



DAMIEN CONNECTION

WELCOME BACK

A Message to Our Alumni

We're so grateful for the outpouring of support and excitement after launching The Damien Connection!

Seeing our alumni reconnect, share memories, and stop by campus reminds us just how strong the Damien spirit truly is.

In this issue, we're celebrating that spirit in action — from alumni who've recently returned to visit, to a special feature on our Interim Athletic Director, whose passion for Damien athletics continues to inspire our community. You'll also find a look at the upcoming events we can't wait to celebrate with you.

Thank you for being part of this growing tradition. Whether you're near or far, you're always part of the Damien family — and we're so glad we get to share these stories together.



The Damien Connection Team

Got a story you want to share?
Send it to communications@damien.edu

ISSUE 02

DEC 2025

Inside this week's issue:

Feature Article

Class of '67 campus visit

School Traditions

Class Notes

DeVeuster Multi-purpose Field

Upcoming Events

Ways To Give

Contributors:

- Levanna Eugenio
- Justine Fiesta
- Jacob Inocencio
- Jennifer Rombaua



A HEARTFELT RETURN: SCOTT WONG '67 REFLECTS ON HIS DAMIEN DAYS

Scott Wong, Class of 1967, recently returned to Damien Memorial School, and what began as a quick visit with a friend turned into a nearly two-hour journey of memories, laughter, and storytelling.

Now residing in Ventura County and happily married to his high school sweetheart, Scott was eager to see his alma mater, and he was struck by how the campus is now "just gorgeous" compared to the older buildings he remembers.

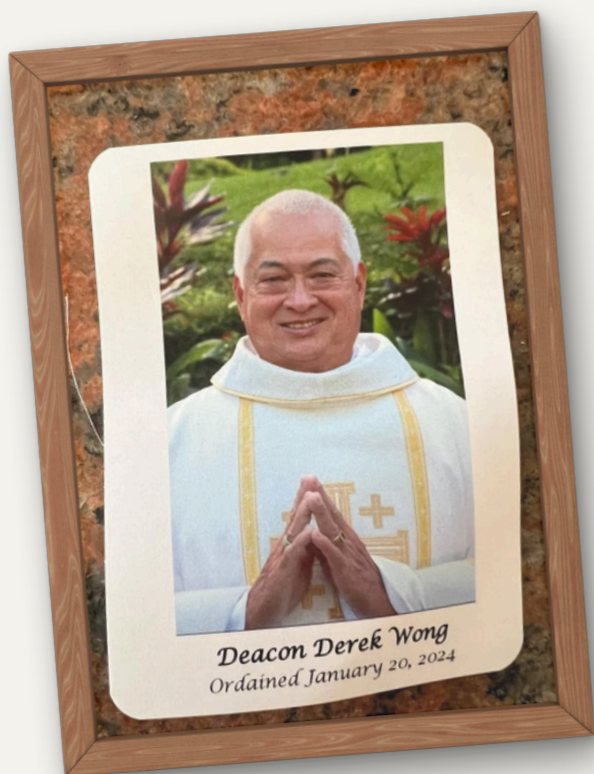
The Damien Scott remembers was an environment of strict discipline and deep camaraderie. He recalls the Brothers being "tough guys," whose lessons, like the simple advice to "Never quit", helped him navigate challenges, including his time in the Air Force during the Vietnam War.

He also reflected on a time when tuition was a mere \$250, but the core experience, built on shared maintenance work and an emphasis on lifelong values, was priceless. Even after briefly attending LA City College post-graduation, Scott found that the values instilled at Damien were his truest guide.

Scott's two-hour visit confirmed that the heart of the Monarch spirit is truly timeless. He encourages his former classmates to visit the school and see the incredible transformation for themselves. Most importantly, he would love to connect with his classmates from the Class of '67!

If you would like to connect with Scott Wong his email is sjwonghouse@msn.com. He would love to hear from his fellow classmates.

CLASS NOTES



Deacon Derek Wong '75

After joining the Catholic Church through RCIA on April 15, 2017, Derek Wong was ordained as a Deacon for the Diocese of Honolulu on January 20, 2024.

He now serves faithfully at St. Jude Catholic Church in Kapolei.

Congratulations, Deacon Derek, on this inspiring journey of faith and service!

Share your Story

Send us your milestones and keep your classmates up to date!

We love celebrating the achievements of our alumni! Whether it's a new job, a promotion, a degree earned, a marriage, a new addition to your family, or another exciting life update, we want to hear from you. Your story could be featured in our next newsletter. Email us at communications@damien.edu.

Email Us

FULL CIRCLE: FROM STUDENT-ATHLETE TO LEADER — ANTHONY'S JOURNEY OF GIVING BACK

For Anthony Tuitele '09, aka Coach Bones, Damien Memorial School has always been more than a place to learn, it's been home. Now serving as Interim Athletic Director, Tuitele reflects on his journey from student-athlete to coach to school leader as a full circle experience.

After high school, Tuitele went on to play college football in North Dakota and Missouri, where he learned to adapt and find strength in unfamiliar places.

"Being away from home taught me about life," he shared.

"It taught me to appreciate what I had and to understand that home is built through people and values." Little did he know that his experiences off-island would fuel his leadership and in inspiring our students.

Upon returning to Damien in 2015, Tuitele admitted that he was unsure about accepting the job as a teacher. Looking back today, he realized how not only it was a blessing, but he was meant to be back at his alma mater.

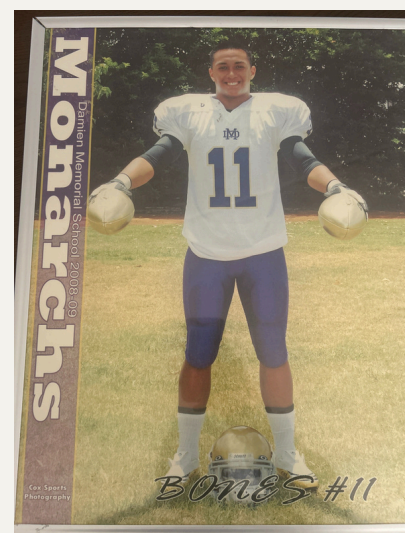
Today, Tuitele's leadership extends far beyond the field. Taking what he's learned from his mentors and coaches, he works with our football players instilling in them our school values of respect, responsibility, and community mindedness.

Ask Tuitele what defines a good athlete, and he won't talk about speed or strength, he'll talk about respect.

"Respect the people who came before you. Respect those around you," he explained.

"Success can blind you if you forget where you came from," he added.

That's why, under his guidance, Damien's football program has become as much about community as it is about competition.



“Community service humbles you,” said Tuitele.

He described how Monarchs don’t just train; they serve. They volunteer. They give back to their school and to their island. Tuitele hopes that one day they will give back to a broader community because they learned it at Damien.

Looking ahead, his vision for Damien athletics goes beyond trophies and titles.

“I want people to be talking about us, not about winning, but about the culture we have as an athletic program that fits the mission of our school,” he explained.

Tuitele’s leadership is built on connection and it shows in the way our athletes carry themselves. “I want people to know that our athletes aren’t just good players — they’re good people.”

In his words, and in his work, the heart of Damien beats strong — one rooted in values that never go out of season.

Passing the Torch: Damien’s Legacy of Mentorship

For many alumni, Damien was more than a school — it was a family. There was always someone looking out for you, whether it was an upperclassman showing you around, a teammate pushing you to do better, or a teacher reminding you that discipline and compassion go hand in hand. That same spirit still lives on today. While Damien has grown and evolved, the heart of its community — the tradition of mentorship — remains strong.

On the football field, coaches emphasize what generations of Monarchs already know: take care of one another. In girls volleyball, players are reminded to build each other up, not just as teammates but as people. And in student government, high school leaders guide middle school representatives — teaching them how to lead with purpose and humility.

“The older students take care of the younger ones,” says Interim Athletic Director Anthony Tuitele ’09. “That’s leadership. That’s family.”

It’s a familiar rhythm to anyone who once walked Damien’s halls — that quiet, powerful culture of guidance that shapes not just students, but lifelong Monarchs.

For today’s students, as for those who came before them, mentorship isn’t something written into policy or programs. It’s simply who we are — a tradition passed down, lived out, and proudly carried forward.



SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL



Donations

Every contribution to Damien Memorial School reinforces our commitment to faith, academic excellence, and service.

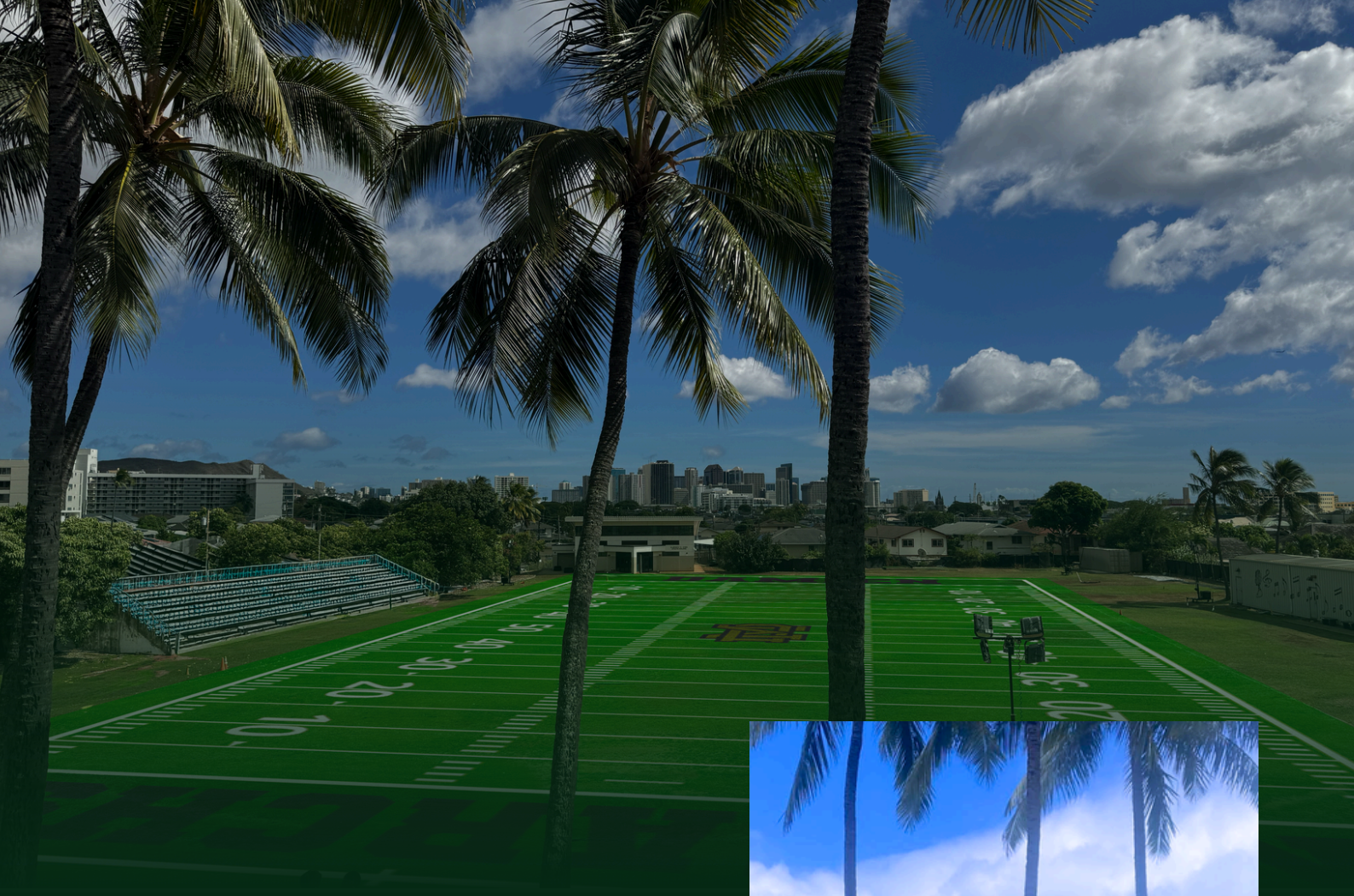
Day of Giving

Coming up on **November 6-7** is our Day of Giving. This annual event unites our community to support our students' education. Funds raised enhance classroom resources, support extracurriculars, and expand scholarships.



Learn More

To learn more about how you can support our school, visit www.damien.edu/giving.



PROGRESS ON THE DEVEUSTER MULTI-PURPOSE FIELD

Construction has begun on the DeVeuster Multi-Purpose Field.

This initiative was launched in 2024 during our annual Luau. Interim President Wally Marciel noted that the project's total cost is estimated at \$700,000.

To date, \$250,000 has been successfully raised.

So far, the construction work completed includes the demolition of the previous 6th-grade portables and the clearing of land designated for part of the field.

This field is not just for our athletes, it will also host future events like the Burning of the DM and community gatherings. It aims to build friendships and create lasting memories for the Monarchs' families.



**BIG THINGS
HAPPENING:
DEVEUSTER
FIELD COMING
SOON**



Current progress of DeVeuster Multi-purpose Field.

BE A PART OF DAMIEN'S NEXT CHAPTER

Every Damien graduate knows the pride of wearing our colors, the lessons learned through teamwork, and the friendships that last a lifetime.

Now, we have the chance to give that same experience to future Monarchs through the new De Veuster Multi-Purpose Field. This field will stand as a symbol of our shared history and the values that unite us as Damien men and women.

Join us in continuing the story—make your gift today at www.damien.edu/giving

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 11/1 - Backyard Pa'ina
- 11/4 - DMS on KHON
- 11/6-7 - Day of Giving
- 11/8 - Open House

DAMIEN MEMORIAL SCHOOL PRESENTS

BACKYARD PĀ'INA

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 1, 2025

De Veuster Field 4-9PM

THE VITALS | MICAH G | JOHNNY SUITE
KOAUKA | HO'ONU'A
Hosted by Micah Banks



Get Your Tickets



PRE-SALE ADMISSION \$40
AT THE DOOR \$50
VIP \$125

For questions contact
dmsevents@damien.edu

VIP INCLUDES LOUNGE ACCESS,
DRINKS AND HEAVY PUPUS



Discover the
Damien Difference

OPEN HOUSE
Grades 6-12