquito's Influence on Humanity*. This was the sixth year he participated in the summit and advocated on Capitol Hill for this cause.

Yearlong Ecological Study

Senior environmental science students worked on a yearlong ecological study with Litzsinger Road Ecology Center. It was a great connection to nature and research. Students presented their field research at the end of the year. Topics included mushroom location, macroinvertebrates and water stream quality, water chemistry of Deer Creek, and a literature review.



Ecological study

Members of Class of 2024 Receive Junior Rings

Congratulations to the members of the Class of 2024, who received their class rings at an all-school Mass in April.

Scholar Bowl Team Wins Districts

Priory's Scholar Bowl Team took home the win in Districts. Pictured left to right: **Riley Carlin '23, Charlie Schanbusch '25, Evan Hugge '23, Yrwin Batan '24, Thomas Rempe '25, and Andy Behrman '24**.



Scholar Bowl team

Junior Ring Mass



Poetry Writing Workshop

For National Poetry Month, Form II students welcomed guest poet and teacher **Sister Barbara Schlatter** to lead them in a poetry writing workshop.

Faust Selected for Missouri Scholars Academy

Sam Faust '25 was selected to participate in the Missouri Scholars Academy (MSA) at the University of Missouri in Columbia in June. MSA is a three-week academic program for 330 of Missouri's most gifted rising juniors. The unique programming allows students to explore academic skills and various enrichment opportunities for learning and personal development.

Students Perform in Spring Play

Form I and Form II students performed *The Seuss Odyssey* in April in the Kevin Kline Theatre.

Wrestling Team Earns Sportsmanship Award

Congrats to the Priory wrestling team on being awarded the High School Sportsmanship Award by the Saint Louis Wrestling Officials Association.

2nd Annual Priory Sleep Out a Success

A group of faculty members, juniors, and seniors raised more than \$5,000 for Covenant House Missouri in the 2nd annual Priory Sleep Out. They spent the evening learning about the issue of youth homelessness and the great work being done by Covenant House, before spending a frigid evening sleeping on the stadium field in solidarity with those without a bed.

∨ Sleep Out



Sister Barbara Schlatter leading poetry-writing workshop



Sam Faust '25



Spring play



Wrestling team



Form I field trip

Form I Students Enjoy Taste of St. Louis Field Trip

Form I students enjoyed an experiential learning “Taste of St. Louis” field trip. They had a good time painting Ravens at Sk8 Liborius, learning through the zoo with Form VI guides, lunch and playing on Art Hill, and then learning about our beautiful Basilica.



Studio Art students

Studio Art Students Paint and Skate

Forms III and IV Studio Art painted, skated, and learned about the template making process for their peacock window from **Gabe McKee**, master craftsman at Sk8 Liborius.



Winter musical

Priory Recognized for Theater Success

The Fox Performing Arts Charitable Foundation, The Muny, and the Fabulous Fox Theatre released the nominees for the sixth St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards, presented by Carol B. Loeb. **Cole Joyce '23** was nominated for “Best Actor in a Musical” for his portrayal of Dom Claude Frolo in Priory’s *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*. Priory also received nominations for Outstanding Music Direction and Scenic Design and Execution.

Priory students were recognized with a commemorative medallion at the St. Louis High School Musical Theatre Awards, which took place at the Fox Theatre. Representing Priory were **Adam Bealke '24**, **Drew Acker '24**, **Cole Joyce '23**, and after-school music director, **Mallory Golden**.

Form I Scripture students are proud of the amazing sculptures and projects they worked on in term three.

Priory earned a grant from the **Innovative Technology Education Fund** for the project “Using Podcasting and Scientific Measurement to Expand Classroom Learning throughout Campus.” The goal of the project is to engage students in using the campus as a classroom. Students (or innovators) in earth science, biology, and environmental science classes are working with faculty and community experts to develop and collect data.



St. Louis High School Musical Theater Awards

Form I Scripture class



WINTER SPORTS 2023

ATHLETICS

Basketball Coach Bobby McCormack Inducted in Missouri Hall of Fame

Varsity Basketball Coach **Bobby McCormack** was inducted into the Missouri Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame on April 22.

"Through the years, this award has less to do with wins and losses and more to do with the relationships built between my assistants, coaches, and players," says McCormack. "I share this honor with them."

McCormack began his coaching career in the 1980s, earning his first varsity coaching position at Ladue High School in 1991. McCormack then spent 17 years at the helm at CBC where he led the Cadets to a 1997 state championship.

As a player, the hall-of-fame coach was just as successful at CBC, totaling the most points in a single game at 46 and most field goals in a game with 21. He's fourth all-time at CBC with 1,378 career points.

McCormack has amassed 545 wins in his illustrious career.

WINTER SPORTS 2023

Basketball

The varsity basketball team finished its 2022-23 season with a 13-15 overall record. The team had a stretch where they won five consecutive games and won the Affton Tournament during Christmas.

Individually, **Max Lipe '23** led the Ravens' scoring with a team-high 17 points per game, shooting 52.8 percent from the field, and averaging 2.86 assists per game.

Christian Gonzalez '24 was second on the team, putting up 14 points per game and connected on 68.3 percent of his attempts from the free-throw line. Gonzalez also led on the glass pulling down a team-high 6.6 rebounds per game.

Lipe was honored making All-League First Team, while **Gonzalez** made second team. **Myles Garcia-Eidsness '24** earned honorable mention.



Celebrating Coach Bobby McCormack's induction into the Missouri Hall of Fame are Vince Winkeler, Enrollment Specialist Julie Winkeler, Assistant Basketball Coach Vaughn Griesbauer, McCormack, Varsity Football Coach Jake Parent, former Priory Athletic Director Tom Fiala, Athletic Director Phil Brotherton, and Varsity Soccer Coach John Mohrmann





Wrestling

The Priory wrestling team started the season with three team victories. As the season progressed, the schedule was stacked with heavy competition to prepare for the championship series. The wrestling team finished with an overall record of 12-10-1.

At the District Tournament, **Alex Nania '24** won the 157-pound District Championship, pinning his way through the competition. **Nania** was joined by his four teammates and state qualifiers in **Aaron Parasch '24, Huck Simmons '24, Alex Top '24,** and **Ethan Vernaci '23.**

Hockey

The Priory hockey team opened the 2022-23 season winning two of three but went 1-5-1 over in the next seven games.

From there, the Ravens went 4-2-1, including getting back-to-back wins over Eureka and John Burroughs, making the turn into the new year with a record of 7-8-2. However, despite best efforts, the Ravens were unable to get over the .500 mark, ending at 9-11-4 overall.

Frederic Gaertner '26 led the Ravens with a team-high 24 goals and 35 points. Noah Stutzer was second on the team in goals (12) and points (22), while **Gabriel Kraus '24** was the third Ravens player to earn double-digit goals with 10.

Henry Leritz '25 had a team-high 16 assists, finishing third on the team with 20 points. Cody Schwoeppe led in goal with five wins and 422 saves. **Nathan Sutto '26** made 272 saves to go along with his team-best .892 save percentage.



SPRING SPORTS 2023

Baseball

The varsity baseball team finished its 2023 season 15-12 overall. The Ravens started off the Class 4 District 3 Tournament with a 6-3 win over MICDS advancing onto the championship game.

There, the Ravens ultimately fell to top-seed and host John Burroughs, concluding its season. **John Spivey '24** was named to the Metro League First Team after leading the Ravens in average (.432), runs scored (32), hits (35), RBI (23), and tying for first in doubles (six). On the mound, Spivey was 3-1, totaling 25 strikeouts.

Max Lipe '23, who earned Metro League First Team honors, had a strong ending to his career batting .388, to go along with 24 runs scored and 15 RBI. **Kyle Hogan '26** had a standout first year with the Ravens, batting .386 while being tied for first in doubles (six), second in runs scored (25), and third in RBI, placing him with **Spivey** and **Lipe** on the Metro League First Team. On the rubber, Hogan was 2-3, finishing with 14 strikeouts.



SPRING SPORTS 2023

Quinten Bauman '24 (.382 avg), **Neil Quirk '24** (.375 avg), and **AJ Nance '24** (.356 avg) all batted over .350 and combined for 45 RBI were named to the Second Team. They were joined as well by **Leo Davison '24** (.265 avg) and **Christian Sunderlage '24** (2-2, 3.75 ERA).

Golf

The 2023 Priory golf team had an impressive year, going 11-1 during the regular season, including picking up wins over Chaminade, CBC, Vianney, and going undefeated in conference play against MICDS, Westminster, and John Burroughs.

Luke Glarner '25, **Chance Petri '25**, and **Lance Lavery '24** were key members of the varsity team providing the depth needed in those victories.

Priory dominated the conference tournament at the end of the regular season with five of the top-10 finishers being Ravens.

Owen Farley '24 led with a first-place finish. **Ryan Margiotta '23** (third), **Charlie Wagner '24** (fifth), **Luke McLaughlin '24** (seventh), and **Eddie Rothery '25** (10th), all joined **Farley** inside the top 10.

At the conclusion of the year, the Ravens saw **Farley** earn Metro Golfer of the Year along with collecting First Team honors. He was joined by **McLaughlin** and **Margiotta**. **Rothery** and **Wagner** were named to the Second Team.

Farley, **McLaughlin**, and **Rothery** also qualified out of districts to represent the Ravens at the State Tournament in the large school division at Silo Ridge Country Club in Bolivar, Mo. Each demonstrated their skills against the best in the state as Farley was the top Raven with a 20th-place finish.

Lacrosse

After starting the season 1-3, the Priory Ravens varsity lacrosse team found its stride. Over the next nine games, the team went 8-1, including wins over John Burroughs, Vianney, and CBC.

A combination of young talent and senior leadership pushed this team to new heights. Captains **Cole Joyce '23**, **Mark Parent '23**, and **Sam Reese '23** provided experience and leadership, while underclassmen **Mick Murphy '25**, **Jack Parent '25**, **Colin Pim '25**, and **Myles Garcia-Eidsness '24** anchored a dangerous offense and one of the top defenses in the state.

In the first round of the Class 2 State Tournament, the Ravens defeated Francis Howell 11-3, setting up a rematch with defending state champion MICDS. Despite trailing by one at the half, the Rams proved too much for the Ravens, going on for the 9-3 win. The Ravens ended the year 11-7 overall.





Individually, the Ravens had five players earn First Team All-Conference honors (**Joyce, Garcia-Eidsness, Mark Parent, Pim, and Murphy**) and three named to the Second Team (**Sam Reese '23, Jack Parent, and Riley Carlin '23**).

Garcia-Eidsness was also selected to the All-State Second Team and All-Metro Third Team. **Pim** joined **Garcia-Eidsness** on the All-State Second Team and earned All-Metro Second Team.

Tennis

Ravens varsity tennis enjoyed a solid season, advancing to the district final and narrowly missing a third-straight trip to the State Semifinals - despite being bumped up to Class 3 to compete against the biggest schools in the state.

Preston Achter '23 and **John Varley '25** captured the Class 3 doubles title and were both named All-Metro First Team by the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. For **Achter**, it was his third state individual medal after winning the Class 2 singles titles the previous two years.

Track & Field

The Priory track and field team had an impactful season. The team started its season at the Priory Open with a fourth-place finish highlighted by the 4x800 relay team. Team members **Gregory Britt '24, Yuri Batan '23, Patrick Hamill '24, and Justin Nangle '25** won the event with a time of 8:59.56, which was tops both in districts and sectionals.

At the All-Catholic Invitational, **Hamill** won the 800-meter dash with a time of 2:01.13, placing him atop the leaderboard for sectionals. The 4x800 relay team of **Britt, Matthew Mueller '24, Hamill, and Evan Hugge '23** finished second with a personal-record time of 8:35.97. **Mueller** also earned a second-place finish in the 400-meter dash, crossing the line with a personal-record time of 52.95.

After the Lutheran North All-Comers Meet, the Ravens 4x800 relay team of **Britt, Mueller, Hamill, and Hugge** became the Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHAA) Class 3 District 3 Champions finishing at 8:22.62. **Hamill** and **Mueller** also finished first and third, respectively in the 800-meter dash. **Batan** (4:42.79) and **Britt** (4:47.14) also went one-two in the 1600-meter dash. **Jacob Willard '23** broke the school record in the javelin with a mark of 38.18 m (118' 8.5).

From there, the Ravens headed to sectionals with **Hamill** becoming a Class 3 Sectional 2 Champion in the 800-meter dash at 1:58.61. The 4x800 relay team (**Britt, Mueller, Hamill, Hugge**) also qualified for State, finishing in third at 8:17.98.

At the Class 3 State Championship, Hamill finished fourth with a personal-record time of 1:57.14 in the 800. The 4x800 team also finished fourth at 8:10.76.



SPRING SPORTS 2023

Ultimate Wins State Championship for Second Year in a Row!

The Priory Ultimate team claimed another Missouri State Championship this spring. Led by senior captains **Michael Mathis '23**, **Timo Hoijarvi '23**, and **Otto Hoijarvi '23**, the team went 5-2 in the regular season to earn the #3 seed for state.

At the state tournament, the Ravens went 3-0 in pool play to advance to bracket play. In the first game, the Ravens dispatched the Lindbergh Flyers 13-6.

In the semifinals, Priory avenged a regular season loss to Edwardsville with a thrilling come-from-behind, 12-11 victory.

The team outlasted Parkway, 13-8, in a rain-delayed final to win their second straight championship. The Ravens now boast a cumulative record of 50-5 and three state championships in the last five years.





△ Xanadu 2024 co-chairs Erin O'Keefe and Ashley Carr

SAVE THE DATE

Xanadu 2024 - Ravens Royale

Saturday, February 3, 2024

We're high rollin' into Xanadu 2024 with a Vegas-style Ravens Royale. Come get lucky at this year's auction, chaired by **Ashley Carr** (Jack '24) and **Erin O'Keefe** (Quinn '24).



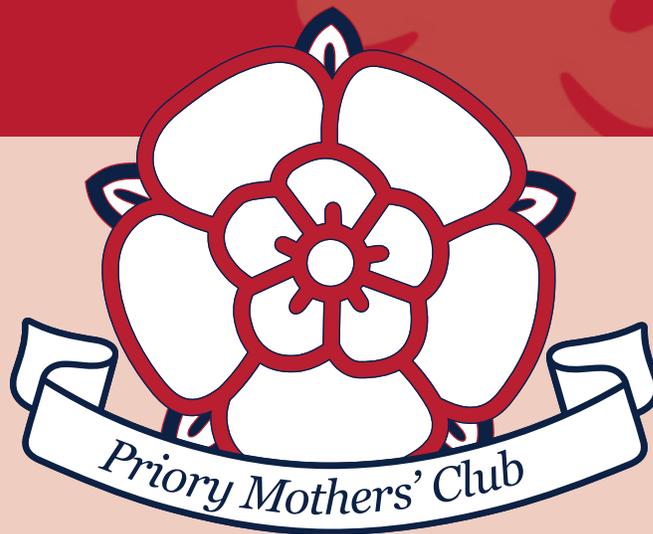
Mothers' Morning of Reflection

To commemorate the beginning of Lent, Mothers' Club members met on Ash Wednesday to hear reflections from **Father Athanasius Soto, O.S.B.** A beautiful tribute to his mother and grandmother allowed mothers to commune and reflect on how to grow in their faith during the Lenten season. 2023 President-Elect **Julie Wagner** (Cole '14, John '20, and Charlie '24) chaired this event.

Spring Luncheon

Mothers' Club welcomed over 100 current, alumni, and incoming mothers to their annual Spring Luncheon in late April. **Mrs. Stephanie Allee's** vocal arts class performed musical renditions to an enraptured audience, and 2023 Xanadu Chair, **Lori Willard** (Jacob '23 and Ryan '26), presented **Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76** with a check for more than \$500,000.

A resounding thank you to the Mothers' Club 2022-2023 board, led by President **Susie Haskell** (Dawson '23), Vice President **Shelly Lane** (Ryan '23), President-Elect **Julie Wagner** (Cole '14, John '20, and Charlie '24), Volunteer Coordinator **Amy Glarner** (Ben '20, Will '22, and Luke '25), Recording Secretary **Laura Polcyn** (Drake '25), and Treasurer **Laurie Leritz** (Henry '23 and Jack '25) for their service this year.



Junior Ring and Tie Ceremony

In mid-April, Form V students celebrated receiving their custom Priory rings at the Junior Ring Ceremony. The ties that will be used to create their Senior Tie Project were also collected and blessed following a special Mass. Chairs **Jennifer O'Keefe** (Michael '19, Patrick '21, Wynn '25, and Danny '29) and **Katy Joyce** (Cole '23) coordinated delicious cookie favors, beautiful decorations, and an array of treats to help commemorate the new rings, the blessing of the ties, and the juniors' ascension to senior year.

Mom Prom

Julie Margiotta (Michael '21, Ryan '23, and Tommy '28), **Carla Grewe** (Gerard '23), **Irene Buckalew** (AJ '23 and Alex '27), **Katy Joyce** (Cole '23), and **Julie Schuster** (Gareth '23) made a dream team to coordinate a wonderful Mom Prom in April at the Algonquin Country Club. The boys and their mothers enjoyed dinner, a lively DJ, and a wonderful balloon arch set up for commemorative photos of each "couple."

Senior Mother and Son Mass and Brunch

To close out their graduating year, Form VI sons and their mothers came together to worship at Mass in the Parish Center, followed by a delicious brunch and encouraging speeches at Bellerive Country Club. **Stacey Bealke** (Adam '24 and Walker '27) and **Isabel Hartig** (Cole '24) coordinated the wonderful event.

SAVE THE DATES

Christmas Boutique

Wednesday, November 29

Holiday Cocktail Party

Friday, December 1

> Junior Ring Mass

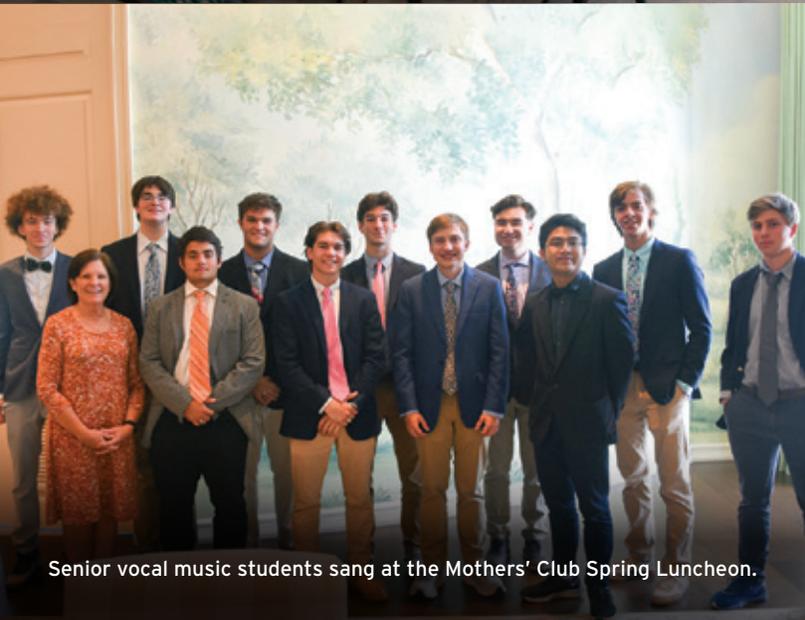




Mothers' Club Spring Luncheon



Xanadu 2023 chairwoman Lori Willard presented a check to Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76.



Senior vocal music students sang at the Mothers' Club Spring Luncheon.



Shelly Lane, Julie Wagner, Susie Haskell, Amy Glarner, Laura Polcyn, and Laurie Leritz



Junior Ring Celebration



Seniors enjoyed Mom Prom with their moms at the Algonquin Country Club.

ADVANCEMENT



Grayson Dino '27, William Sumner '27,
Austin Kovac '27, Augie Werner '27,
Simon Whitlock '27, and Grant Dino '27



Father and Son Banquet

The Fathers' Club returned to MAC West for an inspirational evening of fellowship at the annual Father and Son Banquet. **Father Augustine Wetta, O.S.B.**, gave a touching introduction to **Dr. Chris Kalthorn '88**, who spoke about the challenges of being one of the nation's leading neurosurgeons and how Priory prepared him for his career. Student Council president **Drew Limp '23** gave a rousing reflection of his time at Priory, while **Charlie Edwards '28** shared his experience as a Form I student.

Morning of Recollection

Fathers came together for a morning of reflection during the Lenten season. Father **Augustine Wetta, O.S.B.**, led prayer and conversation at this retreat, chaired by **Brian Kaveney '94** (Sean '26 and Kit '29).

Battle of the Brackets

The Fathers' Club went all out for this year's NCAA March Madness bracket. Recent graduates were highlighted at their respective colleges, including **Matthew Roxas '22** and **Seppo Hojarvi '21**. The top three winners took home a portion of the proceeds. Congratulations to first-place winner **Peter Trunfio '83**, second-place winner **Mark Willard** (Jacob '23 and Ryan '26), and third-place winner, **Adam Guthrie** (Connor '24). Thank you to all who participated.

Father and Son Finish-Line BBQ

In May, Form VI fathers and sons came together for one last hurrah before graduation. Seniors received a commemorative picture frame showcasing the **Class of 2023** wearing the shirts of their prospective colleges. Everyone enjoyed playing washers, fellowship, and eating a delicious BBQ dinner.

SAVE THE DATES

Fall Happy Hour

Thursday, November 9

Holiday Cocktail Party

Friday, December 1



Dr. Christopher G. Kalthorn '88, Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76
and President of the Fathers' Club, Robert J. Limp
(Collin '17 and Drew '23), at the Father and Son Banquet



Father Augustine Wetta, O.S.B.,
at the Father and Son Banquet.



The Alumni Mothers' Club (AMC), under the leadership of **Elaine Figueroa** (Philip '19), works to keep alumni mothers connected to Priory and the monastery.

The Alumni Mothers' Club is in full swing and welcomed their new members at the annual Margarita Party hosted at Rosalita's over the summer.

The AMC is putting their skills to good use. They helped support the Monks' Garden Party, donated ice cream to everyone who wanted a sweet treat at Homecoming, and helped fundraise for our Xanadu puppy. They're looking forward to a new year full of awesome events.

SAVE THE DATES

Thanksgiving Food Drop Off for Monks

Wednesday, November 22

Holiday Cocktail Party

Friday, December 1



Margarita Party at Rosalita's

All alumni mothers are invited to join the AMC. The purpose of the AMC is to promote the goals of the Abbey and the school, strengthen the ties with the monastic community, build a deeper spiritual link with the Benedictine tradition as lived by the monks, and create a strong bond among alumni mothers. To join or learn more about the AMC, visit:

**[www.priory.org/parents/
alumni-mothers-club](http://www.priory.org/parents/alumni-mothers-club)**

< Margarita Party at Rosalita's

Front row: Mary Catherine Leeker (Anthony '19) and Jill Miles (Brandon '19). Middle row: Elaine Figueroa (Philip '19), Ruthie Ahlering (Drew '19, Ian '24), Jackie Spellmeyer (JP '19) and Anne Buganski (Jack '19, Tyler '21, Luke '23). Back row: Susie Haskell (Dawson '23) and Carrie Parent (Luke '20, Mark '23, Jack '25)



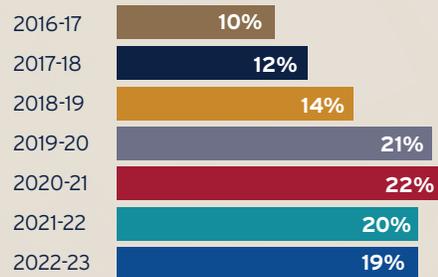
PRIORY ALUMNI

BY THE NUMBERS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

2022-2023 Alumni Class Giving Percentages

1960	38%	1976	19%	1992	17%	2008	18%
1961	71%	1977	18%	1993	24%	2009	26%
1962	20%	1978	20%	1994	50%	2010	4%
1963	25%	1979	20%	1995	14%	2011	5%
1964	69%	1980	14%	1996	15%	2012	0%
1965	23%	1981	15%	1997	20%	2013	13%
1966	52%	1982	15%	1998	12%	2014	14%
1967	65%	1983	22%	1999	24%	2015	0%
1968	48%	1984	10%	2000	24%	2016	5%
1969	29%	1985	26%	2001	9%	2017	0%
1970	49%	1986	37%	2002	23%	2018	0%
1971	20%	1987	18%	2003	41%	2019	0%
1972	50%	1988	13%	2004	45%	2020	3%
1973	31%	1989	32%	2005	2%	2021	4%
1974	26%	1990	51%	2006	17%	2022	2%
1975	42%	1991	13%	2007	7%	Total	19%

Alumni Giving Statistics for the Last Seven Fiscal Years



Top Classes by Participation

1961	71%	1972	50%	1968	48%
1964	69%	1994	50%	2004	45%
1967	65%	1970	48%		

Summary of Alumni Giving

19% Participation

553 Donors

Our alumni live out Priory's Benedictine values throughout the United States and abroad.



ALUMNI

From the Alumni Board President

Welcome back to a new school year at Priory! I hope you all had an enjoyable summer with family and friends; we are excited to welcome everyone back to 500 South Mason.

You will notice several exciting changes around campus, specifically the refreshed school entrance and commons area and the recently completed wing for Form I and Form II students (now located in the former science wing). The new outdoor amphitheater is now available for use. These projects mark the completion of a three-year, 40,000-square-foot renovation of key facilities on campus, with the new Arts and Science Center having been completed last year. The state-of-the-art facilities will bring a refreshed energy to Priory for years to come.

I would like to extend an invitation to all alumni to return to campus to see the transformational changes and reconnect with fellow alumni, monks, and members of the Priory Community. There are many opportunities for alumni to reconnect.

I encourage each of you to engage with the school community in some way, such as mentoring current students, participating in career counseling, or encouraging prospective students and their families to visit campus. All engagement is welcomed and appreciated, as we continue to strengthen our community within Priory.

Best of luck to all students for the school year in their scholastic and athletic endeavors!

Laus Tibi Domine,



Mike Reedy, Jr '00
Alumni Board President

Alumni Board 2023-24

From left to right: James H. (Jim) Ferrick, III '87, D. Edward (Ted) Horan '04, Andrew M. Iqbal '03, P. Ryan McDonald '99, M. Theodore (Ted) Altepeter '09, Ryan M. Wehking '08, James (Kevin) McAtee '97, Fr. Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02, Michael T. (Mike) Reedy '00, Linn H. (Jake) Bealke Jr. '98, Ondray A. Wells Jr. '85, Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76, Eric S. Stange '14, Thomas J. (Tom) Byrne Jr. '85, Kevin M. Hoffman '93, Charles F. (Charlie) Garvin '76, J. Gerard Mudd '75, Christopher (Chris) Kerckhoff Sr. '68, Daniel E. (Dan) Flynn '06, and Ted W. Lane '08.

Not Present: Alexander D. (Alex) Borchert '02, Anthony Z. Gennaoui '99, David P. (Dave) Binz '01, James E. (Jim) Havel '09, James (Jimmy) Williams '79, John P. (Jack) O'Brien '12, L. Cartan Sumner Jr. '83, Matthew A. (Matt) Wagner '90, Nicholas C. (Nick) Ahlering '04, Patrick J. Thornton '02, Philip (Phil) L. Willman '71, Richard J. (Rich) Francisco '86, Thomas E. (Tom) Cummings '89, and Timothy J. (TJ) Redmond.



Mike Reedy Jr. '00



Alumni Board 2023-24



Alumni Board Executive Team

Ryan McDonald '99 (Past President),
Mike Reedy '00 (President), Kevin McAtee '97
(Secretary), and Kevin Hoffman '93 (Vice President)



The Alumni Golf Scramble 2023

Alumni and their family and friends enjoyed a beautiful day at Priory's Alumni Golf Scramble held at Glen Echo Country Club on June 19. It was another sold-out event that raised more than \$31,000 for the Alumni Endowed Scholarship Fund. Thank you to all who attended, sponsored, and donated for this cherished event.



Father-Son Flight Winners

Brian Rothery '93, Eddie Rothery '25, Luke Glarner '25, and Bob Glarner '88

Headmaster's Cup Winners

Matt Merjavy '04, Jimmy Nowicke '04, Nick Ahlering '04, and Ryan McPhail '04

Please mark your calendar to join us next year on June 17, 2024 for this fantastic day of fun and games at Glen Echo Country Club.

1973 Reunion

The men of the Class 1973 gathered together on a late weekend in April to celebrate their 50th reunion. The weekend began at the home of **Dr. Allan Link III '73**, catching up with one another, and ending at Priory for a cocktail hour and sit-down dinner.

2nd Annual Robert A. Busch Foundation Memorial Golf Tournament Raises Funds for Priory Students

On September 25, more than 100 golfers and friends of **Robert A. Busch '95** gathered at the Country Club of St. Albans to honor Bob's memory and raise money for an endowed fund in his name. The memorial scholarship benefits students with tuition assistance so they might become a part of the Priory community. Bob left a mark on Priory as a student and as an alumnus. His support included organizing class reunions and serving on the Priory Alumni Board.

SAVE THE DATES

Class of 2018 Alumni Pizza Party
November 24, 2023

New York City Alumni Reception
December 8, 2023

Alumni Holiday Social
January 2024

Nick Ahlering '04 recently acquired the Orangetheory Fitness location in Creve Coeur at Olive and Craig. Many Priory alumni are longtime members including **John Short '98**, **Jim Havel '09**, and **Tim Kaufmann '99**. **Father Francis Hein, O.S.B.**, also occasionally drops in for classes. Orangetheory is a total body group workout that combines science, coaching, and technology to guarantee maximum results from the inside out.

Preston Antes '19 graduated in May from the University of Mississippi with a bachelor's degree in economics and public policy leadership. He recently started working in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Alex Borchert '02 was honored as an Olin Business School at Washington University William C. and Glenda L. Finnie Adjunct Professor of the Year. He has taught real estate finance and investment for five years. The award recognizes exceptional adjunct faculty whose enthusiasm, teaching, and business experience combine to inspire and energize students.



Jacob Buganski '19 graduated in May from the University of Dayton with a bachelor's degree in business/finance. He recently started working at Central Bank as a commercial credit analyst. **Colin Croghan '16** works alongside Jacob at Central Bank.

Chris Friemel '19 recently graduated from Iowa State University with a bachelor's degree in construction engineering. He is working for McCarthy Building Companies as a project engineer.

Three generations of McAtee's at a Ravens baseball game: **James "Jim" K. McAtee '64**, **James "Jake" K. McAtee III '27**, and **James "Kevin" K. McAtee '97**.



Will Mohrmann '19 recently graduated from Kenyon College. He played soccer and majored in psychology and American Studies. Will credits Priory for preparing him for an academically challenging environment. He says, "The writing, thinking, and problem-solving skills I developed at Priory provided invaluable preparation for the academic rigors at Kenyon."



Chris Paletta '70 and his son **Damian '95** recently ran the George Washington Parkway 10-miler at Mount Vernon. Damian is deputy business editor at the Washington Post. Chris is a clinical consultant in burns and trauma for the United States Department of Health and Human Services and assisted in our nation's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



> Simon with Rear Admiral Kelly at his retirement receiving line

Jacob Sowers '19 graduated in May from Georgetown University with a bachelor's degree in government and minors in psychology and journalism. Jacob recently started working for the Manhattan District Attorney's Office as a paralegal.

Joe Vatterott '68 recently published a novel he authored, entitled *The Inn of Dreams*. The book is available at Barnes & Noble and Amazon.

CORRECTION: The spring magazine mistakenly noted that Kalyan Tatineny '99 got married.

Honoring Priory Military Service Members and Veterans



Esan O. Simon '90 has served as a physician on active duty for 25 years since graduation from Emory Medical School in 1998 and Harvard University in 1994. After completing an arduous six months of U.S. Navy Flight Surgery School, he served in multiple flight surgeon billets including deployment to the Persian Gulf aboard the aircraft carrier USS Harry S. Truman (CVN 75) and then completed an interservice transfer to the U.S. Public Health Service assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) as a flight surgeon and family medicine physician after completing a family medicine residency at the Mayo Clinic.

Continued on page 46



Monastic Council

Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76
 Prior Dominic Lenk, O.S.B.
 Father Aidan McDermott, O.S.B.
 Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02
 Father Augustine Wetta, O.S.B.
 Father Athanasius Soto, O.S.B.

Board of Advisors

Roger E. Cammon, *Chair*
 Jerrold A. Dow
 Daniel J. Leary III '87
 Father Paul McCormick, O. Cist.
 Francis J. Merenda Jr. '96
 Alicia T. Noddings
 Daniel M. O'Keefe Sr. '87
 Michael T. Reedy Jr. '00
 William C. Stude III '91
 Philip L. Willman '71
 Lisa Flavin, Emerita
 James Switzer '64, Emeritus

Alumni Board

Michael T. Reedy Jr. '00, *President*
 Kevin Hoffman '93, *Vice President*
 Kevin McAtee '97, *Secretary*
 Nick Ahlering '04
 Teddy Altepeter '09
 Jake Bealke '98
 Dave Binz '01
 Alex Borchert '02
 Tom Byrne '85
 Tom Cummings '89, *Past President*
 Father Cuthbert Elliott O.S.B. '02
 Jim Ferrick '87
 Dan Flynn '06
 Charlie Garvin '76
 Anthony Gennaoui '99
 Jim Havel '09
 Ted Horan '04
 Andrew Iqbal '03
 Chris Kerckhoff Sr. '68
 Ted Lane '08
 Ryan McDonald '99, *Past President*
 Abbot Gregory Mohrman, O.S.B., '76
 Gerard Mudd '75
 Jack O'Brien '12
 T.J. Redmond '99
 Eric Stange '14
 Cartan Sumner Jr. '83
 Patrick Thornton '02
 Matt Wagner '90, *Past President*
 Ryan Wehking '08
 Ondray Wells '85
 Jimmy Williams '79
 Phil Willman '71

Saint Louis Priory School Leadership Council

Father Cuthbert Elliott, O.S.B., '02
Headmaster
 frcuthbert@priory.org

Mike Nickolai '03
Associate Headmaster
 mnickolai@priory.org

Tim Malecek
*Assistant Head of School
 for Intellectual Formation*
 tmalecek@priory.org

Lise Riet-Lague
*Assistant Head of School
 for Mission Advancement*
 lrietlague@priory.org

Continued from page 51

Simon served in various operational and clinical roles, including as a flight surgeon at multiple USCG Air Stations and medical director at the Coast Guard Academy, while navigating the complexities of his own cancer journey (multiple myeloma). He is now approaching retirement from active duty while currently serving at USCG Headquarters (Washington, D.C.) as the senior flight surgeon aeromedical adjudicator for all USCG pilots and aircrew flying in all Coast Guard aviation platforms.

Some of Simon's awards and honors include the USCG Meritorious Service (2) and Commendation (Operational Distinguishing Device) Medals, the Navy/Marine Corps Commendation and Achievement Medals, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Public Health Service Crisis Response Service Award, the Arizona Academy of Family Physicians Grobe Award for state-wide outstanding Family Medicine Third-year Resident, and the Mayo Clinic Arizona Family Medicine Residency Program Director.

Earlier this year, **John Worland '92** retired from the United States Army after 20 years and four months of military service. After the 9-11 attacks, he entered the United States Army in 2002 at the rank of Specialist (E-4) and retired at the rank of Major (O-4). Roughly half of his service was overseas, including two combat deployments to Operation Iraqi Freedom, five years in the Republic of Korea, and three years on Middle East assignments. He has since returned home to St. Louis and is currently enrolled at Webster University in a media communications master's degree program. He has one son, Zander, age 5.

Thank You to all who contributed to The Priory Fund! Your gift matters! Donations to The Priory Fund support all aspects of the school's daily life and offer tuition assistance to exceptional students.

TOTAL RAISED

\$673,813



90%

Faculty and Staff Participation



1,513

Total Gifts



15%

Current Parent Participation



100%

Board of Advisors and Alumni Board Participation



794

Total Donors



Academic programming is what draws many families to Priory. Your gift enhances classroom instruction, faculty excellence, the arts, and co-curricular activities. We are proud to have a 6:1 student-to-faculty ratio.

Athletics is integral to our students' overall education and development. Thank you for supporting our students as they grow in mind, body, and spirit. Your donations have helped our sports programs win 16 state championships since 2004.

Educational technology is part of the Priory experience. You make entrepreneurship, robotics, and other activities possible.

Tuition assistance ensures academically talented young men can receive a Priory education.

Thank you!





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SAVE THE DATE · SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2024



Stay tuned for more details! www.priory.org/xanadu