

XAVIER

THE MAGAZINE FOR ALUMNI, PARENTS, AND FRIENDS OF XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

FALL 2021

GOING FORTH





NEW YORK CITY REAWAKENS

As vaccination levels surged in New York City, students more freely engaged with the neighborhood Xavier has called home since 1850. Above, students walk to school through Union Square Park.

contents

Fall 2021



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Xavier's Mission

Founded in 1847, Xavier High School is an academically rigorous, Catholic, Jesuit, college preparatory school in New York City that educates intelligent, motivated young men of diverse backgrounds and means. Xavier teaches students to take responsibility for their lives, to lead with integrity, to act justly in service of others, to pursue excellence in every endeavor and to deepen their relationship with God. Ultimately, Xavier forms young men who will go forth to transform the world for God's greater glory.

On the Cover

Kalvin Singleton '21, Ryan Wong '21, Colin O'Shea '21, Josue Ramos Carpio '21, and Patrick Burke '21—who reflect on their Xavier education in this issue—before Commencement at St. Patrick's Cathedral on June 10.

XAVIER

FALL 2021

Xavier High School

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Dear Parents, Friends and Sons of Xavier:

Greetings from 16th Street. The last few weeks have seen us welcome the Class of 2025 and the newest members of the faculty and staff, welcome back our upperclassmen, take the football field for the first time in nearly two years and gather nearly 1,200 strong for the Mass of the Holy Spirit. Ms. **Kim Smith**, our headmaster, is off to an outstanding start and is deeply engaged in the work. I'm delighted to have Ms. Smith with us.

I'm also delighted that we can all gather again to pray and celebrate Xavier together. We had a beautiful Mass on Friday, September 10, to remember the Sons of Xavier, family members and friends lost on 9/11. While the loss will always be with us, the opportunity to remember **John Ryan '74†**, **Edmund McNally '78†**, **Christopher Hanley '84†**, **Michael Andrews '85†**, **John Farrell '87†**, **James Riches '89†**, **Matthew Burke '91†**, **Sean Lugano '91†**, **James Coyle '93†**, and **Charles Heeran '96†** along with the many family members and friends taken from us that day 20 years ago was important. Remembering

brought its own graces. There is a power to remembering and celebrating lives well lived and that is what we did at our liturgy. I am especially grateful to **Fr. Dan Gatti, S.J. '59** and **Fr. Dan Murphy '65** for being with us that day. The dedication of the Sons of Xavier Center in honor of John Courtney Murray, S.J. '20 and the COL Donald Cook, USMC '52 Library provided another opportunity to remember and celebrate. I look forward to sharing the full story of this space with you in the *Annual Report*.

On August 18 and 19, Kim Smith and I gathered with 15 of our colleagues at our annual leadership retreat at the Linwood Spiritual Center in Rhinebeck, New York. Linwood is an apostolic work of the Society of St. Ursula, which also sponsors Notre Dame High School in Manhattan. The congregation is rooted in Ignatian spirituality and has been a great partner with Xavier and the Jesuits for many years. Our two days at Linwood provided a wonderful opportunity to pray together and to reflect on our work. Our conversations were wide-ranging, yet always centered on God at work in our lives at Xavier and the need

to preach the gospel at all times (using words when necessary). Accountability to mission was a common theme of our time together. I left Linwood grateful for all Xavier is and will be for the 1,050+ students entrusted to our care this year: a place of learning and growth anchored in God's love.

St. Patrick's Cathedral greets you on the cover of this magazine. We returned to St. Patrick's for graduation once again, delighted to celebrate our graduates in the heart of the Church of New York. In his graduation address, **Fr. Dennis Baker, S.J.** reflected on the contrast between Atlas going it alone across Fifth Avenue and the Xavier community gathered together that night in the Cathedral: a community that supports one another as we are challenged, learn and grow. We are a community of learning and growth anchored in God's love. The importance of that community, the gift of that community, has been particularly clear during COVID.

It is also clear in the pages of this magazine: in the reflections of five members of the Class of 2021, **Josue Ramos Carpio**, **Kalvin Singleton**, **Colin O'Shea**, **Ryan Wong**, and **Patrick Burke**; in the lives of our Hall of Fame inductees, **Msgr. John Torney '30†**, **Ray Salomone, S.J. '51†**, **Hank Woehling '55**, **Peter Foley '58†**, **Dan Rodriguez '58**, **Dan Cronin '59**, **Michael Puglisi '68**, **Jim Morgan '82 P'12**, and **Rich Nolan '83**; in the updates on school life; and in the class notes.

It is clear as well in the countless stories that did not make these pages, such as the warm visits with alumni I had throughout the spring as we cautiously resumed travel. **Bill McKiernan '74**, **Thao Nguyen '77**, and **Elliot Han '94** all welcomed me to California; **Tom Owens '56** to Oregon; and **Judy and Joe Franlin '61** to Pennsylvania. Over Memorial Day weekend, I joined **Sean Rice P'15 '20** and **Ethan Rice '20** at the NCAA Regionals at Texas A&M to see **John Rice '15** and **Christian Raslowsky '16** run their final collegiate races in the 3000m steeplechase. It seemed like only yesterday they were running together at Icahn Stadium under the watchful eye of **Pat Dormer P'17**. **Matt Baker '15** was competing in the triple jump at the NCAA Eastern Regionals in Florida that same weekend.

The NCAA scheduler made it impossible for me to be at both!

Kathleen and **Dan Denihan '65** hosted our only summer reception of 2021, in Quogue in late August; we were over 60 strong. **Mark Mongelluzzo P'25** and I also had an opportunity to visit with **Jack Galbraith '61**, **Kristen** and **Dave LaValle '98**, and **Fred Salerno '61** during our days out on Long Island. When Sarah and I were visiting our daughters Rebecca and Rachel at Georgetown at the end of their first week, I was delighted to see **Matthieu Forgeas '20** on our way into Mass in Dahlgren Chapel. In early September I traveled to San Diego for visits with **Dan Cronin '59**, **Linda** and **Bob Duggan '64**, **Pete Gaskin '62**, **Roger Kirwan '60**, **Sheila** and **Ken Poggenburg '52**, and **Austin Troy '59**. The spring and summer had us dipping our toes into the water. With vaccines and other appropriate precautions, we look forward to resuming travel and in-person events.

As we begin the school year, we begin our march to our 175th anniversary. We will officially open our anniversary year with His Eminence, Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York, celebrating the feast day Mass of our patron, Francis Xavier, in St. Patrick's Cathedral on Friday, December 3, 2021. As we move toward December, the reunions missed during the pandemic and the Hall of Fame Dinner will all provide wonderful opportunities to celebrate Xavier and her Sons and prepare for our dodransbicentennial. I hope you can join us in doing so. We encourage all to be vaccinated so we can maximize our safety when we gather and contribute to the safety of our larger community.

The events leading up to our 175th anniversary celebrations as well as the anniversary celebrations themselves will reinforce the lessons of the past year and the stories of this magazine: we are a community of learning and growth anchored in God's love. May we always be so.

Be assured of my prayers. Please keep Xavier in yours.

Jack Raslowsky P'16
President



We are a community of learning and growth anchored in God's love. The importance of that community, the gift of that community, has been particularly clear during COVID."

News from 16th Street



When New York City health officials finally gave the green light for spring sports to begin in April, student-athletes demonstrated classic Xavier grit and resilience. After battling quarantines and a rigorous interstate travel schedule, the varsity rugby team walloped Fordham Prep, 67-0, on Rugby Senior Day at Aviator on June 13. Days later, at the Boys High School Rugby National Championships, the Knights fell to top-seeded Herriman High of Salt Lake City, the tournament's eventual champion.

Celebrating the Class of 2021

Despite the continuation of COVID-19 restrictions this spring, Xavier's faculty and staff made every effort to celebrate members of the Class of 2021 during their final days on 16th Street. All seniors were given the option to return to campus full-time in April, and they also had the chance to participate in class field trips to Liberty Paintball, Six Flags Great Adventure, and a Mets vs. Orioles game at Citi Field. In late May, they enjoyed two socially-distanced Proms at Maritime Parc in Jersey City.

Due to government-mandated capacity restrictions, seniors and their families celebrated their achievements at three separate Baccalaureate Masses held at the Church of St. Francis Xavier on June 1 and 2. Then, on June 10, all graduating seniors enjoyed the pomp and circumstance of a traditional Xavier graduation at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

"A Xavier education says you're with us, in a God-centered community that has no borders," **Dennis Baker, S.J.** reflected during his Commencement address. "It's a community the world over who are graduates of Jesuit schools—even one on a tiny island in the Pacific Ocean shares Francis Xavier as a patron saint." Fr. Baker, who recently arrived on 16th Street as Director of Engagement and Planned Giving, served as president of Xavier High School in the Federated States of Micronesia from 2016-21. "If we're going to save the world, and not just hold it up, it's going to be a group effort. And God will be central."



2001

From the Archives

On the darkest day in New York City's history, September 11, 2001, Xavier endured more than its share of tragedy and loss. Ten Sons of Xavier—**John Ryan '74†, Edmund McNally '78†, Christopher Hanley '84†, Michael Andrews '85†, John Farrell '87†, Jimmy Riches '89†, Matthew Burke '91†, Sean Lugano '91†, James Coyle '93†, and Charles Heeran '96†**—and scores of family members perished at the World Trade Center. Yet 16th Street emerged as a beacon for its Sons and for its city, as *The New York Times* reported in a front-page story published that December.

"To spend several days inside this 150-year-old school is to appreciate one of the rarer phenomena of the trade center disaster: a wounded place that is actually coping, in specific, regular, and reliable ways," journalist Jane Gross reported. She quoted **David Ciancimino, S.J. '77**, then Xavier's headmaster, who repeated a singular phrase at the many memorial Masses he celebrated that fall: "They can challenge our hearts but not change them."

Xavier's spirit remained unyielding in the days following 9/11. Gross described a poignant scene that took place on 16th Street in late September, when more than 1,500 people descended on the Church of St. Francis Xavier to mourn Xavier's fallen Sons and relatives. "A police officer outside, a Xavier alumnus, closed the street to traffic. Then, with a megaphone, he led the crowd in a chorus of the school's fight song: 'Maroon and blue, we'll see you through.'"



Anne Rogers, Mario Mejia, and Frank Leahy P'10 with Bishop John O'Hara.

Three Staff Members Earn *Bene Merenti* Medals

Each year, Xavier honors veteran members of the faculty and staff completing 20 years of service with the *Bene Merenti* Medal. During a Mass celebrated by Bishop John O'Hara on Ascension Thursday, May 13, the *Bene Merenti* was awarded to **Frank Leahy P'10**, Director of the Physical Plant; **Mario Mejia**, a member of the maintenance staff; and **Anne Rogers**, a member of the business office.

"The members of the Xavier support staff make sure that the critical systems—whether those are informational, digital, or

technological that keep Xavier running—are in place so that the faculty can do their jobs and students can learn in the best possible environment," outgoing Headmaster **Michael LiVigni P'21** said as he helped present the medals. "In a very particular way, the members of the school staff are essential to carrying out the school's mission. Whether this is by painting a classroom, shoveling a walk, processing tuition, or paying utility bills for the school, each job and task is done so the entire community can function."

Graphic Design Students Bring Xavier History to Life



This spring, art teacher **Billy Maloney '01** drew on Xavier's long history to help his graphic design students master Photoshop. Using decades-old Xavier photos, students learned to colorize black-and-white images. **John Boger '21** colorized a snapshot from the 1955 Xavier spring review, seen at left, while **John DiSomma '21** revived a 1950s-era rifle team photo, seen above.



Photo courtesy Cristo Rey New York High School

Bill Ford Named President of Cristo Rey Brooklyn

After a year at the forefront of Xavier's efforts to fight COVID-19, Special Assistant to the President and COVID-19 Response Coordinator **Bill Ford** has been named president of Cristo Rey Brooklyn High School.

Ford has deep ties to the Cristo Rey Network, a group of 37 secondary schools across the nation that exclusively serve students and families of limited economic means. In 2004, he began a 15-year tenure as founding principal of Cristo Rey New York High School in East Harlem, one of the most successful academic schools in the network.

The son and son-in-law of Jesuit-educated men, Ford said he was deeply impacted by his own education at Regis High School and his work teaching history and religion at Saint Peter's Prep in Jersey City.

In the mid-1990s, Ford became interested in the work of Nativity middle schools, which provide a faith-based education to students from low-income families. Xavier President **Jack Raslowsky P'16**, then principal at Saint Peter's Prep, granted Ford a leave of absence to teach at St. Ignatius School, then a new Nativity-model middle school in the Hunts Point section of the Bronx—located within the poorest congressional district in the United States.

"I just felt like these were bold, ambitious, life-giving returns to the roots of Jesuit education. I dared myself, and Jack supported me in doing that," Ford recalled. "I never came back from

that leave of absence. I stayed and, with others, fell in love with the work."

Ford and his St. Ignatius colleagues soon encountered a challenge, however; after investing so much in their students, they found there were few suitable high school options available to them. Each year, a lucky few students would secure full-tuition scholarships to schools like Xavier, but the majority had to return to neighborhood schools for high school.

A group of educators, Ford among them, began studying the feasibility

of the great hopes and desires of a great number of people," Ford said. Cristo Rey Brooklyn opened four years later, in 2008. Ford arrives there now at a time of great challenge. "All schools face a critical moment, Cristo Rey schools even more so," he said. "The being away from each other, the being home while learning, was even more intense in the Cristo Rey setting."

For the first time since March 2020, Cristo Rey Brooklyn is opening its doors to students this fall. During Ford's first week in East Flatbush this summer, he was delighted to meet incoming freshmen, who came to school for four weeks of job training before beginning their time in the Corporate Work Study Program.

"The key innovative feature of our model of education is the students' participation in earning the true cost of their own education and, by dint of that, also having an early exposure to real-world professional work experience," said Ford, who noted that students study four days a week and work on the fifth day in a variety of areas, from data entry and filing to curating social media presences. Some companies host one

In addition to the extraordinary work of the faculty, Ford saluted the behind-the-scenes efforts of the maintenance, technology, and advancement staffs as essential to Xavier's success educating students during the pandemic. "There are several concentric circles to the work of our schools," Ford said. "Some tend to get the spotlight, perhaps as they should, but it should never be to the diminishment of these others that labor entirely unseen."

He highlighted the critical work of Dean of Students **Michael Fiore '10** and school nurse **Francine Delgado**, who along with Ford spent many nights and weekends speaking with frantic families and calmly but diligently conducting contact tracing as new cases emerged.

"The coronavirus had a particular affection for Sunday afternoons," Ford recalled with a chuckle, noting that Fiore and Delgado "were such close and critical friends in the work."

Now as he begins new work at the helm of Cristo Rey Brooklyn, Ford asks members of the Xavier community to keep all students in their prayers.

"We need the spiritual uplift of the Xavier community," Ford said. "This is

Xavier's connections to the Cristo Rey Network abound. Former executive vice president **Dan Dougherty** now serves as president of Cristo Rey New York, where Ford's cousin, **Charlie King '80**, is a longtime advocate of the school and its Corporate Work Study Program. **Rudy Cecchi '69** is founding co-chair of the Board of Directors at Cristo Rey Miami.

of opening a Cristo Rey school in New York in 2001. The first Cristo Rey school—Cristo Rey Jesuit High School in Chicago—had opened in 1996, introducing an innovative model that incorporated academic and professional experiences for students from low-income families.

In 2004, Cristo Rey New York opened with Ford as principal and former Xavier trustee **Joe Parkes, S.J.** as president. It was the culmination of an extraordinary amount of work—from the feasibility study to curriculum design to the recruitment of initial Corporate Work Study Program partners—and the beginning of an extraordinary journey. "Cristo Rey New York was the fruition

student, one day per week; others host teams of students to work throughout the week, depending on their needs.

As president, Ford said his role is to serve as Cristo Rey Brooklyn's chief cheerleader, fundraiser, and supporter of those doing the day-to-day work with students. It's a complicated time, but he will draw on decades of experience in Jesuit education, including his time at Xavier—during which he toiled tirelessly to organize the school's efforts to remain open and safe during COVID-19.

"I leave Xavier with an enormous sense of gratitude," Ford said. "The culture of Xavier is for people to raise their hands to answer a call before a call has been made."

a critical time. Our young women and young men, Xavier students included, have been powerfully impacted, and we want to see them back on course. We want these young women and young men to become their best selves."

Those interested in Cristo Rey Brooklyn's Corporate Work Study Program are welcome to contact the school. Bill Ford can be reached at wford@cristoreybrooklyn.org. Catherine Flax P'23, mother of Michael Kosecki '23, serves on Cristo Rey Brooklyn's Board of Directors as part of the Corporate Work Study Program Committee. She can be reached at catherine.a.flax@gmail.com.

Quoted

THE CLASS OF 2021



Dylan Buck '21

"The losses we suffered and the victories we relished in were given meaning because we did so together. Together we learned more about each other and ourselves than we could have imagined. We grew from boys into men and learned that we have the skills necessary to succeed—to take on the challenge of a new experience, regardless of where we may be."

DYLAN BUCK '21
Salutatorian Address,
179th Commencement

"Xavier has been my home for the past four years—a place where I have been able to grow, mature, and foster my talents in an encouraging environment. This is a testament to the vision and mission at Xavier."

ANDREW D'ALESSIO '21
Bernard M. Moynahan Award
Acceptance Speech, Block X Awards

"Xavier has really taught me throughout my last four years that I should be open to challenges. I won't fully learn how capable I am of doing anything unless I challenge myself. ... In order to grow in life, you have to challenge yourself."

JADEN ARCHIE '21
Celebrate Xavier Scholarship Gala
Interview with Michael Gargiulo '77

"One thing that I've always admired about the history of Xavier and its significance in New York is how long we've been around. I think the reason why we've been able to be around for so long is because of our adaptability to the changing times and whatever issues are thrown our way. Over my past four years at Xavier, I think I've definitely learned to roll with the punches and conform to whatever problem faces me. What I've learned from Xavier in the

fact of enduring something, and walking away greater than when you started—that message is something I want to implement in my own life, and I definitely think that I learned that at Xavier."

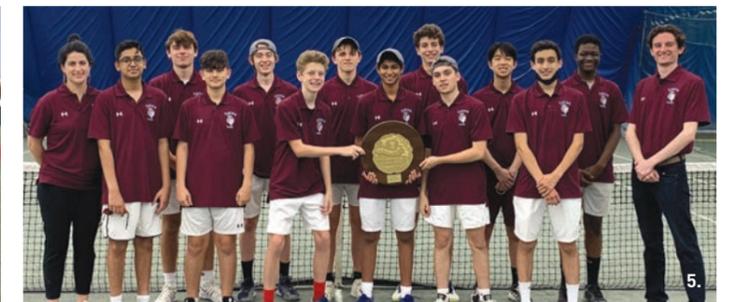
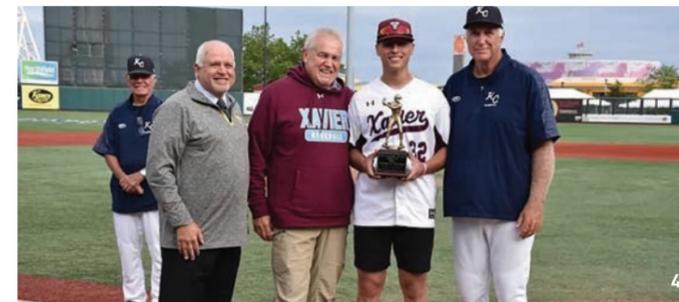
AUSTIN GINOCCHIO '21
Celebrate Xavier Scholarship Gala
Interview with Michael Gargiulo '77

"If I can impart any advice to younger students, be open to anything that you come across. Say yes to every opportunity and experience and find what you really enjoy the most. You have to take that leap of faith to really find out who you are as a person, and you cannot grow without being open to the world around you."

JACOB BRUCKER '21
Senior Reflections on the Grad at Grad,
The Xavier Review

"Before coming to Xavier, I always feared a challenge. I never understood a challenge to its fullest extent. After coming to Xavier, I've come to realize challenges are not necessarily a bad thing. They're a good thing. They bring the most out of me, and in fact, I seek a challenge because why stop here when you can go even further?"

MATTHEW HAZAR '21
Celebrate Xavier Scholarship Gala
Interview with Michael Gargiulo '77



1. Matteo Moessner '22 accepts the Army academics competition first-place trophy on behalf of the Xavier Regimental Academic Team in July. 2. Wrestlers Jack Geyer '21, left, and Eli Emery '21, right, hoist Devon Diaco '21 in the air after he earned his 100th career victory in June. 3. President Jack Raslowsky P'16 joins participants at the Freshman Drama 10-Minute Play Festival in May. 4. Baseball's Andrew D'Alessio '21 accepts the CHSAA Ron Patnosh Player of the Year trophy in June. 5. The varsity tennis team after winning the CHSAA A championship.

News and Notes

Under the leadership of Senior Army Instructor LTC Jacob Kelly, USA (Ret.) and Cadet Colonel Matthew Hazar '21, the Xavier Regiment once again earned the Honor Unit with Distinction designation in April. The rifle team, led by MSG Clifford Stein, USA (Ret.), won its fourth 2nd Brigade Air Rifle Competition in six years in June. The following month, Xavier's Regimental Academic Team won the Army academics competition at the JROTC Leadership and Academic Bowl held at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

On April 17, members of the Xavier Dramatics Society presented *Eurydice* by Sarah Ruhl via livestream.

Freshman drama sponsored its first 10-Minute Play Festival on May 8. Elian Rivera '21 and Conor Hennessey '21 won first and second place, respectively.

The varsity baseball team reached the CHSAA AA Final Four this spring, ending the season with a

2-0 loss to division runner-up Kennedy Catholic. Princeton-bound Andrew D'Alessio '21 earned CHSAA Ron Patnosh Player of the Year honors after a dominant season. He batted .435 with four home runs and 23 RBI and earned a 6-0 pitching record with just two earned runs on the year.

Despite the challenges of competing and practicing on the C Building roof, members of the wrestling team earned outstanding achievements. Eli Emery '21, who will continue his education at Dartmouth College, earned first place in the New York State CHSAA at 189 pounds and broke Xavier's career wins record with his 122nd victory, outpacing the former record by five wins. Duke University-bound Jack Geyer '21 dominated his weight class, becoming Xavier's 11th state champion. Devon Diaco '21 also reached a rare milestone by earning his 101st career victory. As a program, Xavier's wrestling team earned the CHSAA D1 Sportsmanship Award as voted on by state referees.

Led by head coach Pat Dormer P'17, the outdoor track team earned the sectional and

city championship titles and finished in second place in the intersectional competition.

Led by head coach Stephanie Boccuzzi, the Xavier tennis team defeated Xaverian to win the CHSAA A championship in May.

The Xavier volleyball team was born this spring, earning its first-ever victories on May 15 over St. John's Prep.

Ten Xavier student-athletes signed to play their chosen sports in college this fall. Congratulations to Brian Baldwin '21 (swimming, Iona College), Michael Borelli '21 (baseball, Drew University), Andrew D'Alessio '21 (baseball, Princeton University), Leo Derisi '21 (baseball, Roanoke College), Brandon Edmund '21 (track, University of Hartford), Jack McCann '21 (rugby, St. Bonaventure College), Robert Posio '21 (baseball, Emerson College), Billy Rozakis '21 (baseball, Siena College), Will Smith '21 (track, City College), and Tommy Tompkins '21 (rugby, Nazareth College).



Going Forth

As they approached the end of four fateful, transformative years, we asked five members of the Class of 2021 to reflect on the words enshrined in Xavier's mission: "Ultimately, Xavier forms young men who will go forth to transform the world for God's greater glory."

By Josue Ramos Carpio '21

As St. Ignatius of Loyola once said, we must "go forth and set the world on fire"—a quote that has impacted my life on and off 16th Street. While it is not painted in the Commons as the Xavier mission is, both statements hold great significance in aiding my journey to become a man for others. Even amid COVID-19, the resilience of the faculty, staff, and my peers has reminded me to take a step forward and join them on their path of making sure our community stays strong.

When I look back at my time at Xavier, I am forever grateful for the lessons that I learned, from the simplest of Mr. Aquino's talks to the most complex of Fr. Hederman's guided meditations. Xavier's core lies not only in Keenan Commons, where performances take place, or in the crowded hallway of 3L, but in the lives of the Xavier community. I have been fortunate enough to be part of Xavier's core and to be present while seeing past, present, and future Sons of Xavier roam the halls in hopes of living out our call to be men for others. Ms. Valinoti, my guidance counselor for the past four years, always reminded me to keep a smile on my face and that things occur for a reason. To be open to growth and lead with integrity.

While these lessons have fostered my foundation as a Xavier student, the very first lesson I am reminded of comes from Ms. Psillos' words during freshman orientation: "Join at least one thing." Xavier has been the driving force in encouraging my growth as an active member of the community by allowing me to take part in activities that I

can look back and reflect on positively. As New York battled COVID-19, Xavier made certain that events such as Magis and Kairos retreats and Xavier Dramatics Society productions still went on, emphasizing the importance of perseverance. Through the aid of various members of the Xavier staff and faculty, many of us students were able to take part in these events and find normalcy through retreats or joy in completing a show.

During an unexpected turn of events, Xavier has prepared students to handle even the toughest of times (as seen with COVID-19) and has gifted us the ability to remain connected—even across a screen. The call to be men for others is founded on the importance of being responsible for what we do with our lives—by serving others and being prepared to pursue excellence in every endeavor.

Graduation is now behind us, and my classes will not be on 16th Street anymore, but I am certain that my Xavier experience has enriched my life through guidance and support from members of the community. Xavier has sent me forth, not just as a first-generation Bronx native, but as a Son of Xavier who embodies what it means to be a man for others—to set the world on fire.

THE WINNER OF THE REV. VINCENT A. TAYLOR, S.J. GOLD X AWARD, XAVIER'S HIGHEST STUDENT HONOR, **JOSUE RAMOS CARPIO '21** ATTENDS THE CITY COLLEGE OF NEW YORK. HE HAILS FROM THE BRONX.

KALVIN SINGLETON '21

M

y Xavier experience began with a seemingly insurmountable mountain of anxiety over whether or not these halls would reflect the ominous myth of high school that was perpetuated in movies I had grown up watching. I used to always project myself into movie roles about the type of high school student I would be, from *High School Musical* to *Euphoria*. This trend was one I continued even after my acceptance and easy integration into the grand community within Xavier.

Here, everyone's heart is in the right place—that's a sure fact. The emphasis placed on community and brotherhood were ever present, whether it was directly through loquacious talks from Mr. Raslowsky, or more intimately through warm classrooms with

even warmer teachers like Ms. Gonzalez, Coach Stevens, and Dr. Haller. The beautifully true fact about Xavier is that no students fall through the cracks. Even I was able to find my place early on within friend groups and beyond, taking the leap onto the stage via the Xavier Dramatics Society.

It was in this club that I became more comfortable in my role within the lives around me, both on and off the stage. I was able to perform in more than 15 productions with the Xavier Dramatics Society, and it was being able to stand in front of an audience, with so many eyes to perceive me, that I found one of my first freedoms in relinquishing control of my image in others' minds. That is a key aspect of my Xavier experience and truly something I have nothing but gratitude for.

My four years at Xavier were interrupted, along with almost every American's way of life, during this past year and the still ongoing COVID-19 crisis. The premature end to my junior year definitely shook not only my spirit, but that of my classmates, friends, and evidently my generation and beyond. Experiencing school from home and only being able to engage with my teachers and classmates through screens was very isolating, and a stark shift from the very tangible and animated community within Xavier that I had become so comfortable with. So when the fall of 2020 came around and plans were released for a safe return to Xavier's halls, I was nothing but ecstatic for the return and confident in the abilities of my school to place safety as the priority wherever it could.

Xavier's return showed me that through organization and perseverance an entire community's morale could shift, as even underneath our masks you could tell more and more smiles were returning. I'm very grateful for Xavier's bravery in offering in-person classes, especially since senior year is often the one where being with your brothers matters the most—especially since the march of time draws the reality of college and beyond closer with each passing day.

As I go forth from Xavier, I leave with the attitude that truly anything is achievable if sought after, and any myriad of challenges I'll encounter going forward can be handled if I stick to my foundation, have trust in who I am, and apply myself to everything I do.

Xavier taught me much more than can be put into words.

KALVIN SINGLETON '21 ATTENDS THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY. HE LIVES IN HARLEM.





COLIN O'SHEA '21

W

hen I was a freshman, the Xavier track and field team was attempting to win the triple crown. An incredible accomplishment if pulled off, winning the triple crown meant winning all three Catholic state championships in all three seasons of track. With the talent and the will to pull it off, the team took the cross country and indoor state title, but crushingly missed out on the outdoor title by one point. As the team gathered at the end of the outdoor state meet, with Mr. Dormer telling us to keep our heads up high, one of the seniors turned and told me that although I may not realize it right now, the kids at Xavier would become like brothers to me. As the months and years

began to pass, and now with my time at Xavier having come to a close, I understand what he meant, and how integral that idea of brotherhood is to how Xavier sends us forth into the world.

When I think about how I have come to experience a sense of brotherhood here at Xavier, it is not the grandiose examples of friendship that come to mind. Instead, it is the memories of the quieter moments. I remember times when I was encouraged by a teammate after a tough race, or the late-night talks on the Kairos retreat. It is the times gathered around the lunch table as we complained about the workload of the day, but never left the table without sharing a few laughs. These are the moments that allowed me to understand brotherhood, and these experiences were not limited to students. Teachers at Xavier took the time to get to know me, with all my strengths and weaknesses. Their continuous encouragement to be my best self, and letting me know that I am not alone in that journey, brought me to a profound realization; none of us can truly do it alone.

Like a relay race, we all have our part to run, handing off the baton to those who come after. Xavier has now handed us four years of Jesuit teachings, rooted in respect for human dignity. A simple sentence to write, but a complex idea to live. We all live these teachings out through the small things. It's a student who lends you his shoes so you can go play basketball in the Commons, or a friend who wakes you up on the train. It's a teacher, or a guidance counselor, taking time out of their day to talk with you. All of these examples come down to cherishing the relationships you make, and paying it forward.

I am sad to leave Xavier. But I feel that if we truly appreciate what Xavier has tried to teach us, then we can understand that there is nothing else to do but to leave. To go forth and lead our lives going forward with others—and going forward for others.

THE WINNER OF THE REV. EDWARD J. SPINELLO, S.J. AWARD, AWARDED ANNUALLY TO THE SENIOR WHO HAS EXCELLED IN HIS STUDIES AND IN HIS PARTICIPATION IN CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AT XAVIER, COLIN O'SHEA '21 IS CONTINUING HIS EDUCATION AT LAFAYETTE COLLEGE. HE LIVES IN BROOKLYN.

RYAN WONG '21

W

ow. Four years seemingly passed in the blink of an eye. Looking back on my time at Xavier, it is heartening to reflect on how formative this experience has been. Prior to high school, everyone always told me how much the new environment would allow me to grow as a person, but I could have never anticipated the development fostered by the lessons I would eventually learn at Xavier.

Upon entering high school, I set my sights on high grades and academic excellence. As a side effect of this determined mindset, I often found myself consumed by my studies, leading to an imbalance in other aspects of my life. Although I was doing well in the classroom, I found myself frequently neglecting the relationships I had with the people around me. Through many of the experiences afforded by Xavier, however, I would quickly come to realize that in life, while sacrifice and drive are key to any success, there is nothing more

important or valuable than the moments we spend with others.

As a student at Xavier, some of the most significant experiences that reinforced this lesson on interpersonal bonds and relationships were the service projects in which I participated. During both my sophomore and junior years, I volunteered with the Xavier Mission Welcome Table where I served, engaged, and conversed with guests from all corners of New York City. Though I initially came to the Welcome Table thinking I would be the one helping others, looking back, I have realized that I was actually the one who was helped the most. As I walked from table to table and chatted with many of the guests and volunteers, I was met with a deep sense of warmth and gratitude. Despite the fact that many of them had commuted a long way from other boroughs and lined up in the frigid winter air just to have this single meal, I witnessed firsthand how genuinely happy and grateful many of the guests were as they finally had the opportunity to sit down, talk to one another and the volunteers, and have their food before them. Whether the interactions we shared were as brief as a nod and smile of appreciation or as in-depth as an exchange of stories and life experiences, each person I met contributed to a greater lesson of love. Through my time at the Welcome Table, I learned to always approach people with an open heart and to meet them with dignity, gratitude, and respect because sometimes the unsuspecting encounters are the ones that are most moving.

Through these unforgettable interactions with the guests at the Xavier Welcome Table, along with the relationships I built with my teammates on the rugby team and classmates who accompanied me in class and after school during clubs, activities, and retreats, the experiences given to me by Xavier have ultimately taught me that time spent in the presence of others is a core essence of life that gives our existence fulfillment and meaning. Looking back at my growth over the past four years, I realized that while working hard and pushing for excellence is important, years from now, the contentment of winning awards and honors will eventually fade away, but the relationships, brotherhood, and love that we've established among one another here at Xavier and beyond will live on as an inseparable part of each of us and continue to shape us for the rest of our lives as we each go out and set the world on fire.

THE VALEDICTORIAN OF THE CLASS OF 2021, RYAN WONG '21 ATTENDS BOSTON COLLEGE.
HE HAILS FROM BROOKLYN.





PATRICK BURKE '21

To me, Xavier is more than a school—it is an experience, a time when relationships are built and character is formed. The time each student spends on 16th Street provides so much more than proficiency in calculus and history; boys become men without even becoming aware of the change, prepared to do real good for the world when their four years are complete.

My journey started in September of 2017, and the road ahead of me seemed daunting on my first day of school. I was one of two kids from my town to enroll that year, meaning I was starting from scratch when it came to meeting people and building a reputation. Despite being unsure of the journey I was about to embark on, I was ready to step up to the challenge and make the most of my experience.

It took a very short amount of time for me to start to understand what Xavier is really about. Not only did I quickly realize that I was surrounded by extremely smart and dedicated students, but as a freshman (and to this day) I

had yet to meet a teacher who was not supportive and willing to pursue a genuine relationship with me. The relationships I made throughout my four years were by far some of the most significant parts of my development as a well-rounded person. I met friends in school who went on adventures with me that not only created memories, but also made me a more mature and responsible teenager. I lived with students and adults on retreats, sharing my story and listening to theirs. I built connections with teachers with whom I spent immense amounts of time, first for classwork and extra help, then later because I simply wanted to visit. I admired many administrators, absorbing every piece of guidance they gave me and holding value in the mutual respect between us, something I worked hard to achieve. If I look back on the past four years I could not point out a singular teacher, friend, or moment that made me who I am today. Rather, it is the combination of all of them that helped me become a more mature, caring, and intelligent young man than when I first walked through Xavier's doors.

In a multitude of ways, Xavier taught me how to look at the world around me with a new light and learn from it. Going into the city every day taught me responsibility and situational awareness. The Army JROTC program taught me crucial leadership skills and focus. Being held accountable for my schedule and homework assignments helped me develop organizational and time management skills that benefit me both in and out of school. And Xavier's efforts to put God at the center of everything taught me to do the same with my own life, leaving me not only to graduate a well-rounded man, but also one who sees Christ in everyone, everything, everywhere.

Xavier provided me with stressful days, late nights, and a schedule that seemed to never clear up. It was in no way an easy four years. But just as steel is forged with heat and pressure, the boys who entered the pressures of Xavier four years ago have been mended into men who will succeed in this world, with strong minds, kind hearts, and a dedication to service like no other.

A RECIPIENT OF THE JESUIT SCHOOLS NETWORK AWARD AT COMMENCEMENT, **PATRICK BURKE '21** IS CONTINUING HIS EDUCATION AT GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY. HE LIVES IN ROCKVILLE CENTRE.

Celebrating 175 YEARS

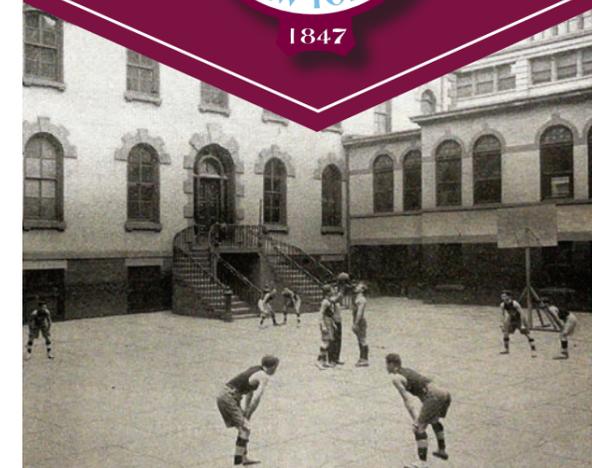
On December 3, 2021, Xavier will mark the beginning of a yearlong bicentennial celebration with Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral celebrated by His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of New York. Various events celebrating Xavier's long history, including special alumni gatherings, will follow throughout the year, leading to a special gala event on December 3, 2022.

Xavier continues to welcome the donation or temporary loan of memorabilia to showcase during our anniversary year. To begin this process, please email Mary Kinahan-Ockay, Xavier's archivist, at archivist@xavierhs.org. To share your favorite memories of Xavier in written form (up to 500 words) for possible publication, email news@xavierhs.org.

XAVIER
HIGH SCHOOL

175

1847-2022



Left: Dr. Frank Heelan '56 submitted this photo of the Glee Club with its moderator, Joe Caruso†, in 1953. Above: Students in the Quad, as pictured in the 1918-23 *Xavier Catalogue*; West 16th Street in the mid-1920s.

TRANSFORMING THE WORLD

The 2021 Hall of Fame Class



1stLt Daniel Cronin, USMC (Ret.) '59

**DISTINGUISHED MARINE,
PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT**

“While serving as a Marine Corps officer in Vietnam, Dan received a debilitating wound that paralyzed him from the chest down and also severely damaged his right arm. Over a great deal of time, Dan’s determination, perseverance, and hard physical work rebuilt the strength in his arm and upper body so that he could not only maneuver himself, but also compete in and complete multiple wheelchair marathons.

Not content with his own physical redevelopment, he began helping paraplegics overcome their injuries and develop themselves to where they can function to the best of their abilities. A true Son of Xavier, Dan has been a contributor to 16th Street for over 30 years.”

— Dick Maloney '59

Forty-nine years ago, as Xavier marked its 125th anniversary, school leaders created the Hall of Fame to recognize those “who have been truly outstanding in the service of God, their fellow men, their country, or civic community.” Xavier Hall of Famers include teachers, doctors, attorneys, bishops, congressmen, a Supreme Court Justice, two Pulitzer Prize winners, and a recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

As we begin our 175th academic year, Xavier looks forward to inducting nine new members of the Xavier Hall of Fame on October 29 at Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers. On the pages that follow, classmates and friends of our newest Hall of Famers herald their accomplishments.

COL Peter K. Foley, USAF (Ret.) '58†

FIGHTER PILOT, BUSINESSMAN

“Pete was an All-American in high school springboard diving. He was coached by not only our father, John, but also by Dick Steadman, the legendary swim coach at Columbia and Monmouth Universities. He turned down offers from many college programs to go on to Holy Cross and its Air Force ROTC program, where his love of flying took root. Pete was a tough competitor whose best day (evening) was at Plandome Country Club, where he outraced Olympian Murray Rose from Australia on the final leg of the freestyle relay. His love of music is reflected in leading the band in his senior year at Xavier.

Pete was tennis champion at the Douglaston Club during his college years. After college, Pete was turned down for flight school because of a minor refraction in his right eye. He reported to the Air Force’s Key West facility as a personnel officer. Then the Bay of Pigs hit. President Kennedy made it a point to walk through the senior officers’ line to congratulate Pete for his work.

The next duty was the Airman of the Year program at the Air Force Academy. When the general in charge of the program learned that Pete would not make the U.S. Air Force a career unless he was a pilot, it took only 24 hours to solve that problem. No refraction.

During one of Pete’s tours of duty at Korat Royal Thai Air Force Base, WOR radio in New York City reported him shot down and dead. Turns out, after our father spent many hours checking on Pete’s status, that he was not even on the mission as he was having dinner with Miss Belgium in Bangkok at the time.

Before marriage, Pete was loved by the ladies on Long Island and the Jersey Shore. His commanding officer at NATO put a halt to that. The British Air Marshal arranged a date on the River Thames with his daughter. It was love at first sight and for many years until Pete’s death.”

— Thom Foley '62



Dr. James Morgan '82 P'12

DOCTOR, FOUNDER OF LAMP FOR HAITI

"I doubt there's an alumnus/alumna of any Jesuit educational institution who isn't familiar with the mantra, 'men and women for others.' But far fewer know its origin. Back in 1973, Pedro Arrupe, the superior general of the Society of Jesus, gave a closing address to a group of Jesuit alumni of Europe who were gathered in Valencia, Spain. It was there, in his remarks, that he set forth a vision for Jesuit education going forward with the challenge, *'What kind of man is needed today by the Church, by the world? A man who is a 'man-for-others.' That is my shorthand description of him. A man-for-others.'* He went on, *'Only he who loves fully realizes himself as a man. To the extent that he shuts himself off from others, man does not become more a person; he becomes less.'*

Jim Morgan is precisely that man, that alumnus who through his life's work has embraced, and fully reflects, Arrupe's ideal. As a husband, father, son, brother, classmate, and friend, to be sure...but especially in his vocation as a doctor, particularly his tireless commitment to the poorest of the poor in Haiti, Jim shows us the way of truly living Arrupe's vision. Even more importantly, and ultimately Arrupe's point, Jim lives the Gospel message that we're all called to. It's quite powerful and inspiring, and indeed humbling, to witness Jim share his experiences from the organization he founded, Lamp for Haiti, in Cité Soleil, a slum outside Port-au-Prince."

— Tom Weatherall '82



Richard Nolan '83

ATTORNEY, FORMER XAVIER BOARD CHAIR

"Serving as vice chair of the Board during Rich's six years as chair, I can confirm Rich's total dedication to Xavier and her mission. As board chair of another local institution, I can attest to Rich's skills as an attorney. If there is a commonality of behavior in the two, it is Rich's attention to details, professionalism, and forthrightness in his opinions. He is above all a consensus builder.

For more than three decades, Rich Nolan's service to Xavier as a dedicated volunteer and his leadership as a regent, trustee, and board chair have been nothing short of outstanding. Two of Xavier's most significant moments (in the last 15 years)—our appointment of our first lay president and the completion of Fernandez-Duminuco Hall—were wonderfully successful due to Rich's ability to engage trustees and the larger Xavier community and his deep commitment to mission. Rich is a man of deep faith with great insight into the work and spirituality of the Society of Jesus; he has been the greatest of blessings to Xavier.

It has been and is again a delight to be on the Xavier board with Rich knowing the value of his opinions and his desire to see Xavier 'march on to victory' in all that she does for students, faculty, and alumni."

— John Meditz '66

Michael Puglisi '68

FORMER CFO OF
THE BLACKSTONE GROUP,
PHILANTHROPIST

"Beginning with his student days at Xavier as a cheerleader and the varsity basketball manager, Mike has always been a hands-on booster and supporter of his alma mater. After graduating from Fordham University, Mike pursued a career in financial services, culminating with his position as chief financial officer at The Blackstone Group, Inc. As CFO, Mike was the driving force behind Blackstone's timely completion of its initial public offering in June 2007.

To mark his 50th reunion at Xavier, Mike and his wife, Valerie, established the Puglisi Scholars Program at Xavier, with an initial gift of \$1.25 million, to provide financial aid to high-performing students. Mike and Valerie have stayed involved with the selection committee of the program and continue to be the driving forces behind its highly significant impact and success."

— Jim Tierney '68



Daniel Rodriguez '58

ARCHITECT

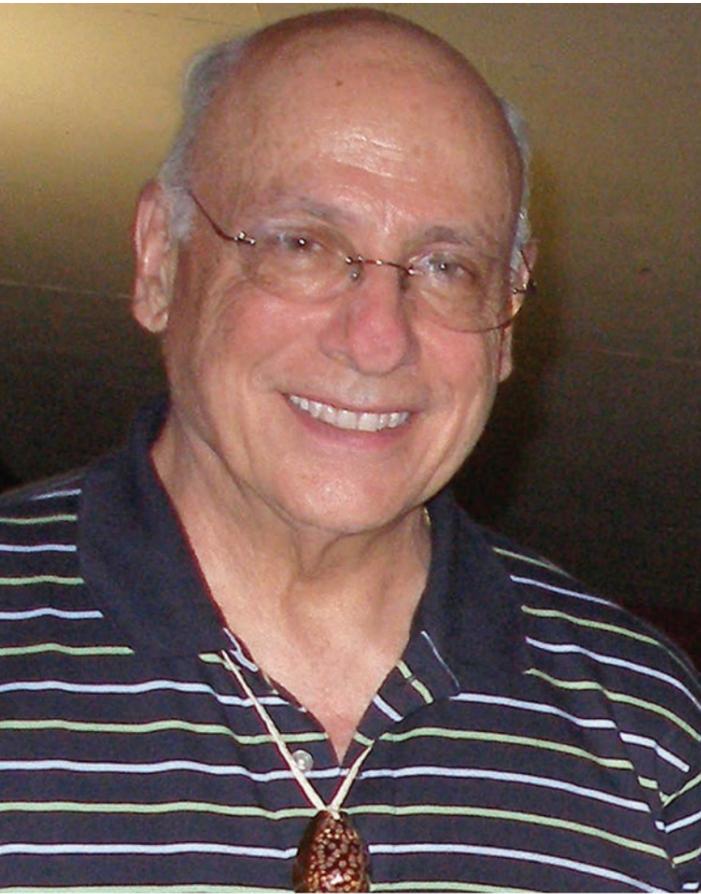
"I met Dan Rodriguez fairly early in my tenure as Vice President for Advancement at Xavier High School. He and his wife Irma were at a President's Council Dinner at the New York Athletic Club and after a wonderful conversation with both of them, he surprised **Fr. Daniel Gatti, S.J. '59** [then Xavier's President] and me with a check for a major gift on a night that we were celebrating what our alumni, parents, and friends had already meant to Xavier. He also explained that he would like to get more involved with his alma mater. Dan graduated from Xavier, where he played football, in 1958. He went on to become an architect and started his own firm that specialized in designing academic spaces for schools. He was very involved in designing buildings for several campuses, including St. Francis College in Brooklyn.

Not too long after meeting Dan and Irma at that dinner, Xavier was presented with the once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to expand its footprint in New York City. Rather than entering his firm in a competition to design the space, Dan instead offered his experience and help to Xavier by joining the newly formed Building Committee created by the Board of Trustees. His knowledge of design, materials, and construction were invaluable to the committee and helped greatly to avoid unneeded expenses. He remained on the Building Committee when he was appointed to the Board of Trustees, where he served for six years.

He and Irma continue to be great friends of Xavier, not only continuing to financially support the school, but also attending social events with his classmates and their spouses both in NYC and beyond. They even traveled to Cape Cod for our receptions there because many of Dan's classmates had retired to the area. They always added to the festivities, and quietly would hand me a check to cover the cost of that event. Dan and Irma are wonderful, caring people, and I continue to be honored to call them my friends."

— Joe Gorski





Ramon Salomone, S.J. '51†

PROFESSOR, JESUIT REGIONAL SUPERIOR

“Ray was a natural leader and exemplary Jesuit. After he received his doctorate in chemistry, he taught chemistry at LeMoyné College in Syracuse for some years and then went to our mission in Nigeria where he soon became the director of Jesuit novices and then Mission Superior. He was highly respected and loved by those who worked with him because his goodness and competence were so evident.”

— Jack Replogle, S.J. '51

Msgr. John Torney '30†

PASTOR, PROTONOTARY APOSTOLIC

“Msgr. John Torney acknowledged his time spent at Xavier as the focal point in leading him to his vocation. His love for Xavier came from the foundation he was taught, to serve God and country through the Jesuit philosophy present in the spirit of his time and education at Xavier. Msgr. Torney chose a life of service to others—and serve them he did. It was his love for his faith, his lifestyle of humble service to both God and country that leads me to believe that it benefits both Xavier and Msgr. Torney to join the others already inducted into Xavier’s Hall of Fame. In a world that has been blessed by some monumental achievements by others, it is rare to find a person who has quietly lived a lifetime of service to others for such a sustained period of time.”

— Dr. William McAuliffe '45†



Henry Woehling '55

XAVIER FACULTY MEMBER, 1963-2007

“To say that Henry Woehling is one of a kind would be an understatement.

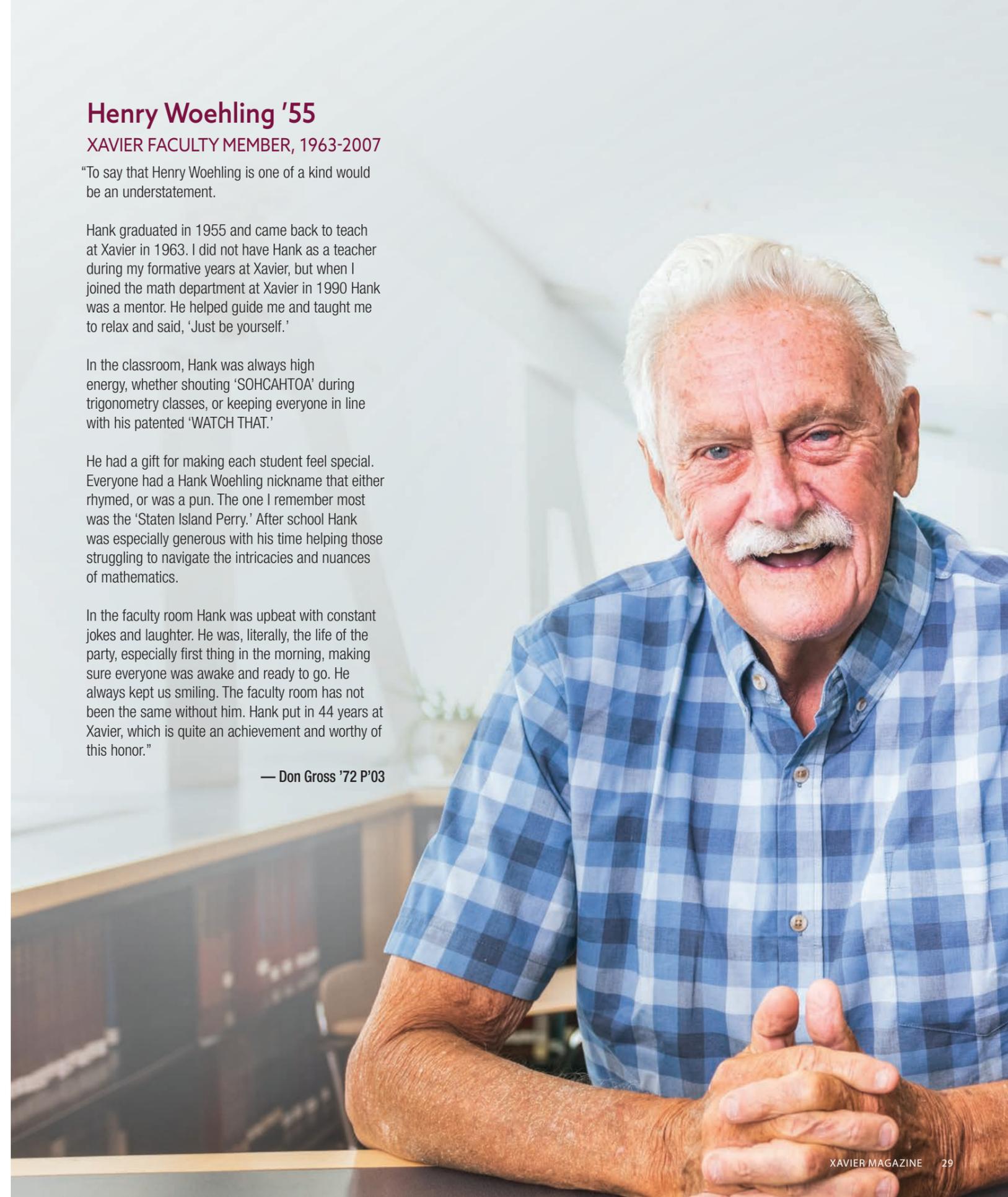
Hank graduated in 1955 and came back to teach at Xavier in 1963. I did not have Hank as a teacher during my formative years at Xavier, but when I joined the math department at Xavier in 1990 Hank was a mentor. He helped guide me and taught me to relax and said, ‘Just be yourself.’

In the classroom, Hank was always high energy, whether shouting ‘SOHCAHTOA’ during trigonometry classes, or keeping everyone in line with his patented ‘WATCH THAT.’

He had a gift for making each student feel special. Everyone had a Hank Woehling nickname that either rhymed, or was a pun. The one I remember most was the ‘Staten Island Perry.’ After school Hank was especially generous with his time helping those struggling to navigate the intricacies and nuances of mathematics.

In the faculty room Hank was upbeat with constant jokes and laughter. He was, literally, the life of the party, especially first thing in the morning, making sure everyone was awake and ready to go. He always kept us smiling. The faculty room has not been the same without him. Hank put in 44 years at Xavier, which is quite an achievement and worthy of this honor.”

— Don Gross '72 P'03



Sons of Xavier



1923

Members of the Xavier Cadet Band pose on the steps of the old 16th Street entrance.

1945

George Camisa writes, “One granddaughter is graduating in December from San Diego State with a BS in nursing. Another graduated from Arizona with her teaching degree. I guess the Camisas have abandoned the East Coast. To keep the faith, I still wear my Xavier shirts.”

1947

📷 “As this is my 75th reunion, I have decided to toot my horn a bit!” writes **J. Richard Ryan**. “Since the fall of 2015 I have lived in Palm Desert, California. Before that, I worked in New York City as a practicing lawyer and lived in Westchester County. Following the Korean War I joined a small law firm in Midtown and for the rest of my career remained either self-employed or the head of successive small firms with a practice centered around sports and entertainment. In 1961, I was representing the Miss America Pageant and some other TV shows when I was lucky enough to be hired by Augusta National’s first chairman, Clifford Roberts, to help manage the Club’s media relationships with CBS and the Masters sponsors. I am proud to report that I am retained by the Club to this day. Over the years my role expanded to worldwide licensing of the Masters TV rights and, up until COVID hit, I attended 55 straight Masters tournaments. Over the years I have also been lucky enough to travel the world in my practice and to attend just about every great worldwide sports event at least once. I have also been fortunate to represent on occasion the U.S. Open Tennis Association, the America’s Cup, the U.S. Figure Skating Association, Ted Williams, Sam Snead, Trent Jones, Tom Weiskopf, and others. I was Ken Venturi’s manager and attorney for over 30 years. There is no doubt that those formative years on 16th Street enabled this kid from Queens to recognize and seize these opportunities for a fun and happy life blessed with five children, 14 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren. AMDG!”

1949

Dr. Tom O’Brien reports that he has been in contact with class agent **John Beglan** (Paquita) and other family members of ‘49ers. They include **John** (Mary) **Brady**, Jane Bolger (**Bill**), Bobbi Conti (**Steve**), Barbara Curran (**Paul**), **John Hausst** (who sadly passed away in April), **Louie** (Mona) **Lopez**, Victoria Madaras (**Jack**), Phyllis McCauley (**Dick**), **Jack** (Nancy) **McGeehan**, Ann O’Malley (**Jim**), **George Torpey**, and **Phil Wallace** among them. O’Brien was pleased to see the *Xavier Magazine* article about his classmate, **Dr. Bill O’Brien**—whom he knew prior to entering Xavier in 1945—in the spring 2021 edition.

1950

Dan Gorman and his wife, Joan, recently celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary. They have five children, 13 grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Gorman recently retired from the board of Christendom College in Front Royal, Virginia. “It’s been a good life,” he writes.

1953

Dr. Chester Schmidt writes, “Retirement is going well. When gifted with good health, job one is maintaining one’s health.”

1956

Joseph Basta is enjoying a long retirement in Fort Collins, Colorado, with his wife, Mary Jean, three children, and eight grandchildren.

Dr. Ludwig Deppisch, a retired pathologist, lives in Tucson, Arizona with his wife, Rosemarie, children, and grandchildren. He and Rosemarie travel internationally to listen to operas, especially ones by Puccini and Verdi. Deppisch graduated from Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and served as chief of pathology, chairman of the medical board, and professor of pathology at the medical school at Northside Hospital in Youngstown, Ohio. During his retirement, he has

written three works of American history. The most recent, *Women in the Life of Andrew Jackson*, was published by McFarland Publishers in May. It is available on *Amazon.com* and at Barnes & Noble. He has also published *The White House Physician* and *The Health of the First Ladies*.

1957

Tony Giampaolo is moving from Mission Viejo, California, to Goodyear, Arizona, as soon as his recovery from aortic heart valve replacement (via TAVR procedure) is complete. “Retirement is still an option, but there are no definite plans yet,” he writes. Power & Compression Systems, the engineering company he founded 30 years ago, is still active.

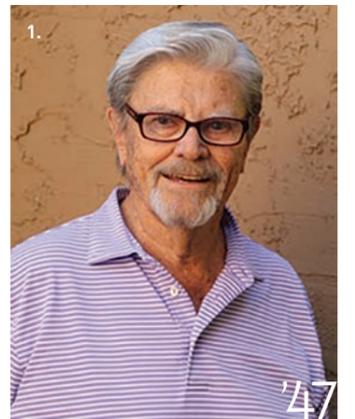
Dr. Joseph B. Juhász, professor emeritus of architecture and environmental design at the University of Colorado, writes, “I am busy writing or rather co-authoring articles, radio programs, and presentations on issues ranging from the cosmic to the mundane (not to mention that paradoxically the two are the same). I am in touch weekly on such matters with our classmate **Kevin Morrissey**. On the subject of the mundane and the cosmic, my grandson, Gabriel Juhász, spent the summer with me. Am seriously considering resuming travel by September—Hungary and Uzbekistan. My knees have rusted.”

1958

Barry Ryan reports that members of the Class of 1958 have enjoyed three hour-long Zoom reunions so far in 2021—in January, March, May, and September.

1959

📷 In May, **Tony Dente** hosted a spirited Xavier gathering at his home in Dataw Island, South Carolina. In attendance were **Mike Connor**, **Joe Dooley**, **Bill Fagan**, **Bob Albracht ’60**,



1. J. Richard Ryan '47.

MAROON, BLUE AND BLACK

June 8, 2021



Jack Raslowsky P’16 and Director of Alumni Relations **Zane Massey ’96 P’22** participate in a Maroon, Blue and Black Initiative call with a group of alumni.



include the dialogue, war stories, tales of incredible memories which all of us carry. I can just say all were thankful for our good health and the ability to be vaccinated. ... In summary, the reunion was truly representative of what our generation is still capable of doing. Great memories, hilarious humor, ability to empty more wine and remain standing, and continuing friendships over the ages." In June, Dente traveled to New York, where he enjoyed a Xavier lunch with Pylp, Hatheway, **Will Hatheway '15**, and **Jack Raslowsky P'16**.



Richard Hornack writes that the past six years of his career have been exciting. He is now an investor and capital raiser for Proteum Energy. He and his wife, Penny, a retired flight attendant, live in Scottsdale, Arizona, but escape the dry heat each summer when they travel to their lake house in Eagle River, Wisconsin. "My goal at this stage of life is to finish strong where possible and lead a balanced life," Hornack said.

1960

In June, **Bob Albracht** was presented with the Federal Aviation Administration's Master Pilot Award. The presentation included his Distinguished Flying Cross citation, awarded for his valorous actions during the Vietnam War in 1968.

While traveling to Palm Beach, Florida, in February, **Doug Fraser** and his wife, Aileen, joined **Charles Jordan** and his wife, Charlene—who reside in Delray Beach—for two great evenings of fun and reminiscing.

1961

The *Financial Times* named **Fred Salerno** one of its four 2021 Outstanding Directors, a peer-nominated group recognized for the key role they play within their boardrooms. He is a senior advisor at New Mountain Capital and the former vice chairman and CFO of Verizon. He also serves as a director at Madison Square Garden Entertainment, lead independent director at Intercontinental Exchange and

Associated Capital Group, and served as the first independent chair of Akamai until 2021. He and his fellow Outstanding Directors will be honored at the digital Outstanding Directors Exchange from October 26-28.

1963

Having lived in Stamford, Connecticut, for the first 40 years of their marriage, **Deacon Jack Mahon** and his wife, Ellen, moved to an independent living apartment at Watermark Retirement Community in Southbury, Connecticut, in March 2020. During the lockdown, Mahon was able to provide Communion services to Catholics in the retirement community.

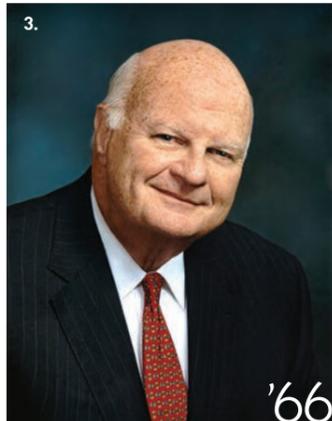
1965

John Nickl reports that he and **Bob Albert** have reconnected after 50 years. "We realize that friends means friends forever," Nickl writes.

1966

Gary S. Horan, FACHE, president and CEO of Trinitas Regional Medical Center in Elizabeth, New Jersey, received the Spirit of Kylemore Award on April 28 during the Kylemore Abbey Gala, an event that paid tribute to the 100-year anniversary of the Benedictine Community and raised funds for a new monastery in County Galway, Ireland. Kylemore Abbey is a Benedictine monastery and one of Ireland's most iconic landmarks. Built in 1868, it has been home to the Benedictine nuns since 1920 when their monastery in Ypres, Belgium was destroyed in World War I. Horan lives in Sea Girt, New Jersey, with his wife, Arlene.

Jim McDonough writes that he and his wife, Jody, recently "broke out of our enforced isolation" with a trip to Alaska. "My old ship, the Coast Guard Cutter Douglas Munro, was being decommissioned after 49+ years of service, in Kodiak of all places. We had never been to Alaska, but now that's off the list. I was an original crew member from 1971, and got to say farewell."



1. Joe Dooley '59, Bill Fagan '59, Tony Dente '59, Bob Albracht '60, and Bob Scavullo '60 at Dente's home in Dataw Island, South Carolina.

2. Charlene and Charles Jordan '60 with Dr. Doug Fraser '60 and his wife, Aileen.

3. Gary Horan '66.

4. Jody and Jim McDonough '66 in Alaska.



Bob Scavullo '60, and **John Hatheway P'15**. COVID-19 prevented **Walter Bayer** and **Andrew Pylp '79** from joining the fun, which included golf, barbecues, and the second annual 1959 vs. 1960 bocce championship. "It took literally a semester of international planning to achieve this reunion," Dente writes. "The photos unfortunately do not

IMPACTING GENERATIONS

TOM DONNELLY '57

BY SHAWNA GALLAGHER VEGA

"MY FAMILY, THE DONNELLYS, HAVE BENEFITED FROM AND DEMONSTRATED TO OTHERS THE GREAT VALUE OF A FIRST-CLASS JESUIT HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION."

After *Xavier Magazine* asked alums to share their favorite 16th Street stories this spring, **Tom Donnelly '57** penned a reflection about Xavier's unique, century-long impact on his family.

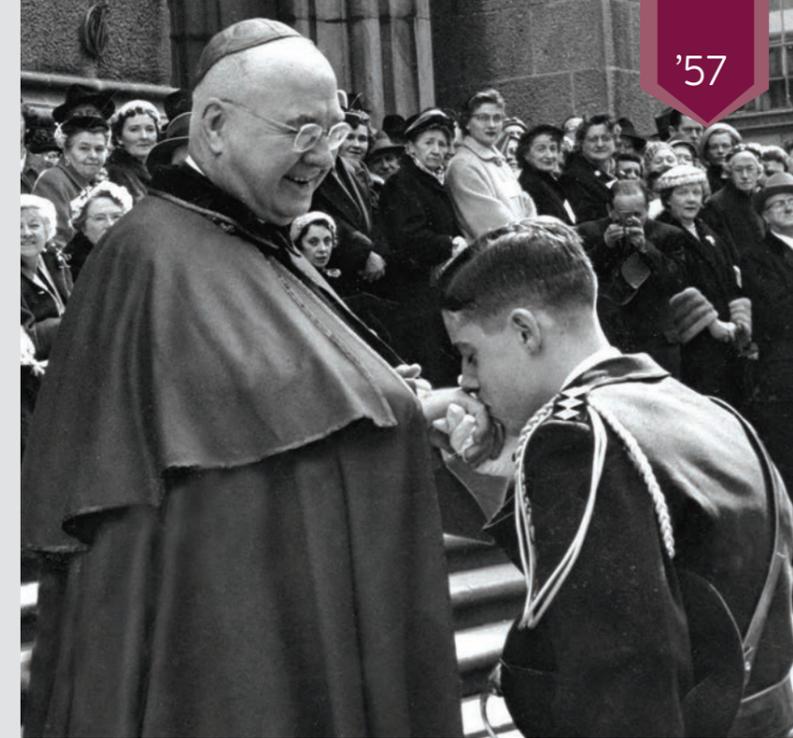
Around 1920, his parents, **Samuel** and **Veronica Donnelly P'51 '54 '57**†, met at Xavier, which then housed an evening school. "After World War I, the Knights of Columbus in New York had a war chest of money they had collected for U.S. soldiers, and they wanted to do something with it," Donnelly wrote from the home he shares with his wife, Irene, in South Plainfield, New Jersey. "So they made a deal with the New York Jesuits to open an evening school at 30 West 16th Street."

"My father was a World War I veteran who had never attended high school. After the war, he worked during the day on Wall Street and saw the Knights of Columbus Evening School as a great opportunity for him to get a high school education. After his evening classes, he would walk across the Brooklyn Bridge to his cold-water flat in Brooklyn," Donnelly continued. "My mother, a Catholic girl from Weehawken, New Jersey, had left Sacred Heart High School in Hoboken after her freshman year to become a secretary in Manhattan. She decided to finish high school at KC Evening School."

Soon after their meeting in Xavier's halls, Sam Donnelly and Veronica Martin began dating. They both graduated from KC Evening School and went on to New York University, where Sam studied accounting and Veronica studied English.

After graduating from NYU, they wed. Sam continued working on Wall Street, while Veronica attended NYU Law School at night. In a rare feat for a woman of that era, she graduated law school, passed the New York State Bar Exam, and completed a clerkship before devoting herself to her three sons. "She spent the rest of the '30s, '40s, and '50s raising her three boys and sending them from Cliffside Park, New Jersey, to Xavier High School, the best high school she knew, which she had learned about while attending KC Evening School—where several teachers from Xavier also taught," Donnelly wrote. "One of them, **Mike O'Donnell†**, who taught me algebra as a freshman at Xavier, told me he had also taught my mother, my father, and my two brothers."

Tom Donnelly's older brothers, **Sam Donnelly '51†** and **Bill Donnelly '54†**, excelled on 16th Street. Sam went on to Fordham University and Harvard Law School before spending 42 years teaching law at Syracuse University, where President Joe Biden numbered among his students.



Tom Donnelly kissing Francis Cardinal Spellman's ring at the 1957 St. Patrick's Day Parade.

In 2003, then-Senator Biden wrote the foreword for Sam Donnelly's last legal book. "When Sam passed away from ALS in 2012," Tom Donnelly recalled, "Joe Biden called Sam's wife and gave her his sincere condolences." The valedictorian of the Class of 1954, Bill Donnelly followed Sam to Fordham, then earned a master's degree in dramatic arts at the Catholic University of America. He honed his performance skills at Xavier, where one of his debate partners was eventual Supreme Court Justice **Antonin Scalia '53†**. Bill's best friend was **Vincent Cooke, S.J. '54†**, who went on to become president of Canisius College and provincial of the New York Province of the Society of Jesus.

Bill Donnelly enjoyed a long, varied career as a faculty member at Loyola Marymount University and Temple University, a top executive at the storied New York advertising firm Young & Rubicam, and as an author. Sadly, he passed away suddenly in 2014.

His brothers' memory continues to inspire Tom Donnelly, just as their example did when he walked the halls of Xavier.

In his senior year, Tom Donnelly was named cadet colonel and valedictorian. "I was very lucky to be a member of Class 1C and have **Fr. Dan Carey, S.J.†** as my religion and

homeroom teacher, **Tony Karpowicz†** for history, **Mike O'Donnell†** for mathematics, and **Leo Paquin†** for English. **Fr. Bill McDonough, S.J.†** was the Prefect of Discipline and a great mentor through my last year at Xavier," Donnelly recalled. "Dramatics, forensics, debating, and the Sodality were my primary activities, and of course, the military and the Regiment."

After Xavier, Tom Donnelly followed his older brothers to Fordham before earning a master's degree at St. John's University. After a stint in the Jesuits that took him to the Colegio San Ignacio in San Juan, Puerto Rico, he continued his career in education, earning a doctorate in sociology at NYU and embarking on a 32-year teaching career at St. Peter's College (now St. Peter's University) in Jersey City. He always made a point to volunteer for Xavier's Annual Fund drive as a mark of gratitude for what he and his family received at Xavier—and he continues his generosity to 16th Street today.

"My family, the Donnellys, have benefited from and demonstrated to others the great value of a first-class Jesuit high school education as a foundation for a happy and successful life and career," he said. "Thank God for that, and may God's grace continue to shine on Xavier High School."



reunion, and hope we can all be under the same roof for that one!”

After 51 years in the financial services industry, **Vince Panzera** retired on June 30. “Time for more traveling, golf, grandchildren (all six of them), and no emails,” he writes.

1967

George Shevchuk writes, “Retiring from my latest place of employment just over a decade ago, my wife, Marta, and I downsized our camping trailer and started enjoying more travel, both domestically in the trailer as well as internationally. Our son and daughter were and are off on rewarding life paths, and we enjoyed spending time with the two grandchildren. Life, however, took a number of turns several years ago, with my wife passing away suddenly from a heart attack, shortly after we made tentative plans to leave New Jersey for Delaware. A couple of years later, I followed up on those plans and found myself a downsized house in Newark, Delaware. While this process of buying and selling was challenging during the coronavirus pandemic, I was fortunate to also get better acquainted with a wonderful woman, Katherine, whom I’d known just peripherally as the wife of a late friend of mine. We found we had so much in common that it didn’t take long to decide to get married, which we did in mid-May. So yet more twists to life, as we will now be snowbirds, spending summers here in Delaware and winters in her house in Venice, Florida. And yes, we both enjoy travel!”

1968

Five former members of the Xavier track team—**Jim Mantle, Dave McGroarty, Jim Tierney, Mike Tierney ’69, and John McGroarty ’70**—reunited at Uncle Jack’s Steakhouse in New York City on June 22. “Many stories were told about Mr. **Jim Scott P’79 ’84†**, the legendary track coach,” Jim Tierney writes.

Patrick O’Brien reports that members of the 1966 track and cross country teams enjoyed their second Zoom reunion in June (their initial Zoom gathering took place last summer). “We relived many adventures at Van Cortlandt Park, the 168th Street Armory, Madison Square Garden, and the Penn Relays. Lots of laughter and fond memories of our coach, Mr. **Jim Scott P’79 ’84†**. We also acknowledged (with some envy) the accomplishments of the current generation of harriers at Xavier. No doubt we’ll have another



1. Kevin Sexton ’66, Patrick O’Brien ’66, Joe Carini ’66, Ron Rivera ’66 P’90 ’96, Jim Mantle ’68, Ray Dittrich ’66, Roger Schwall ’66, and Danny Mantle ’66 enjoy the 1966 track and cross country Zoom reunion.

2. John McGroarty ’70, Jim Mantle ’68, Dave McGroarty ’68, Mike Tierney ’69, and Jim Tierney ’68.

3. Pat Yuen ’70, John McGroarty ’70, and Ed Tweedy ’70.

1970

On May 5, **Pat Yuen, John McGroarty, and Ed Tweedy** met for lunch in Stamford, Connecticut. “Looking forward to a much larger gathering soon,” McGroarty said.

1971

Thomas Cannon writes, “My youngest graduated from college and hopes to be going to law school in the fall. His older brother is in the state police. I am living in Miami Beach and in New York for the summer.”

John N. Frank has commissioned playwright John Mabey to write an original two-act comedy, *The Roaring 2020s*, for his 2nd Act Players theater outside Chicago. The hope is to perform the new play as the 2nd Act Players return to in-person shows this November.

Patrick Sullivan retired as Commissioner, Garda Síochána Ombudsman Commission in Dublin, Ireland and returned to the United States. He established the Finnerty Sullivan Group LLC, a security consulting and private investigations firm in Fairfax, Virginia.

1972

Dr. Franklin Caesar P’00 writes, “During the pandemic, our group has stayed together by cell phone calls, emails, and text messages. The group consists of **Steven Anderson, Tom Flynn, Mike Ignacio, Bill O’Brien, and myself**. We have been meeting for dinner at least twice a year pre-pandemic. With the pandemic winding down, we enjoyed a dinner in the city in June. We are definitely looking forward to our 50th anniversary in 2022! Sons of Xavier, keep marching...”

Tom Healey and Brian Burke joined their classmate **Tom Driscoll**, who recently retired from his role as a chemistry teacher at Somerset County (New Jersey) Vocational & Technical High School, for an address by their classmate, **LtGen Toolan, USMC (Ret.)**, at Proud to be an American Day. Driscoll had arranged for Toolan to give the address.



1973

After 39 years of working, **Ray McCarthy** retired last August. He is enjoying his two grandchildren and jigsaw puzzles in retirement.

Frank Musso writes that he hopes to catch up with his classmate, **Tony Marinello**.

Tom Masterson recently retired from The Clearing House in New York. He and his wife, Cathleen, live in Sea Girt, New Jersey, and they hope to spend more time on the beach. “Our plan also includes visiting our children and grandchildren in Maryland, New York City, and Boston,” he writes.

Dr. Edward Zampella is director of neurosciences at Summit Health/CityMD. He and his wife, Deborah (a Xavier cheerleader in 1972 and 1973) welcome back to the East Coast their brain surgeon daughter, Bailey, who will join her father in practice at Summit. Their son, Evan, is a well-known digital video producer in New York City.

1974

Michael Bunner writes, “I’m a Cyber Security SME for Johnson & Johnson Global IT, leading development and response teams. I have no plans to retire until at least age 70, when I can devote more time to my side gig, playing bass for classic rock bands.”

Kevin McLaughlin reports that a strong Xavier contingent attended a Boston College-Georgetown wedding (with Villanova attending) in June in Spring Lake, New Jersey. **Fr. Jim Keenan, S.J.**, served as



the celebrant. The groom, who attended BC and is the son of BC grads, is a family friend of McLaughlin, **Rich Scheller**, and **Bill McKiernan** (all members of the BC class of 1978). The bride, who went to Georgetown and is the daughter of Georgetown grads, is a family friend of **Steve Dinsmore ’72** (Georgetown ’76), **John Connors** (Georgetown ’78), and **Bill Foley ’72** (Villanova ’76).

1975

In March, Austin-based Professional Contract Services, Inc. (PCSI) named **MG Tony Cucolo, USA (Ret.)** its new president and CEO. He joined PCSI after serving as executive director of the National Security Innovation Council, a 501(c)(6) non-profit business, academic, and intergovernmental outreach initiative for the State of Texas enabling support to the national security community. Before that, he served for four years as an associate vice chancellor for the University of Texas System.

In July 2019, **Julio Gonzalez** retired after 40 years with JPMorgan Chase as an executive director for global real estate. He and his wife, Nilsa, reside in Gilbert, Arizona.

1977

Luis Morales writes, “After a year of Zoom fatigue, a few of our Xavier brothers from the Class of 1977 got together.” He notes that a memorial Mass for **Dr. Michael DelTerzo†** was held on August 21.

Nevio Murljadic writes that he and his wife recently bought a



house in Sun City West, Arizona. They plan on splitting their time between Connecticut and Arizona. He welcomes Sons of Xavier in the metro Phoenix area to contact him at nevio825@gmail.com.

1978

After 10 years leading Northwell Health, **Dr. Thomas McGinn** recently joined the national leadership team of CommonSpirit Health—the largest nonprofit health system in the U.S.—as chief physician, overseeing more than 6,000 doctors in 21 states, including two medical schools, Baylor College of Medicine and Creighton University School of Medicine. “It is nice to be back at a Catholic organization and working closely with the Jesuit leadership at Creighton University, my alma mater,” McGinn writes.

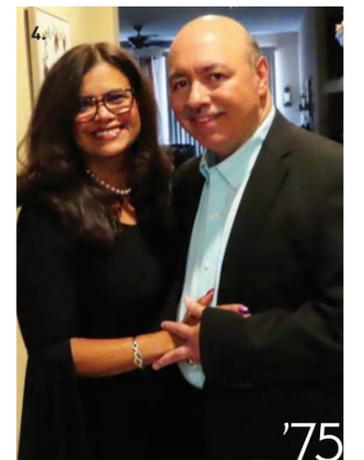
1979

At the end of 2020, **Joe Ferrara** finished his term as past president of the American Crystallographic Association and began a six-year term as vice-chair and chair of the U.S. National Committee for Crystallography. He will continue as treasurer of the Council of Scientific Society Presidents for two more years. Ferrara is a volunteer firefighter and first responder and recently became certified as a Swift Water Rescue Technician.

Daniel J. Kerr recently co-authored a paper published in *BBA-Molecular Basis of Disease*.

1980

John Wynne reports that his older daughter, Olivia, graduated



1. Michael Bunner ’74.

2. Steve Dinsmore ’72, John Connors ’74, Jim Keenan, S.J., Rich Scheller ’74, Bill McKiernan ’74, Bill Foley ’72, and Kevin McLaughlin ’74.

3. Luis Morales ’77, Dr. John Young ’77, Stefan Rosic ’77, Michael Gargiulo ’77, Ed Crocoll ’77, and Rene Mack ’77.

4. Nilsa and Julio Gonzalez ’75.

5. Joe Ferrara ’79.



1. John Wynne '80 with his daughter, Olivia.

2. Jack Thorburn '89 and his son, John, with Gavin and John O'Farrell '83.

3. Lukas and Peter Mazurcyk '83.

Paul Orsi reports that his daughter, Gabriella, graduated from The Cooper Union with a degree in architecture in June.

1986

Mark Jannone is excited to be relocating from Scottsdale, Arizona, to Miami, Florida, where he has been appointed Assistant Vice President, Strategy, Planning, and Business Development for Baptist Health South Florida. He is looking forward to connecting with his Xavier brothers in the region.

Jason Ramsden, chief information officer at Ravenscroft School in Raleigh, North Carolina, was one of three recipients of the 2021 Pillar Award from the Association of Technology Leaders in Independent Schools, the professional association for independent school technology directors. The ATLAS Pillar Award honors outstanding thought leaders who exemplify ATLAS's mission to empower schools to thrive through technology leadership. A recognized leader in the independent school community, Ramsden has been a key voice on the Innovation and 21st Century Curriculum/Technology task forces of the National Association of Independent Schools. He was instrumental in establishing and growing the North Carolina Association of Independent Schools annual technology conference between 2006 and 2011. He also founded the TAIS (Triangle Area Independent School) Technology Directors Association in 2005. He has contributed articles and given presentations on topics that include leadership, data and research, enrollment management, technology and social media and is co-author of *Communicating and Connecting with Social Media* from Solution Tree. Ramsden has been an ATLAS board member since 2016 and was the first non-founder to lead the organization as board chair.

1983

John O'Farrell reports that he and other Xavier alumni reunited at the Saint Peter's Prep graduation this May. O'Farrell's son, Gavin, graduated from Prep, as did Lukas, the son of **Peter Mazurcyk '89**, and John, the son of **Jack Thorburn '89**.

1987

Jim Creighton and his wife, Melissa, are thrilled to announce

the adoption of Ryan James and Lilly Ann on February 26, 2021. Ryan and Lilly joined the Creighton family as foster children in 2019 and are excited to be the two youngest teens in the Creighton household of six children. Creighton is a current Councilman for the Town of Cortlandt and an attorney who recently joined the full-service law firm Dorf & Nelson LLP in Rye, New York, during the pandemic. He appreciates the support of his classmates during his reelection campaign and looks forward to getting together with everyone at next year's Beefsteak and 35th reunion.

1988

Bryan Grimaldi joined National Grid as vice president of corporate affairs – New York, leading the communications, government relations, economic development, and community engagement teams for the company.

1989

In June, **Mark Murphy** won the Democratic nomination for Staten Island Borough President. He is a fourth-generation Staten Islander raising his family in West Brighton.

Chris Spataro writes that he hit the trifecta this year. His oldest daughter, Kimber, gave birth to his first grandchild, Drew, in May. His middle daughter, Taylor, is getting married this fall. And his youngest daughter, Becky, just graduated high school and will be attending the University of Indianapolis.

1993

Dan Castle completed his master of philosophy in organizational dynamics at the University of Pennsylvania and is now working as a teaching assistant in Penn's Graduate School of Liberal and Professional Studies.

1995

Joseph Grosso lives in Forest Hills. He recently published his first book, *Emerald City: How Capital Transformed New York*.

1996

Dan Smith is celebrating 18 years at Becton Dickinson (BD), a leading global medical technology company and the largest manufacturer of injection devices in the world. For the past year, he has been leading the company's COVID-19 vaccination efforts, including supplying more than two billion injection devices to more than 40 countries. In this capacity, he has been responsible for developing the overall strategy and managing all elements of BD's response, enabling the current mass vaccination campaigns. His role encompasses anticipating and shaping future needs for pandemic preparedness, vaccination infrastructure with a lens toward public-private partnerships for deployment strategy, and critical supply chain resiliency, ensuring that BD continues its leadership in serving the most critical public health needs. Smith is responsible for executing several critical measures to advise on device selection, ensure supply continuity, and drive coordination across a broad universe of stakeholders from public policy, governmental agencies, and healthcare providers. Prior to his current appointment, Dan led BD Injection Systems' business platform for the U.S. region. He is a graduate of the Loyola University Maryland Sellinger School of Business and the executive MBA program at the University of Utah Eccles School of Business. While his hometown will always be Brooklyn, he now resides in Salt Lake City, Utah.

1997

Jordan Castro is back with his sophomore offering, *The Great Silent Roar*. Written from the front lines of New York City's streets during the pandemic, social justice protests and riots, an NYPD Lieutenant tackles complex issues in this valentine to the Big Apple. Themes of suicide, police misconduct, group violence, and resurrection are examined in this journey into the soul of a broken but redeemable man. The novel was released on *Amazon.com*, in Barnes

and Noble, on Google Play Books, and on Apple Books on June 18.

Don P. Hooper reports that his short story, "Got Me A Jet Pack," is included in the *Black Boy Joy* anthology published in August by Delacorte. The anthology features 17 stories celebrating Black boyhood.

1999

Jack Morales lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He is an associate professor of communication arts at the Community College of Allegheny County. He was recently awarded a Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Faculty Fellowship for the 2021-2022 academic year in order to pursue research for a book project. His book, *The People's College: Race, Rhetoric, and Higher Education Reform in New York, 1965-1981*, is a rhetorical history of the student press in New York City's public community colleges during the post-civil rights era.

2000

John Khinda reports that he began 2021 "on fire with huge parts in two major independent films." He invites fellow Sons of Xavier to view news about his career and his top acting performances at *johnkhinda.com*.

2005

As he looked forward to starting a new job four years ago, **Jim Gallagher** was diagnosed with stage 4 kidney disease. He began dialysis treatments in November 2017. "I am looking for a transplant so I can move forward with my life as this has held me down physically, mentally, professionally, and financially," he writes. Gallagher can be reached at *jpgallagherusn@yahoo.com* or 917-756-5319.

Greg McGovern was recently named executive director of The Pressure Players, a New York City theatrical production company.

2006

Matthew Pynn was recently promoted to associate director



at Avison Young, a commercial real estate services firm.

Ryan Woerner recently graduated from Fordham University School of Law, where he took night classes while working full-time at Bayonne Drydock and Repair Co. Earlier this year, he passed the New York State Bar Exam.

2007

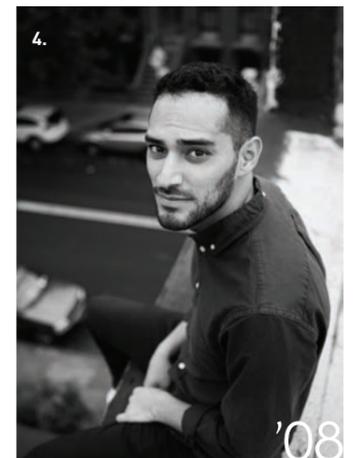
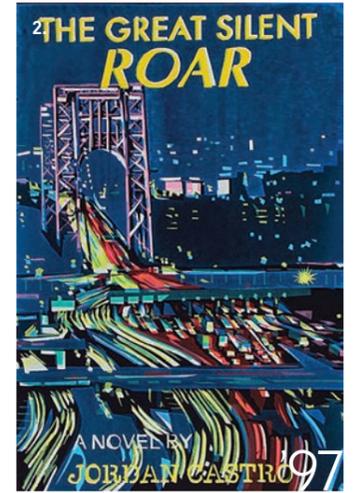
Jose Aquino serves as theology department chair at Jesuit Dallas.

Joe Misseri and his wife, Lauren, recently moved to Darien, Connecticut, with their dog, Marty. They are thrilled to be expecting a child this fall. Misseri is in his 10th year at Goldman Sachs, where he serves as a vice president within the firm's risk division.

2008

Andrés Cerpa's second book of poetry, *The Vault*, was published in June by Alice James Books. *The Vault* has received praise from *Poets & Writers Magazine*, *The Library Journal*, *The Rumpus*, *The Kenyon Review*, and *Electric Literature*.

Fr. Nicholas Colalella celebrated his sixth anniversary as a priest on June 27. In May 2020, Fr. Colalella earned a master's degree in Semitic Languages from The Catholic University of America. He was then assigned as a parish priest at St. Luke in Whitestone, Queens, and as an adjunct professor of Biblical theology at St. Joseph Seminary, Dunwoodie.



1. Jim Creighton '87 with his family.

2. *The Great Silent Roar*, the new novel from Jordan Castro '97.

3. *Black Boy Joy*, an anthology featuring a short story by Don P. Hooper '97.

4. Andrés Cerpa '08.



1. Fr. Nicholas Colalella '08.

2. Dr. Michael Palillo '13, right, with his brother, Jack Palillo '16.

3. Issa Sylla '13, left, at the Gateway to Victory Learning Center in Kenya in 2019.



resettlement, family reunification, or other humanitarian pathways to safety. Miranda earned his J.D. at Columbia Law School, and he is licensed to practice in New York.

2010

Tom Bedard, a Wichita, Kansas-based AccuWeather employee, was featured by various news outlets after proposing to his girlfriend, fellow AccuWeather employee Raya Maday, on Memorial Day. Bedard and Maday drove six hours to Colorado to witness their first tornado together, during which Bedard got down on one knee and proposed. "Right after saying yes, Maday and her hubby-to-be had to flee to the car to escape the whirling death vortex, as well as an accompanying lightning storm," *The New York Post* reported.

2011

Nicholas DiStefano graduated from Berkeley Law in May 2020 and is currently a corporate attorney at Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP.

Will Lorenzo's essay, "The Dawn of the Man of Tomorrow," was included as the first chapter of an anthology book, *Adapting Superman*, that was published by McFarland Press this May.

Patrick Steffens was recently promoted to associate director, leasing and advisory services at Avison Young, a commercial real estate services firm.



2013

Dr. Michael Palillo recently graduated from the Ohio State University School of Veterinary Medicine with a master's in pharmacology. He will return to New York City for the Tri-Institutional Training Program in Laboratory Animal Medicine and Science.

Issa Sylla recently returned from Kenya, where he volunteered at Gateway to Victory Learning Center (a school for orphans in Kericho, Kenya) and with various healthcare professionals throughout the country beginning in February. He will begin an MBA program at the University of Virginia Darden School of Business this fall and a master of science in health policy program at Stanford University next fall. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College. Sylla was recently awarded a certificate of recognition by Mayor Marty Walsh (now the U.S. Secretary of Labor) and the City of Boston for his contributions while on the board of East Boston Main Streets.

2014

James Gallagher recently graduated from Georgetown University with a master's in public policy. He is now working for the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee as a senior research associate.

Nic Inglese has been admitted to New York University's Tisch School of the Arts, where he will pursue an MFA in dramatic writing.

A CREATIVE FORCE

TAIWO ODUNSI '93
BY NICK BARONE '16

"XAVIER CATALYZED MY FOCUS, TURNED ME INTO A GOAL-ORIENTED MACHINE. THERE'S AN ELECTRIC ENERGY OF EXCELLENCE THAT PULSATES THROUGH YOU."

If there's anything Xavier has done consistently since 1847, it has been to send good men out to transform the world—and **Taiwo Odunsi '93** is living proof of that. Xavier prepared him to push himself beyond his limits, and to do that for others as well.

Born and raised in Crown Heights, Brooklyn, Odunsi attended Xavier from 1989-1993. To this day, he reflects on the organizational skills he learned at Xavier and recognizes the ways they still serve him in his busy life as a self-employed entrepreneur.

"Xavier catalyzed my focus, turned me into a goal-oriented machine," Odunsi said. "There's an electric energy of excellence that pulsates through you. And when the homework was finished, I recall not having enough time in the day for each of Xavier's clubs, extracurricular activities, and contests." With his trademark energy and dedication, Odunsi still managed to participate in the Cartooning & Illustration Club, the African-American Culture Club, and the Regiment during his time on 16th Street.

When asked about members of the Xavier community who had a

lasting impact on his life and current endeavors, Odunsi recalled one person in particular nearly three decades after his graduation: veteran art teacher **Denise Iacovone**.

"Mrs. Iacovone (I knew her as Ms. Fusco) would say to her jedi in-training: 'It takes two people to make a painting; one to paint and another to tell the painter when the painting is finished,'" he recalled.

After his 1993 graduation, Odunsi attended the University of Hartford Art School for one year, then finished his college career at SUNY Old Westbury.

His career has seen him serve as a graphic designer for fashion brands and advertising agencies, a product inventor, and now an entrepreneur for more than a decade.

One of his more well-known and patented inventions is the **Wizker Brush**, an exfoliating brush designed to stop ingrown hair and razor bumps. Odunsi created the brush in 2013 and secured a patent in 2014.

And if that wasn't enough for someone's plate, he still finds time to write works of fiction and nonfiction. One of his books, *Collabettion*, outlines a formula of three principles



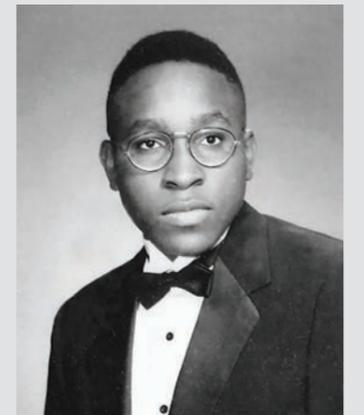
that boost ideas in people, groups, and organizations. *Katrina and the Animals* focuses on a young girl who must prevent her animal family from attacking humankind for the effects of climate change. *The Land of Intuit* is about a boy, Jack Artizan, and his friends who are transported to a realm where children are attacked by warlocks who rob them of their magic. Together they must overcome the enemy by recovering an ancient book. The *Cupid's Academy* series tells the story of Cupid and a young god.

Odunsi's future goals are to continue using his creative mind for branding, inventing, writing, and problem-solving as a force for good and to keep making people smile.

He recently participated in Junior Career Day this February—sharing his creativity and ideas with Xavier's own future innovators.

"I am currently wearing the licensing hat—soliciting brands through open innovation portals. I'm hoping to land a collaboration with PopSockets and PepsiCo," he said.

Odunsi wished to share his mantra with readers: "Continue to enrich others and you will always be rich."



Above: Taiwo Odunsi '93 now and in his 1993 Xavier graduation photo.



'14



'16



'16



'17



'18

1. SPC Alexis Versoza, USA.
2. Daniel Raleigh '16.
3. John Rice '15, Christian Raslowsky '16, and Ethan Rice '20.
4. Former Senior Army Instructor LTC Roy Campbell, USA (Ret.) with Brian Patterson '17.
5. Andrew Salmieri '18.

SPC Alexis Versoza, USA recently completed Army Basic Combat Training and is learning Russian at the Defense Language Institute in Monterey, California. His classes are held in Cook Hall, named after Medal of Honor recipient **COL Donald G. Cook, USMC '52†**.

2015
Oliver Moe has been named coordinator of student-athlete success and leadership at Arcadia University. He will be responsible for enhancing the academic monitoring of student-athletes with a focus on at-risk student-athletes or those in academic difficulty. He will also be charged with implementing a leadership development program that fosters critical skills in student-athletes. Additionally, Moe will support the Athletics Diversity and Inclusion Designee (ADID) in developing and implementing key programming in the areas of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion for athletics staff and student-athletes. Moe graduated from Colgate University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in peace and conflict studies and Asian studies and was a four-year member of the school's NCAA Division I track and field program, and Georgetown University, where he earned a

master of professional studies in sports industry management.

2016
Daniel Raleigh graduated from the Stevens Institute of Technology with bachelor's and master's of engineering degrees in civil engineering. He accepted an offer to start his career with Skanska USA as a CCTP Engineer overseeing some of their construction projects.

In June, **Christian Raslowsky** graduated from Santa Clara University with a master of science degree in civil engineering.

Justin Westbrook-Lowery was recently promoted to serve as chief of staff to New York State Assemblymember Karines Reyes. He served as her deputy chief of staff from 2018 to May of this year, managing legislation and budget issues.

2017
Brian Patterson graduated from the United States Military Academy with honors this spring and was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army Air Defense Artillery.

Brandon Sapienza graduated from Fordham University and

began working for the *New York Daily News*, where he serves as a national/breaking news reporter.

2018
Andrew Salmieri was recently elected president of the City College of New York's Undergraduate Student Government, the oldest student government in the CUNY system.

Xander Vitarelli is a student at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine, where he serves as president of the Birding Club. The group recently hosted a charity birding event to raise funds for the Biddeford Food Pantry, donating \$2,089 to the city's food bank.

2019
Patrick Murtagh played the role of Cassio in the Indiana University Dramatics Society's rendition of *Othello*.

Michael O'Brien, a rising junior at the College of the Holy Cross, interned at his hometown paper, *The Staten Island Advance*, this summer.

2020
In March, **Michael Manta** learned that a paper he wrote had been selected for publication in the journal *Discrete Mathematics*.



A FAMILY TRADITION. BE A PART OF IT.

Since 1847, Sons of Xavier have made 16th Street an integral part of the fabric of their families. Fathers and sons. Uncles and nephews. Grandfathers and grandsons. All united by their Jesuit education at Xavier—and committed to giving that gift to the next generation.

Are you interested in a Xavier education for a member of your family? To speak to a member of our admissions team or to schedule a visit, email admissions@xavierhs.org.



Former Faculty Notes



Franklin Gregory P'80 '86 '87

Whenever someone asks legendary Dean of Students Franklin Gregory P'80 '86 '87 what he does every day in retirement, his response is, "Whatever I want."

"I can't think of anything significant that I've done since retirement. Everything I've done seems personal," said Gregory.

Initially, he and his wife wanted to volunteer in Micronesia, but he ended up in St. Vincent's Hospital the summer after his retirement with a Xavier graduate who performed his second open heart surgery.

After a brief convalescence, he became a volunteer with the Mr. Fix-It program in Hunterdon County, New Jersey, doing minor jobs for senior citizens—fixing screens, replacing window glass, and repairing small electric items like lamps, wall switches, and more.

Several of his children were Cub Scout Den Mothers, so he helped the Scouts build projects to earn their badges—small tool boxes, race cars, bird houses, and such.

In his third year of retirement, he became friends with a master

carpenter who worked at his parish and taught him about cabinet-making and installation. This newfound knowledge helped him complete projects for his children.

That same year, he felt stifled and felt the need to do something mentally satisfying. He took Bible Studies classes for several years with a Benedictine Biblical scholar and eventually became a Eucharistic minister and lector in his parish.

He frequently did work on his children's houses. Gregory has quite a large family—eight children, 27 grandchildren, and 10 great-grandchildren. In addition to working on projects for his children, he made smaller items in his basement with his grandchildren, such as benches, small cabinets, and bird houses.

"Retirement has given me the luxury of time to spend with my children and their families and to do many things that I couldn't do before," Gregory said. "However, I do miss the spirit of Xavier, the boys, the faculty, the atmosphere, the daily action. That was my great adventure."



Johanna Kosciolek

If Johanna Kosciolek (née Tanzman) had to use one word to describe her time since leaving Xavier, it would have to be "dynamic."

Kosciolek finished her tenure at Xavier as a science teacher and Director of Student Activities in June 2016. That July, she married Derek Kosciolek, a former HAP teacher.

The two went to Japan for three weeks, then left their home in Brooklyn and moved more than 350 miles north to live at the very top of the Adirondack Mountain region. The couple moved so Derek could complete his Ph.D. in electrical engineering at Clarkson University.

They spent three years living in the North Country.

"It was a time of great learning, adaptation, exploration, and growth for us," Kosciolek reflected. "For the first year, I decided not to work full-time and instead completed my master's of science in teaching at SUNY Potsdam. I had been taking classes part-time in the evenings while working at Xavier, and it was nice to take the time to fully immerse myself in learning for the first time in a long time."

They also adopted their dog, Artie, that year and spent a lot of time rehabilitating him, training him, and hiking with him through the mountains.

The following year, she worked at a very rural school with about

400 students in grades K-12, all in the same building. "It was a big change from teaching at Xavier and really helped me grow as an educator," Kosciolek said.

That May, her daughter, Riley, was born.

"I took the following year off to be home with her and it was a wonderful and challenging time as I grew into the role of 'Mom.'"

While they lived in the North Country, the Koscioleks were very lucky to find a community really dedicated to thoughtful stewardship of the environment.

"We ate local produce and meat, shopped with greater intention, upcycled, swapped, reduced our waste, and learned so many ways we could live with greater compassion and care. We have worked hard to carry these invaluable lessons with us and continue to educate ourselves to consistently lower our carbon footprint."

In spring 2019, Derek got a job in Morris County, New Jersey, and the two bought a house and moved there that summer.

Kosciolek recently finished her second year of teaching at a local public school and gave birth to her second child this summer.

Artie is still at their side, and he "continues to be an extremely handsome good boy who has long since forgotten what it is like to be anxious all the time."

"Even after all this time away from Xavier, my time teaching there still holds a very special place in my heart," Kosciolek said. "It was the place where I finally felt called to a vocation. It was the place where I learned about educating the whole

person and the value of forging meaningful relationships with my students and colleagues. It was the place that reminded me that wherever I went, I could bring passion and not be afraid to set the world on fire. AMDG!"



SFC Anthony Adams, USA (Ret.)

If anyone holds Xavier close to his heart, it's SFC Anthony Adams, USA (Ret.). Five years after leaving Xavier, he still keeps in touch with a number of faculty, staff, students, and alumni.

"They will always be a part of my life. I really miss Xavier. I really loved the eight years I spent there," Adams said.

After leaving 16th Street, Adams continued his JROTC career at Martin Luther King High School in Philadelphia.

"Living in New Jersey, this makes my commute to work a lot easier. I am happy to say that I have found a new home at Martin Luther King," he said. "The faculty here is amazing and the students are great kids."

When speaking of his time at Martin Luther King, Adams said he needed to get his hands "a little dirty."

"When I got to MLK, there was no instructor and they had failed inspection," he said. "Within a year's time, we had built the program to

standards and now we are an Honor Unit with Distinction."

On top of all the work he has done transforming Martin Luther King's JROTC program, he is working for the Philadelphia Eagles, driving for Academy Bus in support of Philly sports teams, and he even has a drone business keeping him busy. And if that wasn't enough for one man to tackle, he now has 14 grandchildren.



Adams continues to support Xavier and keeps up with a lot of former cadets who are now officers in the military.

"I am so proud of them and all the graduates to come," he said. "My wife and I will always have Xavier in our hearts and prayers. HOOAH!"

Deacon Vincent Laurato

After retiring from Xavier, Deacon Vincent Laurato continued to minister in his parish, St. Barnabas, bringing Holy Communion to the homebound, offering Days of Recollection on the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius, and leading workshops on Scripture.

He was recently asked to offer the invocation at his parish's St. Barnabas High School (an all-girls private school in the Bronx).

At the end of the graduation exercises, a parent, not knowing anything of his background, came over to him and asked, "Did you go to or teach in a Jesuit school?" Laurato, of course, responded in the affirmative.

"This person discerned by the content of the invocation of the goal I was asking the Lord to help these young ladies with. I was asking the Lord to help them find what I was always reminded of during my 19 years at Xavier: to find God in all

things—to go forth and be people for others with God's grace."

"So, as one can see, you really never retire from ministry. I have slowed down a bit, but always discerning and reflecting on finding God in all things, always making those connections."



Lorraine Longing

Lorraine Longing currently resides with her daughter in Rockland County.

Since leaving Xavier in 2003, Longing has been busy advancing in her educational career. She spent 14 years as an assistant principal at Ossining High School in Westchester.

More recently, she has served as District Director of Guidance for the Nyack School District in Rockland County.

During her tenure at Nyack, she has implemented a dual enrollment program at the high school that consists of a robust list of college-level courses that allow high school students to gain college credit.

She has also implemented AVID, a nationally-acclaimed college and career readiness program, for the middle school and the high school to prepare students for college and beyond. She recently introduced social emotional learning (SEL) opportunities throughout the district to encourage all students to manage emotions, build positive relationships, and make responsible decisions.

Longing continues to find time to read, play golf, and is excited to start traveling again.

Milestones



Elena Mandry and Stephen Day '14

WEDDINGS

Hon. Edward McLaughlin '63 married Bernadette Mason on October 6, 2020.

George Shevchuk '67 married Katherine Steciuk at St. Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Church in Newark, Delaware, on May 15, 2021.

Steven Barry '74 married Margarita Li at St. Athanasius Roman Catholic Church in Brooklyn on October 3, 2020.

Joseph Misseri '07 married Lauren Piontek in November 2020. His brother, **Marc Misseri '08**, served as best man.

Stephen Day '14 married Elena Mandry at the Church of St. Thomas More in New York City on July 17, 2020. His brother, **Alex Day '18**, served as best man. **Gianluca Casapietra '14** also attended.

BIRTHS

Dr. Tom O'Brien '49 and his wife, Nancy, are pleased to announce two new additions to their family—their identical twin great-granddaughters, Simone and Sophie.

Bob Steeves '64 writes that he now has four great-grandchildren, Cesar, Owen,



Margarita Li and Steven Barry '74



Joseph Misseri '07 and Lauren Piontek

Zach, and Elena. His fifth great-grandchild is due in January 2022.

James DePiero '85 P'04 and his wife, Kristen, welcomed their first grandchild, Edith Joan, on March 28.

Richard Dauhajre '87 and his wife, Marianna Codispoti, welcomed their first child, Sophia Rose, on February 26 at Mount Sinai Hospital.

Chris Spataro '89 welcomed his first grandchild, Drew, in May.

Antonio Gutierrez '97 welcomed his second daughter, Mia Rosario Gutierrez, on April

14. "Big sister Valentina Patricia Gutierrez is thrilled," he writes. "I'm officially a #girdad and loving every second with my daughters."

Adam Lynch '97 welcomed a daughter, Sawyer Sharon Rose, on February 15.

George M. Stumpf II '01 and his wife, Cathy, welcomed a daughter, Chloe, in March.

Shane Lavin '03, Xavier's Director of Annual Giving and Advancement Services, and his wife, Bridget Mahoney, welcomed a son, Niall Andrew Lavin, on April 10.



Cesar, Owen, Zach, and Elena, grandchildren of Bob Steeves '64



Simone and Sophie, great-granddaughters of Dr. Tom O'Brien '49



Sophia Rose Dauhajre



Mia Rosario Gutierrez



Shane Lavin '03 and Niall Andrew Lavin

WELCOME HOME, XAVIER.

**50TH REUNION:
CLASSES OF 1970 AND 1971**
September 30 – October 1, 2021

**60TH REUNION:
CLASSES OF 1960 AND 1961**
October 1, 2021

**25TH REUNION:
CLASSES OF 1995 AND 1996**
October 2, 2021

**5TH REUNION:
CLASSES OF 2015 AND 2016**
October 14, 2021

HALL OF FAME DINNER
October 29, 2021

TURKEY BOWL
November 25, 2021

**175TH ANNIVERSARY
KICKOFF CELEBRATION**
December 3, 2021

We look forward to welcoming alumni and friends back to 16th Street. The community's safety remains our highest priority, so we will adhere to all COVID-19 safety protocols. We strongly encourage all members of the Xavier community to get vaccinated.

For the latest event updates, visit xavierhs.org/events.

In Memoriam

Alumni

- John Thompson '41**, grandfather of Kevin Taub '10, 4/13/2021
William Denham '43, 1/21/2021
Dr. William McAuliffe '45, brother of LTG Dennis McAuliffe, USA (Ret.) '41†, 7/19/2021
James O'Brien '45, 2/15/2021
Stephen Oliver '45, 4/23/2020
Rev. William Driscoll '46, 4/7/2021
Paul Connelly '48, 4/28/2021
Thomas Mierswa '48, 3/2/2021
John Hauss '49, 4/6/2021
Dr. Michael Driscoll '51, 12/31/2020
Peter Mulvihill '52, brother of Joseph A. Mulvihill '44†, brother-in-law of Thomas L. Doyle, Jr., M.D. '43†, and uncle of Thomas L. Doyle '73 and Christopher J. Doyle '79, 3/23/2021
Richard Croghan '53, 10/26/2020
William Keating '53, 4/3/2021
James Reilly '55, 12/9/2021
Frederic Wolff '56, 4/19/2021
Thomas Stapleton '57, 5/4/2021
Thomas Hoar '58, 3/28/2021
Christopher Curcio '59, 5/4/2021
Brian Kennedy '59, 12/29/2020
Dr. Howard Steers '63, 5/25/2021
Peter Negri '64, 4/13/2021
James Stewart '72, 4/19/2021
James Greene '78, 3/24/2021
Brendan McManus '79, 12/8/2019
John Devlin '82, 4/6/2021

Parents

- John S. Genco P'82**, father of Robert Genco '82, 3/17/2021
Amalia Malchiodi P'85, mother of Giancarlo Malchiodi '85, 12/1/2020
Marilyn Eisele-Bloom P'03, mother of Jeffrey Bloom '03, 5/30/2021
Timothy O'Brien P'19 '21, father of Michael O'Brien '19 and Timothy O'Brien '21, 4/23/2021

Spouses

- Patricia Gafney Draper**, wife of Dr. Thomas Draper '44 and sister of Leo Gafney '53, 6/13/2021
Yolanda McCarthy, wife of Thomas McCarthy '45, 4/27/2021
Carolyn Daly, wife of COL Bill Daly, USA (Ret.) '55, 1/15/2021

Faculty/Family

- Dr. Philip Caliendo**, member of the Xavier faculty from 1989-2018, 6/22/2021
Ernestine Lewis, mother-in-law of Senior Army Instructor LTC Jacob Kelly, USA (Ret.), 4/30/2021
Rev. Michael E. Sehler, S.J., member of the Xavier faculty from 1972-1983, 5/20/2021

Dr. Philip Caliendo



President Jack Raslowsky P'16 remembered Dr. Caliendo in a message to the Xavier community.

Xavier mourns the passing of **Dr. Philip Caliendo**, who was called home to the Lord on June 22. From 1989 until his retirement in 2018, Dr. Caliendo was an esteemed member of the faculty. His great love of language and culture was readily apparent to anyone who spent time with Dr. Caliendo. He believed deeply that the wonder and dignity of all people was reflected in their language, culture, and history. He worked hard to learn and deeply understand other languages and cultures as a sign of his deep respect for all people created in the image and likeness of God.

Decades ago, Jesuit schools spoke about the goal of Jesuit education "to form good Christian gentlemen." Dr. Phil Caliendo gave witness to this ideal all the days of his life. He was a model of a good Christian gentleman and he worked to form such men himself. Whether it was reveling in the great tradition of teaching Latin in a Jesuit high school and making that language and culture, a foundation of so many languages and cultures that followed, come alive to generations of students, or opening the door to new worlds with his teaching of Arabic and his insight into that great culture, Dr. Caliendo always modeled a keen mind, and an equally keen wit. His expertise was not just in the ancient languages, but as generations of his Italian and Spanish students will attest, he loved those languages and spoke them beautifully as well. I know Phil would appreciate my nod to Chaucer, "Gladly would he learn, and gladly teach."

Walking into Phil's classroom was, for me, like walking into a museum: A museum more like the Gardner or the Barnes than the Met, and for that reason so much more personal and intriguing. Pictures, books, paintings, sculptures and other works of art all called forth eras and people who have gone before. The classroom, like his lessons, helped us better understand our lives and our place in the world today. Visiting his classroom during Christmas was an even greater treat.

Phil was a man of faith with a deep respect for the wonder and the sacredness of liturgy.

Xavier is a better place for having Phil Caliendo walk among us. May the angels and saints welcome Phil home and may he rest in God's peace.

John Thompson '41



Above: Thompson with his grandson, Kevin Taub '10; protecting Lyndon B. Johnson.

The son of John and Martha Thompson, **John "Jack" Thompson '41** was born in Brooklyn on September 17, 1923. After graduating from Xavier, he attended Fordham University, where he studied journalism and literature.

His first job was with *The New York Times*. He then served as a

Rev. William Driscoll '46



The son of William D. Driscoll, Sr. and Josephine Feith Driscoll, **Rev. William Driscoll '46** was born in New York City on September 23, 1928. He spent most of his childhood in Teaneck, New Jersey, where he graduated from St. Anastasia's Grammar School before arriving on 16th Street in 1942.

At Xavier, Fr. Driscoll felt called to the priesthood. He embraced the Jesuit motto, *Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam*—for the greater glory of God. He went on to Seton Hall University and attended Immaculate Conception Seminary in Darlington, New Jersey. In 1955, he was ordained to the priesthood by **Archbishop Thomas A. Boland 1915†**.

Dr. Michael Driscoll '51



The son of John Driscoll and Veronica Cetto Driscoll, **Dr. Michael Driscoll '51** was born in Peekskill on September 8, 1934. He arrived on 16th Street days before his 13th birthday in 1947.

After graduating from Xavier, he earned a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University. He then joined the Nuclear Navy and served as a commissioned

officer on the USS Nautilus, the world's first operational nuclear-powered submarine. It inspired his passion for nuclear technology, engineering, research, and teaching.

Driscoll began a long association with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology when he arrived in Cambridge as a graduate student in 1962. After earning a doctorate, he joined the nuclear science and engineering department's faculty in 1966 and supervised more than

Naval officer in the Pacific during World War II and later entered the U.S. Secret Service, where he worked as a Special Agent for 30 years. He protected seven sitting U.S. presidents, from Harry Truman to Jimmy Carter. "He served as an example of professionalism and integrity and would not divulge personal stories of his protectees," his family wrote in his obituary, "saying that he was privileged to have stood next to history and would maintain their confidences to his grave." Later in life, Thompson contributed articles to different publications, including *The New York Times* and local newspapers.

Thompson died on April 13, 2021. He is survived by his wife, Kathleen, two children, three grandchildren (including **Kevin Taub '10**), and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Bernice "Bunny" Thompson.

Five years later, Fr. Driscoll became a professor of history at Seton Hall University and remained there until his retirement in 1996. He served for many years as a counselor to students in the Boland Hall dormitory and also taught theology at Seton Hall's former Newark undergraduate campus. In his early years at Seton Hall, he earned master's and doctoral degrees in history from Fordham University. In 1967, he earned an American Bar Association fellowship to pursue research in the history of law and became Seton Hall's pre-law advisor, helping a generation of young men and women gain admission to law schools and excel in the legal field. Fr. Driscoll also served as a chaplain at St. Vincent's Hospital in Montclair and as a weekend assistant at St. Agnes Roman Catholic Church in Clark for decades.

Fr. Driscoll died on April 7, 2021. He was preceded in death by his parents and sister, Elizabeth "Betty" Driscoll.

230 doctoral, master's, and engineer's theses over the course of decades. His textbook on the linear reactivity model for nuclear fuel management has been used by generations of nuclear engineers across the globe.

Driscoll received the Outstanding Teacher Award from the Nuclear Engineering Division of the American Society of Engineering Education in 1975. Seven years later, he earned the Irwin Sizer Award "for the most significant improvement to MIT education" in recognition of his work training young scientists and engineers. In 2001, he received the Ruth and Joel Spira Award for Distinguished Teaching at MIT.

"Mike may have been the finest educator I've ever known," Richard Lester, former head of MIT's nuclear science and engineering department, said in an obituary posted on the MIT website. "He understood what students (and the rest of us) were capable of, and he was so selfless and generous in helping them achieve it. We were incredibly fortunate to have had him in the department for so long."

Driscoll died on December 31, 2020. He was preceded in death by his wife, Regina, and is survived by his son, John Driscoll.



From the Board Chair

By PAUL ENRIGHT '91

Fr. Jim Martin, S.J., the prolific Jesuit writer, has joked of the independence of modern Jesuits by noting that if you ask five Jesuits a question, you'll get six different answers.

I would bet if you ask five current Xavier students why they attend Xavier, you'll get at least as many answers. Thirty-four years ago, I chose to commute to Xavier despite living across the street from another prominent Catholic school in Brooklyn. I did so because I had a feeling that challenging myself to make the harder and less comfortable decision would hopefully set me on a path to take further risks in life.

From my very first days on 16th Street, I knew I made the right choice. During my first freshman English class, Fr. Joe Lux, S.J., well-known for his toughness, quietly told me he knew Joe Farley '85 was my cousin and that he would look after me. The sense of family, connection, and belonging I felt that day has followed me throughout my entire association with Xavier, and it motivates me as Board chair now.

A letter I received from my parents back then, a letter I still have sitting on my desk at work, motivates me, too. The message was simple: "Don't ever forget where you or your gifts come from. Be thankful and show it." That's why I serve on the Xavier Board and agreed to be Board chair.

Like me, all trustees and regents have deeply personal reasons for why they serve, but how they serve is generally standard.

The role of a trustee individually and a board collectively in a mission-driven school like Xavier is guided by three principles: 1) to support the school's mission; 2) to hire, evaluate, and support the school president; and 3) to ensure the proper fiscal management of the school.

Xavier's faculty, deans, and administrators—led by the president, Jack Raslowsky P'16—operate the school day to day in service of its mission. The president also partners with the Board to develop Xavier's strategic policies and priorities, always with the mission in mind.

Boards organize themselves into a manageable number of committees with a manageable number of members to most efficiently and productively partner with the president to set a strategic agenda. The most important work of the Board is first done inside committees (at Xavier, those committees are Finance, Facilities, Advancement,

BACK STORY

Audit and Risk, School Life, Governance, and the President, Support and Evaluation Committee) and then presented to the full Board for discussion and, if necessary, a vote.

I think great trustees do four things. They give generously of their time, they make Xavier a charitable giving priority, they are knowledgeable and ask great questions, and they demonstrate sound judgment. Trustees often have specific, highly desired skills that help in overseeing the fiscal management of the school. They are engineers, architects, lawyers, and investors—but more than possessing any specific career experience, they are wise and dedicated.

At a school with a rich history like Xavier, I believe it is important to have a healthy mix of new trustees as well as those with deep institutional knowledge of that history. When I joined the Board in 2011, I was the first alumnus from the 1990s to serve. I learned a great deal working alongside the likes of Rich Nolan '83, then the Board's chair (I am thrilled to work with him again now as he serves as chair of the Governance Committee), Frank Tirelli '70, Dan Rodriguez '58, and Susan Conniff.

My job now as Board chair, as I see it, is threefold: To be the most knowledgeable and primary trustee partner of the president, to facilitate information-sharing from within committees and the school to the full Board, and to help set a robust agenda for the Board and the school that considers all this work as well as the diverse opinions of all trustees and committees. My desire to serve is guided by a deep commitment to the Xavier mission. My hope is that the strategic work we do on the Board helps to maintain the rich history and culture on 16th Street while constantly working to improve the academic program and overall experience for teachers and students.

As we embark on our 175th academic year, I am excited for the bold, multi-year strategic agenda the Board is planning. This year, we will celebrate our landmark anniversary and continue to engage in a master planning process as we look for further ways to upgrade the existing facilities on 15th and 16th Street. And we welcome a new headmaster, Kim Smith, the first woman headmaster in our history.

The past 18 months have been difficult for New York City and for Xavier. But the past 18 months have also demonstrated the strong dedication to mission of the faculty, staff, deans, and administrators. We are honored and humbled by the commitment of students and their families to adapt and thrive through this crisis. The Xavier Board and I look forward to matching that commitment and dedication to mission by partnering with Mr. Raslowsky to develop an ambitious, extensive strategic agenda that builds upon our foundation and continues to adapt to the changing needs of our students and community.

A graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and the Cardozo School of Law, Paul Enright became chair of Xavier's Board of Trustees on July 1. He is the managing partner of Krainos Capital, the Connecticut-based family office he has managed since his 2016 retirement from Viking Global Investors.

From the Archives



2005

Forty-seven years after their first encounter, DANIEL GATTI, S.J. '59, then Xavier's President, reconnected with the Queen of his senior year Military Ball—Martha Stewart.

Then Martha Kostyra of Nutley, New Jersey, the eventual lifestyle entrepreneur attended the ball with Bill Carey '59 (who later married her cousin) in November 1958. Fr. Gatti's date was one of the two princesses.

When Fr. Gatti and Joe Gorski, an alumnus of the College of the Holy Cross then serving as Xavier's Vice President for Advancement, learned Stewart was slated to be the guest speaker at a 2005 Holy Cross alumni breakfast, they decided to attend.

"We thought it a great idea to give Martha some Xavier gifts, one of which was a blow-up of the photo in the '59 Xavier yearbook showing Martha as the Queen of the Ball," Fr. Gatti recalled. "She got a great kick out of it, and remarked to her staff people: 'Oh yes, this was my Princess Di phase!' We all roared with laughter."

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