

Geraghty Family Establishes Scholarship Fund

BY DAVID JACOBSON

The untimely 2025 passing of **Kevin Geraghty '00**, after a brave three-and-a-half-year battle with ALS, has inspired the launch of **The Kevin Geraghty '00 Endowed Scholarship Fund**. While the fund has been established in his honor, we are now inviting the community to help us build it. Our goal is to provide a full year's tuition to a junior-class student-athlete, ensuring they can walk the halls during their senior year as a living legacy of Kevin's example.

The scholarship is modeled after the **Christopher J. Hannigan '85** Memorial Scholarship, which Geraghty won in 1999, said his father, **Mike Geraghty '65**. "Some of Kevin's classmates were instigators in funding the scholarship: **John Bisanz, Jamie Chapuran, Justin Joyce, John Lorence, and Martin Norder**. Justin called and said they were kicking around the idea of a fundraiser and asked our permission. Kevin was a guy's guy. He brought people together."

Kevin's classmates worked hand-in-hand on the scholarship program with Kevin's parents (Mike and Joan) and Kevin's sister, Molly Contreras. Awarding of the Geraghty Scholarship, according to Contreras, will be based on candidates' exemplifying Kevin's personality traits: "leadership, resilience, integrity, growth mindset, accountability, grit, and perseverance."

Added Joyce: "Kevin embodied what it meant to be a Cadet. The scholarship will serve as a memorial to Kevin and a level of achievement that future Cadet student-athletes can aspire to."

The award also pays homage to some facts of Kevin Geraghty's life. "Kevin was not an academic-scholarship type of kid," explained Joan Geraghty. "But his football experience and the teachers and counselors he connected with prepared him for the battle he had to wage with ALS at the end. He did not back down or yield. He was an advocate for research in ALS, and he was intent on leaving a legacy of advocacy."

After his 2022 diagnosis, Kevin Geraghty and his wife, Tessa, immersed themselves in the ALS community and research. He participated in clinical trials, volunteered his time sharing his experience on patient advisory boards, and supported others who were newly diagnosed with ALS.



Kevin as a member of the Crack Drill Squad



Kevin in his home and road football uniforms



Kevin and Tessa Geraghty



The Geraghty family

The couple co-chaired “A Love Story” Gala in 2023, which raised more than \$800,000 for ALS research. Kevin also decided to donate his brain and spinal tissue to Harvard Brain Tissue Resource Center for continued study of neurological diseases.

“Kevin knew he was not going to win his battle,” said Mike Geraghty. “But he offered himself up as a guinea pig to help find a treatment to this disease.”

Kevin Geraghty’s obituary contained this quotation in his own voice: “I made a vow that I would fight this with everything that I have. I will not stop throwing punches in my effort to END ALS.”

That fighting spirit was forged at Saint Thomas Academy, as seen in his mother’s recollection of a sectional champion football game. “Kevin was sick to his stomach, and it was a brutal game. The coaches afterward said that Kevin ‘left everything on the field.’ That was the legacy he wanted to leave for ALS, too.”

Other elements and examples of Kevin Geraghty’s ties to the Academy include his and Tessa’s financial gift to a student whose father died from ALS, enabling that student to enroll. During Geraghty’s Cadet days, his greatest influences — academically, through Crack Drill Squad, and football — were Frank Blankley, Bill Culbertson, **Bob Slater ’77**, and Dave Ziebarth.

Applying for admission to the University of St. Thomas, Geraghty followed advice from those mentors, recalled

Mike Geraghty. “They told him to wear his uniform for a meeting at the University and just explain why he wanted to attend there — that if he wanted it that badly, it would be a done deal. The people at the University told Kevin they’d never seen a presentation like that.”

That story supports the way Joan Geraghty summed up her son: “He had true grit, and that took him through his whole life.”

Indeed, three messages on his computer shared the philosophy he brought to his battle with ALS:

- “Don’t miss today.”
- “To be rich in friends is to be poor in nothing.”
- And — echoing a famous speech by baseball Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig, whose name is synonymous with ALS — “I am the luckiest guy I know.”

We invite our community to join us in reaching the \$500,000 goal required to fully fund **The Kevin Geraghty ’00 Endowed Scholarship**. Please scan the QR code at right to help us provide a year’s tuition for a deserving student-athlete and keep Kevin’s memory alive at the Academy.

