

BISHOP O'CONNELL HIGH SCHOOL

# *The Knights' Pages*

SUMMER 2025



*75 and Counting:  
Knights Softball Keeps Rolling*

Read more on page 21.

## OUR MISSION

*is to provide students an  
education rooted in  
the life of Christ and to foster  
the pursuit of excellence in the  
whole person.*



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**On the cover:** The 2025 Knights softball team celebrates their fifth consecutive WCAC title, defeating St Mary's Ryken, 6-3, on May 10, 2025 at the George Mason Softball Complex in Fairfax, Va.

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# Message from Head of School



Dear Friends of Bishop O'Connell,

The '24-'25 school year was a big success, led by our dedicated, enthusiastic, and talented faculty/staff and administration and a senior class whose school theme for the year, "unity," typified their approach to all things DJO. They were exemplary role models, which the members of the younger grades paid close attention to and heeded supportively.

This coming year's senior class, the Class of 2026, has identified its theme for the year as "courage." Having in place, thusly, in back-to-back years "unity" and "courage" harkens to many of the Catholic saints from the past 2,000 years, as without these dual beacons, much of what the saints both of antiquity and of more modern times set out to accomplish during their lives in modeling Christ-like sacrificial love would have been nearly impossible to achieve. We're

certainly on the right pathway as a school community in dually focusing on and leaning into these inspiring and guiding tenets, and it continues to be the singular mission of the adults who toil with great conviction and joy in the vineyard that is Bishop O'Connell to one day get every one of the young people we shepherd to heaven.

A myriad of wonderful things are happening here on Little Falls Road, including the upcoming rollout of a new facilities master plan that will lay out the sequencing and puzzle-like fit of changes and upgrades to the school's physical plant over the next 8-10 years. This past year, and into the coming year, a number of ongoing facilities-related projects that are not affiliated with the master plan have been or will be completed—to include the construction of the baseball grandstand and press box; the complete turf replacement for the stadium field; the stained-glass window project in the IHM Chapel; significant upgrades to the auditorium's sound, lighting, and rigging systems, as well as interior and exterior painting; and the stadium cross project. Yes, we as a school have been wonderfully busy marching forward in our steady quest to make Bishop O'Connell just as beautiful on the outside as metaphorically it is on the inside.

Blessedly, all the many major things that sit at the heart of O'Connell are running smoothly and well, most importantly the two areas that any quality Catholic school prioritizes as most seminal—its Catholic identity and its academic program. Our Catholic identity stands at the forefront of who and what we are as a Catholic high school—the finest in the Washington area, in my view, as every aspect of what we do is connected explicitly, seamlessly, and intentionally to the first half of our mission statement, that of "providing an education rooted in the life of Christ." So whether the reference point is the continuing high delivery of our Campus Ministry's retreat program—never more robust in the life of the school than is currently the case (this past spring, for example, more than 100 juniors and seniors partook of the voluntary—and, for many participants, transformative—Kairos retreats), or in the recent self-reflective curricular work and the ensuing advances made by our Theology department—a reorientation that is in alignment with Bishop Burbidge's directive to identify and initiate salient changes to the curriculum that will bring more fully, vibrantly, and authentically into the lives of our students the presence of Jesus' infinite and unconditional love for them and His reassuring presence.

And our academic program, so very catholic in nature ("catholic" from the Greek: "respect of the whole"), supports every one of our students in a manner that from day one of their journey as a Knight, the school is fully acculturated and dimensionally wired to meet every single student exactly where he or she is in providing support, encouragement, right-level challenge, and intellectual inspiration. From our tremendously robust array of course offerings at the College Prep, Honors, and AP level, every youngster who attends O'Connell has the distinct potential to land in the exact right and appropriate-fitting spot for him or her so as to be at his or her best both while here and post-graduation, in moving onto life's next rounds of opportunities and challenges. The Muller Center, which is available for our students who need a little bit of extra support in getting organized and acclimated to a high school setting, helps those particular students to grow in confidence, comfort, academic centering, and self-advocacy. And the gem of all gems in which Bishop O'Connell shines most incandescently is our Expanded Services offerings that provide a fully integrated high school experience to our students with intellectual and developmental disabilities, beautiful children of God who make all of us, and the school, better.

O'Connell enters the coming year with its highest student enrollment numbers in over a decade and last year, as well, experienced record-breaking philanthropic contributions from across its exceptionally generous community. Both these figures suggest, of course, that which we've always known: Bishop O'Connell, where our students are happy, thriving, and successful and our faculty/staff affirmed, supported, and deeply satisfied by their work, is one "hot" school. United and courageous are we, O'Connell Knights, all of us within this remarkable community saints in the making, in that we are blessed to fully recognize and embrace that life is a gift and that serving the Lord in serving others is a gift like no other. Be well and at peace, my good and gracious friends, continuing to pray, care, and look out for one another, as, yes, we're better together.

In God's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Crittenberger". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" being more prominent.

Bill Crittenberger

## *Peace be with You,* **CLASS OF 2025**



The Most Reverend Michael F. Burbidge, Bishop of Arlington, presented diplomas to the 275 members of the Bishop O'Connell High School Class of 2025 at the school's 65th commencement ceremony held on May 29, 2025, at the Basilica of the Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

He encouraged the students to find ways to be peacemakers, reminding them that the first words from Pope Leo XIV to the world were "Peace be with you."

We have learned how to love each other, how to live with each other, and most importantly how to see Christ in each other. By

learning this, we have had the opportunity to become a close community and also become one that brings each other closer to God. O'Connell has become this foundation for knowledge and faith, and it is our job, as a class, to build upon it. We went through all these years together and in the same way we are going to finish them together. We are one body in O'Connell, one body as the Class of 2025, and one body in Christ.

**AVERY CURRY '25**

(BACCALAUREATE MASS, MAY 18, 2025)



As you enter this next chapter in your life, when you are met with a battle you can't win, a mountain you can't climb, I hope you know

God made you for love. Remember, you are not alone. You were created for more. You were created on purpose, for a purpose. When life feels uncertain, trust that every step has a meaning, even the hard ones. And one day, you will look back and whisper to yourself, "Finally... I understand." Not because everything went according to plan, but because every moment, every memory was leading you exactly to where you were meant to be. "Finally" is not just about an end, it is about becoming.

**DANNAITE BELAY '25**  
**SENIOR CLASS PRESIDENT**  
(BACCALAUREATE MASS, MAY 18, 2025)





As the tape rolls on our future, choose joy. It may seem like we are starting over, but we are simply continuing the work we started as freshmen: to joyfully dedicate ourselves to something bigger, to be leaders and philanthropists, to persevere through challenges, and to develop more memories. So, as our high school credits end, and our new intro begins, choose to take your next steps with confidence, and remember to smile, because we did it!

**SAMANTHA STEWART '25**  
VALEDICTORIAN

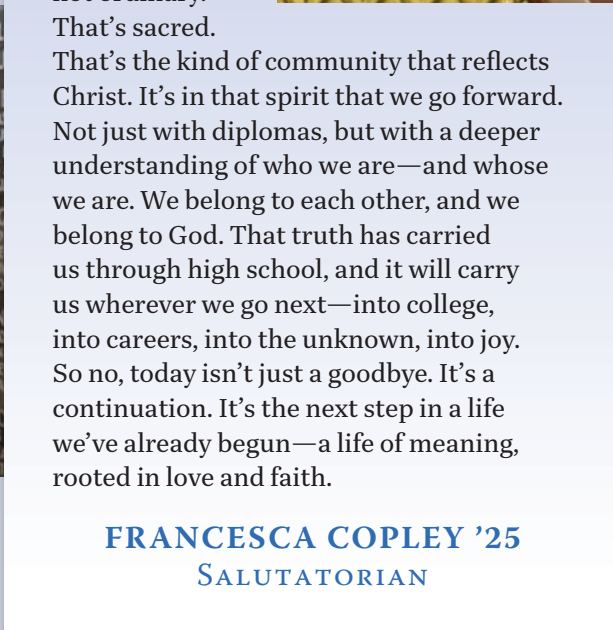


We've learned to show up—not just for grades or goals, but for one another. And that's not ordinary. That's sacred.



That's the kind of community that reflects Christ. It's in that spirit that we go forward. Not just with diplomas, but with a deeper understanding of who we are—and whose we are. We belong to each other, and we belong to God. That truth has carried us through high school, and it will carry us wherever we go next—into college, into careers, into the unknown, into joy. So no, today isn't just a goodbye. It's a continuation. It's the next step in a life we've already begun—a life of meaning, rooted in love and faith.

**FRANCESCA COPLEY '25**  
SALUTATORIAN



# 2025 Legacy Graduates

A special tradition at our school is the recognition of legacy graduates each year. The following members of the class of 2025 are the sons and daughters (and/or grandchildren) of Bishop O'Connell alumni.

## Chase Austin Armour

Son of Valentina Adeler Armour '95

## Claire Elizabeth Bartholme

Daughter of Ann Marie Rogers Bartholme '97 and Michael A. Bartholme '93

## Thomas Richard Bourne

Son of Julianne Rish Bourne, Class of '83

## Logan Andres Camacho

Son of Johanna E. Soldevilla Camacho '93

## Shelby Clare Doyle

Daughter of Kathleen Casey Doyle '88 and granddaughter of Michael T. Casey '62

## Nicolas B. Fountaine

Son of Steven P. Fountaine '88

## Abigail Maria Hart

Granddaughter of Mary Jane Jenkins '61

## Mark Christopher Johnson

Son of Alice Smonskey Johnson '88

## Jocelyn Madeline Rose Leboeuf

Daughter of Gibson C. Leboeuf '93

## Gemma Grace Lucchesi

Daughter of Nicholas Lucchesi '81

## Dominic Iraj Marcelo Luis

Son of Sayeh Yazdi Luis '96

## Keira Carmen Maria Luna

Daughter of Alex Luna '84

## Conor Miguel McCarthy

Son of Stephanie M. Rico McCarthy '94 and Christopher P. McCarthy '94

## Bryan Patrick Murphy

Son of Paul M. Murphy '86

## Brianna Morgan Nemeth

Daughter of Richard Nemeth '83

## Douglas William O'Donnell

Son of James D. O'Donnell '86

## Chloe Josephine Tirona Obias

Daughter of Vincent J. Obias '89

## Sophia Isabella Perez

Daughter of JeanCarla Gomez-Garcia '02 and Adolfo Perez '93

## Bridget Murphy Prophett

Daughter of Eileen O'Brien Prophett '88

## Tara Evelyn Rhoads

Daughter of Donna Christensen Rhoads '90

## Sophia Elisabeth Rolo

Daughter of Monika Sprenger Rolo '91 and Jack Damiao Rolo '91

## Kyle William Salvatierra

Son of Frank Salvatierra '84



## Alexia Madison Seroskie

Daughter of Peter Seroskie '91

## Chance Augustus Hieu Smith

Son of Joanie Leverone Smith '84

## Isabel Claudette Smith

Daughter of Tricia M. Alegre-Smith '95

## YiLin Nicholas Samuel Smith

Son of Joanie Leverone Smith '84

## Fiorella Lizeth Soto

Daughter of Lizeth Chuchon '06

## Lily Frances Spann

Daughter of Christine Hathaway Spann '90

## Madeline O Sullivan

Daughter of Michael C. Sullivan '95

## Elizabeth Laurel Gollayan Zeoli

Daughter of Lori Gollayan Zeoli '91



## Class of 2025 in Numbers

**\$30.5**

Million  
in college  
scholarships

**130**

AP  
Scholars

**62**

Earned college  
credit from  
Marymount or  
Catholic University

**33**

Global Studies  
Certificate  
recipients

**32**

Playing sports  
at the  
next level

**8**

Enrolled at  
military  
academies

READ MORE AT [bishopoconnell.org/2025grads](http://bishopoconnell.org/2025grads)

## A Note From Our New Chaplain, Father Daniel Reuwer

The whole purpose of life is to know, love, and serve God in this life, as to spend forever with Him in the next. God created us in love. He desires nothing but our good. Perhaps most incredibly, He invites us into a living and personal relationship with Him. The mission of Campus Ministry is to accompany students in this transformative encounter with the Living God.

It's no secret that life is hard. The Lord promises us throughout the Scriptures that this will be the case. But He also promises us that He will be with us through it all. As Psalm 139 reminds us, no matter what we are facing or what challenges lie ahead of us, He is there with us. In Campus Ministry, we are there to walk with the students no matter what they might be facing, reminding them of the Lord's abiding presence and desire for them.

From the difficulties of life to its many incredible joys, all the way to the mundane and ordinary activities, the goal of Campus Ministry is to show the reality that no matter what we are doing or experiencing, God is there with us. This is the mystery of the Incarnation: God wants to be with us at each and every moment in our lives. By making available the Sacraments and teaching the depths of prayer, the desire of Campus Ministry is that every student will come to know more deeply the love and presence of God in their lives, and will seek ever greater union with Him.

Please be assured of my prayers for you all.

May God bless you,

Father Daniel



*Father Daniel Reuwer was ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Arlington in 2022, and spent his first three years as a parochial vicar at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas. Prior to this, he attended Belmont Abbey College, where he double majored in Political Science and Theology. Upon graduation, he began teaching at St. William of York Catholic School in Stafford, Va., where he taught middle school religion and history, in addition to serving as the Athletic Director. Working with families and seeing the struggles the students were facing reignited the question of a priestly vocation, and so after two years of teaching he attended St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Philadelphia. He spent six years there, earning a Masters in Philosophical Studies, a Masters in Divinity, and a Masters in Theology. As a transitional deacon, he was assigned to Holy Family Catholic Church in Dale City. Recently named the chaplain at Bishop O'Connell, Fr. Daniel enjoys the opportunity to work with students and faculty alike. In his free time, he loves sports, especially Steelers football and Orioles baseball, as well as music, movies, and hanging out with friends.*



### FALL 2024 SOUP DRIVE

*Marking the end of last year's soup drive, O'Connell students gathered on the stadium field to pray a Living Rosary as a school community for the intentions of all those who will benefit from the 12,000 cans of hearty soup that were delivered to the St. Lucy Food Project in Manassas.*

# Three Seniors Awarded Full College Scholarships

In early December 2024, three O'Connell seniors received some outstanding news. **Dava Arkoh**, **Dannaite Belay**, and **Diana Gamboa-Hazou** were notified that they are recipients of full four-year scholarships through the 2024 QuestBridge National College Match. This program connects high-achieving high school seniors from underrepresented backgrounds with 52 of the nation's top colleges. Out of over 25,500 applicants, 7,288 were named Finalists in October and had the opportunity to rank up to 12 partner colleges. These three O'Connell students are among 2,627 from across the United States who were matched through this program with a college of their choice.

**Dava Arkoh '25** matched with Tufts University, where she will be double majoring in biomedical sciences and brain and cognitive sciences with a minor in food systems and nutrition. She hopes to follow that up with medical school and pursue a career as an anesthesiologist.

"Tufts stood out to me not only as a top school with many opportunities, but also as a school that encourages and celebrates diversity, which is really important to me," she said. "This award serves as a personal reminder to me that hard work and resilience are key to achieving one's goals and dreams."

**Dannaite Belay '25** is attending Boston College, studying marketing and international relations with a goal of attending law school.



*Pictured (left to right): Dava Arkoh, Diana Gamboa-Hazou, and Dannaite Belay.*

"I want to combine my interest in business and international affairs with a legal career to eventually work in international law," said Belay. "This award not only opens doors for me academically but also allows me to pursue my dreams without the heavy financial burden."

**Diana Gamboa-Hazou '25** is headed to Northwestern University to study biological sciences or chemistry and minor in global health. Her hope is to go to medical school to become an ER doctor or pediatric oncologist.

"Northwestern really captivated me through their community," said Gamboa-Hazou. "Going to events and hearing the way the students talked about themselves and their school captivated me, and, of course, Northwestern's academic rigor and research opportunities piqued my interest."



## NATIONAL MERIT RECOGNITION

*Congratulations to **Matthew Rimicci '25** who was named a National Merit Finalist last fall! He is joined by nine other members of the Class of 2025 who were named Commended Students: **Francesca Copley**, **Diogo Faust**, **Emmet Hand**, **Mariel Irish-Maldonado**, **Olivia Martin**, **Sabina Nagy**, **Delaney Park**, **Lily Spann**, and **Samantha Stewart**.*



## Partnering with Catholic University to Offer Business Dual Credit

BY JACOB SCHIEK '25

Bishop O'Connell High School is pioneering a new approach to business education with its Entrepreneurship program, a pilot initiative which was launched last year. The program, linked to Catholic University of America's (CUA) business curriculum, aims to guide students toward seeing business as a force for good. Teacher Bill Betthausen notes, "It's a great opportunity for students to see how business can be a noble vocation in the world."

The program's first semester focused on the meaning and purpose of business, exploring career paths, core values, and the interconnectedness of work, economics, and prosperity. It challenged students to cultivate character and discover their individual gifts, values, and mission within the context of the business world. A key component of the program is the integration of real-world applications and practical projects.

One such example is a recent exploration of the global economy undertaken by Betthausen's Entrepreneurship class. Students showcased their research and analytical skills through presentations on the State of Business in various countries. This project required students to delve into the economic intricacies of their chosen nation, examining key indicators such as Gross Domestic Product (GDP), unemployment rates, emerging industries, and the ease of doing business. The presentations offered a glimpse into the diverse economic landscapes shaping our world.

**Renzo Reyonoso '25** kicked off the class with an in-depth analysis of the United States, highlighting its position

as a global economic powerhouse and the dynamic growth of its technology and information sector, particularly the surge in cybersecurity jobs.

**Michael Archer '25** followed with a presentation on Germany, focusing on the composition of its GDP and the crucial role of its skilled labor force. **Aly Kunigonis '25** delivered an engaging presentation on Italy, incorporating cultural motifs into her slides and providing a comprehensive overview of the country's economic landscape. She concluded that Italy maintains a robust and dynamic business environment, citing the ease of starting a business and high levels of innovation.

The Entrepreneurship program at O'Connell, in partnership with CUA, offers a forward-thinking approach to business education. It emphasizes that business can be a force for good, encouraging students to consider ethical implications and their personal calling within the field. Combining academic rigor with a focus on ethical considerations and personal development, the program equips students with the skills and values needed for future leadership. It explores the relationship between business and society, fostering critical thinking and global awareness through practical projects like the State of Business presentations.

As Aly Kunigonis reflected, "It has provided me with a more diverse knowledge base of the business world, while simultaneously teaching me values that I can use not just in business but my everyday life."

### OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT

*Congratulations to  
**Ruby Trent '26**, who received  
a perfect composite score of  
36 on the ACT!*





*It's a Small World After All*

## French and Spanish Exchange Programs Thrive

BY DELANEY PARK '25

Exchange programs are the types of affairs that would baffle the extraterrestrial mind. After all, how does one concisely explain the deeply human experience of traveling to a foreign country and making it one's home, of meeting an assigned correspondent and parting as dear friends?

Last fall, 20 students from Bishop O'Connell traveled to Reims, France, to participate in the second year of an exchange program cycle with Lycée Privé St. Jean XXIII. These students continued a beloved tradition that has existed for over 15 years. This cycle began the fall before, with students from Reims traveling to D.C. The French exchange program began with a welcome reception with beignets at the host school and included spell-binding adventures ranging from a celebration of Mass at the Reims Cathedral to day trips to Lille and the Louvre-Lens museum.

At the same time, Spanish-speaking Bishop O'Connell students voyaged to Barcelona, Spain. **Chloe Obias '26** said that the trip was "so educational and fun. I learned so many things about Spanish culture that I would have never known otherwise, and [it] furthered my Spanish." Students were immersed in the environment of the region, from the traditionally late dinner times to linguistic challenges with encountering locals who spoke Catalan instead of Spanish.

Teachers from Bishop O'Connell's World Languages Department may have been separated by nearly 700 miles, but they were united in their sentiments about their students' respective experiences.



Señora Faryde Yanine and Señor Ciro Jimenez praised the Spanish exchange trip by saying, "It was an unforgettable experience that united cultures, broadened perspectives, and created memories that will last a lifetime. From the awe-inspiring architecture of Gaudí to the warmth of new friendships, every moment was a testament to the power of travel and learning."

Mademoiselle Whitney Webb and Madame Jennifer Kirschbaum echoed their colleagues' words, saying, "The students quickly became a part of a country, feeling at home with the people and the culture that they had only previously studied in school. How blessed we were as teachers to watch them conversing in a language that they have grown to love with their counterparts across the Atlantic, who have become their life-long friends."

The language teachers were indispensable parts of the student experience abroad. Not only did they amply prepare their pupils for the cultural differences that they would encounter and strengthen their language skills, but they also were bastions of support and compassion. It takes only one conversation with any of the aforementioned teachers to see their true passion for this program and to witness the immense pride that they have for the participating students.

O'Connell students lived with their host students, becoming a part of their families for the eight-day duration of the program. **Joana Alves '26** remarked on this special opportunity, saying, "I remember staying up with her, and we would talk about our lives and even exchange slang words." She went on to add that she would "strongly urge" other O'Connell students to partake in the program.

# Grüß Gott! German Exchange Takes Off

Last fall, Bishop O'Connell launched its first-ever German exchange program, hosting 14 students and two teachers from Pius-Gymnasium in Aachen, Germany. The group went on several local field trips and cheered for the Knights at an O'Connell football game. "It was a real joy to share our Catholic high school experience with our visitors," said German teacher, Frau Sandra MacGregor.

Because of the academic calendar of the school in Germany, O'Connell students were invited in late March to spend a week with their counterparts in Aachen. Our American students joined exchange students from Italy, France, and Austria

for workshops at the school, before venturing out with their hosts for field trips that included an afternoon tour of Aachen Cathedral (built by Emperor Charlemagne beginning in the late 700s), a half day visit to Maastricht, Netherlands, a full day excursion to the Brussels, Belgium, that included a tour of the European Parliament, and a trip to Dortmund, Germany, for a Bundesliga soccer game vs. Mainz.

Their time in Germany was filled

with many new experiences, but when asked what the highlight of the trip was, O'Connell students resoundingly pointed to their time spent with their host families and their friends, having dinner, playing games, and just being teenagers.



(Trip photos by Nicholas Terronez '27)

## Summer Study Abroad in Salamanca



Eleven students from Bishop O'Connell traveled this summer with Spanish Program Director Faryde Yanine to the University of Salamanca in Spain for a two-week study abroad program, earning college credits.

The students began their experience with a placement test to determine the appropriate level for their immersive studies in Spanish language, literature, culture, business, cooking, and flamenco. The program offered a dynamic balance of rigorous academics in the mornings and cultural excursions in the afternoons. Guided by professors from the University of Salamanca, students explored significant landmarks, including the city's cathedrals, museums, and the historic university buildings.

On the weekends, students traveled to several major cities: Bilbao, where they visited the Guggenheim Museum and explored the historic city center; Burgos, home to the iconic Burgos Cathedral, associated with the legendary figure El Cid; Toledo, known for its rich history and connection to the famous painter, El Greco, and famous Cathedral; and Madrid, where they toured El Prado Museum, visited the House of Velázquez featured in Las Meninas, and took in Picasso's Guernica at the Reina Sofía Museum.

Other highlights included walks in Salamanca to the Plaza Mayor to enjoy the local food and the monuments in the streets, and a flamenco show.

The University of Salamanca is Sra. Yanine's alma mater. It is one of the oldest universities in the world. Built in 1218, it quickly became a center of learning in Europe, rivaling institutions like Bologna, the Sorbonne, and Oxford. "Teaching Spanish culture this summer at my alma mater was a truly meaningful experience," she said. "It felt like coming home and being part of history."

"After this journey, my students return as global ambassadors, enriched by language, culture, and a broader world perspective," said Sra. Yanine. "The University of Salamanca program provided an unforgettable academic and cultural experience for our students."



# From Seed to Garden



## A Decade of Inclusion through Expanded Services

**A REFLECTION BY SUSAN RINALDI, DIRECTOR**

Just as the 2014-2015 school year was wrapping up, Mr. Carl Patton, Bishop O'Connell's principal at the time, brought me onboard to launch new services in the fall for students with cognitive and intellectual disabilities. During my first week he shared a handwritten sign-up list of about 90 students who had expressed interest in being peer mentors, and another list of 15 or more teachers who wanted to be involved in this new endeavor. With these lists in hand, I had the sense that Bishop O'Connell was already fertile soil for the start of something new.

By God's providence, within those weeks of summer we gained our first two students who would be receiving expanded services and we hired a wonderful new teacher to join our team. Out of that list of 90 students emerged our first class and volunteer mentors. From the list of teachers, we chose our first advisory and inclusion teachers and began working collaboratively with all involved to determine the best approaches for our two students. That first year, we planted the seeds of Inclusion through Expanded Services at O'Connell.

In the subsequent years, our services grew as we gained more students. We gained not only students, but their families, too, as we realized the value of close collaboration. Relationships are at the core of inclusion, and relationships would cultivate the seeds of inclusion.

Our slogan, "Better Together," bloomed out of relationships. The more individuals invested, the more the slogan rang true





*Bishop O'Connell's Best Buddies participated in the Friendship Walk on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. and earned the Bishop's Cup for the 4th year in a row.*



*Ella Nasr '25 was awarded the 2025 Porto Charities Peer Mentor Award.*

and the bigger and brighter it bloomed all around O'Connell. As friendship grew out of the mentor/mentee relationships, you could see a visible transformation—a brightness, a gentleness, an authenticity among the pairs of students. Mentors would share things like:

*"I thought we were different, but we are not."*

*"My mentee is one of my best friends."*

*"Mentoring is the best part of my day."*

As mentors grew in enthusiasm, mentees grew in confidence, walking the halls independently with their head held high to catch the many greetings and fist bumps from their peers as they ventured to class. Classroom teachers shared with us new and creative approaches that produced successful learning and participation. Our students were engaging in all types of classes and could be found anywhere in the mix.

Now, 10 years of inclusion at O'Connell looks like a well-established garden. There are many students, parents, coaches, teachers, and staff members who have contributed to our beautiful and vibrant garden. Inclusion, while completely individualized, is never about just the one. It is always about relationships of the one to another, and another, and another. Each relationship then becomes as unique and unrepeatable as the individuals involved. So each is like its own flower or fruit. Inclusion can only thrive in community and better yet, in one that is Christ-centered.

As I reflect on the past 10 years, I'm so thankful to God that I get to work in this beautiful garden, and I believe that ultimately it is He who helps to produce within it fruit that will last.



*March Madness! Bishop O'Connell hosted a Special Olympics basketball tournament for the first time, hosting teams from St. Paul VI, Oakton, and the Pulley Center. It was a showcase of teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship!*



*The first Kairos retreat in June 2015 was held at Summit Lake Camp, near Emmitsburg, Md, and was facilitated by three young adults from Marymount University and four O'Connell staff members—Sister Tracey Uphoff, IHM, Anne-Marie Funk, Kathryn Hogan (Haas) and Elizabeth Rubando.*

*Close to 100 O'Connell students participated in the February 2025 Kairos retreat, held at the Concord Retreat Center in Yellow Springs, W.V.*

## Kairos Retreat Program Sees Significant Growth

Over the last decade, the retreat program at Bishop O'Connell has expanded in depth and offerings. At the center of this growth has been the Kairos retreat. Kairos started in June of 2015 as an offering for the Fiat women's ministry club. The next year it went co-ed for the first time. Last year, O'Connell offered three Kairos retreats to the upperclassmen, with each retreat filling up quickly, with over 100 students each.

"Kairos retreats set themselves apart because they are mostly student-led, with the student leaders running many activities and giving the witness talks," said Ed Fitzpatrick, Director of Campus Ministry. "This peer-to-peer sharing of faith permeates the culture back on campus well beyond what happens on the retreat weekend, and we are all better for it."



With the growth of Kairos, the school has also seen a growth in other overnight retreats. Since the start of Kairos 10 years ago, O'Connell now annually offers its students Kairos retreats, as well as three service retreats to Camden, N.J., one women's retreat, two single-night retreats for seniors, a weekend retreat for freshmen, and one retreat that brings together students from all four diocesan high schools.



## #ONEDAY ALLKNIGHTS GIVING DAY

O'Connell's 11th annual giving day, One Day All Knights (ODAK), took place on April 8, 2025. Thanks to our incredible community, it was a huge success—over 400 donors contributed more than \$200,000 to our Knight Fund, significantly strengthening our ability to provide tuition assistance to one third of our families, enhancing our many great co-curricular programs, and enriching our dynamic campus ministry. In addition to robust participation from our parent, alumni, and staff communities, more than 400 students donated as well. For their donations, students received a cup of shaved ice and/or a dress-out day.

This year's One Day All Knights included a series of videos featuring four seniors who served as anchors or reporters. The reporters interviewed students on aspects of O'Connell that are enhanced by the Knight Fund, including campus ministry, STEM classes, fine arts, world languages, career and life skill development, and athletics. You can view the results of this year's One Day All Knights and watch all the videos at [bishopoconnell.org/odak](https://bishopoconnell.org/odak).

# Finding *Joy* in Uganda

A SERVICE REFLECTION BY CLAIRE THOMPSON '25

In 6th grade, I read a book called *"I Will Always Write Back,"* a memoir that tells a true story about a pen pal friendship between Caitlin, an American teenage girl from Pennsylvania, and Martin, a boy from Zimbabwe. Despite the vast differences in their lives, they formed a powerful friendship through letters. Moved by the severe poverty that her pen pal faced, Caitlin and her family began sending money and care packages to help Martin and his family. Her support allowed him to continue his education, and eventually earn a scholarship to study in the U.S. Even though I read this book more than six years ago, I still vividly remember the empathy and compassion I felt toward Martin.

Skip forward to my sophomore year in high school, when I overheard a conversation that my mom and Nanna were having, about sending money to a small school in Uganda. My thoughts went right back to that book I had read a few years earlier. I knew I had to help if I had a chance. For the next year, my mom and I emailed back and forth with a priest named Father Timothy, who ran the school. He helped explain to us what the school needed and how we could help, but communication was slow, given the time difference and the almost impossible access to the internet in Uganda.

The idea of visiting the school slowly took root. My mom and I didn't know

where we would stay, or if it was even safe, but deep down I knew that God would look out for us. In August of my junior year, we were able to take the 13-hour flight and five-hour drive to visit Father Timothy and his school, the Damascus Skills Center. This Center provides local girls with useful skills to thrive in Uganda, such as sewing, haircare, and raising pigs.

I arrived wearing a bright white pair of sneakers, walking into a building with dirt floors and girls who weren't even wearing shoes. I realized how different our worlds were, and I felt selfish showing up with expensive sneakers, to a place where their cost could be life-changing for others. Throughout my trip, I experienced things that a normal teenager living in my hometown would never see. I saw kids walking with torn clothing, no shoes, and covered in dirt. I saw adults living in mud huts, without running water and electricity.

The thing that surprised me the most was the joy and happiness that the people of Uganda displayed, despite their situations. I became close to one girl, Sharron, who welcomed me with open arms. Her story is a hard one—she became a single mother without a proper education or job and would walk five miles each day to Damascus Skills Center. While many people in this situation might become resentful of God, Sharron didn't. She would show up every day with a smile



and warmly greet me. She was always singing and dancing, thanking God for her life. Sharron showed me how to find joy in every situation, knowing that God is always looking out for me. She inspired me to keep pursuing my education and be the best version of myself.

Arriving back in the U.S. after my time in Uganda, things were different to me; I noticed and appreciated stuff that I never even looked at twice before. I started to think of things as "I get to" instead of "I have to." "I get to start the dishwasher" and "I get to go to school."

After visiting Uganda I didn't just become more thankful, I became more driven to support that school. I worked to secure funding for the Damascus Skills Center to ensure the school would be supported through 2025, by reaching out to local churches, founding a U.S. nonprofit, and launching a GoFundMe campaign to further contribute to the school's mission. This experience has changed how I see life—teaching me to stay thankful, stay positive, and grow closer to God.



## BOYS STATE 2025

*Congratulations to Anon Joseph '26, who was elected Attorney General at the 2025 Virginia Boys State held at Radford University in late June. He was one of 10 O'Connell boys chosen to participate in this year's program sponsored by the American Legion.*



# Reaching for the Stars

**A Chat with the Space Station** - Last November, O'Connell students had a live conversation with the International Space Station (ISS) from the school's auditorium, thanks to a connection via Amateur Radio. They took turns posing questions to NASA astronaut Nick Hague aboard the ISS, asking about living conditions, language barriers, and career paths for aspiring astronauts.

Special thanks to former astronaut Dan Tani, who joined the students at O'Connell, providing an introductory presentation and helping prepare for the radio link. The event was made possible by the many hands at the ARISS (Amateur Radio on the International Space Station) organization, including O'Connell engineering teacher, Melissa Pore.

**Zero Gravity Experiments** - O'Connell engineering teacher Melissa Pore (*pictured left*) was one of eight teachers from across the United States selected by Space for Teachers to participate in a microgravity experience this past May. The program allows teachers to conduct student-designed experiments in microgravity on a specially equipped Boeing 727 aircraft that executes a series of parabolic maneuvers in flight. Pore's students have been working on a small satellite prototype in conjunction with CAPE-Twigg's CSLI Mission and the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and this program provided an opportunity to test its deployment behavior under zero gravity conditions. She also was able to bring a few other experiments from her classroom and school clubs—one involving sensors on another mini satellite, and another involving the effects of microgravity on different vegetable seeds and sprouts. Mrs. Pore's students have been able to use the outcomes from this experiment to plot the next steps in their projects.



# Sharing Our Heritage



The **Hispanic Heritage Club** presented a beautiful, celebratory, and informative assembly last September. The program included music, dancing, and games, along with presentations on many regions of the world, and a special video with words of encouragement from O'Connell alumna **Marisel Salazar '07**, food writer and cookbook author celebrating Latin-American cuisine. The keynote speaker was Carlos Felipe Jaramillo, World Bank Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean Region.



The **Black Student Union** joined forces with the **Habesha Student Association** and the **Caribbean Club** in February to celebrate African American, Caribbean, and African culture at an assembly that took students on a symbolic cultural journey across the Black diaspora. Each stop on the itinerary offered a glimpse into the rich food, music, fashion, and traditions that shape our shared heritage. The event included two speakers: former theology teacher David Owens and Dr. Robin Butler, professor at Franklin University and Hampton University, who encouraged students to take pride in where they come from and to carry that pride into how we show up in the world—both individually and as a community.

The **Asian American Student Association** organized last spring's celebration of their heritage under the theme, "Respecting our Roots, Forging our Futures." The assembly explored the various histories of the Asian-Pacific Islander communities represented at Bishop O'Connell, while looking forward to the future that these students will build as they represent their cultures. Highlights included a fashion show, dynamic dance routines, and a special dragon dance.





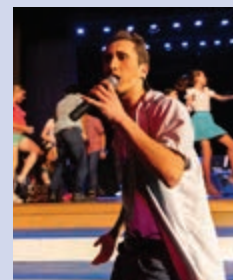
# The Arts Take

It was a year full of wonderfully creative expression from our students in the arts. From large theatre productions and seasonal choir and instrumental concerts, to intimate piano recitals and coffee house performances, there was something for everyone.

On stage, our theatre program wowed audiences with a fun mystery show—“Ghostlight”—in the fall, and a moving musical production of “Jesus Christ Superstar” in the spring. Both veteran actors and newcomers came together to perform in these stellar productions!

Students participating in O’Connell’s music program returned from their competition in New York City this spring with a nice collection of trophies and plaques. The overall program received the Sweepstakes Award and the orchestra, the Adjudicator Award. The concert choir received a Gold rating and 1st place, and junior **Grace McCabe ’26** was recognized as the outstanding individual vocalist, earning the Maestro Award. Congratulations to all participants, and a big thank you to our music faculty and our invaluable parent chaperones.

The icing on the cake was the annual Festival of the Arts in May that had a little bit of everything, from the beautiful art gallery in the school’s main atrium, to the variety of musical performances throughout the building. There is so much talent to be found in these O’Connell halls!





# Center Stage

**JOIN US FOR OUR 2025-2026 SEASON TO  
EXPERIENCE THIS FOR YOURSELF!**

**Oct. 22** - Instrumental Concert

**Oct. 29** - Choral Concert

**Nov. 21-23** - "The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe"

**Dec. 10** - Holiday Choral Concert

**Dec. 16** - Holiday Instrumental Concert

**Mar. 27-29** - "The Sound of Music"

**May 2** - Festival of the Arts

**May 13** - Instrumental Concert

**May 20** - Choral Concert

[BISHOPOCONNELL.ORG/THE-ARTS](http://BISHOPOCONNELL.ORG/THE-ARTS)



# Bringing Classical Music to a New Generation



**BY DIOGO FAUST '25 AND  
MICHAEL WEBER '25**

Where most O'Connell students' playlists are filled with the latest pop hits, the school's Symphony Club is taking a different approach. This student-led organization is all about celebrating classical music and connecting it to the school's Catholic values. With teacher-mentor Nathan Giguere to guide it, the club—created to share the beauty of classical music and its deeper connections to faith and culture—has grown into one of the school's most popular extracurricular activities.

The club organizes trips to top-notch performances in the Washington area, including the Kennedy Center and

Strathmore Hall, to give students a chance to experience these powerful works firsthand. Giguere, who also teaches physics, linear algebra, multivariable calculus, and computer science at the school, sees classical music as a way to nurture values like patience, wonder, and reflection, as well as share his love for the genre, which he recognized at a very young age.

"Seeing my AP Physics students smile and silently gesture to me at the opening of Jean Sibelius's Symphony No. 5 has become one of my most memorable concert experiences," Giguere said. "They immediately recognized the bucolic opening horn solo as the intro music I use for my physics lecture videos."

Last year's Symphony Club attended some incredible performances. At Strathmore Hall, they heard Béla Bartók's "Concerto for Orchestra," a piece that blends folk traditions with rich orchestral sounds. The group also enjoyed Maurice Ravel's "Piano Concerto in G Major," with its lively jazz influences and emotional slow movement. Another highlight was a tuba concerto, which showcased the often overlooked instrument in a whole new light. Another outing took them to hear Gustav Holst's "The Planets," a dramatic orchestral suite that brings each planet to life with bold imagery and sound.

"I decided to join the Symphony Club as I wanted to see Sibelius' 5th Symphony performed live," said **Roshan James '26**. "Honestly, before this school year, I was never really into classical music, and I was more drawn toward other genres."

What started as an idea of a small group of seniors has grown into an active club with many members, and more importantly, it has gained the love and support of the larger O'Connell community. One of the club's goals is to make classical music more accessible to students, particularly to those who have little or no background in classical music. By offering discounted tickets and arranging carpools, they've removed many of the barriers that might keep teens from attending live performances.

## "HABEMUS PAPAM!"

*May 8, 2025 - It was with great joy that our students were able to gather as a school community in the auditorium to watch the introduction and first Papal address of the 266th successor of Saint Peter, Pope Leo XIV!*



## SOFTBALL IN THE SPOTLIGHT

BY DAVE FACINOLI

Having a new head coach made for a bit of uncertainty for the O'Connell softball team entering the 2025 spring high-school season. In the end, any concern turned out just fine and a non-factor as the talented Knights finished with yet another normal championship campaign.



Just as the previous 12 seasons concluded, the year ended with the Knights winning a 13th straight Division I private school state tournament title. The state crown was O'Connell's 29th in program history.

Prior to that competition, the Knights won the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference (WCAC) tourney for the fourth year in a row and 27th time overall. To boot, the Knights finished the 2025 campaign undefeated for the third season in a row, this time with a 20-0 mark.

By winning the state championship, O'Connell extended two long winning streaks: the squad has won 75 straight games over four seasons—a Virginia state high school record for public and private school teams—plus they have a winning streak of 39 straight state tourney contests over those 13 years.

Also, the Knights compiled an 85-1 overall record the past four seasons and have won 20 or more games in a season for 30 straight campaigns, not including the two shortened COVID years.

"It was good for the seniors and the whole team to win this again," first-year O'Connell head coach Tony Uccellini said about the state championship.

Uccellini, known as "Coach T" to his players, had been an assistant coach with the Knights the previous six seasons. So he was quite familiar with the program

and the players when the 2025 season began.

"There is not much like O'Connell softball," Uccellini said when hired as the new coach. "We want to continue the tradition."

And that's certainly what happened.

Top-seeded O'Connell finished 3-0 in the 2025 state tournament. The Knights nipped the second-seeded St. Catherine's Saints of Richmond, 1-0, in the title game at the Dinwiddie Sports Complex near Petersburg, Va. O'Connell topped the fourth-seeded St. Paul VI Catholic Panthers, 13-4, in the semifinals and blanked the eighth seed St. Gertrude Gators of Richmond, 15-0, in the first round.

In the state final, right-hander **Bri Lencz '25** pitched a complete-game, 99-pitch three-hitter. She struck out nine and walked one. O'Connell had seven hits and scored the winning run in the bottom of the sixth when **Emma Prykanowski '25** doubled, moved to third on a sacrifice bunt from **Gigi Payne '26**, and then scored on **Abby Bond's '25** two-out line drive single to right field. Bond had three hits in the win. Other hits went to Lencz, **M.J. Melvin '27** and **Ari Clark '25**.



home runs and a double. Bond, along with teammates Lencz and Clark, were chosen first-team Division I All-State, with **Callie Lissenden '26** making second team. Melvin was named as the Co-Player of the Year. Coach T was named Coach of the Year.

In the WCAC tournament final, top-seed O'Connell defeated No. 2 seed St. Mary's Ryken, 6-3, after building a 4-0 lead. Payne, Clark, Melvin and Lencz all had



two hits. Lencz pitched five innings, allowing three hits, two earned runs with five strikeouts and no walks. **Annie Van Dyck '27** pitched the final two frames, yielding two hits.

Defensively, O'Connell did not make an error, with the infielders recording 13

ground-ball outs, including a double play. Melvin at shortstop, **Ella Fletcher '26** at third, and Callie Lissenden at second each had multiple assists with no errors on ground-ball outs. Center fielder and courtesy runner, **Lucy Hensler '25**, scored a run and **Mari Gagliano '27** and **Lucy Jorjani '27** stole bases. O'Connell was 3-0 in the tournament, with shutout wins in the quarterfinals and semifinals.

Lencz, Melvin, Bond and Prykanowski were chosen first team All-WCAC. Clark was named to the second team, and Lissenden, Fletcher and Van Dyck received honorable mention.



For this season, Bond batted .603 with 38 hits, 33 RBI, six home runs and nine doubles. Those numbers were all team highs. She plans to play college softball in 2026 at Gettysburg College, Lencz at George Mason University, Clark at Gannon University, Prykanowski at Dickinson College and Hensler at Sewanee: The University of The South.

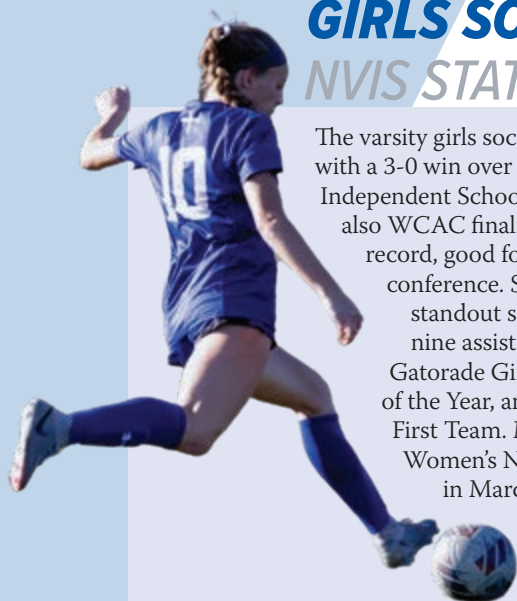
"This year has been an incredible experience, not just because we were able to win the conference and state titles, but because of the families, staff, and this school community—from people coming to games, words of encouragement, and just knowing we had the full support of O'Connell behind us," Uccellini said. "There's no place like Bishop O'Connell High School, and I'm honored to be a coach here."

## GIRLS SOCCER— NVIS STATE CHAMPIONS

The varsity girls soccer team capped off an impressive season with a 3-0 win over St. Paul VI to claim the Northern Virginia Independent School state championship. The Knights were also WCAC finalists and finished the season with a 16-2-3 record, good for a first place regular season finish in the conference. Sophomore **Audrey McKeen '27** had a standout season, scoring 37 goals and passing for nine assists. She was honored as the 2025 Virginia Gatorade Girls Soccer Player of the Year, WCAC Player of the Year, and named to *The Washington Post* All-Met First Team. McKeen also represented the U-17 U.S. Women's National Team at the CONCACAF Cup in March.

Congratulations as well to Coach Alberto Starace, who was named the 2024 WCAC Girls Soccer Coach of the Year and will be inducted into both the Arlington Sports

Hall of Fame and the Bishop O'Connell Athletic Hall of Fame in the fall.



## FIELD HOCKEY

O'Connell's 2024 field hockey season broke new ground for the school and for this sport in our area. With an overall record of 16-5 and an undefeated record in WCAC regular season play, it was the winningest season in school history.

Led by captains **Hailey Flick '25** (Longwood commit), **Madeline Sullivan '25** (Davidson commit), and **Jordan Hardenburgh '25**, the Knights were finalists at the WCAC championship and VISAA state title games. Five players were named to the WCAC First Team, three to the VISAA All-State Team, and three to *The Washington Post's* All-Met Team.

Over the season, the team scored 65 goals and allowed only 14 goals scored against. They were ranked #12 in the Mid-Atlantic, qualifying for the National High School Invitational, and were recognized by the NFHCA as the school with the second highest number of All-Academic Players in the country.

Head Coach Megan Sullivan, who was named WCAC Field Hockey Coach of the Year, is most proud that the team tied with three other schools in the country for the most seniors qualifying for the "Senior Impact Team." For a senior player to qualify, she must be a varsity player with a certain number of athletic achievements (i.e. awards, captain, game winning goal, etc.), a set standard of academic achievements (3.7 GPA or higher), and a proven record of community service over her high school career.



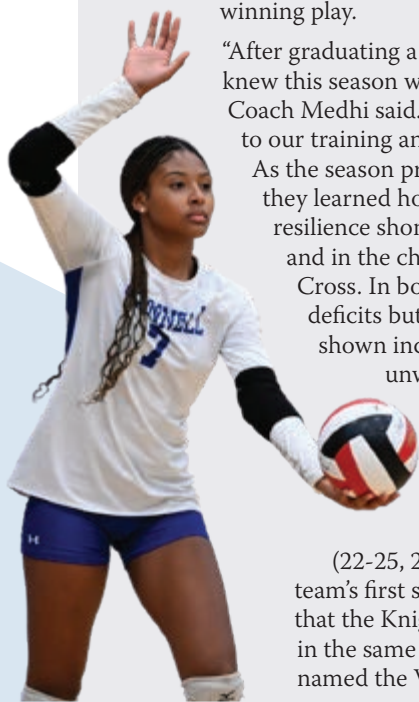
## CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON FOR VOLLEYBALL

A thunderous match-winning spike from Bishop O'Connell senior **Jocelyn Pye '25** was the exclamation point on an incredible comeback to defeat the Academy of the Holy Cross in the WCAC Championship game on Nov. 3 at Dufour Center at Catholic University. Down 11 points earlier in the fourth set, the Knights roared back to win the match 27-25, 21-25, 25-11, 27-25.

Behind the leadership of Coach Mehdi El Alaoui, the team never wavered in their confidence and substitutes were made to help inspire the comeback. Phenomenal teamwork and attacking play led by **Macie Murray '27** helped bring the Knights back into the fourth set, while Pye (Johns Hopkins commit) delivered the title-winning play.

"After graduating a large group of seniors last year, we knew this season would require a different approach," Coach Medhi said. "Our new players needed to adapt to our training and build strong bonds as a team. As the season progressed, their hard work paid off; they learned how to compete and win. The team's resilience shone in the semifinal against St. John's and in the championship match against Holy Cross. In both games, we faced significant deficits but battled back to win. This team has shown incredible belief in each other and an unwavering commitment to play until the final whistle."

Following the WCAC Championship, the Knights won the VISAA Division 1 championship tournament, defeating Flint Hill 3-2 (22-25, 25-20, 23-25, 25-18, 15-6). This was the team's first state titlesince 2017 and the first time that the Knights won the league and state titles in the same season. Coach Mehdi El Alaoui was named the VISAA Division 1 Coach of the Year.

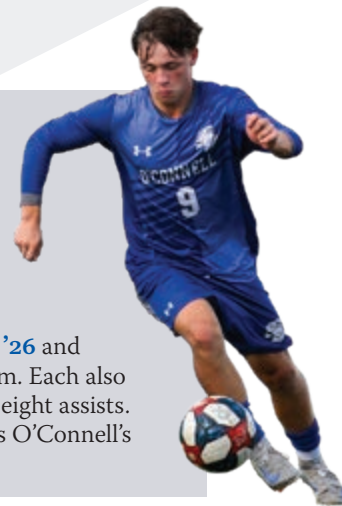


## BOYS SOCCER

The varsity boys soccer team had one of its finest seasons in years. The Knights finished with a 17-5 record, the most wins in a season in head coach Chris Jennings's 13 years at the helm. The team had eight shutouts and reached the tournament semifinals of both the WCAC and Division I state competitions.

The Knights defeated St. John's in the WCAC quarterfinals in penalty kicks then fell to DeMatha 2-0 in the semifinals. In the VISAA Division 1 tournament, they defeated the No. 11 seed Woodberry Forest and No. 3 seed Collegiate.

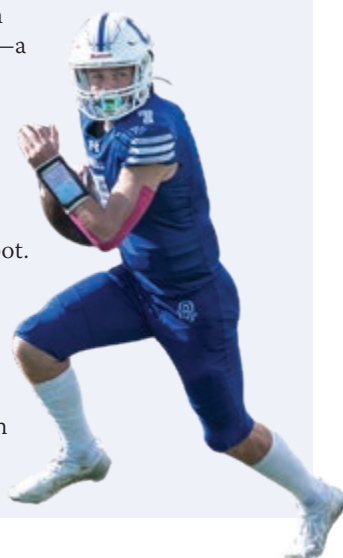
O'Connell was led by three players chosen as Division I all-state and All-WCAC. **Sullivan Carter '26** and **Gabriel Jimenez '25** (Marymount commit) made first team and **Zayden Bediako '27** second team. Each also made first-team all-WCAC along with **Peter Boniface '25**, who led the team in goals with 20 and eight assists. Coach Jennings was named the WCAC Coach of the Year. He has 129 victories in his 13 seasons as O'Connell's coach and the Knights have qualified for the state tournament in all of his 13 seasons.



## FOOTBALL

The 2024 football season for the O'Connell Knights was defined by resiliency, according to head coach Todd Sabatino. The team started strong but faced several narrow defeats. Despite the setbacks, the Knights never wavered and always kept fighting. A high water mark of the season was the convincing win over St. John Paul the Great, sparking a stretch of the team's best football of the season against St. Mary's Ryken and Archbishop Carroll.

The highlight of the season came in Week 9 against rival Bishop Ireton—a win-or-go-home game for a WCAC playoff berth. Led by the hard-nosed running of senior **Chris Connolly '25** and a game-clinching interception by captain **Joseph Williams '25**, the Knights secured the victory and a playoff spot. Though the season ended with a loss the following weekend to the defending WCAC champions, the strong finish fueled the offseason. The 2025 Knights are determined to build on last season's momentum and carry that same resiliency into the upcoming year.



## SWIM AND DIVE—NOVA CATHOLIC CHAMPIONS

O'Connell's swim and dive team capped off a successful season, winning both the boys and girls NoVa Catholic titles, with **Paul Mullen '26** and the boys 400 free relay breaking meet records. The teams finished fifth out of 44 teams at the National Catholic Swimming and Diving Championships at Loyola University Maryland in Baltimore, and earned third place at the VISAA meet. **Rai Detten '28** was a standout, taking first place for boys diving at Nationals, the VISAA Division 1 state meet, and second place at the WCAC Championship. As icing on the cake, seven O'Connell seniors were named 2025 NISCA Academic All-Americans.



## SPECIAL OLYMPICS



The Special Olympics teams had an awesome year competing in several sports. Our students receiving expanded services participated in Special Olympics soccer, basketball, and track and field. The Special Olympics soccer team played against various local teams and had its first on-campus intra-team scrimmage in October. In March, we had our first annual March Madness Special Olympics basketball tournament. We hosted Paul VI, Oakton High School, and the Pulley Center, and it was a showcase of amazing teamwork, determination, and sportsmanship. In May, our students had a Special Olympics track exhibition.

## SWIM-A-THON FOR SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The O'Connell swim and dive team organized a Swim-A-Thon to benefit Special Olympics. With several alumni swimmers coming back for this event, the team exceeded their fundraising goals, raising over \$16,000 for the local Area 26 Special Olympics chapter. Two O'Connell swimmers, **Lily Ramchand '26** and **Catherine Ingersoll '26**, are also active participants in the Area 26 chapter. #GoKnights



## BOYS **BASKETBALL**— BEACH BALL CLASSIC CHAMPIONS

The boys basketball program wrapped up their season ranked #30 in the national rankings. In a close game that went into overtime, they narrowly lost the state championship title to a talented team from the Highland School of Warrenton, Va. Earlier in the season, the Knights prevailed as champions at the Beach Ball Classic in Myrtle Beach, S.C., and at the Quincy Shootout in Quincy, Ill.

"This team had a special esprit de corps and a team-first mentality," said head coach Joe Wootten. "They were a great group to coach, overcoming injuries and adversity to finish strong in the state tournament!"



## GIRLS **BASKETBALL**—TAMPA CHAMPIONS

Under first year head coach Kosa So, the girls basketball team spent this season rebuilding. In December, the Knights defeated Mater Lakes (FL) 63-59 to win the Girls American division title at the Holiday Basketball Classic of The Palm Beaches.



## GIRLS **ICE HOCKEY**

Our girls ice hockey team was promoted to the MAGHL AA division for their second season as a varsity team and enjoyed success on the ice, ending the season with a 9-11 record and as WCAC finalists for the second year in a row.

**Lauren Smith '28** led the team in scoring with 35 points



## BOYS **TENNIS**

"The O'Connell boys varsity tennis team had a fulfilling and memorable spring season," said Head Coach Eric Parson. "Whether winning or losing, we approached every match with purpose and sportsmanship. Our

focus was on constant improvement, giving our all against every opponent, and embracing the lessons that came with each result. I truly believe we accomplished those objectives this season, and I have much admiration and respect for this team."

## BOYS **ICE HOCKEY**

Meet Coach Jim Wisniewski, the Knights' new head coach for boys ice hockey. Coach Wisniewski developed a love for the game as a youth hockey player in the frozen tundra of Western New York, and has been involved with youth sports for more than 35 years, coaching at the high school and club levels. Once a high school mathematics teacher, Coach Wisniewski now works in the software industry, while continuing to coach teams at Medstar Capitals Iceplex. He is a USA Hockey Level 4 Certified Coach and an active USA Hockey Certified Level 4 referee.

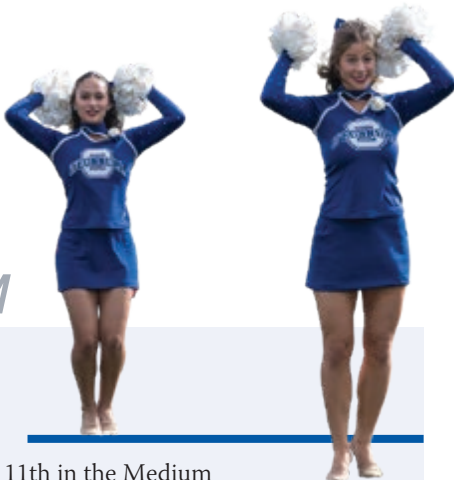
"We've had some opportunities this summer to get O'Connell players out on the ice to skate together," said Coach Wisniewski. "This season is going to be very exciting for the players and fans alike. Everyone should look forward to seeing some fast-paced, aggressive hockey this year, and I know these boys will bring much excitement to the game!"



## ROYALETTE DANCE TEAM

Bishop O'Connell's dance team is nationally ranked! The Royallettes placed 9th in the Large Varsity Team Performance division and 11th in the Medium Varsity Game Day competition at the Dance Team Union National Championship in Orlando, Fla. earlier this year. The team is coached by **Chrissy Salvador '95**, with help from **Haley Breaux '18**, **Jada Fields '17**, and **Kelsey Timmerberg '04**, who are all part of a 44-year tradition at O'Connell.

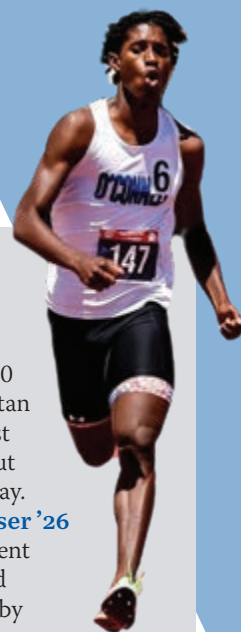
"The Royallettes make it a priority to represent O'Connell as ambassadors," said Coach Chrissy. "We strive to continue this team's legacy and make our school community and alumni proud."



## O'CONNELL TRACK TEAM BREAKS RECORDS

The Bishop O'Connell track and field team traveled to Alexandria on May 3 to compete at the Draper Invitational at St. Stephen's and St. Agnes School, a major late-season meet that included 30 teams from the Washington metropolitan area. Not only did the girls finish in first place and the boys in a close second, but four school records were broken that day. In the boys 200-meter race, **Cam Bowser '26** finished in 21.05 seconds to win the event and take down a more than 40-year-old O'Connell record of 21.3 seconds held by NFL great **Eric Metcalf '85**. Bowser also nipped Metcalf's record in the 400-meter race (47.7), with a time of 47.66 seconds. But those weren't the only O'Connell records to be broken that day. Bowser was the anchor on the boys 4x400 relay—with teammates **Johnny O'Donnell '27**, **Luke Collin '26**, and **Avery Mosley '25**—who together ran the race in 3:20.39 to break the record of 3:23.06 set in 2023 (from a team that included Johnny's older brother **Nick O'Donnell '23**). Not to be outdone by the boys, the girls 4x400 relay team of **Madison Sullivan '25**, **Meegan Zonavetch '28**, **Lauren Smith '28**, and **Isa Rodriguez '27** ran a 4:06.49, beating the school record set last year (4:09.52).

Five athletes qualified and competed at the New Balance Nationals in Philadelphia, and 15 competed at the Adidas Nationals in Greensboro, N.C. in June.



## GIRLS TENNIS

The O'Connell girls tennis team finished their season strong with great results at the WCAC Championship Tournament. Congratulations to **Ava Fumich '28**, the WCAC champion at the #5 singles, and to our #2 doubles (**Campbell Costello '27** and **Helena Munoz '27**) and #3 doubles (**Delfina Rampoldi '25** and **Chloe Magielnicki '27**), who finished as runners up. This is a young team with exciting prospects for the coming year.



## CROSS COUNTRY

The Knights cross country team welcomed a promising group of young runners to their lineup in 2024, including freshman **Grace Fumich '28** (O'Connell's #1 runner in all meets), **Lauren Smith '28**, **Peter Fleenor '28**, **Ryan Street '28**, **Kyle Jayme '28**, and **Rai Detten '28**. These runners complemented a solid core of returning upperclass runners, including **Jayse Breczynski '27**, **Lance Jayme '26**, and **Delaney Park '25**. The team qualified for (and ran very well in) the Elite Division at the Virginia Showcase in Mechanicsville. Based on the predominance of young runners on the 2024 team, the O'Connell cross country team is well positioned for a strong 2025 season.



## CHEERLEADING

The Bishop O'Connell cheer team brought great spirit and energy to football games, basketball games, and pep rallies last year, and the team hopes to carry on this tradition in the upcoming school year. With new coaching staff and a focus on team bonding and hard work, the team is committed to building a strong foundation and mastering technique, and they are looking forward to showcasing their progress at upcoming pep rallies and games.

"This team has become a true family—supportive, hardworking, and driven," said Coach Madison Strano. "Every practice, they show up ready to push one another and grow together. With such incredible energy and dedication, I know this season will be something special."



## BOYS LACROSSE



New boys lacrosse head coach Jason Shatarsky helped lead the program to a bit of a resurgence, winning nine games and, for the first time in a few years, receiving ranked votes in VISAA. "The team truly became one and worked together to be the best version of themselves," said Coach Shatarsky. "This next year the team looks to take another step towards qualifying for the Virginia state tournament."

## GIRLS LACROSSE



**Caitlin Musolino '26** was named to *The Washington Post* All-Met team.

## WRESTLING



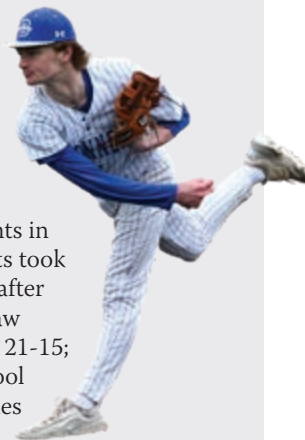
The Knights wrestling team had a strong season with multiple dual meet wins. This growing program took second place at the 47th Annual Holiday Classic at St. Stephens and St. Agnes School in Alexandria, Va. and placed third at the McLean Highlander Duals. Standouts included **Peyton Friedman '28**, who was a VISAA Division 1 finalist and National Prep Qualifier, and **Peter Bilaniuk '25** and **Sam Casolini '25**, both VISAA Division 1 third place winners and National Prep Qualifiers. Seven wrestlers earned VISAA All-State recognition and five wrestlers were National Prep Qualifiers, plus one National Prep alternate.

## BASEBALL WINS SPRING TOURNAMENT

The Bishop O'Connell baseball team traveled to Myrtle Beach, S.C. during the Easter break to compete in the South Atlantic Bank Invitational, one of the largest baseball tournaments in the U.S. The Knights took the Division 1 title after defeating Waccamaw High School (S.C.), 21-15; Socastee High School (S.C.), 15-4; St. James High School (S.C.), 10-2; and Georgetown High School (S.C.), 12-8.

To win the overall tournament crown, they prevailed, 9-5, over the Division 2 champion, Audubon High School (N.J.). Over the five days, the team went 5-0, scoring 69 runs in those five games, while fitting in some team bonding time in the area as well. **Truman Leckey '25** was named MVP of the tournament.

Under first-year head coach Chris Berset, the varsity baseball team had a strong season, finishing with a 20-5 record and as WCAC and VISAA tournament quarterfinalists.



## GOLF

The boys and girls golf programs had strong seasons under new leadership for both programs, Coach Tyler Cole for the boys and Coach Eric Ruff for the girls. The varsity boys team were runners-up at the WCAC Championship and qualified as a team to play at the VISAA Division 1 Championship. The girls team placed third at the Washington Metro Private School Girls' Golf Invitational, with **Laya Rizk '25** the individual runner-up, and also qualified as a team to play at the VISAA Division 1 Championship, placing fifth. **Logan Reilly '25** was named *The Washington Post* All-Met Player of the Year after a stellar high school career. The Auburn commit was runner-up at the WCAC Championship tournament and placed fifth at the VISAA Division 1 Championship tournament. **Ciara McLaughlin '25** (St. Francis commit) was named MVP for the season, **Laya Rizk '25** was named Most Outstanding Player, and the Coaches Award was awarded to **Mary Maney '27**.





## ARLINGTON BETTER SPORTS

Congratulations to our 2025 Better Sports Club of Arlington awardees! **Timothy Adye '25** was named Swim & Dive Sportsman of the Year, **Madi Sullivan '25** the Field Hockey Sportswoman of the Year, and **Jocelyn Pye '25** the Volleyball Sportswoman of the Year.

## SAILING

The Knights fielded a sailing team in cooperation with DC Sail, participating in both fall and spring area regattas. "This past season has been a turning point for our school's sailing team," said captain **Anna Grace Gutfleish '27**. "We've made real progress—learning new skills, building confidence on the water, and becoming stronger as a team. We combatted a lot of challenges, and we're proud of how far we've come and excited to keep that momentum going. We're looking forward to continuing to grow—not just as sailors, but as a team and a program."



## ROWING

The boys and girls rowing programs had strong seasons, culminating with the boys senior 4+ and girls senior 4+ boat racing at the Stotesbury Cup and SRAA Nationals regatta.

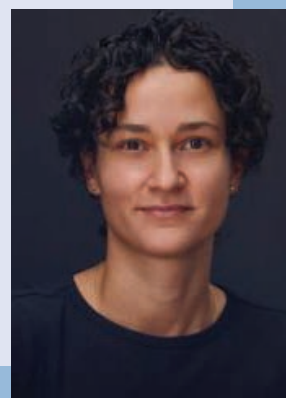
# ARLINGTON SPORTS HALL OF FAME TO INDUCT TWO O'CONNELL STANDOUTS

The Arlington Sports Hall of Fame (ASHOF) will welcome two new Honored Members into its ranks. O'Connell alumna **Gabriella "Kika" Toulouse '07** and long-time girls soccer coach, **Alberto Starace**, will be formally recognized at the 2025 Annual Induction Dinner, presented in partnership with the Better Sports Club of Arlington. The celebration will take place on October 8, 2025, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Arlington.

**Coach Starace** is in his 41st year as head coach of the girls soccer program at O'Connell. He has led his team to 11 WCAC titles, and has reached the tournament finals 23 times. In 2004, his Knights were named national champions, being ranked #1 at the end of their season. Since the establishment of the Northern Virginia Independent Schools (NVIS) state tournament, his teams have earned the title three times. He has a career record of 540-135-71, and has been named WCAC Coach of the Year nine times and Regional Coach of the Year four times. In 1994 he was named National Coach of the Year.



**Kika Toulouse** was a four-year starter (2003–2007) on the girls soccer team, and a member of the 2004 national championship team. She earned Second Team All-Met honors from *The Washington Post* in 2006 and was a three-time All-Conference selection. Kika went on to start regularly at the University of Virginia during her junior and senior years. She played for the U.S. U-23 Women's National Team (2011–2012) and competed professionally through 2014, drafted by the Washington Spirit in the inaugural NWSL season.





# 50th Superdance

BY SAMANTHA STEWART, LUKE MASRI,  
NORA BRUEN, AND WILLIAM HEADLEY  
(2024-2025 SCA EXECUTIVE BOARD)

This past March, O'Connell students celebrated the 50th Superdance with a "Back to the Future" theme, titled, "Back to the Cure." Just as it has every year, the event honors the memory of **Brenda '77** and **Maura '76 O'Donnell**, raising awareness and funds to support efforts to find a cure for Cystic Fibrosis (CF). Even as new treatments are developed that have proven successful for some, O'Connell students continue to dance in the hopes of finding a treatment that works for all.

"Superdance is an important O'Connell tradition," said Meghan Lonergan, student council moderator. "As a community, we are committed to helping find a cure for cystic fibrosis no matter how long it takes, and we are so grateful to all in the community who have been supporting our efforts over the past 50 years."

The 50-year milestone of this O'Connell tradition brought an increase in alumni participation, reaching across all decades. More than 450 alumni participated in Superdance through donations of time and treasure. As a very special appearance for this year's event, O'Connell alumnus, **Pat McGee '91** and his Pat McGee Band, stopped by to perform for the students and share his personal memories of Superdance.



In the end, O'Connell students received donations from almost 4,500 unique donors, showcasing their commitment to the cause. Our student council executive board set an initial fundraising goal of \$150,000, but thanks to the hard work of the student body and the generosity of the larger O'Connell community, Superdance 50 raised more than \$275,000, surpassing the \$200,000 mark for only the third time in the school's history.

"Superdance is a really fun way to get involved at O'Connell," said [Andrew Fthenos '25](#). "It is a reminder of the strength in community and the importance of being part of something bigger than yourself."



*While the students were away during the summer months, projects were undertaken to enhance the beauty, functionality, and Catholic identity of our campus.*

## St. Joseph Fund Projects Enhance our Campus

The St. Joseph Fund was established to support the refurbishment, repair, and installation of faith symbols across our campus. Thanks to the generosity of our donors, we continue to enhance our school with visible expressions of our Catholic identity. The latest project—soon to grace the beautiful Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel—involves the installation of three stained glass panels that will replace the original clear glass windows behind the altar. The left panel will depict the Blessed Mother, with a special focus on her Immaculate Heart; the right panel will feature St. John the Beloved gazing upward; and the center panel, positioned directly behind the crucifix, will be a decorative design that unifies the three in artistic harmony. These additions will elevate the sacred atmosphere of the IHM Chapel, the spiritual heart of our school and a cornerstone of Bishop O'Connell's mission as a faith-filled learning community, rooted in service and excellence.



## *Honor a Legacy in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel*



Dedicate a pew in our beautiful Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel in honor or memory of a beloved IHM Sister, teacher, coach, or family member.

This is a meaningful opportunity to celebrate your family's O'Connell legacy while paying tribute to the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, who have faithfully served our students since the school's founding.

With only 30 pews available, now is the time to take part in this special and limited opportunity. Each pew dedication is \$10,000\*, with proceeds supporting an endowment for the long-term preservation and maintenance of our cherished chapel.

All donors will be recognized on a permanent plaque at the chapel entrance, commemorating their generous commitment to DJO community.

For more information, contact Director of Advancement Kimberly Aubry at [kaubry@bishopoconnell.org](mailto:kaubry@bishopoconnell.org) or 703-237-1447.

*\*Payable as a one-time gift or up to a five-year pledge.*

## Auditorium is Refreshed

When students returned from summer break in August, they were welcomed by exciting transformations in the auditorium—a cherished space where the entire school community comes together for Masses, assemblies, performances, and concerts. Over the summer, this beloved venue received a much-needed renovation. Highlights include a beautifully crafted custom stage apron, fresh paint on the walls, columns, balcony, ceiling, and stage, as well as the addition of carefully curated artwork that brings new energy and harmony to the space. Significant upgrades to the lighting, sound, and rigging systems are scheduled for later this year.



## Jacobs Field Grandstand

The Spring '25 baseball season marked the debut of our brand-new grandstand—complete with a press box and upgraded seating. This modern addition offers spectators an elevated view of the entire field, giving our game announcers in the press box the perfect vantage point for delivering clear and engaging play-by-play commentary. This exciting enhancement to our athletic facilities was made possible through the generous support of alumni [Stephan Fay '71](#) and [Ann Marie Morris Fay '71](#).

## McMurtrie Field Gets a New Surface

Our new turf field isn't just a stunning upgrade—it's a state-of-the-art space that combines top-of-the-line elements with visual pizzazz, designed to support top performance and ensure the health and safety of our student-athletes. McMurtrie Field serves hundreds of students each year, from our Physical Education classes to our sports teams. But more than that, it's a place where our community comes together. From the excitement of Homecoming games to the beauty and reverence of the Living Rosary, our rectangular field is home to some of the school's most cherished traditions. This upgrade is a purposeful reflection of our commitment to excellence, school spirit, and the vibrant student experience that makes O'Connell a truly special place, also rated the top Catholic high school in Virginia (according to *Niche.com*).



# Sponsorship Opportunities

## It's not the benefits. It's the Impact!

*Your Guide to Partnering with O'Connell*

*Sponsorships make an impact on all of the O'Connell programs and people who bring out the best in each DJO Knight!*

MISSION-DRIVEN TEACHERS

SMALL CLASS SIZES

CHALLENGING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

ROBUST CAMPUS MINISTRY  
& RETREAT PROGRAMS

EXCELLENCE THROUGH ATHLETICS

WORLD-CLASS PERFORMANCES ON STAGE

CLUBS, ACTIVITIES, AND  
EXTRACURRICULARS

CAMPUS IMPROVEMENTS  
AND MAINTENANCE

*We appreciate our high-level partnerships  
with the following organizations:*



KOONS AUTOMOTIVE



BATTLEFIELD AUTOMOTIVE



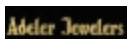
CAFFI SERVICES



ESPINA PAVING



FLIK



ADELER JEWELERS



ALAIR HOMES



DOUBLE EAGLE TITLE

YOU can make an extraordinary difference in the lives of O'Connell students by becoming a Premium Sponsor. Three levels are available! Position your brand squarely in front of some of O'Connell's most active and ardent supporters, making an impact that touches virtually every corner of the school and providing the funding our teachers and coaches need to promote the pursuit of excellence in the classroom and on the field.

### Premium Sponsors Benefits

- ★ **Visibility online and in person in front of the entire school community (19,000+ individuals and businesses)**
- ★ **Custom banner on McMurtrie Field**
- ★ **Digital ads with links to your preferred landing page**
- ★ **Networking opportunities at O'Connell's signature events**
- ★ **Highlights on the school's social media pages**
- ★ **Prime positioning within our DJO Means Business online business directory**

***Sure... Golf Tournament and Gala sponsorships may be purchased individually, but ONLY Premium Sponsors receive a branded banner inside the athletic stadium.***

**Customize a Premium Sponsorship today at [bishopoconnell.org/sponsorships](http://bishopoconnell.org/sponsorships) or by calling Laura Friel at 703-237-1446.**

Bishop O'Connell High School is an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Portions of your sponsorship may be tax-deductible. Please consult your tax advisor for details.

## 2024 Alumni Reunion Recaps



▲ The **Classes of 1961 and 1962** held a joint reunion in September 2024. Festivities kicked off on September 20 with a “meet and greet” at the Knights of Columbus in Arlington. The following day, classmates gathered for Mass in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at O’Connell, followed by lunch and a celebratory dinner at Maggiano’s in Tysons.

▼ The **Class of 1964** celebrated their 60-year reunion during Homecoming Weekend, October 24-27. Events included a Friday night “meet and greet” at the Hilton Garden Inn in Falls Church, attendance at the O’Connell Homecoming football game on Saturday, and Mass on Sunday at Saint James Catholic Church.



▲ The **Class of 1965** held their annual gathering on September 28 with an afternoon get-together at Samuel Beckett’s Irish Pub in Arlington.



▲ The **Class of 1969** gathered at O’Connell on August 10, 2024, to celebrate their 55-year reunion. The evening was filled with nostalgia, good food and drink, music, and plenty of opportunities to reconnect and reminisce with classmates.

The **Class of 1971** hosted a special ‘The Class of ’71 Turns 71’ reunion celebration on October 4. The day kicked off with a scramble golf outing at Herndon Centennial Golf Course and concluded with an evening gathering at Ireland’s Four Provinces in Falls Church.

The **Class of 1974** commemorated their 50-year reunion the weekend of October 11-13. The celebration began on Friday evening with a gathering at Overlee Pool in Arlington. It continued on Saturday night with a buffet dinner, music, and dancing at Washington Golf and Country Club, concluding with a Sunday Mass in the Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel at O'Connell.



▲ The **Class of 1984** celebrated their 40-year reunion on October 26 at Kilroy's in Springfield. During the Homecoming football game that same day, the 1984 Hall of Fame Knights football team was honored at halftime for the 40th anniversary of their state championship win.

▼ The **Class of 1994** gathered for their 30-year reunion on October 26 at Solace Outpost in Falls Church, where they enjoyed an evening of reconnecting with classmates.



▲ The **Class of 1999** celebrated their 25-year reunion on October 26 at The Board Room Game Bar and Brewery in Arlington.

▼ The **Class of 2004** held their 20-year reunion on October 19 at Starr Hill Tysons Brewpub in Tysons.



The **Class of 2019** gathered to celebrate their 5-year reunion on August 16 at Bronson Bierhall in Arlington.



## ***HOMECOMING 2025!***

Please join your fellow alumni at the  
**2025 Homecoming Football Game on October 11, 2025,**  
**vs. the Bishop Ireton Cardinals at 12:30 p.m.**

Join us at the homecoming tent for a BBQ, games, and prizes.  
Help cheer our Knights to victory!



## Upcoming Alumni Reunions



- The **Class of 1965** is thrilled to announce plans for their 60-year reunion this fall. Classmates will gather for a special evening of reminiscing and reconnecting at the 'DJO65 60th Reunion Dinner' on Sunday, October 12, from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. at Union Street Public House, located at 121 South Union Street in Old Town Alexandria. All members of the Class of 1965 are warmly invited to attend this milestone celebration. For more information or to RSVP, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/DJO65Reunion>.
- The **Class of 1975** is currently planning their 50-year reunion, set for this fall. The celebration will begin on Friday, October 10, with a gathering at the Columbus Club (Knights of Columbus) in Arlington from 6:00 to 10 p.m. The festivities will continue on Saturday, October 11, with the main event at Starr Hill Brewery in Tysons, beginning at 7:30 p.m. and lasting into the evening.
- The **Class of 1985** is gearing up to celebrate their 40-year reunion this fall! Plans are underway for a fun evening at Clare and Don's Beach Shack in Falls Church, on Saturday, October 11, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
- The **Class of 1990** is celebrating their 35-Year Reunion on Friday, Oct. 10, 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at Solace Brewery (Falls Church) and Saturday, Oct. 11, 5:00 p.m. at Columbia Island Marina (Arlington) with free food, drinks, music, and costumes. For more details, join the **DJO Class of 1990 Facebook page** or email [beckymichaelangelo@gmail.com](mailto:beckymichaelangelo@gmail.com).
- The **Class of 1995's** 30-Year Reunion is Saturday, Oct. 11, 2025, 7:00 p.m. until late at P.J. Skidoos (9908 Fairfax Blvd., Fairfax). For details, email [djoknights95@gmail.com](mailto:djoknights95@gmail.com).
- The **Class of 2000** is celebrating their 25-year reunion on October 11 at Lazy Dog (14333 Newbrook Drive in Chantilly) from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m. Tickets are \$35 and include the venue, food, and DJO swag. Kick off the day by cheering on the Knights at the Homecoming Football Game at 12:30 PM. If you have any questions, feel free to contact the reunion committee at [djo2000reunion@gmail.com](mailto:djo2000reunion@gmail.com).
- The **Class of 2005** is excited to celebrate their 20-year reunion on Saturday, October 11, at 6:00 p.m. at Starr Hill Brewery in Tysons.
- The **Class of 2015** 10-year reunion is on Saturday Oct. 25, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. at The Admiral (1 Dupont Cr. NW, Washington, D.C. 20036). Email [alumni@bishopoconnell.org](mailto:alumni@bishopoconnell.org) to RSVP. There is a \$15 cost for this event.
- The **Class of 2020** is happy to share that they have successfully booked their 5-Year Reunion for Friday, November 28 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. at Daniel O'Connell's Irish Bar in Old Town Alexandria.

To get the latest updates on reunions, visit [www.bishopoconnell.org/alumni/upcoming-reunions](http://www.bishopoconnell.org/alumni/upcoming-reunions).

To add your reunion or be placed in touch with current reunion organizers,  
please contact [alumni@bishopoconnell.org](mailto:alumni@bishopoconnell.org).

## Calling classes ending in 6 and 11

2026 is your year to gather, and now is the time to start planning your class reunion!

Does your class or team have a reunion planned? Do you need to reach out to current reunion organizers? Let us know! Please email us at [alumni@bishopoconnell.org](mailto:alumni@bishopoconnell.org).





*Bishop O'Connell  
High School turns  
70 years old in  
September 2027!*

## Call for **YOUR** Memories!

Two of O'Connell's very own veteran teachers, Diane Cerniglia and Patrice Connolly, are publishing a history of the school to help celebrate this milestone anniversary.

The main historical narrative they are developing will be supplemented by YOUR stories—personal memories, anecdotes, and photos showcasing the experiences of O'Connell's beloved alumni, current and past faculty, and the parents of alumni.



Use the link for more information and  
to submit YOUR story by November 1, 2025.

# Celebrating Excellence in the O'Connell Community

Join the Bishop O'Connell community on **Saturday, November 15, 2025**, as we come together to celebrate the achievements of our alumni. The event, which takes place on campus, includes a reception with light refreshments, followed by the formal ceremony in the school auditorium. Tickets are required and can be purchased online through the QR code or at [bishopoconnell.org/25awards](http://bishopoconnell.org/25awards).



Scan here to get your tickets!



## 2025 Alumni Achievement Awards



**Dr. Alberto Ardon '99**

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI AWARD



**Dr. Anna Macedonia '08**

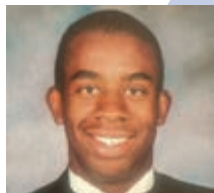
YOUNG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD



**Dennis Dwyer '61**

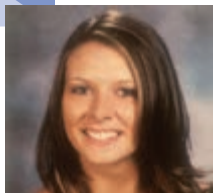
KNIGHTS SERVICE AWARD

## 2025 Athletic Hall of Fame



**Jeremy Trimble '04**

FOOTBALL AND BASKETBALL



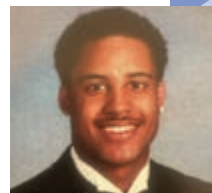
**Kelley Engman '07**

SOFTBALL



**Claire Crutchfield MacMillan '13**

VOLLEYBALL



**Melo Trimble '14**

BASKETBALL



**Alberto Starace**

GIRLS VARSITY SOCCER



**Jim Hayes**

MERITORIOUS SERVICE



2004 BOYS VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

Leave a congratulatory note for your classmates or coaches by scanning this QR code:



**FRONT BOTTOM ROW:** Student Managers: Michael Cresson '05 , Marie Mimiaga '05, Joe Boland '05; **ROW 2:** Athletic Trainer Terri Lynn Wootten, Jeremy Trimble '04, Jason Colenda '06, Wil Johnson '06, Erik Smith '04, Noah Rogers '04, Bryant Majors '05, Assistant Coach Seth Goldberg; **BACK:** Head Coach Joe Wootten, Freddie Stanback '04, Ernie Lomax '04, Tyler Young '06, David Neal '05, Rockwell Moody '06, Marcus Ginyard '05, Assistant Coach Ronald Ginyard Jr., Assistant Coach Jason Donnelly. **NOT PICTURED:** Assistant Coach Garrett O'Donnell.

# You won't want to miss this festive celebration of the O'Connell Community.



- Dinner & Cocktails
- Diamond Raffle
- All-Star Volunteer Awards
- Silent & Live Auctions
- Photo Booth & Dancing
- Prizes & Drawings



Scan for more information.



## Mr. Dwyer '61 Retires After 25 Years

When Bishop O'Connell High School first opened its doors in 1957, there was excitement in the air for that first group of freshmen who crossed the threshold.

Among those students was a young man from St. James

in Falls Church—Dennis Dwyer. He would spend his four years excelling in the classroom and on the football field and baseball diamond, before enrolling at the University of Virginia in 1961, and subsequently entering the business world. But fast forward to the year 2000, and Dwyer was ready to make a career change.

Although he had been involved in

his local parish, Dwyer had a strong desire to pass on his Catholic faith in a high school setting. He took a position at Bishop O'Connell as the director of advancement and alumni relations while studying to earn a certification to teach. He eventually earned a Master of Theological Studies, and in 2005 he transitioned to the theology classroom, where he has taught all grade levels since.

"I feel very blessed to have had the opportunity at O'Connell to answer God's call to teach," Dwyer said. "My 25 years back at this school have been exciting and very satisfying, and I have enjoyed my relationships with my students, and the fellowship of my wonderful colleagues."

His perspectives and connections reach across the full 68-year history of Bishop O'Connell. He can share first-hand observations of how the school settled on "Knights" as the mascot and can help you visualize details of campus construction projects over the years. But what matters most to him is a bit more intangible.

"I hope that I have given my students a strong foundation, and I want them to know the importance of prayer and the Sacraments," he said. "My ultimate hope is that my students have been inspired to hold fast to their faith, having witnessed my certainty of this fundamental truth: God loves each one of us and wants us to be united with Him forever in Heaven."



**Sister Elizabeth A. Goltman, I.H.M. '62**, will celebrate her 60-year Jubilee as a Sister, Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, in 2025—a joyful milestone marking six decades of religious life and service in education. Since 2001, Sister Elizabeth has been

a valued member of the O'Connell faculty in the mathematics department, dedicated to inspiring generations of young minds with academic rigor and unwavering faith. Her 60 years of religious life reflect her commitment to the charism of the IHM Sisters: Love, Creative Hope, and Fidelity.

In August 2025, **Edwin Finney '63** and his wife Daisy were honored with the Benemerenti Medal, given by Pope Leo XIV to members of the laity and clergy for exceptional service to the Catholic Church. Ed and Daisy have been serving meals at Christ House in Alexandria for more than 40 years.

**Sister Catherine Hill, I.H.M. '66** received her 20-year service pin from Bishop Michael Burbidge as a part of the August 19 Opening Mass for Catholic Educators at All Saints Catholic Church in Manassas, Va. Over the last 20 years at O'Connell, Sister taught chemistry, chaired the science department, and then served in the studies office as Dean of Academics.



PHOTO CREDIT: ANNA DONOFRIO, ARLINGTON CATHOLIC HERALD

"It is an honor to continue the legacy of I.H.M. service in our diocese, which dates back over 100 years and has included staffing St James, St. Michael, and St. Thomas More along with our presence at Bishop O'Connell," said Sister Catherine. "Having been a product of Catholic Education at St. Agnes and then at Bishop O'Connell, I can readily identify with all those who have benefited from the many Catholic educators who have served and are now serving our parishes."



In August 2025, **Leo Alonso '69** was honored with the Benemerenti Medal, given by Pope Leo XIV to members of the laity and clergy for exceptional service to the Catholic Church. Leo is the President and Co-Founder of Porto Charities and the 2024 Bishop O'Connell Knights Service Award recipient.



After retiring from clinical practice in 2022, **Dr. H. Joel Schmidt, MD '75**, has remained actively engaged in the medical community, mentoring students and supporting the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation. He has served as a site visitor to CF Care Centers nationwide and as a safety monitor for clinical research trials. In recognition of his continued contributions,

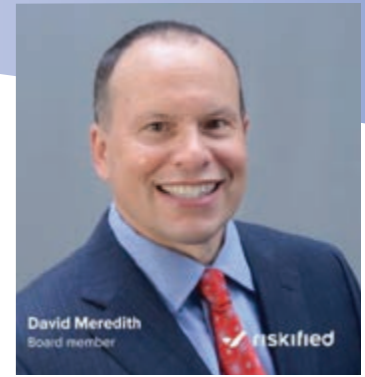
Dr. Schmidt was named Professor Emeritus in the Department of Pediatrics at the VCU School of Medicine in July 2024.

**Joseph Lewis '77**, who taught at Bishop O'Connell from 1986 to 1990 and again from 1995 to 1999, has just published his third book, *Rediscovering the Joy of Children & Family: Why the World's Declining Birth Rate Crisis Can No Longer Be Ignored*. His previous book, *Miracle at the Mission*, received First Honorable Mention for Young Adult Fiction from the Catholic Media Association in 2023.



**Eric Metcalf '85** was inducted into the National High School Football Hall of Fame in Canton, Ohio, on June 13, 2025.

NYSE public company Riskified, a leader in e-commerce fraud and risk intelligence, appointed **David Meredith '89** to its Board of Directors. David has spent three decades serving in senior executive leadership and board director roles across both multi-billion-dollar public companies and private equity-backed technology-focused firms.



**Michelle Stokes Smith '91** retired from the U.S. Army in 2016 after 21 years of distinguished service. Her husband, Charles Smith, followed in her footsteps, retiring in November 2024 after serving 20 years in the Army.

**Krista Woods '91**, the founder and inventor of GloveStix (an odor management solution for athletic gear), served as the Closing Keynote Speaker at the 2025 Women's CEO Summit this fall at the Washington Dulles Airport Marriott.



**Leigh Hansen Marmes '93** has a dedicated passion for educational excellence, recently earning her National Board Certification in Early Adolescent Science. She teaches middle school science in the eAcademy Program for the Oshkosh

Area School District in Wisconsin and is committed to inspiring the next generation of scientists. Leigh is pictured here with her children, Ashley Rodriguez and Brennon Brown.



**Conor Powell '95** produced and directed his first documentary film, *Who Killed Shireen?* In 2025.

**Kelley Milligan Kline**

**'99** was named co-owner of D3: Designs, Data, Decisions, a global market and social science research firm based in Tysons Corner, in October 2024. A longtime executive at D3, Kline will continue in her role as CFO. A Certified Public Accountant with over 20 years of leadership experience, Kline holds a B.S. in Accounting from George Mason University and an MBA in International Finance from Virginia Tech. Since 2012, she has led key strategic and financial operations at D3, a company that provides cutting-edge research solutions to U.S. government agencies.



**Kathryn Moore '02** entered the Poor Clares in 2016 as an aspirant and professed her solemn vows in April 2025 at the Bethlehem Monastery in Barhamsville, Va. She is now known as Sister Chiara Marie of Jesus.

**Mike '05 and Maddy Hugel Laird '05** celebrated their 16th wedding anniversary this past year.



▲ **Marisel Salazar '07** appeared on the *Today* Show in October 2024 to debut her first cookbook, *Latin-ish: More Than 100 Recipes Celebrating American Latino Cuisines*. During the segment, she highlighted a few standout recipes, including Latino Fried Chicken, Yuca Fries with Cilantro Lime Aioli, and Guava Cream Cheese Doughnuts—dishes that reflect her vibrant take on Latin-American flavors and culinary traditions.



◀ **Karen Nirschl Semmes '08** and her husband Ben welcomed the birth of their daughter, Emerson Jane Semmes, born on Mother's Day, May 11, 2025, at Virginia Hospital Center.

► **Rev. Alec Scheuer '09** was ordained to the priesthood during a Mass of Ordination on Saturday, June 28, 2025, at Saint Paul Cathedral in Pittsburgh.



◀ **Vitale Christy '11** released his second book of poetry, *Pearls of My Heart*, on November 2, 2024. The collection explores the unpredictable and powerful nature of love and is dedicated to his fiancée, Kitch Lao. The couple is set to get married on September 27, 2025



### Sr. Allison Regina Gliot '12

was recently honored by the 2025 Association of Catholic Publishers' Excellence in Publishing Awards. Her book *Eli's*

*Quiet Friend* won first place in the Picture Books category, and *Forgiven: A Guide to Confession and the Examen Prayer*, which she co-authored, earned third place in the Teen Books category. In addition to these accolades, Sr. Allison recently published a Catholic urban fantasy novel for young adults titled *The Curse He Chose* with Pauline Books & Media. This marks the first installment of her In Aeternum trilogy. Learn more at [pauline.org/sister-allison](http://pauline.org/sister-allison).



**Claire Crutchfield '13** and Andrew MacMillan were married April 12 in Paradise Valley, Ariz. Fellow alum **Madison Carter '13** was featured in the bridal party. Claire is a Senior Territory Manager for Johnson & Johnson MedTech. Andrew is an Investment Banking Vice President for Bank of America. The couple resides in Brooklyn, N.Y., with their cat Pippin.



**Thomas Conroy '15** is a member of the monastic community at Our Lady of the Annunciation of Clear Creek Abbey in Oklahoma. After graduating from Mount Saint Mary's University in 2019, he entered the Abbey on October 1, 2023. He spent one year as a postulant, then another as a novice. He will make his profession of simple vows this fall.

**Grace Fisher '16** was recently named to the UMass Boston Vice Chancellor of Athletics and Recreation's Advisory Council. Grace was a four-year member of the UMass Boston women's ice hockey team. After graduating, she earned a graduate certificate in procurement and contract management from the University of Virginia and just completed her first year at Duquesne University Kline School of Law.



**Nate Watson '17** and **Matt Lewis '17** reunited as members of last year's Karditsa Basketball Club and this year's Panionios Basketball Club of the Greek Basket League.



**Leila Johnson '19** was selected for an internship at the Walt Disney World Resort in Orlando, Fla. in December 2024. She now spends her days "making magic" as part of the merchandise team and hopes to continue her journey with the company after the internship ends. This opportunity marks a full-circle moment for Leila, who previously represented O'Connell Cheerleading in the 2017 Varsity Spirit Spectacular parade at the Magic Kingdom.



**Emily Major '19** and Garrett Schaefer were married on August 17, 2024, at the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the campus of the University of Notre Dame. The couple now resides in Bremerton, Wash., where Emily works as an electrophysics engineer at Boeing, and Garrett serves as a Submarine Officer in the U.S. Navy.



**Nya Steward '20** recently graduated from Penn State (Class of 2025) as a first-generation college student with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. For her senior capstone project, she developed a drone detection system for farmland, which featured a custom-designed circuit board she built herself. During her time at Penn State, Nya served as president of the university's chapter of the National Society of Black Engineers and was an active member of the Formula 1 racing team.

**Thomas Leggett '21**, a member of Washington and Lee University's Class of 2025, has been awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) to teach English in Taiwan. He double-majored in engineering and East Asian languages and literature, with a concentration in Chinese. He is currently overseas participating in this 11-month program.



**Job Grant '22** was a member of the U.S. Naval Academy football team that defeated Army in December 2024, securing the prestigious Commander-in-Chief's Trophy. As a result of this victory, the team was honored at the White House on April 15, 2025, where they were presented with the trophy and had the opportunity to meet the President in the Oval Office. In the official photo, Job is standing second to the President's left.

**Brendan '22** and **Caroline Mullen '24** represented the United States at the World Junior Championships in ice dancing, held in February and March 2025 in Debrecen, Hungary. The sibling duo placed 6th out of 25 competing pairs on the international stage.

**Jack O'Connor '22**, a right-handed pitcher out of the University of Virginia, was selected by the Los Angeles Dodgers in the eighth round of the 2025 MLB Draft with the 255th overall pick.



**Emma Workman '22** returned to campus in the winter of 2024 to share her college experience with students. She is currently an Industrial and Systems Engineering student at Virginia Tech and a member of the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps (NROTC) and the Corps of Cadets.





**Katie Kutz '23** earned Big 12 Pitcher of the Week honors in February 2025 for her standout performances with the nationally ranked Oklahoma State Cowgirls.

### Nycole Steward '23

is a junior at Temple University, majoring in Film with a concentration in Cinematography and pursuing a minor in International Communication. She has gained hands-on experience working with a range of cameras, including mirrorless, camcorders, and Bolex models, through her coursework. Nycole is also a member of Wandering Studio, a student-run film production club, and recently worked as a photographer for the Nayyar Kapur Festival, a Temple student-produced event. Nycole is pictured on the left with her sister, **Nya '20**.



**Sophia Viscovich '23**, a midfielder at Washington University in St. Louis, helped lead her team to a national championship and an undefeated 23-0-2 season. She recorded five goals and seven assists and was a first-team United Soccer Coaches All-Region VIII selection and an honorable-mention University Athletic Association choice.



**Liza Koach '24** was recently cast in a community production of *Our State Fair* with the Jordan River Theater Company and began a remote internship with Them Before Us, an advocacy group.

In her first season at Springfield College (Mass.), **Mia Salmon '24** led her team with eight goals and was named New England Athletic Conference's Rookie of the Year. She was selected as second team all-conference and third team all-region, helping Springfield to a 10-6-4 record, and runner-up finish in the ECAC tournament.



**Molly Weithman '24**, a distance runner at William & Mary, returned to O'Connell last spring to give a presentation to students on health and nutrition. She stayed over her break to assist with the Knights track and field team.

## Update Your Info & Share Your News

*Moved? New job? Got married?  
Started a family?*

UPDATE



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know if you  
tell us!

SHARE



[bishopoconnell.org/alumni](https://bishopoconnell.org/alumni)

# THE BISHOP O'CONNELL *Legacy Society*

**Your Planned Gift.  
Your Catholic Values.  
Your Legacy.**



A bequest to Bishop O'Connell is more than a gift—it's a lasting tribute to your Catholic faith and a powerful way to shape the hearts and minds of future Knights. By including O'Connell in your will or estate plans, more students will have the opportunity to experience the transformative power of Catholic education. Today's youth face significant challenges to their faith. A Christ-centered O'Connell education ensures that our students can joyfully practice their faith just as they have since 1957.



**Please enjoy our latest video, *O'Connell and Your Legacy, Today and Always*, at [bishopoconnell.org/legacy](http://bishopoconnell.org/legacy) featuring Mike Griffen, Chairman of the Board of Advisors, and his wife Adrienne.**

As active members of the O'Connell community and parents of O'Connell alumni, Mike and Adrienne, and Head of School Bill Crittenberger discuss the tremendous impact a planned gift of any amount will have on our future Knights, and the great worth that is the transformative experience of an O'Connell education.

***Making a planned gift to Bishop O'Connell is as easy as using this one sentence:***

*"I give to Bishop Denis J. O'Connell High School, a nonprofit corporation currently located at 6600 Little Falls Road, Arlington, VA 22213, or its successor thereto, \_\_\_\_\_ [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted charitable use and purpose."*

If you have already included Bishop O'Connell High School in your will, please contact Marta Bascom, Associate Director of Advancement, at [mbascom@bishopoconnell.org](mailto:mbascom@bishopoconnell.org) or 703-237-1448.

## ***Your Legacy, Your Way***

*Gifts at all levels greatly impact future generations of O'Connell students.*

- A gift of cash or real estate to O'Connell in your will or trust
- Naming O'Connell as a beneficiary of your life insurance or IRA
- Directing a grant to O'Connell from your donor-advised fund (DAF)
- Donating appreciated stocks and investment accounts and U.S. Savings Bonds
- Creating a Charitable Remainder Trust that allows you to receive income from your assets during your lifetime while bequeathing the remainder to Bishop O'Connell



***[plannedgiving.bishopoconnell.org](http://plannedgiving.bishopoconnell.org)***

*We encourage you to seek legal and tax advice related to wills and estate planning, as neither Bishop O'Connell High School nor any of its employees may provide legal or tax advice.*

*The Bishop O'Connell High School community remembers and prays for those who have passed into eternal life and offers condolences to their families.*

## Alumni

### CLASS OF 1961

JUDY SMISKO CALI  
DECEMBER 25, 2024

STANLEY CHERUBIN  
NOVEMBER 11, 2024

NANCY KIRCHGESSNER  
FISHENDEN  
AUGUST 12, 2025

DAVID MULROY  
APRIL 1, 2025

BETTY EILAND MUSOLF  
AUGUST 16, 2024

KATHERINE "KITTY"  
LAING WALKER  
FEBRUARY 21, 2025

### CLASS OF 1962

LOUIS MANNING  
MAY 29, 2024

JOAN EAHEART MORSE  
MARCH 11, 2024

JOHN KILIAN  
NOVEMBER 23, 2024

### CLASS OF 1963

JANE HORTON BULAND  
FEBRUARY 16, 2019

### CLASS OF 1964

CHARLES "CHUCK" LABARBERA  
FEBRUARY 10, 2024

JOSEPH KANE  
APRIL 23, 2022

JOHN SICILIANO  
JUNE 11, 2025

### CLASS OF 1965

COLEEN SMITH CLEMENTE  
FEBRUARY 11, 2025

ROBERT NELSON EAHEART, JR.  
SEPTEMBER 20, 2024

JOHN GLANTZ  
OCTOBER 15, 2023

STEPHEN JOHN  
JANUARY 6, 2024

CAROL KILROY  
FEBRUARY 12, 2024

JOAN CATE MAGUIRE  
JANUARY 14, 2025

### CLASS OF 1966

ELIZABETH BOOVEY  
JULY 2, 2024

JOSEPH GASCOIGNE  
DECEMBER 28, 2023

THOMAS KLEEB  
APRIL 7, 2025

DOREEN LONG MORGAN  
JUNE 28, 2024

LEONARD "BILL" STEEPER  
JUNE 20, 2022

### CLASS OF 1967

SAMUEL FERGUSON  
MAY 17, 2025

JOHN FRIEDE  
JULY 26, 2025

CHARLOTTE POMEROY  
SCHWEMER  
DECEMBER 23, 2024

### CLASS OF 1968

PATRICE KESSLER  
AUGUST 2024

### DR. KEVIN KERRIGAN

JANUARY 7, 2025

JOAN PLUNKERT SCHLEICHER  
DECEMBER 26, 2022

### CLASS OF 1969

MICHAEL BALCH  
APRIL 3, 2024

JOANN "JB" CARWILE ZYGMANT  
FEBRUARY 9, 2025

### CLASS OF 1970

PATRICIA MARIE ADAMS  
JULY 31, 2025

THOMAS FRAITES  
JULY 13, 2025

SUZANNE NEALON  
FEBRUARY 26, 2025

PAUL VIGNES  
APRIL 2025

### CLASS OF 1972

LYNN HILLEARY  
OCTOBER 8, 2024

### CLASS OF 1973

ANN KENNEDY O'CONNOR  
JULY 21, 2024

### CLASS OF 1974

MICHAEL O'GRADY  
JUNE 24, 2025

TIMOTHY PUGLISI  
JUNE 26, 2025

### CLASS OF 1976

JOHN P. MITCHELL  
MAY 2025

### CLASS OF 1977

LAURA ANN FOSTER VALENTINE  
JANUARY 13, 2025

### CLASS OF 1979

DR. PATRICK "PAT" CAMPBELL  
DECEMBER 18, 2024

### CLASS OF 1981

TERENCE "TERRY" O'DONNELL  
SEPTEMBER 3, 2024

### CLASS OF 1986

DANIEL BEIRO  
JUNE 22, 2025

JOHN PETERS  
OCTOBER 3, 2024

### CLASS OF 1988

EDWARD "TEDDY" WHITE  
OCTOBER 19, 2024

### CLASS OF 1989

FRANCIS "FRANK" BOLAND IV  
OCTOBER 16, 2024

### CLASS OF 1991

VERONICA ROVIRA MADDOX  
JANUARY 17, 2025

### CLASS OF 1995

OLIVIA MARTIN TAYLOR  
SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

### CLASS OF 1996

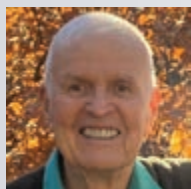
JASON JENKINS  
FEBRUARY 6, 2025

### CLASS OF 2013

JAKE DIGERONIMO  
SEPTEMBER 21, 2024

### CLASS OF 2014

TRISTAN MCGILLICUDDY  
MAY 27, 2025



### COL. DANIEL CLARK

*Bishop O'Connell Chemistry Teacher (1990–2004)*

Col. Daniel Clark passed away peacefully on February 14, 2025, surrounded by family. A retired U.S. Army officer with 30 years

of distinguished service, he brought the same dedication and discipline to the classroom.

From 1990 to 2004, Col. Clark taught chemistry at Bishop O'Connell High School, where he inspired students with his deep knowledge, curiosity, and commitment to learning. He is fondly remembered by colleagues and students alike for his integrity, intellect, and lasting impact on the school community.



### KEVIN SULLIVAN

*Bishop O'Connell French and English Teacher (1986–2015)*

Kevin Sullivan, a retired French and English teacher at Bishop O'Connell,

passed away peacefully on February 8, 2025.

Kevin was a cherished member of the O'Connell faculty from 1986 to 2015, known for his passion for language, sharp wit, and unwavering commitment to his students. Even after retiring, he remained active in the O'Connell teachers' alumni group and stayed connected to the school community he loved. He is fondly remembered by all who knew him.

# O'Connell Family and Community Members



SUMMER 2025

## The Knights' Pages

### BISHOP O'CONNELL HIGH SCHOOL

6600 Little Falls Road  
Arlington, VA 22213  
703-237-1400  
[www.bishopoconnell.org](http://www.bishopoconnell.org)

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Head of School

**FRANK ROQUE**  
Principal

**REV. DANIEL REUWER**  
Chaplain

**SISTER CATHERINE HILL,  
I.H.M. '66**  
Dean of Academics

**MEGHAN LONERGAN**  
Dean of Mission

**JOSE GONZALEZ**  
Dean of Student Affairs

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The Knights' Pages is designed by  
Carmel Steindam Graphic Design.

**SARAH ANN AUTHER**  
AUGUST 22, 2024  
Grandparent of Tatum Andres '16  
and Joseph Andres '18

**DONNA CASEY**  
MAY 24, 2024  
Wife of Michael Casey '62

**WILLIAM "COACH D"  
DARMODY**  
MARCH 12, 2025  
Parent of Kevin '79,  
Janeen Westphal '81, and a coach  
in the girls basketball program  
from 1986 to 2003

**AUNDRE EWINGS**  
MARCH 25, 2025  
Son of Track and Field Coach  
James Bam Ewings

**DONNA HAYDEN FOSTER**  
MAY 19, 2024  
Parent of Serrin '73,  
Donna Shickel '74, and  
Laura Ann Valentine '77+

**PATRICIA HERMES**  
DECEMBER 30, 2024  
Parent of Denise Hermes Sardo '83  
and James Hermes '85

**ANDREW FREITAS**  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2024  
Parent of Frances '23

**CATHERINE GALLIVAN**  
FEBRUARY 23, 2025  
Parent of Maryann '85, Martin '86  
and Sara '89

**THOMAS HOSKER**  
OCTOBER 1, 2024  
Parent of Meagan '21

**MARGARET "PEG" LATESSA**  
JULY 13, 2025  
Parent of Andrew '86 and  
Michael '86 and grandparent of  
Julia '24 and Ryan '26

**JOANNE BUCKERT McDERMOTT**  
AUGUST 2, 2024  
Parent of Diane O'Neill '74 and  
Justine '84

**MARY FRANCES MORIARTY**  
MAY 6, 2023  
Parent of Stephen '72, Timothy '74,  
Thomas '77, Michael '78, Daniel '81  
and Patrick '84

**THOMAS MULVEY**  
FEBRUARY 11, 2025  
Parent of Suzanne Sadler '86 and  
Alexandra '90

**THOMAS O'CONNOR**  
DECEMBER 19, 2024  
Parent of faculty member  
Mark O'Connor

**THOMAS O'NEILL**  
JANUARY 2, 2025  
Parent of Koren '96 and Jack '00

**MARGUERITE "PEGGY"  
HUDGINS PALIZZI**  
NOVEMBER 7, 2024  
Parent of Fr. Dave Hudgins '87+,  
Fr. Jim Hudgins '88, and  
Nancy Godfrey '90

**ROBERT PARKER, JR.**  
AUGUST 14, 2025  
Grandparent of Dylan Vorbach '11  
and MaryFrances Vorbach '16  
and Father-in-Law to  
Joseph Vorbach III '83

**ARMANDO PERI**  
DECEMBER 14, 2024  
Parent of Armando, Jr. '83,  
Ingrid Morrison '86, and  
Adrianna Peri-Sergeant '89

**ANGEL POLA**  
OCTOBER 25, 2024  
Parent of Susana Weymouth '76,  
Alberto '77, Anna Rodriguez '81,  
Cristina Craigmile '83

**AURORA ARDILES PORTUGAL**  
AUGUST 14, 2024  
Grandparent of faculty member  
Diane Phelps

**DEBORAH "DEBBIE"  
LOZUPONE ROSE**  
JULY 29, 2025  
Parent of Emily '01 and  
Matthew '04, current theology  
teacher at O'Connell

**SAM ROSSON**  
APRIL 20, 2025  
Grandparent of Carolina '23,  
Dominic '26, and David '27

**CARLOS SANTOYO**  
Parent of Macia Santoyo '80  
JULY 15, 2025

**HAROLD SMITH**  
NOVEMBER 2, 2024  
Parent of Meredith '04, Allison '07,  
and Hillary Smith '08

**JAMES SPIRIDOPOULOS**  
APRIL 29, 2025  
Former Girls Varsity Basketball  
Coach 1986-1996

**PAUL STARZYNSKI**  
FEBRUARY 16, 2025  
Parent of Kim Walker '88

**THOMAS MARK STAMM**  
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024  
Parent of alumni parent JC Stam  
and grandfather of Kathryn '20,  
John '22, and Cecilia '26

**JOAN URBAN**  
NOVEMBER 26, 2024  
Parent of JoEllen '82, Ann Reid '84,  
Michael '85 and  
Carolyn Johnstone '90

**REAR ADMIRAL  
JOSEPH EDWARD VORBACH,  
USCG (RET.)**  
MAY 3, 2025  
Parent of Frances Babashak '82,  
Joseph III, '83, Justin '87,  
Emily Gretz, and grandparent of  
Dylan '11 and MaryFrances '16

**MARY ELLEN WHITFIELD**  
AUGUST 14, 2024  
Parent of Kathleen '01, Sean '03,  
Brendan '05, and Kelly '10

Reported to the Alumni Office as of August 14, 2025



### COACH DARRELL SNYDER

Bishop O'Connell Faculty Member and Coach (1974-2011)

Darrell Snyder, a retired faculty member, spouse of retired faculty member Barbara Snyder, and parent of Darrell III, '90, passed away on April 13, 2025.

Coach Snyder joined the O'Connell community in 1974 after serving as a U.S. Army medic and as a coach and athletic director at Flint Hill School. He led the football program from 1974 to 1981 and again from 1994 to 2002, compiling a career record of 103-76-2. He also served as athletic director from 1980 until his retirement in 2011 and was a longtime golf coach.

Over nearly four decades, Coach Snyder shaped generations of student-athletes through his integrity, leadership, and unwavering dedication. His many accolades—including multiple Coach of the Year honors and inductions into both the O'Connell and Arlington Sports Halls of Fame—reflect a career of remarkable achievement.

He will be remembered not only for his accomplishments but for the humility, perseverance, and commitment he brought to the O'Connell family. His legacy lives on in the lives he touched, and he will be deeply missed.



**BISHOP O'CONNELL  
HIGH SCHOOL**

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# Homecoming 2025

**October 11, 2025**

**Gates open at 11:30 p.m.  
Kickoff at 12:30 p.m.**

Come Cheer on the  
Knights as they take on  
the Bishop Ireton Cardinals.

All O'Connell Alumni are  
invited to bring their families  
and join us at the alumni tent  
for a complimentary BBQ,  
yard games, giveaways,  
and more.

**Scan this QR  
code to RSVP:**



**Questions?** Email us at [alumni@bishopoconnell.org](mailto:alumni@bishopoconnell.org)