



Tim Strachan '94  
Remembered for  
His Spirit to Live



The 2024-25 Annual  
Report of Gifts &  
Honor Roll of Donors



DeMatha Football  
Wins Back-to-Back  
Championships

# DEMATHA

WWW.DEMATHA.ORG

RED & BLUE

FALL 2025



## Cross Center for Engineering, Arts & Robotics Opens



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### ON THE COVER

DeMatha's newest building, the Cross Center for Engineering, Arts & Robotics, was blessed and dedicated on Sept. 9 by Bishop Roy Campbell of the Archdiocese of Washington. Classes began there in November. See page 22 for more on the Cross Center. (Cover photos by Andrew Travers '11.)

Tim Strachan '94 (1976-2025) was remembered for inspiring others to live full lives despite what befalls us. See page 25 for more on Tim.



# DeMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

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*Red & Blue*

VOLUME 23, NUMBER 2, FALL 2025

**Fr. Albert Anuszewski, O.S.S.T.**  
PRESIDENT

**Dr. Daniel J. McMahon '76**  
PRINCIPAL

*Red & Blue* is produced by the  
Advancement Office of DeMatha Catholic High School.

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#### 2025-26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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*President, Ex Officio Member*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE

Dear Members of the DeMatha Family,

As the leaves change and another fall season begins, we take time to celebrate the life and vitality of our DeMatha community. This issue of *Red & Blue* highlights moments that remind us of who we are – rooted in faith, driven by excellence and united in brotherhood.

One of the most exciting milestones of the year was the opening of the Cross Center for Engineering, Arts & Robotics. This \$4.5 million project represents the best of DeMatha – faith and innovation working hand in hand.

The center provides our students with cutting-edge tools to create, explore and design for the future, preparing them to be leaders who think critically and serve generously.

We also honor the life and legacy of Tim Strachan '94, whose courage, character and faith have inspired countless members of our community. Tim's story reminds us that true greatness lies not in what happens to us, but in how we respond – with resilience, purpose and hope.

Finally, we recognize five dedicated staff members who have reached the milestone of 20 years of service at DeMatha. Their commitment and quiet leadership have shaped the daily experience of our students, embodying the spirit of "One DeMatha."

As we celebrate these moments, we also look ahead. DeMatha is completing its Campus Master Plan, which will guide us into the next generation with new and innovative ideas for our facilities, programs and community life. We look forward to sharing more about this vision in the months ahead.

Thank you to our alumni, families and supporters. Your generosity and faith make all of this possible. Without you, we could not fulfill the mission entrusted to us: to form young men for life, rooted in faith, community and excellence.

St. John de Matha, pray for us!

With gratitude and every blessing,

Fr. Albert Anuszewski, O.S.S.T.

PRESIDENT  
DE MATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL





## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

To the DeMatha Family,

I was so extremely lucky to have attended DeMatha. Not only did I graduate from the school in 1968 but had the privilege and opportunity to come back to teach at DeMatha (1980-83). I served six years as a director on the Board of Directors. I was honored last April when I was asked to serve again as a director and was elected board chair. I totally believe in DeMatha Catholic High School's mission of educating young men in the Trinitarian tradition.

It has often been said that there are 38,000 high schools in America, but there is only One DeMatha. We, the DeMatha Family, are part of something truly special. President Father Albert, Principal Dr. McMahon '76, all the faculty, staff, administrators, coaches, parents, alumni and students contribute to a wonderfully unique educational institution that is second to none. Together we are making Faith-Filled Gentlemen and Scholars in the Trinitarian tradition.

There is much going on at our DeMatha. We just completed building the Cross Center for Engineering, Arts & Robotics. The Antler Room is going to be expanded; school bathrooms are going to be upgraded. A Master Plan has been developed to maximize use of, and improve, the campus. Over time, additional buildings will be constructed. Existing buildings will be renovated. This will take years to accomplish. The effort will need support from all of us to raise the capital to be sure our DeMatha will be there for future generations.



I want to acknowledge DeMatha's excellent faculty. They are passionate in pursuing DeMatha's mission. I have had the privilege of working with many of them. I have heard countless stories how individual teachers have influenced the trajectory of students' lives. I am personally indebted to Buck Offutt, Morgan Wootten, Chip Adomanis and others. I would not be who I am but for DeMatha. Some of my most rewarding moments have been when a former DeMatha Mock Trial Team member tells me that his

experience on the team led him to pursue a career as an attorney. DeMatha, and we, together make a real difference in the lives of DeMatha men.

The DeMatha Family needs to continue to give back and support our DeMatha. It costs a considerable amount of money to operate a school. Funds are needed for scholarships, possible field acquisitions, building improvements, some new buildings and most importantly, to improve the compensation for faculty and staff. Please be generous with your time and treasure to support our DeMatha.

Thank you. Go Stags! One DeMatha!

Charlie Kenny '68  
Faculty '80-83, Mock Trial Coach 1990 - Present,  
Vice President and Board Chair

# The Annual Report Of Gifts

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

The DeMatha Community gratefully recognizes the monetary contributors to DeMatha Catholic High School during the 2024-25 academic year. We would also like to thank the wonderful alumni, parents and friends who volunteered their time and talents during this period. DeMatha is blessed to have so many people contributing so much! If we have inadvertently omitted your name or if you have corrections or questions, please notify the Advancement Office at (240) 764-2222 or email tponton@dematha.org. Thank you for your support of DeMatha Catholic High School.

## DEMATHA CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL FINANCIAL SUMMARY (CASH BASIS/UNAUDITED)

July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025

### REVENUE

Tuition and Fees.....	\$19,351,602
Interest & Dividends*.....	\$2,597,153
Annual Giving .....	\$3,417,129
Auxiliary Income .....	\$264,781
<b>Revenue.....</b>	<b>\$26,762,119</b>

\*includes payments on pledges

### EXPENSES

Salaries and Benefits.....	\$12,388,399
Academic Departments.....	\$457,217
Financial Aid .....	\$5,069,723
Insurance/School Services.....	\$1,494,108
Advancement.....	\$267,172
Athletics.....	\$493,671
Plant, Vehicles, Equipment.....	\$1,752,276
Student Services .....	\$640,559
Interest Expense .....	\$545,246
<b>Operating Expenses .....</b>	<b>\$23,108,371</b>

## ANNUAL GIVING SUMMARY

### Scholarships

	7/1/24 – 6/30/25 .....	Since Inception
<b>Eastman Scholarship</b>	<b>\$4,216 .....</b>	<b>\$95,760</b>
<b>LT Brendan '99 and Maureen Looney</b>	<b>\$29,318 .....</b>	<b>\$513,301</b>
<b>Wooten Scholarship</b>	<b>\$3,803 .....</b>	<b>\$462,109</b>
Bob and Rita Ferry	\$0 .....	\$150,082
<b>Malloy Scholarships:</b>		
Class of '65	\$27,000 .....	\$128,000
'88 Alumni	\$2,911 .....	\$227,195
Al Alvarez	\$0 .....	\$190,706
Fr. Damian Anuszewski	\$9,363 .....	\$294,394
Dick Brown	\$450 .....	\$2,913
Michael and Linda Buchanan	\$300 .....	\$22,196
Michael Bussink '64	\$3,200 .....	\$21,045
Paul J. Cinquegrana '59	\$0 .....	\$1,587,159
Walt Coughlin '52	\$8,252 .....	\$202,811
Matthew Davis '12	\$47,078 .....	\$47,078
Art Doyle '54	\$450 .....	\$78,418
Kenneth Duncan	\$0 .....	\$125,000
Gray Family (Ricky '80, Brian '05)	\$8,252 .....	\$279,543
Kevin & Alice Hanley	\$10,094 .....	\$52,623
Pat Krimm	\$30 .....	\$287,511
Lawrence Family Scholarship	\$3,000 .....	\$270,000
Dick Long	\$8,924 .....	\$263,546
Stephen and Lynne Malley	\$3,000 .....	\$49,462
Brendan McCarthy '64	\$0 .....	\$289,218
John McDonough '56	\$100,361 .....	\$116,318
Zachary Misleh '16	\$0 .....	\$7,820
Ray Riddick	\$3,778 .....	\$44,541
Sarahan Family	\$0 .....	\$46,848
Ray Smith	\$7,416 .....	\$132,173
Ray Smith Golf Classic	\$67,510 .....	\$991,551
Trinitarians	\$0 .....	\$34,192
Anthony Villella '05	\$63,526 .....	\$1,058,063
Stephen Welker '01	\$0 .....	\$242,107
Westerman Family	\$0 .....	\$24,000
Mary Yarrish	\$28,266 .....	\$211,165
Antonietta & Alfred Zancan	\$7,000 .....	\$175,700
Other	\$8,637	

### Moylan Scholarships:

Billy Collins '68	\$5,500 .....	\$19,655
Fr. James Day	\$110,556 .....	\$296,733
Ertel Family	\$100,000 .....	\$300,000
Markelle Fultz '16	\$22,000 .....	\$96,650
Gittings Daly Scholarship Fund	\$18,019 .....	\$49,619
Jerami Grant '12	\$63,569 .....	\$142,467
Charles & June Jones	\$1,800 .....	\$23,950
Bill Kelly	\$3,017 .....	\$15,700
Tom Krawczewicz '81	\$255 .....	\$33,028
Joe & Norma McDermott	\$20,000 .....	\$140,050
Bill McGregor	\$92,248 .....	\$447,946
Rodney McLeod '08	\$10,000 .....	\$40,250
Dick Messier	\$12,361 .....	\$12,691
Mike Mewshaw '61	\$10,000 .....	\$91,250
Amos Mobaidin '11	\$5,244 .....	\$66,993
Victor Oladipo '10	\$5,000 .....	\$332,915
St. Simon de Rojas	\$12,700 .....	\$85,336
Ben Spotts '59	\$12,400 .....	\$105,320
Mickey Steele '74	\$7,500 .....	\$55,167
Underwood Family	\$1,000 .....	\$76,042
Francis and Annie Whatley	\$1,331 .....	\$29,887
Other	\$164,784	

### Music Scholarships:

Cheng Family	\$200,700 .....	\$932,008
Larry Funke '08	\$357 .....	\$23,705
Charles Lawrence '82	\$770 .....	\$67,758
Coleman Mellett '92	\$33,203 .....	\$317,333
John Mitchell	\$2,973 .....	\$79,755
Barbara Reiher	\$500 .....	\$51,250
Jim Roper	\$2,972 .....	\$90,699

### Offutt Faculty Fund

<b>Offutt Faculty Fund</b>	<b>\$145,720</b>	
<b>Other Designated Giving:</b>		
Academic/Athletic	\$301,302	
Cross Center for Engineer, Arts & Robotics	\$594,951 .....	\$3,991,826
Greatest Need	\$962,896	
Dave Daly Engineering	\$3,190	
Stag Night	\$8,135	
Cafeteria Renovation	\$24,040	

**Total Annual Fund Giving \$3,417,129**

# 2024-2025 Annual Fund Honor Roll Of Donors

## PLATINUM CLUB (\$25,000+)

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Bank of America Charitable Gift Fund  
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Mr. and Mrs. George R. Wilson Jr. '65

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Dr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Hibbs '78  
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Nancy and Joseph Kennedy '64  
Mr. Arie M. Kouandjio '10  
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Mr. Daniel C. Gould '00  
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Daniel and Linda Haller  
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher Hanley '97



Among the contributors attending our Dedication of the Cross Center in September were **Michael and Cathy Stamper** as well as **Robert '70 and Connie Lawrence**, trustees of the Cross Foundation. The new building's name reminds us that DeMatha's mission honors, and is in service to our risen Lord.

Mrs. Cynthia Hardy  
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 Mr. Reney Henderson Jr. '05  
 Jayne and Michael Hopkins '68  
 Mr. Leonard Jeffords  
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(\$1,000 – \$2,499)

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 Mr. Kenneth P. Beaver '02  
 Ms. Michelle Belt  
 Mr. James W. Berard '74  
 Bethesda Birds  
 Dr. Michael D. Billings '00  
 Mr. Peter M. Black



**Jerami Grant '12** (second from left) working with members of our basketball program. Jerami's Hour Generation Foundation contributes annually to DeMatha. Jerami was featured this summer on the program "Inspired Lives" for his tremendous work in the community.

Mr. Kevin P. Bradley '96  
 Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Briggs '97  
 Dorothy and James Brown '69  
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 Ms. Anya Smith

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 Mr. Thomas J. Sneeringer '86  
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- The William Collins '68 & Morgan Wootten Chair of Teaching Excellence: established by Kerry and William Collins '68 in honor of Morgan Wootten's service to the school as a faculty member, is awarded to a faculty member to enable him/her to purchase needed classroom materials and to pursue professional development.
- The Sylvester Conyers Chair in Science, Math & Computer Science: established by Godfrey Gill '84.
- The Charles J. Kenny '68 Mock Trial Chair established by Jim Ilg '68 and Kevin Hanley '68.
- The Rich Macheski Chair in Social Studies established by Christian Mester '90 and Bill Fahey '65.
- The Daniel J. McMahon '76 Chair of Teaching Excellence in the Humanities established by Thomas P. '86 and Laurie M. Kane.
- The Rocco Mennella Chair of Teaching Excellence established by George Westerman '80.
- The Michael Cullen Chair of Teaching Excellence established by Dan Gowen '64, Kevin Shea '72, Brendan Shea '00.
- The Bill Kelly and Father Damian Chair in Theology established by Brendan Wootten '88 which will be matched by Goldman Sachs
- The Pat Guerrin & Joan Phalen Chair of Academic Support established by Anthony Fazio '74 and Ellen O'Neill.

Contributions to these chairs are always accepted and encouraged. If you wish to give to one of these chairs, e-mail [tponton@dematha.org](mailto:tponton@dematha.org). Interested in seeing the creation of an additional chair in honor of a faculty/staff member? E-mail [tponton@dematha.org](mailto:tponton@dematha.org).

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*Pete Strickland '75 pictured here at our Opening School Liturgy with benefactors Kenny '74 & Adrianna Carr. The Mass was held on September 9, the date of our 79th anniversary. It was the same day we dedicated the new Cross Center for Engineering, Arts & Robotics.*

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# In Memory of Matthew Davis '12

On the right is a photo showing DeMatha presenting a plaque to Edward and Andrea Davis in memory of their late son, Matthew '12. Mr. & Mrs. Davis, along with Matthew's wife, Sarah, have established a Davis music scholarship at DeMatha. The plaque bearing Matthew's name can be seen outside of a music practice room at the school.

Matthew Davis was an All-State French horn player at DeMatha and also played viola in the Sinfonia. "Matthew loved being part of a group," his parents said. "He was always more proud of his section than any individual honor."

Mathew also loved DeMatha. "He used to say that if he ever had sons he would move closer to Hyattsville so they could experience the brotherhood that Matthew carried with him throughout his life," they said. "He loved the religious part of the school and embraced everything DeMatha had to offer."

Upon graduation, Matthew attended Catholic University, where, as a member of the school's orchestra, he performed in front of Pope Francis. At the time of his death, he was married (to Sarah), doing real estate photography, and performing with the Fredericksburg Symphony Orchestra as well as the 380th U.S. Army Reserve Band.

In December 2022, Matthew suffered a seizure that was first diagnosed as stress-related until a second seizure, which occurred during an orchestra rehearsal, led to more testing. Brain cancer was the diagnosis, and Matthew had



The **Davis Family** has established a Scholarship in memory of their son **Matthew '12**, who so sadly passed away in February 2024 of cancer. Also pictured here are music faculty members **Carlos Castrillon '95** and **Matt Bickel '95**. A music practice room is now dedicated in the name of Matthew.

surgery followed by radiation and chemotherapy. There was an additional surgery, but the 14 month battle with cancer was too hard for the DeMatha grad to overcome. Matthew passed away on Ash Wednesday in 2024.

Matthew was a man of deep faith, who fully embraced his Catholic identity. His main desire, along with bringing joy to people through music, was to help bring people closer to God. Had he survived his cancer, Matt planned to become a church deacon and lead a ministry in support of others with cancer.

"Matthew was never bitter. He was full of mercy and forgiveness and would often say, 'Jesus, I trust in you. It's God's will, and I will be in a better place,'" his parents said.

Matthew's mom and dad truly believe that their son's faith-based courage in the face of such adversity began during his time at DeMatha. They also say they (along with their son Nick '14) were comforted during this time by numerous DeMatha families.

So it makes sense that the Davis family wishes to keep their eldest son's memory alive – especially at DeMatha. "Setting up this scholarship was Matthew's dream. It was something he truly wanted," they said.

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 Mr. Thomas A. Rogers '08  
 Mr. Keith G. Rust '82  
 Mrs. Faith D. Scott-Dunson  
 Mr. Eric C. Stockhausen '79  
 Mr. Kevin Townsend '77  
 Mrs. Karen Yarrish

## IN HONOR OF

Alexios & Tassos Rodriguez  
 Andrew Nugent '11  
 Bob Gittings '53  
 Charles Kenny '68 and the Mock Trial Chair  
 Chris & Matt Benedick  
 Daniel J. McMahan '76 for the Chair in  
 Teaching Excellence

David Hoke '13  
 Errol Clarke Jr. '14  
 Fr. James  
 Gordon and Sam Johnson  
 H. Roy Eidem  
 Hayden '24 & Lucas '22 Belt  
 John J. Martin Jr. '85  
 Michael Cullen and the Chair of  
 Teaching Excellence  
 Nilolas C. Long '24  
 Patrick Armentrout  
 Rich Macheski and the Chair in Social  
 Studies  
 Rocco Mennella and the Chair in  
 Teaching Excellence  
 Zachary Plue

## IN MEMORY OF

Agnes Edward & Lisa Senseney  
 Algustus Sr. and Blance Lee  
 All those classmates who have gone  
 before us  
 Allen Ahearn '55  
 Americo and Ruth Ceccarelli  
 Amos Mobaidin  
 Andre C. Jones '87  
 Ann Gough  
 Anthony Fotos  
 Art Doyle '54  
 Beth Paolucci  
 Bill and Shirley Hibbs  
 Bill Cronin '64  
 Bob and Tillie Callaway  
 Bob Menoche '61  
 Bobby Hampton '75  
 Brendan '99 and Maureen Looney  
 Brian Freeman  
 Bro. Francis  
 Bruce C. Mitchell  
 Carmelo Sergi  
 Caroline Benedict  
 Carolyn Prentice  
 Charles & June Jones  
 Charles E. "Buck" Offutt  
 Charlie Sullivan '61  
 Coleman Mellett '92  
 Constance Cole Twining  
 Coy Gibbs '91  
 D. Alan Henry '65  
 Dan and Ben Garner  
 Daniel J. McMahon III  
 David Daly  
 David Noury Martin  
 Deceased 2006 classmates  
 Deceased Trinitarians  
 Delores and Robert B. Kelly, Sr

Dennis Franko Jr. '93  
 Denny Murray  
 Derek Clark '09  
 Donald P. Bonolis  
 Dr. Michael P. Reidy '60  
 Edward W. Kirk '60  
 Fr. Michael Malloy  
 Fr. Thomas Burke '69  
 Giles & Margaret Vaz  
 Herbert Colclough Jr  
 J. Walter Coughlin '52  
 Jack & Marilyn Carruthers  
 Jack Koslosky  
 Jack Roache  
 James Landi '82  
 James Worley '67  
 Joe Behrmann  
 Joe & Joan Dunn  
 John and Joan Moylan  
 John J. Cullinane, Jr '60  
 John McDonough '56  
 John McKee '67  
 John Santacroce  
 John Thomas Lappin  
 John W. Stauder  
 Judith McBride Essex  
 Judy Wells  
 Kevin Knott '93  
 Kyle Lallis '87  
 Laurence W. Fitzgerald III '75  
 Lawrence M. Skoczynski  
 Lester Dockery III  
 Lou Amico  
 Maria F. and Manuel T. Rojas  
 Mark Morusiewicz '82  
 Mark Tonic '87  
 Mary Ann Gaskins  
 Mary Ken Shell Fry  
 Maurice Bugnosen '82  
 Michael '65 & Charles '74 Wiles  
 Michael Edward Reynolds '66  
 Michael J. Schmidt '83  
 Michael V. Shea '83  
 Mike Bussink '64  
 Mike Moore '78  
 Mike Rich '89  
 Morgan Wootten  
 Msgr. Thomas Wells  
 Pat O'Connell '71  
 Patrick Cartney '90  
 Phil A. Gentilcore  
 Phil and Margaret Keimig  
 Raleigh Jackson III '92  
 Randy Martin  
 Ray Smith  
 Raymond Ballinger  
 Ricky '80 and Brian '05 Gray



**Ken and Mary Ellen Mellett** awarded this year's **Coleman Mellett '92** Memorial Scholarship to juniors **Jesse Kliman** (left) and **Riley Massey**. Jesse plays the cello and is part of the Voices of DeMatha. Riley plays the saxophone. The scholarship helps to keep the spirit and legacy of Coleman alive by empowering the dreams of promising students.

Robert C. Willhide '69  
 Robert L. Brown, Sr  
 Ruby W. Walker & John L. Walker  
 Sabino Solazzo  
 Sal & Marie DeCampo  
 Sean Cowdrey '13  
 Stanley Krawczewicz  
 Stephanie Donoghue  
 Stephen G. Malley  
 Susan MacWilliams  
 Syd '65, Mike '79 & Charlie '82  
 Lawrence  
 Terry Digennaro  
 Thomas E. Smith  
 Timmy Thomas '11  
 Tony Villella '05  
 Tracy Vogel  
 Vince Bartozzi, Sr  
 Vincent Bartozzi Jr  
 Walt Coughlin '52  
 Warner Lawson Jr  
 William Cleary '66  
 William Jahn '59  
 Zach Misleh '17

## FOUNDATIONS

A Most Beautiful Thing Inclusion  
 Fund  
 Baltimore Ravens LP  
 City of Hyattsville  
 Community Foundation  
 Crescent Cities Charities, Inc.  
 Crimsonbridge Foundation  
 NFL Foundation

Special Olympics Maryland, Inc.  
 State Of Maryland  
 The A. James and Alice B. Clark  
 Foundation  
 The James M. Johnston Trust  
 The Kirby Family Foundation  
 The U.S. Charitable Gift Trust  
 The Winston-Salem Foundation

## MATCHING GIFT COMPANIES

AARP  
 AGM Financial Services, Inc.  
 Allied World Assurance Company, Ltd.  
 AltaGas  
 BlueSnap  
 Campbell Soup Foundation  
 Charities Aid Foundation America  
 Costco Wholesale Corporation  
 Exelon Corp.  
 Google  
 Hewlett Parckard Enterprise  
 Foundation  
 Microsoft  
 Northrop Grumman  
 PNC Foundation  
 Raymond James Financial  
 Corporation  
 Raytheon Technologies  
 T. Rowe Price Associates Foundation, Inc.  
 UPS  
 Verizon Foundation  
 Workday

# SCHOOL & FACULTY NEWS

**Maureen McCart**, who worked in the Advancement Office for the past 11 years, has retired from full-time work. A veteran of 30 years in Catholic education, she spent the majority of her time at DeMatha writing grants to help the school secure funding from public and private sources. Maureen continues to consult for us. Mark Goodson, in addition to teaching English, is our new grant writer.

Seniors **Andrew Cibor**, **Gordon Johnson** and **Will Keating** attended the prestigious Maryland Boys State program. Sponsored by the American Legion, the summer program is for rising high school seniors to learn the fundamentals of democratic government through hands-on experience. Activities included, among others, legislative sessions, court proceedings and law enforcement presentations.



When **Paul Toboni** was introduced as the Washington Nationals' new president of baseball operations on Oct. 1, he gave a shoutout to DeMatha and mentioned the late great Morgan Wootten and "all the great players who have come through there."

"This is a great area for sports," Toboni continued. "and it's my hope that kids should dive into it because sports has been such a positive influence on my life."



Former DeMatha educators **Rocco Mennella** and **Jane Hemelt** were honored in July with the National Science Board's 2025 Science and Society Award. The recognition honors those who have worked tirelessly to increase public understanding and appreciation of science and engineering in the United States.

Rocco introduced new courses at DeMatha, including programming, calculus III and differential equations — typically reserved for upper-level college students. He will retire from teaching at Prince George's Community College on Jan. 1.

Jane taught math and chemistry at DeMatha, and for the past 33 years has coordinated the science and technology program at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.



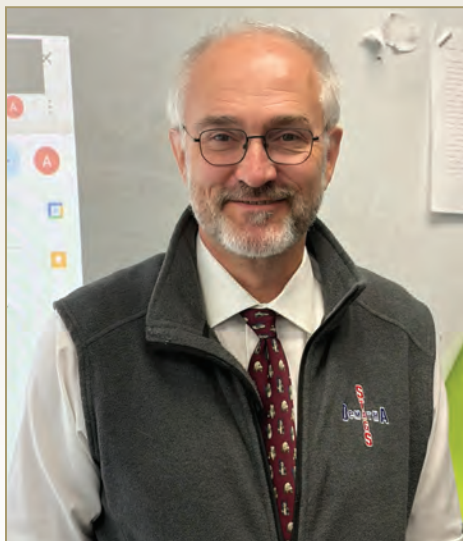
**Mingming Hao**, who teaches Chinese at DeMatha, had an eventful 2025. In October, she was honored as DeMatha's Novice Teacher of the Year. The award, from the High School Principals Association of the Archdiocese of Washington, goes to classroom instructors who are in their fifth year or fewer.

Mingming concluded her fifth school year at DeMatha in June. She joined our faculty in 2020 after completing her M.Ed. at George Washington University.

This past summer Mingming led a group of 15 students on a 12-day tour of China. They visited major tourist attractions such as the Great Wall and the Forbidden City, as well as a high school. In addition, she completed the AP Summer Institute for AP Chinese Language and Culture at Johns Hopkins University.

# TRUE TO TH Celebrating 20 Y

Five DeMatha staff members recently celebrated their 20th anniversaries working here. Plaques commemorating their accomplishment are on the third floor of the main school building. Let's get to know them a little better.



**Asmus Conermann**  
FRENCH TEACHER

### What do you like best about working at DeMatha?

I enjoy the daily ebb and flow of being in the classroom with so many bright, talented and motivated young men. Their energy and curiosity definitely keep me engaged and looking forward to coming in day after day.

### What are some of the biggest changes you've seen since you first started working here?

I remember using a chalkboard and overhead projector. Now I'm exploring how to use AI to bring more of French language, culture and history into the classroom. Technology has allowed me to do things now I could barely have imagined 20 years ago. At the same time, some things have stayed fundamentally the same – the central importance that values, faith and academics play in the school community.

### Do you have a favorite DeMatha memory?

Over the years I've enjoyed taking

students on field trips to museums around D.C., on trips to France, being part of the DeMatha Leadership Institute and seeing how students in the video, finance and aviation clubs enthusiastically pursue interests outside of their classes.



**Sam Haller**  
ENGLISH TEACHER,  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL

### What do you like best about working at DeMatha?

I have always felt that DeMatha gave me room to grow and trusted me to try things, for the good of my students and the school. From the moment of my first interview with Dr. McMahon, I could tell he had the confidence in me that I could really grow into an excellent teacher.

### What are some of the biggest changes you've seen since you first started working here?

The proliferation of technology is certainly a big one. There are a lot of ways we've been able to use technology to streamline processes around school, but for

the most part, I can tell how phones have impacted attention spans – myself included.

### Do you have a favorite DeMatha memory?

I've got a lot of cherished DeMatha memories, but those from the first year with the rest of the new teacher class of 2005 are some of my favorites. The night of our first parent-teacher conference, and then hanging out with my new colleagues at Franklin's afterwards – that might be the moment when I really felt like I found my community.



**Robert House**  
SPANISH TEACHER, WORLD  
LANGUAGES DEPT. CO-CHAIR

### What do you like best about working at DeMatha?

Just about everything! When I am asked about DeMatha, I like expressing how proud I am of our school. That I'm so glad to be working here with such talented people, and that after all these years of teaching, it's still a joy to be in the classroom. I also like that our

# THE MISSION: Years at DeMatha

school leadership never stops trying to find ways to improve.

## What are some of the biggest changes you've seen since you first started working here?

We keep growing and adding new buildings to our campus to meet the needs of our students, and we aren't done yet.

## Do you have a favorite DeMatha memory?

I have taught many faculty members' sons. Remembering them as little kids running around the hallways or at Christmas gatherings at the McMahons. Especially this year with my son Daniel graduating.



### John McConnell

ENGLISH TEACHER,  
ENGLISH DEPT. CO-CHAIR

## What do you like best about working at DeMatha?

The fact that gratitude is emphasized on an almost daily basis. Our students seem to recognize that they are getting help from a lot of people and that they should acknowledge that help.

## Do you have a favorite DeMatha memory?

Most of my memories involve student interactions, but a specific moment has to do with my fellow teachers. In the summer of 2020, during the COVID-19 pandemic, I was asked to recreate my "Senior Seminar on War Narratives" for the Cerfroid Faculty Seminar. I brought up the fact that the class was so emotionally disturbing for me that I could only teach it every other year. Normally, the seminar is limited to 10 people; 19 signed up. It was conducted via Google Classroom, the only time it has been a virtual class. I'm not a fan of online classes, but this worked. I figured out how to create breakout rooms so that people could talk in smaller, more intimate settings.

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*"Gratitude is emphasized on an almost daily basis. Our students seem to recognize that they are getting help from a lot of people and that they should acknowledge that help."*

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My colleagues were completely engaged in our discussions despite the fact that they often focused on horrific violence, PTSD and suicide. I often get frustrated when my fellow citizens reduce the experiences of people in the military to a cartoonish understanding of heroes who kill the bad guys.

At the end of that seminar I thought to myself that I work with truly wonderful people. Despite the pandemic, the isolation, the Google Classroom screens and something approaching despair, I felt absolutely connected to my fellow teachers.



### Jamie O'Connor '90

ASSISTANT DEAN OF STUDENTS

## What do you like best about working at DeMatha?

All the great people I've worked with over the years. The facilities here are great, but it's the people that work in those buildings that make DeMatha special.

## What are some of the biggest changes you've seen since you first started working here?

Technology has become such a huge part of our everyday lives, especially in school. Also, Hyattsville has grown tremendously ... and so has the traffic.

## Do you have a favorite DeMatha memory?

As a parent, it was getting to hand both of my sons (Owen '22 and Liam '25) their diplomas. As a student, getting asked to leave Mr. T's class my senior year as only he could do it. As a teacher, having John Moylan enter my class and ask me what I was doing there. When I told him I was teaching, he said "the worst students make the best teachers. You will be great." As a coach, winning the 2011 national championship with the soccer team.

# CAMPUS MINISTRY NEWS

Students collected and sorted more than 15,700 packaged and canned food items during the annual Food Drive. With the cost of food having greatly risen in the past year, the collection will greatly assist our six charity partners in providing meals for local families. Thank you to all who donated.

On Sept 30, DeMatha, McNamara and Seton students packaged 32,000 pounds of meat into 1,600 bags for the community at the SHARE warehouse, a program run by Catholic Charities D.C.



In September, several DeMatha students volunteered with Happy Helpers for the Homeless in Halethorpe, Md. They packaged food and helped serve nearly 400 people.



**Alyce Zwilling**, who turned 1 on Sept. 14, joined her mom (**Abby**) and dad (theology teacher **James**) for Mass in the DeMatha chapel. Mass is offered each school day at 7:45 a.m.



The Service Club, including junior **A.J. Brown** (left) and sophomore **Daniel Williams**, collected diapers this fall for the Global Health Development Project in Riverdale Park. Diapers are among the most expensive items parents need to care for their young children.

# MUSIC NOTES



The Wind Ensemble, DeMatha's top instrumental group, was featured with the Maryland Winds professional concert band at Bowie State University on Nov. 18. The program honored the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps on their 250th anniversaries, and the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War.

**Julian Ayers '92** is the Winds' executive director. He was a 26-year military musician and fifth command sergeant major of the United States Army Band, Pershing's Own. His son, **Joel**, graduated from DeMatha in 2023 and played trombone. **Jason** is a sophomore French horn musician in the Wind Ensemble, which in the spring was named top Catholic high school band in the country.



**Jim Turk**, director of vocal music for the past 29 years, was recognized in October by the Archdiocese of Washington High School Principals Association as DeMatha's Veteran Teacher of the Year.

Jim leads the popular Voices of DeMatha chorus, which has performed as far away as Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. He has taught students who work as professional singers and conductors. Affectionately known as "Coach," Jim composed the music for DeMatha's alma mater and teaches it to each ninth grader soon after their arrival.

Jim holds bachelor of arts and master of fine arts degrees from The Ohio State University. He also has an M.A. from the University of Maryland.

# Class of 2025 Scholarship Offers: \$25,485.140

Members of the class of 2025 received scholarship and financial aid offers of more than \$25 million.

Here are the scholarship winners and the schools they are attending.

## ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS

**Ross Adams** – Morehouse College  
**Tasi Agwe** – Temple University  
**Chase Alexander** – Norfolk State University  
**Terry Amos** – Millersville (Pa.) University  
**Joseph Arthur** – McDaniel College  
**Jonathan Baddoo** – Loyola University Maryland  
**Kevin Carey** – York College of Pennsylvania  
**Gabe Chapman** – McDaniel College  
**Luis Chavez** – Catholic University of America  
**Nick Church** – Mercer University  
**Nijel Cross** – University of Maryland  
**Kaya Dengel** – American University  
**Peter Dignam** – Radford University  
**Asaad Donaldson** – Drexel University  
**Nasir Donaldson** – Towson University  
**Liam Donnelly** – University of Delaware  
**Brendan Dougherty** – Duquesne University  
**Byron Guzman** – Salisbury University  
**Adonis Johnson** – Mississippi State University  
**Jordan Johnson** – University of Alabama at Birmingham  
**Bobby Koomins** – Gettysburg College  
**Joseph Lagman** – Marymount University  
**Grady Lawrence** – Virginia Wesleyan University  
**Toby Leys** – St. John Fisher University  
**Aidan Lopez** – Stevenson University  
**Joshua Lopez** – United States Naval Academy  
**Jonathan Mack** – Embry Riddle Aeronautical University  
**Quincy McDowell** – Rochester Institute of Technology  
**Andri Mendoza** – Loyola University Maryland  
**Elijah Monk** – Quinnipiac University  
**Dillon Pereira** – UMBC  
**Michael Quiroz** – Frostburg State University  
**Diego Ramirez** – Catholic University of America  
**Quintarius Reynolds** – Stonehill College  
**Evan Rigg** – McDaniel College  
**Jackson Ross** – Randolph-Macon College  
**Henry Rutz** – Worcester Polytechnic Institute  
**Akintunde Shoetan** – Xavier University of Louisiana  
**Jordan Shortt** – Hampton University  
**Shawn Smolen** – University of South Carolina  
**Brandon Smoot** – St. Mary's College of Maryland  
**Hayden Walsh** – U.S. Merchant Marine Academy  
**Malachi Wilson** – Eastern University  
**Cole Wittlinger** – University of Massachusetts  
**Jackson Yoder** – Florida State University  
**Joshua Zuniga** – Purdue University

## ATHLETIC SCHOLARSHIPS

### Baseball

**Bud Coombs** – University of Maryland  
**Brooks Franklin** – United States Naval Academy  
**Bryce Palms** – Youngstown State University

### Basketball

**Cole Bowser** – Furman University  
**Solomon Davis** – Virginia Tech

**Kade Sebastian** – American University  
**Charles Thomas** – Bowie State University  
**Caden Walton** – Eckerd College

### Football

**Bentley Allen** – University of Delaware  
**Alex Amaya** – Morgan State University  
**Terry Amos** – Millersville University  
**Mark Beasley** – Stony Brook University  
**Devon Bertrand** – Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
**Noah Chambers** – Virginia Tech  
**Anthony Chuman** – St. Francis University  
**Bud Coombs** – University of Maryland  
**Naim Dominique** – Indiana University of Pennsylvania  
**Denzel Gardner** – Southern Mississippi University  
**Nate Hampton** – St. Francis University  
**Darius Harrell** – St. Francis University  
**Jermaine Minnis** – Ohio University  
**Luke O'Hare** – University of Maryland  
**Quintarius Reynolds** – Stonehill College  
**Jordan Shortt** – Hampton University  
**Aiden Smith** – Brown University  
**Kelton Sparks** – Morehead State University  
**Jacob Wallace** – University of Iowa

### Lacrosse

**Matthew Beachley** – Penn State University  
**Nick Church** – Mercer University  
**Landon McKelvy** – Boston University  
**Will Taylor** – St. Joseph University  
**Cole Wittlinger** – University of Massachusetts

### Rowing

**Mekhi Akonnor** – Xavier University of Louisiana  
**Liam O'Connor** – Hobart College

### Rugby

**Matthew Conlon** – Towson University  
**Moses Didname** – Temple University  
**Earl Gilliam** – UMBC

### Soccer

**Peter Dignam** – Radford University

### Swimming & Diving

**Josh Lopez** – United States Naval Academy  
**Jayson Ross** – University of Georgia

### Tennis

**Awungija Mbelem** – Coppin State University

### Track & Field

**Daden Grogan** – American University  
**Darius Harrell** – St. Francis University  
**Austin Williams** – Morehouse College



DeMatha President **Father Albert Anuszewski** (left), **Bishop Roy Campbell** and former DeMatha President **Father James Day** are joined by seniors **Jordan Stevens**, **Aaron Javier-Barry** and **Brian Lizama** at the Cross Center dedication. The students are holding the crosses placed in each classroom.

# Now Open: The Cross Center for Engineering, Arts & Robotics

The Cross Center for Engineering, Arts & Robotics was dedicated Sept. 9 and began educating students in November. It is the latest addition to DeMatha's Hyattsville campus.

"This beautiful building is a testimony to vision, sacrifice, generosity and faith," DeMatha President Father Albert Anuszewski said at the dedication ceremony. "It will enrich the life of our campus and expand opportunities for learning and growth."

Father Albert thanked several people for their myriad contributions to the center, including Father James Day, his predecessor, "whose courage and foresight began and completed the campaign that laid the foundation for this project."

DeMatha Principal Dr. Dan McMahon '76 said the Cross Center is far more than a physical structure: "How we will make this space sacred, how we will continue to bless this space is the real building that will take place long after the celebration of this moment."

## CROSS CENTER FACTS & FIGURES

- Architect: Michael Johnson '80, principal, CW Architects, Inc.
- General contractor: Edge Construction; Dave Kopp, president
- Interior space: ~6,000 square feet with three main classrooms to teach engineering (1,300 sf), fine arts (1,240 sf) and robotics (1,300 sf)
- Tall clerestory windows throughout to provide an abundance of natural light
- Exposed glulam (columns & beams) and steel structural framing
- A fabric-based air dispersion and air distribution HVAC system
- Vaulted ceilings in each classroom
- Inverted gable roofs
- \$4.5 million to build



From left, senior **Robert Reeser**; DeMatha principal **Dan McMahon '76**; DeMatha President **Father Albert Anuszewski**; and senior **Gordon Johnson**. Robert and Gordon are co-SGA presidents.

*"When we say we will add touches to the building, we are talking about adding gifts and talents to enrich our lives and the lives of others."*

- Dr. Dan McMahon '76

# SENIOR GORDON JOHNSON Seeks to Follow Parents' Path to the Academy

**G**ordon Johnson Jr.'s goal to attend a military academy is not surprising. He doesn't have to look far for role models. His mother, Donna, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy, and his father, Gordon Sr., graduated from West Point.

"My parents have lived lives of public service, first in the military and then in government agencies," Gordon Jr. said. "I admire them for their leadership and find both of them very inspiring.

"They inspire people by their example, and I try to do that in everything I do as well."

Gordon is co-president of the Student Government Association. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, founded the Debate Club and is president of the Investment Club. Because of his stellar performance in several advanced placement courses, he has a cumulative GPA of 4.445.

After serving as an SGA sophomore and junior rep, Gordon and fellow senior Robert Reeser finished tied among students in voting for SGA president. Scott Sicko, SGA moderator, has high praise for each of them.

"I've had the privilege of watching Gordon and Robert lead with integrity, collaboration and genuine care for their peers," Scott said. "Their ability to work together seamlessly—balancing vision with execution—has elevated the SGA and strengthened our school community.

"Both young men exemplify what it truly means to be a DeMatha man: faith-filled, servant-hearted and committed to excellence in all they do."

Once Gordon secures his congressional nominations to the Naval Academy and the U.S. Military Academy, he will wait to see if he receives an appointment. He would be happy to join "The Long Gray Line" and become an Army infantry officer, but his top choice is to stay in his hometown of Annapolis and become a Marine Corps officer.

Gordon plans to major in electrical engineering, a goal he said was nurtured by studying science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) at DeMatha. He embraces taking "super difficult" classes.

"My love of STEM has flourished here," he said. "Right now, I'm taking calculus with Mr. [Christopher] Benedick, and it's super hard, but I find that the challenge makes the class even more fun. I've also taken robotics and advanced robotics with Mr. [Rich] Blorstad '10".

Gordon added that his interest in electrical engineering was sparked in 2023 when he designed a portable cell phone charging



*Gordon Johnson plans to major in electrical engineering.*

station for his fellow students. Once he built a prototype, pitched his idea to school administrators and demonstrated that it would work, he was asked to assemble 10 more.

His desire to excel extends to the playing field. As a junior he helped the DeMatha rugby team go undefeated and win the program's first conference championship. He will be a team captain this year, perhaps a harbinger of him one day holding a leadership position in the Army or Marines. His brother Sam, a sophomore, is also interested in attending a military academy.

Gordon said DeMatha has afforded him the opportunity to participate in a wide range of activities.

"During your freshman and sophomore years, you're building a foundation for when you're an upperclassman," he said. "I tried a bunch of different clubs and several activities. I got to know a lot of different people, and I also got to learn about myself, what I like, don't like and what I enjoy learning.

"The sooner you find this out, the better time you'll have in high school as you focus on what you actually like to do."

# DeMatha Wins Second Straight WCAC Championship, Winning Streak Reaches 21

Former Navy quarterback Roger Staubach would have been proud of DeMatha junior Tristan Sabb.

On the same field where Roger the Dodger won the 1963 Heisman Trophy with his passing and running ability, Sabb engineered a late 66-yard drive that he punctuated with a 1-yard plunge on fourth down to lift the Stags to a 20-13 victory over Gonzaga for their second consecutive WCAC Championship.

“Tristan made big plays for us all year,” DeMatha coach Bill McGregor said “He made them with his arm; he made them with his feet. And great things happened for us.”

Sabb, voted first-team All-WCAC, finished 14 of 18 for 230 yards.

Played on a crisp November evening at Navy-Marine Corps Memorial Stadium in Annapolis, the win was the 26th conference crown in school history. McGregor has won 19 of those and was selected co-WCAC Coach of the Year.

The Stags (11-0) concluded their first undefeated season since 2016 and were ranked No. 1 by The Washington Post all season. They will enter 2026 on a 21-game winning streak.

Lavar Keys, who was named first-team All-Met, had an outstanding game. The Indiana University recruit caught nine passes for 130 yards, including a 19-yard touchdown that gave DeMatha a 13-7 lead late in the third quarter.

Josh Parker, another senior wide receiver, also came up big. His 40-yard TD that Sabb and Keys set up with a 47-yard completion put the Stags up 6-0 with 8:41 to go before halftime. He finished with four receptions for 96 yards.

“Lavar and Josh had outstanding games against a very good defense,” McGregor said. “And credit our offensive line for giving Tristan the time to throw.”

The No. 5 Eagles (7-5) scored on the final play of the second quarter and tied the game at 13 on a 22-yard TD pass with 4:01 remaining. Sophomore Nick Stevens blocked the extra point.

Sabb, who started the winning drive with 3:58 on the clock, completed two passes for 17 yards to Keys and scrambled for 26 yards to bring the ball to the Gonzaga 5. After a 4-yard run by Elijah Lee, Sabb went up the middle and just got the ball into the end zone.



From left, seniors *Elijah Lee, Lavar Keys, Jordan Stevens* and *Kai Jones* celebrate DeMatha's 26th football championship.

When Maryland-bound Darrell Carey intercepted the Eagles' final pass and took a knee, the celebration began.

“I've been here for four years,” Keys said, “and this is how I wanted to end it.”

## SOCCER

The Stags (5-6-4), after a slow start under first-year head coach Dan Gill, went on to enjoy a five-match winning streak. Jacob Arthur was named first-team All-WCAC. Second-team recognition went to Jack Reilly and Bladimir Fuentes. Senior Daniel Reynolds and juniors DeAngelo Manrique and Matthew Robinson received honorable mentions.

## CROSS COUNTRY

The harriers' two best finishes came in the Prince George's Invitational (third of 15) and the Skip Grant Invitational (second of 16). The squad placed ninth in the WCAC Championships and 11th in the Maryland Private School State Championships. Sophomore Lucas Moisiuk was the Stags' top performer in the latter (17:51.3) and broke his personal record by five seconds.

## GOLF

Joseph Vartabedian became the first DeMatha golfer to win an American Junior Golf Association event in July when he won the Coca-Cola Junior Championship in Maine by six strokes with a two-under 214. The junior was named first-team All-Met last spring.

# Timothy Strachan '94

## A Great DeMatha Man

SEPTEMBER 3, 1975 – JULY 8, 2025

**T**im Strachan '94 is one of the most accomplished graduates in DeMatha history. Despite a devastating 1993 injury that ended his football career, he refused to let it define who he would become. He worked hard to graduate from the University of Maryland and earned a law degree from Georgetown. He developed into a lawyer, coach, broadcaster and motivational speaker. He was a devoted son, brother, friend, husband and father.

Tim's life was celebrated at DeMatha on July 21 with about 1,000 people in attendance. On Oct. 24, he was honored on the field prior to an overtime victory against St. John's. He continues to teach us to not let setbacks derail our dreams. Here are some memories of Tim shared that day and throughout the years:

**FAITH:** "I know that Tim Strachan is securely and eternally in the presence of the Lord because the Bible says that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." – **Rev. James Brown '69**, an ordained minister and host of the *The NFL Today*.

**INSPIRATION:** "I love you 'T'! You are the exemplar of life on life's terms, and you sit up and show up with LOVE and SUPPORT and DEDICATION to FAMILY." – **Jamie Lee Curtis** in a Facebook post after he congratulated her on winning an Academy Award in 2023.



Tim and his wife Leslie with their three children, from left, Sophie, Luke and Olivia.

**PERSEVERANCE:** "Complain' was never in Tim's vocabulary, but determination and resilience were. He never questioned the cards he was dealt after his life-changing accident. Instead, he accomplished more in his 49 years than I have in my lifetime." – *Local broadcasting icon Johnny Holliday, who worked with Tim for 22 years on Maryland football radio broadcasts and was a Kensington, Md., neighbor.*

"T's story was never about what could have been but always about what he accomplished in the face of fulltime adversity. ... T had many choices to make, but he made the one that was to live. You only die once, but for 11,659 days after his injury he showed up to fight and live every single day. ... He was the most amazing man I ever met." – **Kevin Ricca**, a lifelong friend of Tim's who was with him when he died.

**HUMOR:** One day, on a 1st Amendment Sports broadcast, **Ricca** asked Tim who – other than his mother – were the "three most influential women" in his life. Without hesitation, he said, "Beau, Brett and Pooh" ... his three older brothers.

**IMPACT:** "Tim is going to live forever in the memory of all of us here at DeMatha." – *Stags football coach Bill McGregor on NBC4 Washington.*



DeMatha football coach **Bill McGregor** welcomes Tim to his first game since being injured, a 28-14 victory over Archbishop Carroll to close the 1993 regular season. The Stags went on to win the inaugural WCAC championship ... with Tim in attendance.

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*"I have never questioned God as to why I have been dealt a few bad hands. But I have questioned him as to why I have met so many wonderful people in my life."* – Tim Strachan, March 2025

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## '60s

CBS Sports announcer **James Brown '69** began his 32nd year as an NFL pre-game host in September. In late October, he was honored at the National Press Club as a Media Icon.

## '70s

**Dr. Victor McCrary '73**, chairman of the National Science Board, is now vice provost for national security innovation at his alma mater, Catholic University. He had been vice president of research at UDC. Catholic is ranked in the top 5% of research universities nationwide.

**Kenny Carr '74** and **David Aldridge '83** were inducted into the Washington Metropolitan Basketball Hall of Fame in September. Kenny won a gold medal at the 1976 Montreal Olympics and averaged 11.6 points across 10 NBA seasons. David is an award-winning print and broadcast journalist who has covered many of the world's top sporting events.

**Dr. Joe Leginus '76** and DeMatha mathematics teacher **Kelly Lama** won a championship in the D.C. Men's Senior Baseball 60+ League.

Staff member **Tom Ponton '78** contributed a toast on NBC4 Washington in July to late peacemaker Mattie Stepanek.



**Gregory Tapscott '80** knew he was in good hands for hip tendon surgery in Houston in November when he discovered his surgeon was **Dr. Phillip Williams '98**. In a twist of fate, Gregory had founded the DeMatha Black Student Union, and Phillip was later president.

## '80s

**Angler Danny Gough '83** hauled in a 72-pound white marlin to lead Billfisher to the top prize in the White Marlin Open in Ocean City, Md., and win \$3.9 million. Michael Jordan's Catch 23 team was second with a 71-pounder. The event is considered the Super Bowl of deep-sea fishing.

**Kevin Tamai '84** was honored by INOVA Blood Donor Services as Coordinator of the Year. The six blood drives Kevin leads collect 500 units of blood each year and more than 15,000 units over the past 25 years.

**Craig Gough '85** received the Melvin Jones Service Award, the highest honor given by Lions Clubs International.

Fairfax County Police Chief **Kevin Davis '87** was named one of the 50 Most Influential People in Northern Virginia. Kevin is a fourth-generation public safety servant and the father of three DeMatha graduates. In July, he was featured on *CBS Mornings* describing efforts to secure a safe Independence Day.

**Hugh Harris '86** competed in September's Ironman-Maryland race for the 14th time.



**Michael Curran '99** (center) and his wife **Sarah's** daughter, **Eden**, was baptized Nov. 29 in the DeMatha chapel by **Father Josh. Julia** and **Sean**, children of **Matthew Curran '84**, are the Godparents. Michael is chair of the DeMatha Social Studies Dept.

**David Freeland '88** was featured on *CBS Sunday Morning* in late June. David has written a book about the reopening of New York's famed Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

**John Gossart '88** dropped his debut solo album "Thief on the Left" in late October on all streaming platforms and vinyl.

## '90s

**Steven Napper '93** has been hired as an assistant basketball coach at Missouri Valley College in Marshall, Mo.

**Joe (Benny) Gardella '96** and staff member **Ben Fleri '11** were in Sicily, their ancestral homeland, for La Festa della Vara, which celebrates the Assumption of the Virgin Mary into heaven.

**Matthew Duffy '97** had two sculptures featured in the Sandy Spring (Md.) Museum's fall exhibition "Upside Down - Inside-Out." A practicing artist for 24 years, Duffy's work has been exhibited in 29 states, Europe, Asia and the Middle East.

**Noel McAlexander '97** founded Texas Beef Initiative in October 2020. It has donated 450,000 meals to food banks and churches in central Texas.



**Carlos Winston '98** was honored by Bowie (Md.) Police Chief **Dwayne Preston '87** for his role in rescuing a woman and her four children trapped in a vehicle destroyed by a fallen tree.

of Directors, was inducted into the Big Brothers Big Sisters of America Alumni Hall of Fame. Rodney is co-founder of Change Our Future Foundation. In August, he began working as an ACC Network football analyst.

**Kyle Brumfield '09** had a story on the dangers of beach water bacteria published in Scientific American.

**Eric Cortellessa '09** of Time magazine won the 2025 Sandy Hume Award for Excellence in Political Journalism. In September, his latest high-profile cover story featured music legend Bruce Springsteen.

**Michael Ricciardi '09** is a first officer with United Airlines.



**Kyle Albrecht '06** has been named president and chief executive officer of USA Gymnastics. After working for the past six years with Major League Soccer, Kyle will assume his new position on Jan. 1, 2026. He played soccer at DeMatha and at George Washington University. One of his major goals will be to position USA gymnasts for success in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics.

'00s

**John Fatseas '02** has a new job as associate principal - facade access at Thornton Tomasetti.

**Robert Plant's '03** new book, *Dark Matter*, debuted Sept. 17. It is described as a collection of seven unsettling short stories where technology, morality and human nature collide. Each tale lures you in with the familiar, then twists into something dark, unexpected and unforgettable.

**Paul Rabil '04** was inducted into the Professional Lacrosse Hall of Fame in July. Paul, who played in several pro leagues before co-founding the Premier Lacrosse League, was a 10-time All-Star and two-time champion.

**Jack Curran '05** and his wife Emily were promoted to

commander in the United States Navy. Commander is the Navy's second-highest rank below admiral.

**Zachary Keene '06** has been promoted to accounts payable lead with the Office of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia.

**Cameron Bennett '08** has been promoted at Sapient to senior manager, Agile Program Management.

**Karim Diane '08** is appearing in the next installment of the *Star Trek* series coming to Paramount+ TV.

**Ethan Gerlach '08** and his wife Adriana Cujano-Sanchez are the proud parents of a baby boy, Sascha, who was born Oct. 15. Congratulations!

**Rodney McLeod '08**, a member of the DeMatha Board

'10s

**Jerian Grant '10** represented the United States in late August at the FIBA Americup in Nicaragua. Jerian plays in Greece and was making his USA Basketball debut.

**Dolapo Demuren '11** was selected a national winner of a 2025 Poetry Society of America Chapbook Fellowship, one of the society's honors for emerging poets. The award includes publications of his manuscript, *American Love Sonnets*. He recently praised DeMatha and, in particular, English teacher Paul Clark, "whose guidance and encouragement were pivotal in shaping my early writing life."

**Lester Hayes '11** played in the prestigious Copa del Rey soccer tournament in Seville, Spain.

**Jonathan Rafterry-Lee '13** is working for Lumen Technologies as a sales development representative.

**Mark Simmons '13** and his wife **Amana** (Seton grad) were married Aug. 8 with several Stags in attendance. Congratulations!

**Sean '14** and **Paige Doyle** were married on Aug. 9. Several Stags served as groomsmen. Congratulations!

**Alex Morris '14** recently started his own cybersecurity and cloud computing consulting firm, SecurCloud Consulting.

**Alex Kincaid '15** was named head rowing coach at Washington College in Chestertown, Md.

'10s

**Dr. Chad Lilley '15** has been named lecturer of saxophone at the Eastern Michigan University School of Music and Dance.

**Franklin Tiafoe '16** coaches Hailey Baptiste, who won two singles matches at Wimbledon and is one of the top-ranked players in the world.

**Shane Simmons '16** graduated from the Arlington (Va.) Fire Academy.

**Peter Clark '18** has been promoted to vice president of business development with Solutionz Group.

**Ty Lenhart '18** was married in late June. Among the Stags in attendance were classmates Jack Davis '18 and Garrett Leadmon '18. Congratulations!



DeMatha teacher **Rich Blorstad '10** and his wife **Caitlyn** are the proud parents of a baby girl. Ellinor weighed 6 lbs, 13 oz., and measured 19.5 inches. Congratulations!



**Mekhi Vance '18**, a doctor of physical therapy student at Temple University, was awarded a \$20,000 Otho Davis Scholarship, which honors the late Otho Davis, a longtime Philadelphia Eagles athletic trainer and one of the pioneers of athletic training in the NFL. Since 1999, the foundation named for him has supported students pursuing careers in sports medicine, athletic training, physical therapy and sports marketing—continuing Davis' mission to uplift the next generation of professionals dedicated to keeping athletes at their best.

While at DeMatha, Mekhi served as a student manager on the football, basketball, baseball and lacrosse teams. He graduated from Penn State with a B.S. in kinesiology. In a Temple press release, he said the award was both validation and motivation.

"Becoming an Otho Davis Scholarship recipient means the world to me," Vance said. "It not only proves to myself that I can achieve my dreams despite the adversity life has thrown at me, but it also shows that every hour of hard work, every single sacrifice I have made, and every moment of dedication to this field has been worth it."

**Donnell Troy Jr. '18**, who plays trombone, is the latest DeMatha grad to join the 257th Army Band. Fellow alumni include Andy Waiters '04, Paul Harding '01 and Steven Kemp '00. Donnell is also a music instructor at H.D. Woodson High School in Northeast Washington.

**Caleb Dean '19** finished seventh (48.20) in the 400m hurdles final at the World Athletics

Championships in Tokyo. He was the second-fastest American behind gold medalist Rai Benjamin (46.52). Caleb's reaction time (.147) was best among the top eight.

**Jahmir Young '19** began the NBA season with the Miami Heat and will split time between the Sioux Falls (S.D.) Skyforce (G League) and Miami.

'20s

**Alex Greene '20** is working as an account manager for Fortitude Systems in Falls Church, Va.

**Earl Timberlake '20**, who was named 2024-25 America East Player of the Year, is playing pro basketball in Liga Betlic, Portugal's top league.

**Sieh Bangura '21** was named DC Touchdown Club Washington Metro College Player of the Week on Nov. 11 after producing 229 all-purpose yards in Ohio University's 24-20 victory over Miami (Ohio). The senior rushed for 102 yards, including a touchdown, and scored on a 97-yard kickoff return.

**Ethan Gough '21** was named to the Allstate Weurffel Trophy and Jason Witten Collegiate Man of the Year watch lists. Both awards recognize football players for their athletic achievement, academic success and community service. Ethan was Maryland's long snapper and is looking for a shot in the NFL.

**Callum Wainwright '21** was honored with the University of Maryland's Jack Heise Award for outstanding service by a student (basketball) manager.

**Austin Boynes '22**, a senior journalism major at Temple University, is interning with *Philadelphia Sports Digest*. In the fall he covered the Temple football team.

**Alma Matters**  
Continues on 30

# DeMatha Class Reunions

DeMatha was pleased to welcome dozens of alumni back to campus Sept. 20. Reunions were held for classes in five-year increments from 1980 to 2020. Be sure to follow DeMatha social media to stay up to date on future reunions. (Photos courtesy of Ben Fleri '11.)

1980



1985



1990



1995



2000



Class Reunions Continues on 30

ALMA MATTERS

(Continued from page 28)

**Dylan McKelvy '22** interned with Dupont last summer working in the State and Local Tax Department.

**Rodney Rice '22**, who transferred from Maryland to USC, has been named to the Jerry West Shooting Guard of the Year Top 20 Preseason Watchlist.



**Terez Davis '24**, who plays on the offensive line at Ole Miss, is donating \$5,000 a year for the next three years to the Bill McGregor Scholarship Fund.



**Fernando Rodriguez '24**, followed with a \$1,000 donation. Fernando is a sophomore at Bowie (Md.) State University. They are the first former players to donate to DeMatha football while in college.

DeMatha Class Reunions

(Continued from page 29)





**Ed Barrett '67** (third from right) was a member of the 1964-65 basketball team that beat Power Memorial, 46-43, before a sell-out crowd at Cole Field House. The victory ended Power's 71-game winning streak and brought DeMatha national acclaim. He's shown here in 2015 celebrating the 50th anniversary of the win.

Ed served in the Marines for four years and fought in the Vietnam War. Among his many commendations were a Bronze Star, Cross of Gallantry Medal and Purple Heart. He continued to serve as a federal police officer in the Pentagon and coached youth basketball. He was also a devout Bible scholar who spent many hours reading, researching and studying God's word.

**Judtih "Judy" Anderson**, mother of Steven '83.

**Michael Dickens '70.**

**Thomas Donnelly Sr.**, father of Thomas Donnelly Jr. '79. Grandfather of Bill '06 and Dan Siedleck '10, and Ryan Holt '18.

**Victoria Donoghue**, mother of Dennis '78, Tim '78 (dec.), Jack '81, Paul '83 and Peter '84. Numerous other DeMatha connections.

**James Drew**, father of Kobie '90.

**Kathy Duffy**, wife of longtime DeMatha basketball announcer Dennis. Mother of Matt '97 and Chris '05.

**Chuck E. Englehart**, father of Chuck J. Englehart '07. Father-in-law of Matt Parks '10.

**William Fern '57.**

**Brian Fisher**, father of Brian '86. Mr. Fisher also coached JV soccer for one season.

**Remetter Freeman**, mother of Rodney '73 and Reginald '75.

**Pete Gentilcore '78**, cousins with William Smith '79, and Phil '75, Len '77 and Doug '97 Gentilcore.

**Charles (Bob) Green**, father of former longtime staff member Mary Kerley. Father-in-law of Vince Kerley '69. Grandfather of Jim '98, Chris '01, Danny '04 and Stephen '07 Favret.

**Henry Haslinger '67**, brother of Robert '61 and John '63 (dec.).

**Richard Jarboe Sr. '61.**

**Russelle Lucas '76.**

**Johnny McAfee**, son of Deno Campbell '81.

**Mike Mudd '75.**

**Kenneth Neas '79.**

**Donna O'Connell**, mother of Mike '96.

**Barbara Pickens**, mother of Jerone '91. Grandmother of Renaldo Harper, III '28.

**Joe Ponton** (honorary DeMatha grad), uncle of Tom Ponton '78. Also related to Bryan Dugan '22 and faculty member Julie Ponton.

**Mark Rierson '76**, father of Eric '13. Mark was a regular at the Ray Smith Golf Classic year in and year out.

**Deb Rose**, mother of Patrick '09.

**Mary Roy**, mother of Vic '85. Grandmother of Ryan '19. Godmother of senior Bo Schilling. Several other DeMatha connections.

**Ludwig "Ludy" Schneider '54.**

**Joseph Slaninka**, father of Matt '00.

**Steven Stewart**, father of Steve '94.

**Tim Strachan '94 .**

**Richard Teasley '79.**

**Allen Thomas**, father of Hugh '83 and Bob '84 Thomas. Relative of the late Rich Lamont '79, and Jerry '01 and Josh '03 McCauley.

**Hugh Thomas '83**, brother of Bob Thomas '84.

**R. Patrick Welch '63**, brother of Jim '51.

**Howard Williams Jr.**, father of Howard Williams III '97. Stepfather of Jameson Williams-Martinez '10.

**Mary Yankowy**, mother of Scott '94.

**Barbara Yearwood**, mother of Steven Leigh '92.

**Lori Young**, mother of Joshua Young '21. Aunt of Eric Berkson '06. Brother-in-law of Michael Young '89.



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**2025-26 VARSITY BASKETBALL SCHEDULE**

**NOVEMBER**

29 vs. Mount Carmel (at St. John's).....3 p.m.

**DECEMBER**

5 vs. Fayetteville Academy (at Coolidge).....8 p.m.  
 6 vs. Santa Margarita (at Good Counsel).....3:45 p.m.  
**9 West Catholic .....7 p.m.**  
**13 TBA (National Hoopfest)..... TBA**  
**14 TBA (National Hoopfest)..... TBA**  
 19 at Carroll\*.....7:30 p.m.  
 26 TBA (Torrey Pines Invit., San Diego).....TBA  
 27 TBA (Torrey Pines Invit., San Diego).....TBA  
 28 TBA (Torrey Pines Invit., San Diego).....TBA  
 30 TBA (Torrey Pines Invit., San Diego).....TBA

**JANUARY**

1 TBA (Hoophall West, Gilbert, Ariz.) .....TBA  
 2 TBA (Hoophall West, Gilbert, Ariz.).....TBA  
 3 TBA (Hoophall West, Gilbert, Ariz.).....TBA  
**6 Gonzaga\* .....7:30 p.m.**  
 9 at Good Counsel\* .....7:30 p.m.  
 10 vs. St. Benedict's (Capital Hoops) .....TBA  
**14 O'Connell\* .....7 p.m.**  
**17 South River .....4 p.m.**

**JANUARY** (continued)

20 at St. Mary's Ryken\*.....7:30 p.m.  
**23 Ireton\* .....7:30 p.m.**  
**25 Paul VI\* .....4:30 p.m.**  
**27 McNamara\* .....7:30 p.m.**  
**30 St. John's\* .....7:30 p.m.**

**FEBRUARY**

**5 Carroll\* .....7:30 p.m.**  
 7 at Gonzaga\* .....3:30 p.m.  
**10 Good Counsel\* .....7:30 p.m.**  
 13 at O'Connell\* .....7:30 p.m.  
 19 WCAC Play-in Games.....TBA  
 22 WCAC Quarterfinals .....TBA  
 23 WCAC Semifinals (at American Univ.).....TBA  
 24 WCAC Championship (at American Univ.).....TBA

**MARCH**

1-8 Maryland Private School State Basketball Tournament

**Home games in bold**

\* WCAC game

Schedule is subject to change. For latest updates, go to [dematha.org/athletics](http://dematha.org/athletics)