



2025

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY

December 3, 2025

WELCOME

Dear Columbus Family,

Welcome to our annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. This event gives us the opportunity to honor those among us for their outstanding achievements and steadfast dedication to our school. This year's inductees have all embodied the Columbus, Marist spirit and make our school family extremely proud.

As we celebrate these remarkable individuals, we are reminded that their successes are built upon the values at the heart of our mission—faith, service, leadership, and a commitment to excellence. Their stories inspire our current students, encourage our faculty and staff, and strengthen the legacy that generations of Explorers continue to build. Tonight, we not only recognize their accomplishments, but also express gratitude for the ways they continue to elevate and support the Columbus community.

Please join me in congratulating and welcoming tonight's inductees to our Hall of Fame. Adelante!

Sincerely,



Thomas Kruczek
President

Hall of Fame



2025 Christopher Columbus High School Hall of Fame Inductees:

Br. Peter Guadalupe

*(Educator/Counselor/
Campus Minister)*

Brother Peter Guadalupe was born in Brooklyn, New York where he attended Boys High School. Following his graduation, he entered the Marist Brothers' Novitiate and made his first vows in 1969. He later earned a Bachelor's degree in Spanish from Saint Xavier University and went on to complete a Master's degree in Pastoral Ministry at the University of San Francisco.



Over the course of his vocation, Br. Peter has served in a wide range of ministries throughout the U.S. Marist world, from New England to California. His assignments have included service at St. Joseph Academy in Brownsville, Texas, St. Elizabeth High School in Oakland, California, and Central Catholic High School in Lawrence, Massachusetts. In addition to his work in elementary and secondary education, Br. Peter has contributed significantly to the Marist Brothers' formation programs, serving as a member of the Province Formation Team and working with young men discerning a vocation while in the Marist Brothers Novitiate program.

A gifted spiritual guide, Br. Peter has also served as a mentor in the Marists of Champagnat formation program, accompanying young people and adults in deepening their faith and understanding of the Marist charism.

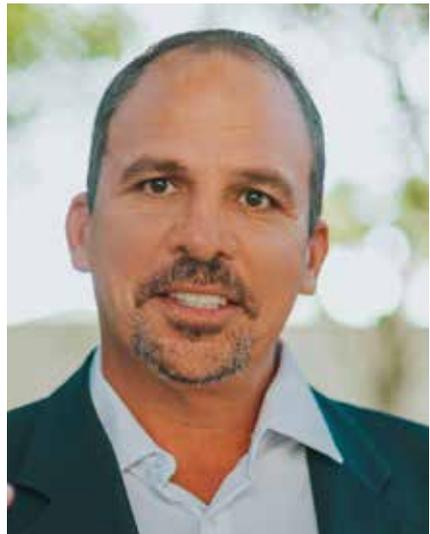
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For the past 18 years, Brother Peter has been a devoted presence at Christopher Columbus High School, serving as a teacher, guidance counselor, campus minister, and spiritual companion. His compassion, experience, and unwavering Marist spirit continue to inspire our community and support the academic, personal, and spiritual growth of every student he encounters.

Rodolfo “Rudy” Puig

(Class of 1990 /Alumni Parent)

Known around campus as “Mr. Columbus,” Rodolfo “Rudy” Puig has spent decades giving back to the school that helped shape his life. Born in Miami on Columbus Day, Rudy seemed destined to wear Explorer blue. He was a three-year letterman and team captain on the Columbus football team, playing defensive line under Coach Lavelle alongside standout teammates like Eric Rodriguez, Lamount Reed, and the late Adrian Ellis. His drive and leadership earned him a football scholarship to the University of Central Florida, where he earned a B.S. degree and served as president of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.



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After college, Rudy returned to Miami to build a career rooted in both business and service. As Director of Business for Security Alliance, he oversees operations in multiple states and international locations, bringing more than 25 years of experience in the security industry. He also spent over a decade as a small-business owner, operating several Cold Stone Creamery franchises and serving on the company's National Advisory Board.

But Rudy's heart has always remained at Columbus. As a member of the Alumni Association for over 12 years and a member of its Executive Committee for the past seven, Rudy has become one of the driving forces behind major alumni events. As lead organizer for Alumni Tailgates, he has helped unite thousands of Explorers across generations, from state championship games in Daytona Beach to record-breaking gatherings at DRV PNK Stadium. He also plays key roles on the Fishing Tournament and Pig Roast Committees, helping expand the annual fishing event to over 70 boats and 1,500 participants, while coordinating logistics, security, and community outreach for the school's signature celebrations.

Rudy's dedication extends beyond campus. He coached youth football for more than 25 years with the KBG Kolts, helping develop players who later became Columbus athletes, including several who went on to compete at the collegiate level. When his daughter Katerina faced health challenges, Rudy founded the Katy Strong Foundation, organizing an annual soccer fundraiser that has raised more than \$250,000 to support her recovery and other families in need.

With deep family ties to Columbus—his son Rudy Jr. '19, brother, brother-in-law, nephews, and cousins are all Explorers—Rudy embodies what it means to live the school's mission of faith, service, and brotherhood.



**Rev.
Alejandro J.
Rodríguez
Artola**

(Class of 1981)

Rev. Alejandro J. Rodríguez Artola was born on June 10, 1963 in Miami, Florida, to Cándido G. and Mercy A. Rodríguez, and grew up alongside his siblings Martha, Lourdes,

and Ernesto. Deeply rooted in his parish community from childhood, he was baptized, received his First Communion, and was Confirmed at St. Thomas the Apostle, where he also graduated in 1977 before continuing on to Christopher Columbus High School. He is a devoted uncle to nine nieces and nephews and thirteen grand-nieces and grand-nephews.

Before entering the seminary, Fr. Alejandro pursued an accomplished artistic career. He trained at the School of American Ballet from 1982–1986 and danced professionally with Ballet Royal du Wallonie (Belgium), Ballet du Nord (France), and Miami City Ballet. He later worked in the fine art industry in New York and Miami and eventually turned to interior design as his call to ministry grew stronger.

He entered seminary in 1999, earned a B.A. in Philosophy from St. John Vianney College Seminary in 2003, and was

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ordained a deacon in 2007 by The Most Reverend John G. Noonan. He completed his Master of Divinity at St. Vincent de Paul Regional Seminary in 2008 and was ordained to the priesthood on May 10, 2008 by The Most Reverend John Clement Favalora.

Fr. Alejandro has served the Archdiocese of Miami with dedication through three pastoral assignments: Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes (2008–2010), Pastor of St. Catherine of Siena (2010–2013), and since 2013, Pastor of his home parish, St. Thomas the Apostle.

Since his ordination, Fr. Alejandro has remained closely connected to Christopher Columbus High School. His ministerial presence has enriched the spiritual life of the school community through his celebration of the Baccalaureate Mass, Senior Pinning Ceremony Mass, Junior Ring Ceremony Mass, Mother-Son Mass, and the President's Welcome Mass. He holds a special affection for the All Souls' Day Mass, which he considers his favorite among the school's annual liturgies. He has also supported the Columbus Brotherhood by hearing Confessions during Advent, Lent, and school retreats, and by participating in Career Day.

His life reflects a remarkable journey—from the discipline and beauty of the world of ballet and fine arts to the heart of parish ministry—Rev. Alejandro J. Rodríguez Artola's Marist spirit of humility, service, and love for young people, his artistic gifts, pastoral heart, and enduring dedication to the Christopher Columbus High School community make him a most deserving member of the school's Hall of Fame.



Raymond Rodriguez- Torres

(Class of 1994)

Raymond Rodriguez-Torres is a highly accomplished executive and bestselling author. Born in Toledo, Ohio, and raised in Miami, Florida, Raymond's life was shaped by a powerful quote he encountered at age nine: "God's gift to you

is who you are; your gift to Him is who you become." This guiding principle has fueled his success in his professional and philanthropic endeavors. Raymond currently serves as President & Co-CEO of ALC Home Health in Miami, Florida which provides HiTech nursing services to adults and children in home and in the Miami Dade School District. His experience spans major global corporations with leadership roles in sales, operations, managed care, distribution, contacting, reimbursement, and government affairs. He has launched and commercialized new therapeutics including orphan drugs in: Oncology, Cardiology and Thrombosis, Solid Organ Transplant, Infectious Diseases, Women's & Maternal Health and Immunology. In addition to his professional success, Raymond is a prolific author, known for his bestselling book *Why Not Me?* which ranked #4 on Amazon's Top 100 Hot New Releases. The Spanish version, *Por Qué No Yo?*, held the #1 spot for two

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weeks in the non-fiction category. He donates 100% of the proceeds from his books to pediatric cancer research and charities. Raymond's greatest passion stems from his role as Chairman of the *Live Like Bella® Childhood Cancer Foundation*, founded in memory of his daughter Bella, who passed away at the age of 10 after a courageous battle with cancer. Under Raymond's leadership, the foundation has raised millions of dollars for childhood cancer research and supports families in 37 countries.

Raymond holds a master's degree in management from Oral Roberts University, where he graduated with honors and received the prestigious *Outstanding Master's of Management Student Award*. In 2022, Univision recognized him as one of the most influential Hispanic leaders in the U.S., and in 2023, he was honored as one of "Florida's Heroes" by Governor Ron DeSantis. In 2024, Raymond's TEDx for Christopher Columbus High School: *Tragedy To Triumph; Live Like Bella* ranked #2 in the world in YouTube views. Beyond his career and charitable work, Raymond is a Licensed Master United States Coast Guard Captain & U.S. Merchant Marine. Captain Raymond blends his leadership in the C-suite with his love for the sea. He serves as a maritime consultant and enjoys spending his free time boating and fishing with his family. His story is one of leadership, resilience, and a deep commitment to making a difference in the world.



Alex Trujillo

(Class of 1996, Alumni Parent, Administrator/Teacher/Coach)

With a career at Columbus spanning over two decades, Alex Trujillo has made an indelible impact as an educator and coach, shaping the lives and futures of countless students. It all started for Alex when he attended Columbus in the 1990s and earned the “Most Improved Student Award” as a senior. Following graduation, Alex pursued his passion for football at Trinity International University, where he played under the mentorship of Leslie Frazier, a notable NFL player and head coach. His experience in college football laid the foundation for his future coaching career. In 2001, Alex returned to Columbus to embark on a teaching career as a social studies teacher and he has been here ever since. Over the years he has taught World History, European Civilization, American History, U.S. Government, and World War II. His dedication to education was recognized during his seven-year tenure as Social Studies Department Chair. In 2016-2017, Alex was honored with the Explorers Compass Award for his creativity, ingenuity, and dedication to leading students to excellence. In 2019, Alex advanced to a key leadership role as Dean of Students. He also helped found the Columbus Black Student Organization with Mrs. Nadia-Khan Roberts.

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Alex has been a cornerstone of the Columbus varsity football program since 2001 when he arrived at the school. Starting as the varsity running backs coach, he quickly advanced to defensive coordinator in his second year. Alex has maintained Columbus' winning traditions as the defensive coordinator and associate head coach. Under his leadership, the team has captured three state titles, one Tri-County Championship, and over thirty district and regional, sectional championships.

Alex has three children, Erick (class of 2013), Isiah (class of 2009) and Genesis.

In the Way of Mary Award: James “Jim” Bernhardt

(Alumni Parent)

The *In the Way of Mary Award* was established in 2024 to honor prominent members of the Columbus community who have gone above and beyond in their service to the school and community, with quiet humility, and following *In the Way of Mary*. This special award is presented annually at the Columbus Hall of Fame





Induction Dinner. Tonight, we are proud to present the *In the Way of Mary Award* to a longtime supporter of Columbus and alumni parent who served as the first chairman of the Columbus Board of Directors—Mr. James Bernhardt.

Jim graduated from University of Florida's School of Business in 1964, where he was also a starting linebacker and defensive captain during his senior year. From 1965-2010, he ran a successful State Farm franchise, a role that provided the flexibility to pursue his lifelong passion for coaching. Throughout the 1980s and 90s, Jim coached football, basketball and baseball at Boys and Girls Clubs, the Coral Gables and South Miami Khoury League and Epiphany Elementary. In the 1990s, when Columbus considered discontinuing the 9th-grade baseball program, Jim secured permission to take it over himself. He coached and managed the program for one year, laying the foundation for a program that continues to thrive today.

Currently, Jim manages Bernhardt Property Management with the assistance of his daughter. In 1998, Br. Angelo, then-principal of Columbus, invited Jim to help establish the Columbus School Board and to serve as its inaugural chair—a role he embraced with dedication for three years. Jim has also served as past chair of the Boys and Girls Club Executive Board of Miami-Dade. On April 24, 1993, Jim was admitted as an affiliated member of the Marist Brothers of the Province of Esopus.

Jim is married to his wife Joan and they have three children: Thomas '93, Matthew '89 and Jill (Lourdes Graduate) and six grandchildren: Joanie, Lizzy, Matt, Bella, T.J. and Nicole.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME:



Ramon Abadin (Class of 1977)

Anthony Abraham (Alumni Parent)

Thomas G. Abraham (Class of 1971)

Jose "JB" Aleman (Class of 1984)

Maximo Alvarez (Alumni Parent)

Facundo Bacardi (Class of 1984)

Br. Herb Baker (Educator/Athletic
Trainer)

Richard R. Baker (Class of 1962)

John Baumann (Class of 1966)

Gerald Bean (Alumni Parent)

Pat Bell (Class of 1965)

Brother Benedict (1st Principal)

Matt Bernhardt (Class of 1989)

Jim Bernhardt (Alumni Parent)

Tom Bezold (Class of 1971)

Patricia Bixby (Alumni Parent)

Br. Michael Brady (Administrator/
Teacher)

Marc Buoniconti (Class of 1984)

E. Carter Burrus (Class of 1962/
Teacher)

Robert Bustamante (Class of 1972)

Patricia Call (Administrator)

Raoul G. Cantero (Class of 1978)

Michael A. Carricarte (Class of 1959)

Castaways Against Cancer (Friends)

Teresa Chomat (Teacher/Alumni
Parent)

Br. Ben Consigli (Educator,
Counselor, Administrator)

Rogelio "Roger" Cuevas (Class of
1962)

Mrs. Irene Culmo (Teacher/Alumni
Parent)

Br. Kenneth Curtin, fms (Teacher/
Campus Minister/Admissions
Director)

Luis De La Aguilera (Class of 1977)

Fr. Arthur Dennison (Teacher)

Paul J. DiMare, Sr. (Alumni Parent)

Br. Felix Elardo (Teacher/
Administrator)

Roberto Estades (Class of 1965)

Lee Evans (Alumni Parent)

Dr. Joseph Fernandez (Class of 1980)

Manny Figueroa (Class of 1967)

Fred Foyo (Class of 1975/Teacher
& Coach/Posthumously)

Alejandro Galvez (Class of 1992)

Al Garcia (Class of 1981 / Alumni
Parent)

Pedro Garcia-Casals
(Administrador/Alumni Parent)

Carlos Gimenez (Class of 1972)

Patrick J. Gleber (Class of 1977)

Tito Gomez (Class of 1964)

Br. Eladio Gonzalez (Guidance)



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL HALL OF FAME:

Counselor/Teacher)
Pedro Jose Greer Jr. (Class of 1974)
Brian Griese (Class of 1993)
Manuel “Doc” Guerra (Teacher,
Posthumously)
Ignacio Halley (Alumni Parent)
Nancy Husted (Teacher,
Posthumously)
Br. Kevin Handibode (Administrator,
Teacher, Coach)
Br. John Healy (Educator/Guidance
Counselor)
V.C. (Vince) Hennessy (Class of 1963)
Paul Herald (Alumni Parent)
Thomas Herald, (Class of 1975)
William Herald (Class of 1971)
Alonzo Highsmith (Class of 1983)
Dave Isenberg (Educator)
Howard J. Korth (Alumni Parent)
James Lanier (Class of 1975)
Dr. Matthew A. Larkin (Alumni Parent)
Marcus Lemonis (Class of 1991)
Robert “Bob” Linfors (Class of 1995,
Teacher/Administrator)
Carlos Luis (Class of 1985)
Tom Lord (Class of 1974)
John Lynskey (Class of 1978/
Teacher/Administrator)
Judge Mallory Horton (Alumni Parent)

Br. Rafael Martin (Teacher/Librarian)
Fernando Martinez (Class of 1983)
Jorge Mas (Class of 1981/Alumni
Parent)
Jose Mas (Class of 1989)
Juan Carlos Mas (Class of 1984)
Miguel Maspons (Class of 1981)
Douglas “Doug” McClintock (Class
of 1966)
Dr. Mary Eileen McDonough
(Alumni Parent)
Dick McEnany (Class of 1966)
Chris McKeon (Administrator/
Teacher)
Br. Patrick McNamara (Administrator)
Br. Patrick McNulty (Teacher/
Counselor)
Grant Miller (Friend)
John P. Miller (Teacher)
Steve O’Brien (Class of 1972/Teacher)
Cesar T. Odio (Class of 1977)
Thomas H. O’Neil (Teacher)
Hernan Organvidez (Class of 1981)
Br. Angelo Palmieri (Administrator/
Teacher)
Fred Panzer (Teacher/Alumni Parent)
Rafael A. Peñalver (Class of 1969)
David Scott Plummer (Alumni Parent)
Timothy Plummer (Class of 1983)



Richard F. Pollock (Athletic Director/Coach)
David Pugh (Administrator/Alumni Parent)
Maria Rams-Foyo (Educator)
Brian Regan (Class of 1976)
General Victor E. Renuart (Class of 1967)
Jorge Rico (Alumni Parent)
David Riley (Teacher/Coach)
Rafael Roca (Class of 1988, Alumni Parent)
Mr. John F. Roche (Teacher)
Mark Rodgers (Class of 1977/Teacher)
Carlos Rodriguez (Class of 1982)
Ray Rodriguez (Class of 1969)
Wayne Rotolante (Class of 1963)
Br. Bernard Ruth (CCHS Administrator)
Alina Sanchez (Educator/Alumni Parent)
Robert Sanchez (Class of 1983)
Joe Sanz (Class of 1972)
Lewis Savino (Administrator)
Doug Sawyer (Class of 1975)
Br. Edmund Sheehan (Librarian/Administrator/Teacher)
Michael J. Shula (Class of 1983)
John J. Spiegel (Class of 1967)

Achille "Butch" Staiano (Educator/Coach)
Nicholas Stanham (Class of 1986)
Roberto Suarez (Class of 1969)
Mario Sueiras (Class of 1991)
Brother Eugene Trzeciecki (Teacher)
Anibal Vales (Alumni Parent/Alum of Colegio Champagnat, Cuba)
Dr. Franklyn Verdon (Alumni Parent)
Dr. Juan Vila (Class of 1997 / Administrator)
Br. Julio Vitores (Educator/Coach)
Karl "Joe" Weber (Class of 1983/Teacher/Coach)
Douglas "Doug" Yount (Class of 1967)
Dr. Joseph Zavertrnik (Alumni Parent)

**In The Way Of Mary
Award Recipient**

Br. Edmund Sheehan (2024)

*A sincere thank you for your
presence to honor the newest
members of
Christopher Columbus High
School's*

Hall of Fame

*We appreciate your dedication
and contribution to make this
celebration truly special.*



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS HIGH SCHOOL

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