

# DAMIEN CONNECTION



## ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 03

NOV 2025

## FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

As we reflect on the many blessings in our lives, I am filled with gratitude for the gift of our Damien Memorial School community. Each day at our school is a reminder of the joy found in learning, the strength of our shared faith, and the enduring bonds that unite us as one 'ohana.

We are blessed not only by the accomplishments of our students and faculty, but also by the steadfast support of alumni like you. Your prayers, generosity, and continued connection enrich our mission and inspire us to carry forward the legacy of Saint Damien with hope and purpose.

In the spirit of thanksgiving, let us cherish the simple blessings of everyday life—friendship, service, and the opportunity to make a difference. May this season remind us of all that gratitude is at the heart of our journey together.

With appreciation and aloha,

Wally Marciel

### Inside this week's issue:

Alumni Spotlight

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Backyard Pa'ina

Open House

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Ways To Give

Got a story you want to share?  
Send it to  
[communications@damien.edu](mailto:communications@damien.edu)

# Backyard Pa'ina: A Night Filled with Aloha



Our Backyard Pa'ina last November 1st brought together students, families, alumni, and friends for an evening that truly felt like Damien. With great food, live entertainment, and plenty of laughter, the campus was filled with the kind of aloha spirit that reminds us why our community is so special.

Mahalo to everyone who came out to support, reconnect, and celebrate with us. Your presence made the night unforgettable and we're grateful for every alum who continues to show up and keep the Damien spirit thriving.



# Alumni Spotlight: Welcoming Dannan Back to Damien



## Introducing our new Community & Parent Relations Liaison

If there's one thing that defines the Damien 'ohana, it's the way our community stays connected, even after graduation. For 1999 graduate, Dannan Smith, his strong ties to Damien is what made it an easy decision to accept the role of Community and Parent Relations Liaison.

Long before taking on this role, he was already deeply rooted in our community, as a student, alumnus, coach, and now as a member of our leadership team. His dedication to Damien comes from a place of love, loyalty, and lifelong connection.

"My Damien 'Ohana have always been the ones who stayed by my side," shares Smith.

After college, a calling to serve led him to the Honolulu Police Department. Still, his passion for working with youth pulled him toward coaching. He began coaching volleyball at Maryknoll, always hoping that one day he would return to coach at his alma mater. Even when that opportunity took time to unfold, he stayed engaged through the Damien Alumni Association, eventually serving as President.

When he finally returned to campus as a coach — supported by Coach Teves and the athletics staff — it sparked a renewed appreciation for the school that helped shape his character.

"Stepping back on campus in that role made me fall in love all over again with the school that helped make me who I am."

## A Role Built on Connection & Community

As the new Community & Parent Relations Liaison, Smith hopes to strengthen ties between Damien and the wider island community. His goal is to help families, alumni, and partners feel welcomed, valued, and connected to the heart of our mission.

"I want our surrounding neighborhoods—and the entire island—to see and experience the amazing things happening here every day," says Smith.

Through partnerships, outreach, and engagement, he aims to bring people together to support our students and celebrate the legacy of Viriliter Age.



## A Season of Gratitude

As Thanksgiving approaches, Smith reflects on the foundation instilled in him like the strong Catholic identity, sense of purpose, and the drive to strive for more than he once thought possible--all characteristics that helped him growing up.

"I am most grateful for the man I am today because of what I have learned at Damien," he shares.

Today, his gratitude is expressed through service especially giving back to the school, its families, and its future students.

And this season, we are grateful for him. Grateful to welcome him home in this new role. Grateful for his heart for service. Grateful for the way he continues to strengthen our Damien community.

## Visit Your Alma Mater: Join Us For a Campus Tour

There's no better way to reconnect with the Damien 'ohana than by walking the halls that once shaped your own journey. As our new Community & Parent Relations Liaison, Smith would love to personally welcome alumni back to campus for a guided tour filled with stories, updates, and a few nostalgic moments along the way.

Whether you graduated five years ago or fifty, this is your invitation to rediscover Damien: the new spaces, the familiar corners, and the community that continues to grow stronger each year.

### Interested in stopping by?

Email [dsmith@damien.edu](mailto:dsmith@damien.edu) to schedule your alumni tour.



## In Memoriam: Gustav Richard Schuman ('76)

We are saddened to share that Gustav Richard Schuman (Class of 1976) passed away on October 29, 2025, after a courageous five-year battle with cancer.



Gustav's legacy extended far beyond his years at Damien as a dedicated businessman, pilot, captain in the Hawai'i National Guard, and a devoted family man.

He lived with aloha, integrity, and an adventurous spirit, and he always encouraged others to learn, grow, and lift their communities. In his memory, we celebrate his life and the enduring impact he made.

As we reflect this season on gratitude and the people who shape our lives, we remember Gustav with aloha and appreciation.

May his 'ohana and all who loved him find comfort in knowing that he will always be part of our Damien story.

Rest in love, Monarch.

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](mailto:communications@damien.edu).



**CONTACT US**



**DAMIEN**  
MEMORIAL SCHOOL

**JAN. 10,  
2026**

Discover the  
Damien Difference

**OPEN HOUSE**  
Grades 6–12

# Open House: Damien Spirit on Full Display

We welcomed 42 prospective students and their families to campus, and the energy was truly something special. Families spent the afternoon connecting with our teachers, staff, and students and many shared how impressed they were by the genuine warmth of our community.

Again and again, we heard the same sentiment: they could feel the Damien spirit.





## Upcoming Events



11/25 - Join us for Liturgy, BINGO Night sponsored by our DHO at 6pm

## Be a Blessing to the School That Once Blessed You

Your time at Damien Memorial shaped you, giving you the tools, community, and memories that stay with you long after graduation.

Now, you have an opportunity to pay that forward. When you support Damien today, you're helping current and future Monarchs thrive—and continuing the cycle of gratitude and impact.

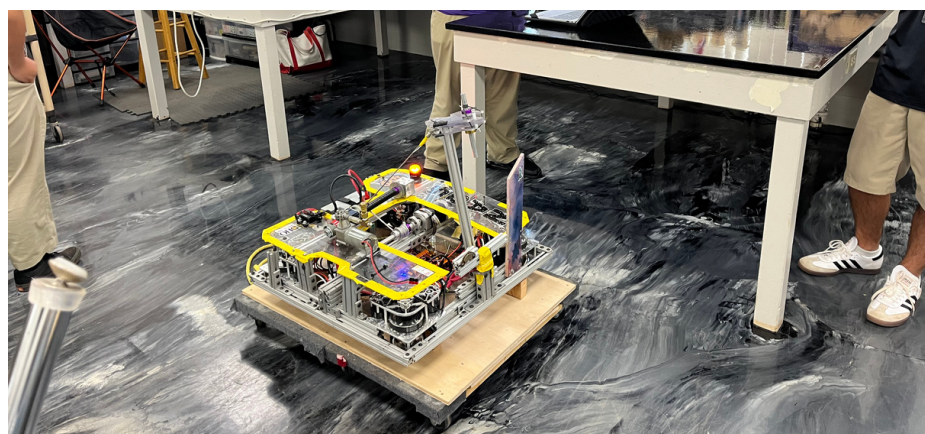
Here are a few meaningful ways to give:

- Annual Fund – Supports academics, athletics, tuition assistance, and daily operations.
- Scholarships – Help a deserving student access a Damien education.
- Capital Projects – Invest in campus improvements and future growth.
- Planned Giving – Leave a legacy that continues long beyond today.

Every gift, big or small, strengthens our mission and keeps Damien thriving for the next generation.

Give today:

[www.damien.edu/ways-to-give](http://www.damien.edu/ways-to-give)





## SUPPORT OUR SCHOOL



### *Give Back Financially*

Your donation, whether to the Annual Fund, De Veuster Multi-Sport Field, scholarships, or campus improvements, directly strengthens programs and opportunities for today's students.

### *Share Your Story or Expertise*

Volunteer as a guest speaker, offer mentorship, or participate in alumni features. Your journey inspires our students and keeps the Damien spirit alive.



### *Stay Connected & Spread The Word*

Attend events, follow our socials, and encourage prospective families to explore Damien. Your voice in the community helps our school grow.

To learn more about how you can support our school, visit [www.damien.edu/giving](http://www.damien.edu/giving).