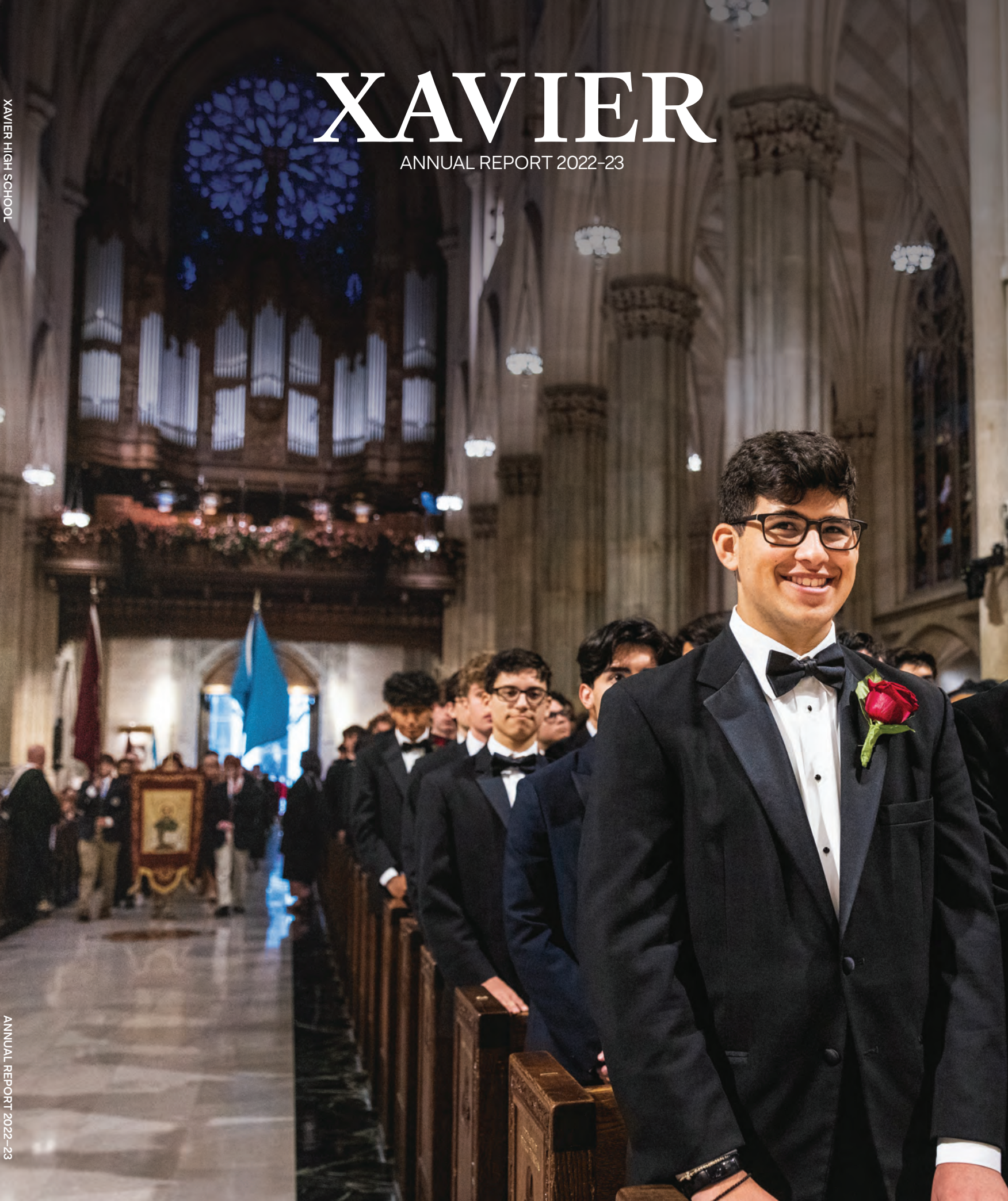


# XAVIER

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

XAVIER HIGH SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23



# XAVIER

ANNUAL REPORT 2022-23

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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

A scene from the 181st Commencement at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

## On The Back Cover

Seniors collaborate in the William J. McGowan, S.J. College Counseling Center.



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Rising juniors on a CFX service trip in Tennessee this summer.



# Faith and Trust

Dear Sons of Xavier, Parents and Friends:

Faith and trust. This 2023 *Annual Report* stands as a tribute to the faith and trust of 3,773 parents, friends and Sons of Xavier. Faith in this institution—an institution that has stayed true to its mission since her founding in 1847. Trust in that mission—a mission that is Catholic and Jesuit; a mission that serves the Church and the world. Current parents give witness to that faith and trust every morning when they send their sons off to 16th Street. Alumni and friends around the world witness to their faith and trust in Xavier by their financial support, which allows the mission to be made real day and night with, for and by our students, faculty and staff. It is a mission made real reading Dante’s *Inferno*, differentiating equations, and studying acids and bases; a mission made real blocking a punt, setting up a scrum, or dancing on stage; a mission made real giving a Kairos talk, sharing in the Eucharist, receiving the gift of reconciliation and forgiveness, and working together on Pamoja; and a mission made real in the Regiment drilling with the X-Squad, shooting on the range, and marching up Fifth Avenue.

It is important for us to recognize and celebrate this faith and trust in Xavier, especially at a time when faith and trust writ large seem lacking. Doubts about the goodness, value and effectiveness of institutions large and small are all around us. Few institutions or organizations are immune: doubts related to government, churches, higher education, schools, and civic organizations abound. Some of our alumni and friends have even expressed doubts about Xavier. Some wonder if we have lost our way, yet whenever I engage alumni, parents or friends who have doubts, concerns are almost always disconnected from the reality of life on 16th Street. They are rooted in concerns about other organizations, ideologies we don’t subscribe to or issues unrelated to our community or our work that others attempt to foist upon us. The proof of what we do is seen very clearly in the work and lives of our students, faculty and staff. The motto of our 150th anniversary celebration was “stand so all the world can see.” It remains an apt motto for Xavier. The work of our students, faculty and staff stands so all the world can see an institution rooted in a timeless mission and tradition grounded in the Gospel.

The lived reality of Xavier is built on timeless values, not new ideologies or issues of the day. It is a reality anchored in Sacred Scripture and the life of the Church. Living the Gospel is certainly a challenge. It is hard to love, to forgive and to recognize the God-given dignity of all people. It is hard to lift up the poor, the broken-hearted and the marginalized. It is hard to welcome the stranger, to care for the widow and the orphan and to steward creation. Yet living the Gospel is our call.

**Producing the *Annual Report* each year is a time-consuming project, yet we delight in doing so because it is an act of gratitude. Each name herein is a door to a story—really countless stories. Stories of faith and trust in the work of Xavier; stories of relationships nurtured on 16th Street; and stories of God at work in the people of Xavier.**

Everything we do at Xavier has as its goal equipping students with the skills and the desire “to transform the world for God’s greater glory.” The alumni, parents and friends whose gifts are recognized here have declared their support for this in word and deed. They believe in Xavier’s mission. They refuse to be distracted by the ever-present noise of the moment or the labels of the day. They have faith in Xavier and her mission, trusting that we live out that mission with integrity each and every day. Every visit to 16th Street confirms this.

Producing the *Annual Report* each year is a time-consuming project, yet we delight in doing so because it is an act of gratitude. Each name herein is a door to a story—really countless stories. Stories of faith and trust in the work of Xavier; stories of relationships nurtured on 16th Street; and stories of God at work in the people of Xavier. In this report, we celebrate the constancy of giving. We celebrate capital gifts that will enhance the student experience for generations to come. We celebrate gifts large and small because every

gift makes this work possible. Each and every gift is an act of faith and trust in Xavier and her mission.

And while celebrating our gifts and the faith and trust that make those gifts possible, it remains my hope that the *Annual Report* serves as an invitation to the thousands who did not give last year to join us this year. We want you in the mix. Xavier will be better and stronger with your support. Beyond supporting athletics, activities and financial aid, you will help us meet a host of needs, so many unseen. Gifts have allowed us to assist with scores of unexpected needs for our students and families. Needs related to physical and mental health. Needs related to death and illness. Needs building teams and community. Needs supporting families. Whether it is serving the poor, keeping Xavier accessible to the middle class, helping the needy, boosting community-based organizations, or responding to new educational challenges, your financial support helps us meet all these needs. The work is hard and costly, yet it is more important now than ever. We are not an institution that says no. We don’t say no to the poor. We don’t say no to a family who runs into health or financial difficulties. We do the right thing. You help us do so.

I look forward to you continuing to join us or joining us anew to make the kingdom of God real today. Your faith will be rewarded in the lives of Xavier’s Sons.

This is our first publication to go to print since the passing this summer of Fr. Jim Keenan, S.J. No one had more faith in my work at Xavier than Jim. No one had more faith and trust in the work of Xavier, and in God’s work at Xavier, than Jim. And no one had more faith in Xavier’s Sons, and in God’s power to work in and through them, than Jim. The next *Xavier Magazine* will have an extended tribute to Fr. Keenan. We look forward to sharing that with you this winter.

Thank you for your faith and trust in Xavier. It is a sacred duty to honor that faith and trust, and we do so each day.

Sincerely,  
Jack Raslowsky  
President



# Making Our Work Possible

Dear Parents, Friends, and Sons of Xavier:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, it is my great pleasure to present Xavier High School's 2022-23 *Annual Report*.

Xavier is a place of deep meaning—and deep transformation. It's a place where boys from New York City and beyond learn to become men for others. For me, Xavier was never just my high school. It was an opportunity to cross the river into Manhattan to see what the world might offer outside of Brooklyn, and it has become a second home that I can return to in difficult times, as I often did with my Xavier brothers after 9/11.

We are a school with a long history of providing a Jesuit education to intelligent, motivated young men of diverse backgrounds and means—but we are also, practically speaking, a business. We don't spend a great deal of time talking about Xavier the business, because the business model is secondary to the mission, but it is a business nonetheless. In the simplest of terms, we run Xavier with the goal of providing the best education possible at the most affordable cost. Year after year, your generosity helps us continue to do that well.

Xavier's operating revenue comes from four sources: tuition and fees; fundraising; New York State reimbursements for certain services; and revenue from building rentals and student activities. During the past fiscal year, Xavier's tuition was \$22,260 per student, and total operating expenses per student were \$28,000, leaving a difference of nearly \$6,000—or a \$5.7 million total difference for 950 students. Xavier fills this financial gap through the Annual Fund, special events, and an annual draw on the school's endowment. In other words, all students (whether they receive tuition assistance or not) receive considerable financial support for their Xavier education through gifts made by alumni, parents, and friends. Other schools choose to market these types of implicit subsidies very publicly, but Xavier has always provided this support more quietly.

## In the simplest of terms, we run Xavier with the goal of providing the best education possible at the most affordable cost. Year after year, your generosity helps us continue to do that well.

At the end of fiscal year 2023, Xavier's endowment was valued at just under \$93 million in assets thanks to prudent fiscal management, and the school has no debt. Capital expenses to improve our teaching, learning, and programmatic spaces—such as the recent renovation of the art studios, the addition of a second STEAM lab, and the creation of new and expanded admissions, college counseling, and campus ministry suites—are all funded by major gifts from alumni, parents, and friends. These costs are not passed on to our families through tuition increases. You will learn more about some of the incredibly generous members of our community who have led our capital campaign giving, like Valerie and Michael Puglisi '68 and Su and Bob Robotti '71, in this report.

In addition, recent years have seen significant increases in student support services in the areas of mental health, nursing, athletic training, safety, and security. These additions were made so that we could best serve our students, and they were implemented without concurrent major increases in tuition.

Put simply, our business model works because of the generosity of our donors, both large and small, who contribute to the Annual Fund, attend our events, or make major gifts to the endowment or capital projects. I'd like to express my deepest gratitude for your support, which makes our work on 16th Street possible—and I hope you'll join me in giving back to this remarkable place for many years to come.

Sons of Xavier, keep marching.

Paul Enright '91  
Chair, Board of Trustees



Paul Enright speaks at the 175th Anniversary Gala in December 2022.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022-23

**Paul Enright '91, Chair**  
Managing Partner, Krainos Capital

**Mario Powell, S.J., Vice Chair**  
Provincial Assistant for Pre-Secondary and Secondary Education, USA East Province of the Society of Jesus

**James Brennan '92**  
Founder, Enlightened Brand Ventures

**Rudy Casals, S.J.†**  
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**Thomas Evans '81**  
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Rector, Xavier Jesuit Community

**Nelson Fernandez '81**  
Founder and Principal, Crosby Street Consultants

**Matthew Fitzgerald**  
Chief Compliance Officer, PGIM Fixed Income, Prudential Insurance Company of America

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Managing Director, Merrill Lynch

**Linda Smith**  
President, Linda A. Smith and Associates

# News from 16th Street



John Kapp '48 P'77 salutes the crowd at St. Patrick's Cathedral.



1. Bene Merenti recipients Jean Sherman P'20, Sergio Mogavero, and Regina Valinoti with President Jack Raslowsky. 2. Members of the Class of 2023. 3. Retiring military science teacher Master Sergeant Clifford Stein, USA (Ret.) carries the school mace.

Two hundred and twenty-eight young men earned their Xavier diplomas on June 8, an evening that honored their efforts, those of the adults who formed them, and Xavier's long history.

"Remember your experiences at Xavier and use them as fuel to leave a positive footprint on the world," Georgetown-bound valedictorian Peter Akhrass '23 urged his classmates. "Yes, we learned math, English, history, and more, but more importantly we learned the Jesuit values of virtue, kindness, and community. We learned the Xavier spirit. Translate that into the betterment of humanity."

During Commencement, Xavier recognized three veteran members of the faculty and staff who have done their part to better humanity—Italian and Spanish teacher Sergio Mogavero, Director of Guidance Jean Sherman P'20, and guidance counselor Regina Valinoti—with the Bene Merenti Medal for 20 years of service. As is tradition, their colleagues and friends shared reflections about their contributions to Xavier.

"Sergio Mogavero has become a legend in Xavier lore, famous for his humor as well as for his scholarship," French teacher Cindy Castro said. "The young men in his classes know that his good-natured honesty is intended to hold them

accountable for their actions. His devotion to his teaching craft is evidenced by the view that teaching is a continuous work in progress—not a finished product."

"Throughout her time at Xavier, care for her students and her colleagues has been a defining characteristic of Mrs. Sherman's service to the Xavier community," history teacher Edward Young P'22 added. "Whether with a friendly smile or an open ear, her time at Xavier has allowed many to benefit from her strength and compassion."

"Ms. Valinoti is a person who unconditionally accepts and loves her students," Headmaster Kim Smith reflected. "Students crowd her office because her big heart, her ability to relate to and understand her students, and her deep respect for them are demonstrated every day. They feel seen, they feel heard, they feel accepted, and they feel loved."

Xavier also honored Master Sergeant Clifford Stein, USA (Ret.), who received the Robert Bellarmine Medal, an honor given to members of the faculty and staff upon their retirement. In a moving moment, John Kapp '48 P'77—representing the 75th reunion class of 1948—saluted the crowd as they gave him an ovation.

# 2022-23 Year in Review

All of this was made possible by your generosity.

## JULY

### A Summer of Celebrations

The 175th Anniversary Summer Tour took the party on the road to Belle Harbor, the Jersey Shore, and Quogue in July and August. Students and staff participated in a day of service at the New York Common Pantry in July.



## SEPTEMBER



### A New School Year Begins

Xavier marked a joyful return to post-pandemic study in September. Mario Powell, S.J., vice chair of the Board of Trustees, served as principal celebrant at the Mass of the Holy Spirit, marking the beginning of the academic year.

## OCTOBER

### A Historic Exhibition Opens

*Xavier at 175*, an exhibition of donated and loaned memorabilia showcasing the power of a Jesuit education on 16th Street, opened on October 19.



## NOVEMBER

### Xavier Honors Its Veterans

On November 10, Xavier marked its military history with a Mass celebrated by Army veteran Sean Hagerty, S.J. '02. A reception in Cook Library (named for Medal of Honor recipient Colonel Donald G. Cook, USMC '52) followed.



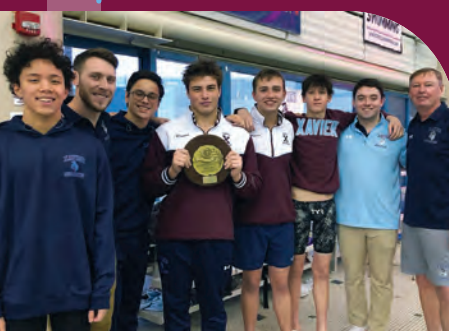
### Football Triumphs

With longtime head coach Chris Stevens '83 at the helm, the Knights defeated Mount Saint Michael's, 29-22, to win the CHSFL AA2 championship on November 21.

## FEBRUARY

### Swimmers Take Home Title

Xavier's Aqua Knights took home the CHSAA B division title on February 12.



### Xavier Unveils Renovated STEAM Wing

On January 26, faculty, staff, and Sons of Xavier flooded 5L to celebrate the opening of two new art studios, a STEAM lab, a super classroom, and a student common space. Tom Feely, S.J., rector of the Xavier Jesuit community, led a blessing ceremony.

### Anniversary Artwork Dedicated

Xavier dedicated "Friends in the Lord: Ignatius, Francis, and Peter," an oil on canvas by Michael Tunney, S.J., on the fifth floor of Fernandez-Duminuco Hall on January 19.



## JANUARY



### Beefsteak Returns in Earnest

Nearly 700 alumni from the Classes of 1960 through 2019 enjoyed beef, libations, and each other's company at the first Beefsteak Dinner held after the lifting of COVID restrictions.

## DECEMBER

### An Evening to Remember

Xavier's anniversary celebrations reached their apex on December 3 as more than 700 parents, friends, faculty, staff, students, and alumni representing 74 graduating classes attended Mass at the Church of St. Francis Xavier and a gala at Pier Sixty at Chelsea Piers.



## MARCH

### A Tradition Lives On

Members of the Xavier Regiment marched up Fifth Avenue during the 262nd New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 17.



## JUNE

### Varsity Tennis Three-peats

For the third year in a row, the Knights won the city championship. On June 2, the team defeated Fordham Prep at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in Flushing to take home the CHSAA AA division title.



### Xavier Sends Forth Graduates

At the 181st Commencement, 228 young men received their Xavier diplomas. Tania Tetlow, president of Fordham University, served as commencement speaker.



### A Dynasty Continues

Xavier won its 30th New York state rugby championship on June 11, defeating Pelham Memorial, 46-0.





# All In This Together

For Patrice and Kevin McCann P'23 '24, Jesuit education at Xavier—and beyond—is a touchstone for family and community. *By* THOMAS NUGENT '09



“When I was deciding on where to go to college,” said Patrice McCann P'23 '24, “my father said I could go anywhere I wanted—so long as it was a Jesuit school.”

Patrice and her husband, Kevin McCann P'23 '24, share a love for Jesuit education that started as early as Kevin's own high school days, when he attended Saint Peter's Prep in Jersey City. “I had a tremendous experience in high school,” he said. “I can't explain how much of an impact it had on me. I had great relationships with so many people, like Tony Azzarto, S.J. and Jack Raslowsky. Along with marrying Patrice, it was one of the best decisions I've ever made.”

Patrice agreed. “In my family, Jesuit education was very important. My father was an alumnus of Brooklyn Prep, and he felt that the Jesuits have a unique way of educating young minds—the emphasis on caring for others, being young men and women for others. It was so important for us.” Patrice attended Fordham University, following in her parents' footsteps; Kevin spent four impactful years at Loyola University Maryland.

Their sons, Patrick '23 and Timothy '24, didn't need much convincing when deciding to enroll at Xavier. “We went to both Xavier's and Regis High School's open houses,” said Kevin. “Patrick knew right then and there that he was more interested in the school on 16th Street than the one on the Upper East Side.” Timothy, who attended Xavier's summer Higher Achievement Program, felt similarly. “When it came time for Timmy to consider high school,” Kevin said, “he knew from the moment he went to HAP that Xavier was where he wanted to be.”

Since starting (and for Patrick, graduating) at Xavier, both McCann boys have grown in more ways than one, their parents said; just getting to and from 16th Street every day has taught them plenty. “The commute teaches invaluable lessons,” Kevin noted. “It gives them a bit of a jumpstart as to what adulthood and working life is like. It teaches you time management; it teaches you accountability.”

Patrice and Kevin credit a host of Xavier faculty and staff with helping their boys grow into young men. “Coach DeFalco and Jean Sherman have been great for Timmy,” Patrice said, “as was Una Hughes, one of his freshman year teachers. Fr. Hederman was amazing for both of them, and so was Coach Stevens. Ms. Gonzalez is a great teacher and really the nicest lady in the world. Even Mr. Lovallo—he has such high expectations for the boys at Xavier, and if you put in the work and aren't getting the results you want, he's the first to work with you and help in whatever way he can.”

Ultimately, it's Xavier's identity as a Jesuit institution that has been the hallmark of their sons' experiences. “Both have grown so much in their faith,” said Patrice, adding that Patrick—now a freshman at the College of the Holy Cross—served as a retreat leader senior year and Timothy will take on the same role this year. “I've noticed they've become much more of a presence,” said Kevin. “Teachers and staff at Xavier, when they ask the boys to do something, they always say yes, they're always happy to help. They're even honored to be asked; to take on that responsibility to help others. They rise to the occasion. Xavier has helped them so much to grow into men.”

For Kevin, the same Jesuit character he sees in his sons and their education is one that spans across time. “I'm a big believer in the idea that although Jesuit schools are each unique, we're all in this together—we're one community,” he said. “When I think of Xavier, I think of my experience at Saint Peter's Prep. Ignatius says that we have to find God in all things; Fr. Azzarto said that prayer, community, and family could be found in the simplest of things, like getting a meal at McDonald's and sharing a laugh with a friend. Patrick and Timmy made those memories and more at Xavier. They're better off because they've been at Xavier.”

*Thomas Nugent '09 is Xavier's Director of Annual Giving. He is a graduate of SUNY Geneseo and Fordham University School of Law.*

## GIVING FACTS & FIGURES | 2022-23

XAVIER RECEIVED  
**5,948**  
gifts from alumni,  
parents, and friends

**276**  
new donors joined our  
generous group of supporters

**290**  
young alumni donated  
during the Turkey Bowl Challenge

**421**  
donors made gifts during  
One Week for Xavier, which  
featured a competition among  
gift designations

The top three Annual Fund  
gift designations were:  
**Financial Aid**  
**JROTC**  
**Campus Ministry**

**1,498 DONORS**  
made gifts of \$100 or less  
last year, resulting in nearly  
**\$100,000**  
OF SUPPORT FOR XAVIER



# DEEPENING BONDS

By SHANE LAVIN '03

1. The Class of 1963 at their 60th reunion.  
2. Members of the Class of 1973 at Maggie's Place.  
3. Members of the Class of 2008.  
4. Bob Comer '63.  
5. Members of the Class of 1983.

In reunions spanning generations, the sounds of laughter and camaraderie echoed throughout the halls of 16th Street in April. Hundreds of alumni returned to their cherished alma mater in a series of celebrations filled with nostalgia and shared memories. Zane Massey '96 P'22, Xavier's Director of Alumni Relations, observed, "Each reunion cycle provides a chance to deepen our appreciation for the enduring relationships formed among friends, teachers, and coaches, whether they were established decades ago or just five years ago."

The festivities began on Friday, April 21, with the Golden Knights Luncheon, open to graduates from the Class of 1972 and earlier. For Don Gross '72 P'03, class chair and former Xavier math teacher, the event marked a poignant return to the institution where he dedicated the majority of his professional life. "After all the years on 16th Street, [this weekend] felt like coming home," he said.

The day commenced with Mass celebrated by religion teacher and chaplain Jim Hederman, S.J. in Xavier's Student Chapel, followed by a luncheon in Keenan Commons.

Alumni like Kevin Cuddihy '64 cherished the opportunity to pray and reconnect with old friends. "The Mass was absolutely beautiful," he said. "Reunions are always a great opportunity to see classmates in person and share stories."

As the day progressed, the Xavier advancement team welcomed alumni from the Classes of 2018, 2013, 2008, 2003, and the 25th reunion Class of 1998 to Mass celebrated by alumnus Sean Hagerty S.J. '02 and a vibrant reunion reception. Dave La Valle '98 greeted his classmates, welcoming them back and sharing why Xavier continues to play a pivotal role in his life. Laughter filled the air as alumni reconnected and swapped stories—some with a hint of fiction!

The Classes of 1993, 1988, 1983, 1978, 1968, and 1963 returned to 16th Street on Saturday, April 22. Sons of Xavier had the chance to explore the halls they once roamed alongside student ambassadors, allowing them to see familiar spaces and discover new ones, including the newly-renovated art studios and the new STEAM lab and super classroom on the fifth floor of the Lynch building.

Classmates gathered for Mass in the Church of St. Francis Xavier, offering a spiritual anchor to the festivities. In the evening, classes reconvened in the Commons gym, Keenan Commons, and the Sons of Xavier Center, where cocktails, food, and fellowship rekindled the spirit of brotherhood and gratitude for the opportunity to reunite on 16th Street. Michael Ford '63 helped to bring nearly 30 classmates back to 16th Street for their 60th reunion. They signed the same banner Ford had brought to their 25th reunion in 1988 and watched the video he had generously created for their 50th reunion, featuring some of their favorite hits from the early '60s.

One week later, the Class of 1973 returned to mark their 50th reunion weekend. The celebrations began on the evening of Friday, April 28, at Maggie's Place, where classmates and guests came together for a cocktail reception, setting the tone for a weekend filled with joy and gratitude.

Saturday marked a significant milestone as more than 50 Sons of Xavier returned to their alma mater. Marc Roselli, S.J. '73 celebrated Mass in the Student Chapel, where alumni prayed together and remembered their deceased classmates. Musician and conductor Dr. Victor Vallo '73 played a beautiful reveille on his bugle to help open the dinner portion of the evening and shared, "Seeing and speaking in person again with my fellow Xavier classmates was both great and nostalgic, but it also is so much more. We all forged connections back then, and to this day, we are still connected in ways that are difficult to put into words. After all is said and done, we are truly a band of brothers."

Following dinner in Keenan Commons, members

of the class received commemorative gold pins, symbolizing their newfound status as Golden Knights. Chris Roman '73 captured the sentiments of the moment, saying, "My heart is full. My joy exceeds anything I could have expected—once again seeing the people, the place, and the Church which had a major role in forming me and my classmates. I only hope I live a life worthy of being called a Son of Xavier."

Paul Rivera '73 also reflected on the significance of the occasion, saying, "The most important formative years of my life were the four I spent at Xavier. Fifty years later, it was wonderful to celebrate with so many of my classmates and teachers, reminisce about our common experiences, and remember the classmates that had gone to their final rest ahead of us."

Amidst the memories and heartfelt reunions, the spirit of giving also shone brightly during Xavier's reunion weekends. Recognizing the importance of preserving Xavier's legacy, alumni from various classes came together to support the school's ongoing mission. Their generous reunion gifts not only honor the institution that played a pivotal role in their lives, but also ensure that future generations of Xavier students will continue to benefit from the same transformative experiences. These acts of generosity demonstrate that the bonds formed on 16th Street extend beyond shared memories; they are a testament to the enduring commitment of Xavier's alumni community to support and nurture the school's legacy for years to come.

*Shane Lavin '03 is Xavier's Vice President for Advancement. He is a graduate of the College of the Holy Cross and Villanova University.*

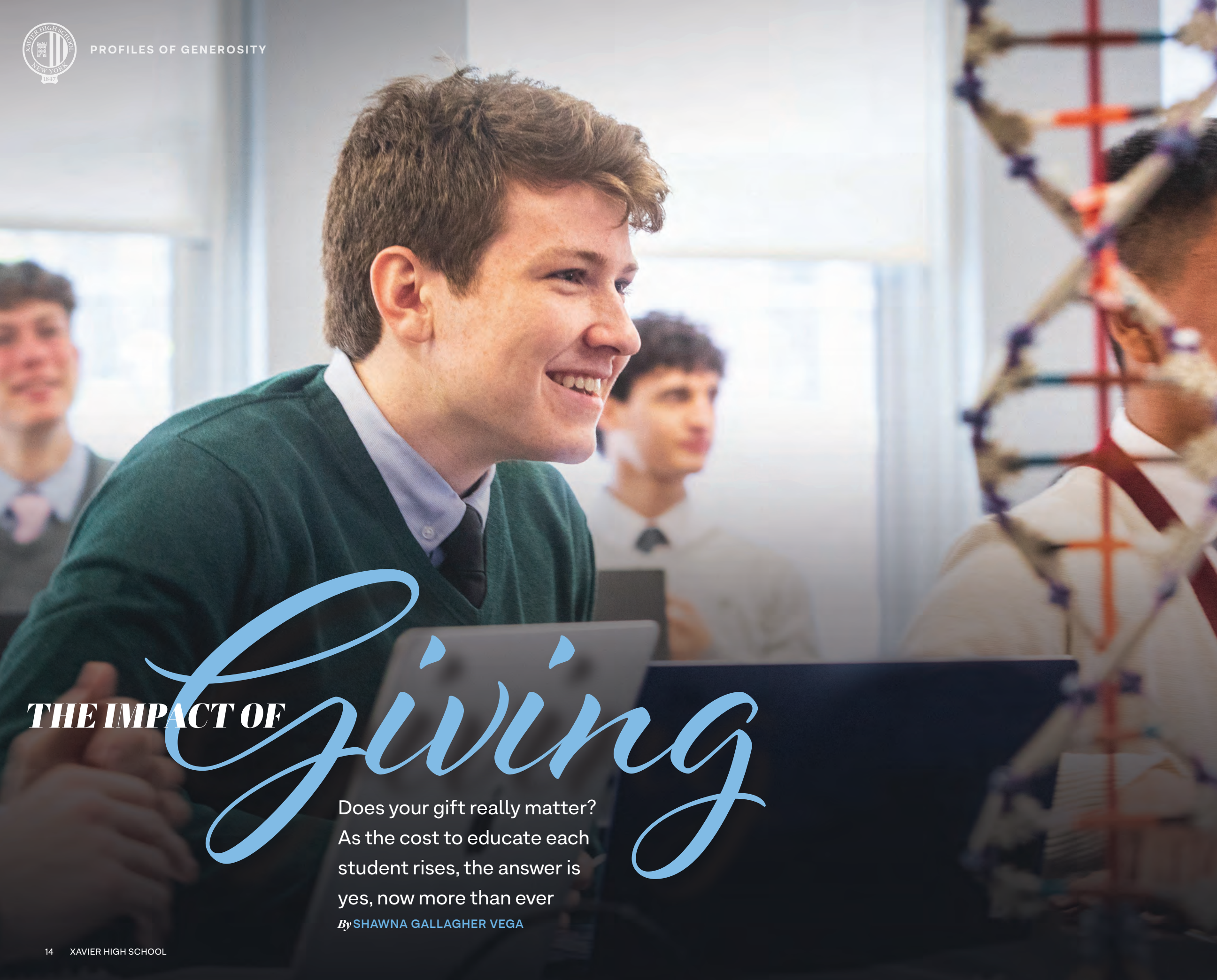
## REUNION GIVING SPOTLIGHT: Marge Duffy

Marge Duffy is an accomplished figure with a diverse career spanning corporate leadership and nonprofit service. She is retired from Arthur Andersen LLP, where she held the role of global managing partner. Her impressive portfolio included overseeing multinational clients in industries like agribusiness, manufacturing, consumer products, and advertising.

Marge's late husband, Gene Gaughan '63, was a dedicated alumnus and a fixture at Xavier events, where she often joined him. Marge and Gene supported numerous students with scholarship support over the years, and Gene's memory lives on through the Eugene F. Gaughan '63 Memorial Scholarship which Marge has established in conjunction with the Class of 1963's 60th reunion. Marge is very familiar with the benefits of a Jesuit education as a Fordham alumna. She remains a fixture at class gatherings on and off 16th Street.

In addition to her support of Xavier, Marge's endeavors include roles on various nonprofit boards, such as the National Association of Women Artists and Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Services.





**THE IMPACT OF**

# Giving

Does your gift really matter?  
As the cost to educate each  
student rises, the answer is  
yes, now more than ever

By SHAWNA GALLAGHER VEGA

**F**or most of us, 2020 will remain a dividing line in our collective memory. A complicated world became more complicated. Isolation and anxiety abounded. The constancy of our daily lives—for young people, the natural constancy of school—evaporated with pandemic shutdowns.

Xavier's response to those historic challenges materialized in historic commitments driven by mission. During the earliest days of the pandemic, as stay-at-home orders spurred widespread job losses, the school assured families that no student then enrolled would be asked to leave for financial reasons related to the virus. "Whether your son is a freshman, sophomore, junior, or senior, we will get him through to graduation," President Jack Raslowsky wrote to parents and guardians on March 24, 2020. "We made the same commitment to families after Hurricane Sandy and we honored that commitment. We will do so again. We will find the funds to do so."

The last of those students graduated in June, with Xavier shouldering the responsibility of more than \$1 million in tuition over three years to make that possible. At the same time, some reliable revenue streams declined; building rentals for filming projects, for instance, which once earned Xavier up to \$300,000 a year, all but disappeared after 2020.

**"We're never going to tell a student that he can't go on CFX or a retreat because of the cost. People ask, 'What difference does my gift make?' Those three or four gifts of \$25, \$50, or \$100 can allow a retreat experience to happen for a student. Every little expense and every little gift makes a difference."**

Jack Raslowsky

Despite these ongoing financial complications, Xavier made a significant, sustained investment in student support services over the same time period—including the addition of a consulting psychologist, school nurse, athletic trainer, increased security, and substantial resources in college counseling.

"Xavier has always tried to say, 'What is necessary to serve students and their families well?'" Raslowsky said. "The growing complexities of life, whether they're related to technology, the pandemic, greater awareness of what affects our physical and mental health, have required us to respond to better serve the kids in our care. We need to make sure that all of our students are in a position to learn, grow, and develop their faith."

Raslowsky noted an institutional call to meet these increased student needs without limiting access to a Xavier



Sara Bacsik with students in group guidance.

**Like many Catholic schools, Xavier has never charged families the full cost of educating their sons. Instead, the school funds the gap between tuition and total operating expenses per student through revenue from the Annual Fund, special events, and an annual draw on the endowment.**

education—in short, without passing the cost of funding these priorities to families through major tuition increases. “That puts demands on giving and presents challenges to all of us—administrators, alumni, benefactors, and parents,” he said, “to do what we can do to serve the community well.”

**I**n May, the Board of Trustees set tuition for 2023-24 at \$23,500. The true cost to educate each student this year is \$29,157, representing a financial gap of \$5,657.

**“Over the past few years, we’ve met the emerging needs of our students by relying on the generosity of unrestricted giving. We met those needs because it was the right thing to do from a mission perspective. The Annual Fund and the generous support we’ve received over the years allowed us to have that luxury.”**

Shane Lavin '03

Like many Catholic schools, Xavier has never charged families the full cost of educating their sons. Instead, the school funds the gap between tuition and total operating expenses per student through revenue from the Annual Fund, special events, and an annual draw on the endowment—all while offering \$4 million in need- and merit-based aid to more than 40% of the student body. That doesn't include the unbudgeted emergency

expenses and incidental costs that the school never hesitates to cover for students in need.

“Each year, Xavier responds to unforeseen family emergencies—like the loss of a job or the tragic loss of a parent. We always have and we always will. Responding to those emergencies is an unbudgeted expenditure, but one that is critical to our mission,” Raslowsky said. “And we don't say no to kids once they're here. We're never going to tell a student that he can't go on CFX or a retreat because of the cost. People ask, ‘What difference does my gift make?’ Those three or four gifts of \$25, \$50, or \$100 can allow a retreat experience to happen for a student. Every little expense and every little gift makes a difference.”

Xavier's financial model is sustained in large part by the ongoing generosity of alumni, parents, and friends—generosity that becomes more critical with each passing year.

“Over the past few years, we've met the emerging needs of our students by relying on the generosity of unrestricted giving,” said Vice President for Advancement Shane Lavin '03. “We met those needs because it was the right thing to do from a mission perspective. The Annual Fund and the generous support we've received over the years allowed us to have that luxury. We're now in a spot where we're offering a \$29,000 education for \$23,500. That's a significant difference, but

we're committed to keeping tuition as low as possible despite those rising costs.”

Lavin expressed his deep gratitude for the wide range of Xavier's donors, who fund everything from scholarships to renovations to the support services that have improved student health and well-being.

Guidance counselor Sara Bacsik, a 16-year Xavier veteran, noted the tangible impact of the school's investment in student mental

health and wellness. “The teenage years are just such formative years, and I feel like now more than ever they need that support and guidance,” she said. “Being able to have a consulting psychologist and this year, a learning support specialist—these are things we've been striving for. Even prior to COVID, mental health issues specifically among teenagers have grown, between depression and anxiety and the pressures that they face. To be able to have colleagues specifically trained in this work is so important. By adding those positions, I think that we've been able to support our students and better equip our faculty to support our students.”

**D**r. Thomas Forlenza '69 will celebrate his 55th reunion this spring, but his high school days remain as vivid and meaningful as ever. He still has textbooks, notebooks, and papers from his Xavier days, including a well-worn copy of Strunk and White's *The Elements of Style* gifted to him by legendary librarian and Xavier Hall of Famer Linda Salvati. He prizes a Xavier pin that once belonged to his classmate Alan

Sondej '69, a volunteer firefighter who died battling a blaze. He delights in remembering shows he and his classmates attended with their teacher, fellow Xavier Hall of Famer Brian Moroney. Lee J. Cobb playing King Lear at the Vivian Beaumont Theater and a performance of *A Moon for the Misbegotten* at Circle in the Square Theatre are among his favorite memories. “When you think about an education,” he mused, “education is what remains after you forget everything you've learned.”

A practicing hematologist and medical oncologist, Forlenza also serves as chief of palliative care at Staten Island's Richmond University Medical Center—yet he calls his work as a spiritual director the “crowning jewel” of his professional career. He was certified in that ministry last year at the Church of St. Francis Xavier, bringing his faith journey on 16th Street full circle.

Forlenza has given back to Xavier in deeply personal ways. A few years ago, he created the Forlenza Theater Fund, a passion project that supports student exposure to theater and opera performances like the ones that so enriched his own Xavier experience.

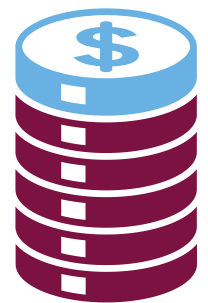


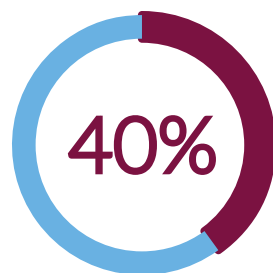
Dr. Thomas Forlenza '69 in front of Lincoln Center, a performing arts venue that enriched his Xavier experience.

**The Board of Trustees set tuition for 2023-24 at \$23,500.**

**The true cost to educate each student this year is \$29,157,**

**representing a gap of \$5,657.**





Xavier offers \$4 million in need- and merit-based aid to more than 40% of the student body.



He also began to endow the Forlenza Family Scholarship, motivated by a desire to ensure that finances never stand in the way of a qualified young man's ability to attend Xavier.

**"I wanted to give something back, and Xavier always came back as number one for me. It formed character. It formed brotherhood. Xavier really gave me a good foundation of being a person who contributes to society."**

Dr. Victor Vallo '73

With his generous contribution to the endowment, Forlenza joined a group of donors who strengthen and sustain Xavier for generations to come.

At the end of June, Xavier's endowment was valued at just under \$93 million. The Board of Trustees set this year's endowment draw at 4% (New York State regulations cap endowment appropriations at 7%), providing significant support for Xavier families.

"In short, the endowment ensures our long-term viability," Lavin explained. "The more conservative endowment draw allows us to weather the storms. If you start drawing down the maximum, there won't be much to draw on in short times."

Lavin noted that endowed funds are invested in the stock market and thus subject to volatility, just like everyone else's investments. Despite the turbulence of the last few years, the endowment has grown significantly over the past decade—and that growth is a remarkable sign of institutional strength and stability.

"The endowment is not a piggy bank; it's not a rainy-day fund; it's not a savings account. But if it's well-managed, it can ensure that we're able to offer aid to families in perpetuity," he said. "The vast majority of it is designated for scholarships. That's what has resonated with donors—to make a gift that literally keeps on giving every year."

**A**t his 50th reunion this spring, Dr. Victor Vallo '73 approached Xavier about funding a current use scholarship, which passes through to a student immediately. Thus the Victor Vallo Scholarship for the Arts was born.

"I wanted to give something back, and Xavier always came back as number one for me," said Vallo, a musician and professor of music. "It formed character. It formed

brotherhood. Xavier really gave me a good foundation of being a person who contributes to society. This is something that I've always wanted to do—to help students who go to Xavier who want to pursue the arts."

Like Forlenza, Vallo reflects on his Xavier experience regularly, often recalling the influence of his band director Robert Cusumano, then a trumpeter in the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. "I found that I loved music at Xavier," he said. "I decided to go on to pursue degrees in music—bachelor's, master's, and the doctorate."

Vallo remains equally grateful for his time in the Regiment, which propelled him to a four-year ROTC scholarship at Syracuse University—an enormous relief for his family—and 24 years in the U.S. Army. "Xavier was a stepping stone to my future," he said. He is thrilled to pass that gift on to students now, and hopefully to continue his investment in the scholarship in years to come.

"Current use scholarships allow our donors to have the most direct and immediate impact on students," said Vice President for Planning and Principal Giving Maggie Murphy Stockson. "Several current use scholarship donors support specific students in need as a result of their own Xavier experience or the experience of a loved one. For example, one generous donor supports students who have lost a parent, while another supports students in need from her late husband's home borough of Queens."

**A**n impending reunion also inspired Bob Fogarty '63 to consider new ways of giving. "We had around 30 guys at



Members of the Xavier Dramatics Society perform *Something Rotten!* in March.

our reunion 60 years later," he said. "That gives you an idea of the influence Xavier has on its graduates."

Days before that reunion, Fogarty contacted Director of Engagement and Planned Giving Brian McCabe P'23 to let him know he had added the school to his will—and to celebrate that decision. Those who remember Xavier in a will, trust, or through another legacy gift become members of the Larkin Legacy Society, and their planned gifts of all sizes support scholarships, faculty development, campus improvements, and special projects on 16th Street.

"Xavier was a great experience for me," Fogarty said of his reasons for giving. "It gave me a good moral compass in life, which of course I took with me after Xavier. It helped to stimulate me mentally. It helped in so many different ways. It made me a better person."

Fogarty noted that with his two sons thriving, he felt an obligation to sustain Xavier's Sons with an estate gift. His trip to Xavier this spring clarified how much has changed on 16th Street since 1963, and how much has stayed the same.

"When I graduated in 1963, tuition was \$300 a year. We had a lot of seminarians and priests who taught us, and that's changed," he reflected. "To keep the school going, there's a

necessity for outside contributions."

Fogarty's interest in sustaining a world-class faculty mirrors Xavier's. Faculty compensation makes up the lion's share of each year's operating budget, and trustees and administrators have been deliberate in their efforts to provide competitive salaries and benefits, generous professional development opportunities, and tuition remission for the sons of faculty and staff members who enroll at Xavier (as well as daughters who enroll in Catholic high schools). "For us, it is mission critical to recognize the great work of our faculty through a comprehensive salary and benefits package that is competitive in the marketplace," Murphy Stockson said.

"We work hard when we budget and when we raise funds to fairly compensate folks," Raslowsky added. "The work of schools is difficult, and we have folks throughout the building who are committed to mission. We want to compensate them well. Is there always a desire to do more? Sure. The Tri-State area is an expensive place to live. There are lots of demands on families. We've made sure that we've been able to increase the retirement match. We make sure that faculty and staff have access to good health care. We had an 18% increase in our health care premiums last May, after tuition had already been set—which

**Xavier's financial model is sustained in large part by the ongoing generosity of alumni, parents, and friends—generosity that becomes more critical with each passing year.**



Israel Salvador in his classroom in Fernandez-Duminuco Hall.



is part of the larger health care complications in the United States—but we have made a historic commitment to good and well-funded health care for faculty and staff and we honor that commitment. This is a very complicated financial beast, and if you were starting a business, this is not the model you would choose.”

With his background in financial consulting and international business, Fogarty well understands the complications of budgeting and leading organizations—and that understanding is part of what inspires him to give back.

“Whatever we can do as graduates—and particularly as people who are in the last season of their lives—to put some money aside for Xavier, I think we should do,” Fogarty said. “Xavier gives you a strong sense of giving, of helping other people. We developed a strong moral basis to help other people and to do things in society that are positive.”

Capital gifts funded the dramatic transformations of the Xavier plant that have been so evident in recent years—the recently unveiled admissions, college counseling, and campus ministry suites; the new arts and

technology spaces; the Sons of Xavier Center; and of course, Fernandez-Duminuco Hall.

“We’ve been fortunate enough to have generous alumni who have stepped up to help keep our facilities in line with what you would expect from a world-class school in the 21st century,” Lavin said. “When we take on projects like these, we don’t do so with any concept of funding outside of direct capital gifts.”

Seven years after moving into Fernandez-Duminuco Hall, modern and classical languages department chair Israel Salvador remains thrilled with his classroom on the sixth floor. “The new space changed my whole mentality in teaching. It sounds a little radical, but it is true,” he said. “The physical space, the enormous windows that I have, the natural light that comes in—it really changes the mood. The use of the chairs that are meant to facilitate communication made my mentality change. Now the classes are not teacher-centered. My class is a class of communication. What I am supposed to sell is communication and the beauty of the Spanish language. The building is an instrument in that.”

Now in his 26th year at Xavier, Salvador said he appreciates Xavier’s ongoing commitment to its mission—work that he feels must be renewed each day by every member of

the community. “We must maintain the Xavier mission, the Xavier tradition, the Xavier values, to act with civility and loyalty. We should not let that go as a community,” he said. “Success comes when you do and you practice what you love. It comes when preparation and discipline meet the opportunity, and Xavier facilitated that for me.”

Bill Reidy '94 P'27 is a longtime supporter of the Annual Fund. He's also a fundraiser who serves as vice president for advancement at the Culinary Institute of America (CIA).

Recently, a young chef and CIA alumnus came back to the school's Hyde Park campus to speak to students. “He said, ‘It matters what you’re giving your everything to. Look at what you give everything to, without pause, without worry. That’s where you’re being called.’” The moment stuck with Reidy.

“I don’t give a ton, but it’s what I give my everything to,” said Reidy, whose son, Will Reidy '27, is a newly minted freshman. “You learn along the way that there’s an idea, there’s a mission, there’s a spirit that’s handed from generation to generation. At Back to School Night, one of the things I got a huge kick out of was that Will has two teachers I know, but there were younger teachers who had that magic, too. They have it just as much as Margaret Gonzalez and Jen Kennedy-Orlando do. They’re not 20 years behind them—they’re peers. I was so hyper-impressed by the continuity of focus on mission and spirit. It’s like a baton handed from one generation to the next.”

Reidy views his Xavier experience through three unique lenses—as an alumnus, as a former employee (he spent seven years working in admissions and advancement on 16th Street), and now as a dad.

“Xavier is a community that has remained committed to its mission of shaping men and women for others, of challenging people to be committed to Christ. Xavier does it better and more beautifully than any other place I’ve seen,” he reflected. “The behind-the-scenes look when I worked there showed me that

these are not perfect people. Xavier is not perfect. But they are in the game. They are *in the game*. And if you’re in the game—and that’s what I saw behind the scenes—it’s not done perfectly. It’s not done without the human condition. But it’s done in a place that cares deeply for the individual.

**“I don’t give a ton, but it’s what I give my everything to. You learn along the way that there’s an idea, there’s a mission, there’s a spirit that’s handed from generation to generation.”**

Bill Reidy '94 P'27

“I had an incredibly special experience at Xavier,” he continued. “Thousands of other people have had the same experience. In the massive beauty of New York, where there’s every type of person, when you come to Xavier there seems to be a unifying experience. The presence of God in the experience of people who go to Xavier, because they experience it in one another. That’s the unifying experience.”

Reidy and his wife, Jen, are thrilled to be Xavier parents. And they are deeply grateful for the opportunity, because they now know the full power of the gifts, both large and small, that have been given by thousands of donors to make their son’s education a reality.

“Will is on a scholarship at Xavier. It’s a big reason he’s able to go there. My wife and I both work, but we have three kids in Catholic schools,” Reidy said. “That’s a big deal. It’s really the community that’s making it possible for us to send Will to Xavier. Watching Will become a Xavier man, having him come back home and tell these stories—we’re exceedingly grateful. I’m certainly getting more back than I’ve ever given.”

*Shawna Gallagher Vega is Xavier’s Vice President for Communications and Marketing. She earned bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Boston College.*



Bill Reidy '94 P'27 with his son, Will '27.



Xavier basketball triumphs over Regis in January.



# ANSWERING THE CALL

By MAGGIE MURPHY STOCKSON

Michael and Valerie Puglisi in the admissions office and welcome center that bears their name.

**W**hen Xavier launched the silent phase of its 175th anniversary capital campaign, *For Generations to Come*, in the spring of 2022, two incredibly generous Sons of Xavier—longtime friends Michael Puglisi '68 and Bob Robotti '71—quickly answered the call for support. Together with their spouses, Puglisi and Robotti made leadership commitments to fund two major projects in Xavier's Master Plan, the new admissions office and welcome center and a revitalized college counseling center.

The Valerie and Michael Puglisi '68 Admissions Office and Welcome Center on the historic second floor of the Lynch Building provides a beautiful gateway to Xavier for prospective students and their families. Funding this specific project is just one part of their \$5 million commitment to the campaign.

On the third floor of the Old Stone Building, the William J. McGowan, S.J. College Counseling Center, funded by a \$1.5 million gift from Bob and Su Robotti, provides a multipurpose hub for students to work on college applications and prepare for interviews, new offices for counselors and administrators, and a meeting room for visits with college admissions representatives.

## Paying it Forward for Future Generations

"Now, let's talk business plan," Michael Puglisi says with a warm smile to Tim Bobb '25, one of the recipients of the Valerie and Michael Puglisi '68 Scholars Program. Bobb, a Xavier junior and graduate of Brooklyn Jesuit Prep, is a budding entrepreneur. He started his own haircutting business, Tim's Clips, last year, and Puglisi was eager to hear about it and to offer advice.

Earlier this year, Puglisi shared lunch and swapped Xavier stories with the recipients of the scholarship he and Valerie generously fund, providing eight deserving students with 85% tuition assistance annually. This academic year, the Puglis have increased that number to 10 students and will eventually increase to 12 during the 2024-25 academic year.

**"We have been blessed in many ways and are extraordinarily pleased to be able to pay it forward for future generations of Xavier men."**

Michael Puglisi '68

In discussing their scholarship support at both Xavier and Valerie's alma mater, St. Catharine Academy in the Bronx, Valerie explained, "It is my hope that our scholarships can lay the framework for St. Catharine's and Xavier students in the coming years to be successful and ultimately continue the tradition of impactful gift-giving for future generations of students."

Michael Puglisi proudly hails from Jackson Heights, Queens, and he swam, sang in the glee club, and managed the basketball team during his time on 16th Street. A Fordham graduate and an accountant by training, he worked at several different firms before taking on the role of chief financial officer at Blackstone in 1994 and helping to bring the company



public in 2007.

The Puglisis are active and thoughtful philanthropists, making leadership gifts for the renovation of several parks in their hometown of Larchmont as well as at Fordham University, L.A.M.P. for Haiti, Cristo Rey Miami, Swim Across America, the American Italian Cancer Foundation, and many other causes.

“We have been blessed in many ways and are extraordinarily pleased to be able to pay it forward for future generations of Xavier men. We are especially pleased to help provide a great space to welcome new Sons of Xavier and help them learn more about our school’s incredible history,” Michael remarked.

### Opening Doors to New Opportunities

Bob Robotti is also an accountant by training, and his first position in public accounting was at Pustorino Puglisi & Company, an accounting firm run by Puglisi’s late father, Alfred. After Robotti graduated from Bucknell in 1975, he wasn’t able to secure a position at one of the big four accounting firms, but Alfred Puglisi took a chance and hired him. During this time Robotti started learning about value investing, which was to become the centerpiece of his future business.

“My dad and Ed Robotti, Bob’s dad, were the best of friends from their early grammar school years and remained so throughout their lifetimes,” Puglisi explained. “They always helped each other as best they could, as evidenced by my dad when he hired Bob—though as one would say today, hiring Bob was a no-brainer given Bob’s strong skill set.”

When discussing his and Su’s decision to fund the college counseling center, Bob said with a chuckle, “The college counseling center appealed to me since I spent so much time outside of Fr. McGowan’s office looking through college catalogs to try and find places where I could get in, get a C, and graduate! Su had the great idea to name it after Fr. McGowan.”

The late Bill McGowan, S.J. served as a college counselor at Xavier from 1964 until 2001, guiding several generations of students as they applied to college and found the schools that were the right fit for them—even when it required tough love and honest feedback. “Several people made a deep impression on

Bob during his time at Xavier, and Fr. McGowan was one of them. He was so patient and supportive of Bob and understood his goals and plans,” Su explained. McGowan also celebrated the Robottis’ wedding.

Regarding his own college selection process, Bob recalled, “I wanted to be away from home but within three hours of the city so I could easily get back. I also wanted to play football and study something math-related.” He applied to several Patriot League schools and ended up studying accounting and playing football at Bucknell. After working successfully at Pustorino Puglisi & Company and earning his MBA in accounting from Pace University, he went on to work for Gabelli Funds. Robotti then founded Robotti & Eng, Inc. with partner Dan Eng in 1983, later becoming Robotti & Company in 1995.

### Su Robotti explained that she and Bob like to support educational institutions because they are transformative, opening doors to new opportunities and providing spaces for thought and debate.

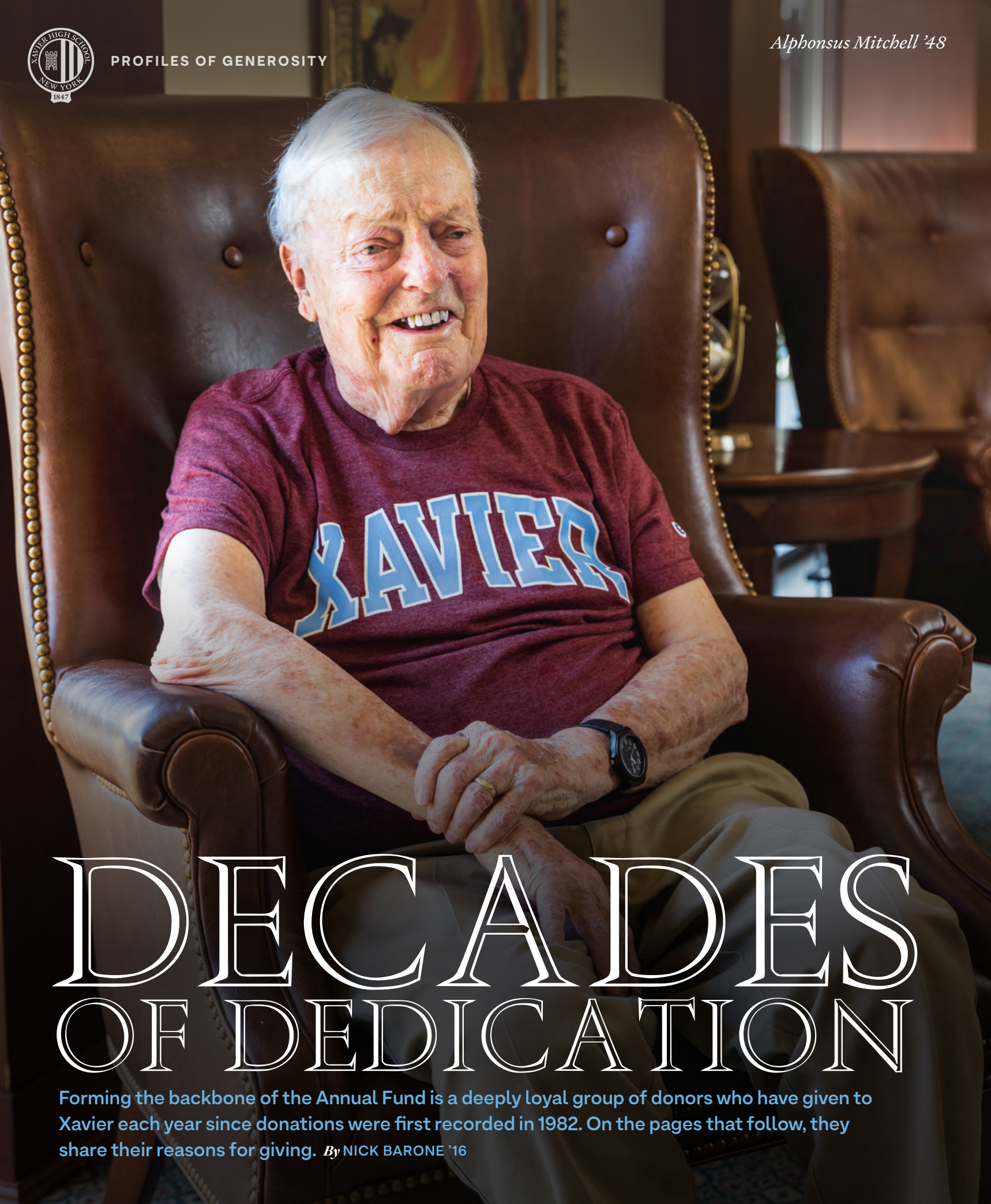
Bob and Su Robotti generously support several institutions in New York City, including Pace University and Dominican Academy, the alma mater of Robotti’s late sister, Barbara Robotti Murray. They recently received the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award from Pace University for their steadfast support, specifically for student scholarships. They also support Springfield College, where Su serves on the Board of Trustees. Su explained that they like to support educational institutions because they are transformative, opening doors to new opportunities and providing spaces for thought and debate.

With their generous leadership gifts, the Robottis and Puglisis have made an enormous impact on the student experience at Xavier—for generations to come, indeed.

*Maggie Murphy Stockson is Xavier’s Vice President for Planning and Principal Giving. She is a graduate of Georgetown University, New York University, and Fordham University.*



Su and Bob Robotti in the William J. McGowan, S.J. College Counseling Center.



# DECADES OF DEDICATION

Forming the backbone of the Annual Fund is a deeply loyal group of donors who have given to Xavier each year since donations were first recorded in 1982. On the pages that follow, they share their reasons for giving. *By* NICK BARONE '16



Dr. Bob Baratta '58

In 1982, when Xavier’s fundraising efforts were first organized and recorded, few were able to imagine how their gifts would propel 16th Street forward.

Fast forward more than four decades, and Xavier and its legacy of giving have been built up year after year, gift upon gift. The school continues to thrive and grow thanks to a devoted collective: the parents, friends, and Sons of Xavier who consistently provide crucial financial support to the school.

Among these ranks stand those who have upheld that unwavering support year after year since the inception of the Annual Fund 41 years ago—individuals who have taken it upon themselves to keep a rigorous Jesuit education at Xavier accessible and affordable for future generations.

To those like Dr. Bob Baratta '58, maintaining Xavier’s tradition and standard of excellence is paramount.

“As soon as I was financially able, I felt the need to support the source of my education, maturity, and development of lifelong values,” Baratta said.

Inspired by the dedication of so many influential figures who graced Xavier’s halls during his time on 16th Street, Baratta has made it a priority to give to his alma mater each year. “The example of pure dedication, which was exemplified by the sincerity and work of religious and the entire lay staff at the school, resulted in my mirroring their strong sense of commitment to things in life that matter,” he said.

Fundamentally, Baratta believes his Xavier education has shaped every dimension of his life, underscoring the vital role of moral and ethical values he infused into his work as a physician and now as founder, chairman, and chief medical officer of Stuart Therapeutics, Inc., a clinical stage biopharmaceutical company focused on the development of a unique tissue reparative platform for eye diseases.

He hopes his contributions to 16th Street play a role in carrying forward this impact to the generations of Sons yet to come.

“I feel very strongly that I am a beneficiary of the Xavier tradition,” Baratta said. “While difficult to verbalize, this started for me with an admiration and a feeling of awe that I could be a part of this tradition. This was followed by respect, warmth and comfort, acceptance, consistency, success, and pride rolled into one experience. That same experience should be shared and made available to as many as possible. Financial support is critical to achieving that goal.”

**“As soon as I was financially able, I felt the need to support the source of my education, maturity, and development of lifelong values.”**

Dr. Bob Baratta '58

For others, like Alphonsus Mitchell '48, it’s a firm belief in Catholic education that fuels their generosity.

“My faith was solidified on 16th Street. There was a certain atmosphere that invited me to dive deeper into exploring my faith,” he said. “The religious consciousness that was instilled in me at Xavier was profound. After graduating, I had a different perspective of the world. I was always conscious of my faith—even long after my time on 16th Street.”

Over the years, Mitchell has designated his gifts towards Xavier’s Annual Fund and tuition assistance for students.

“Financial aid is crucial for students in circumstances similar to my own,” Mitchell reflected. “During my time as a student, my family received a generous financial aid package, which allowed me to fully embrace my Xavier experience.”



Pat Whalen '75



Andy Mihalick '66



Monica Keveny Wheeler

Mitchell's experience was defined not only by his faith formation, but also by his time as a member of the *Xavier Review*, which paved the way for his career as an accomplished freelance journalist and ultimately positioned him to succeed as the director of publications at Fairfield University.

To this day, Mitchell finds himself deeply moved by the significant social strides that Xavier has achieved in the nearly 80 years since he's graduated, and he continues to contribute, hopeful that this progress will persist.

**“Offering high-quality education is and will always be a challenge. My hope is that Xavier continues to have the ready leadership and the alumni to support its necessary evolution, always guided by its Jesuit mission and identity.”**

Monica Keveny Wheeler

“I want Xavier to continue to improve,” Mitchell said. “In particular, I'm amazed at how much more diverse the school has become over the years and how much stronger the sense of fellowship continues to become. Xavier is only changing for the better.”

Like Mitchell, Pat Whalen '75 made a forward-thinking choice 41 years ago that would lay the groundwork for his ongoing commitment to support Xavier's students in their formative years.

“Initially, I donated to Xavier because I thought it was important to assist young men with an opportunity to form their lives from boys into young men that would be of service to others,” said Whalen, a retired NYPD special assignment sergeant. “As the years passed, my wife, Mary, and I continued to support Xavier because the mission of helping to

shape young lives became more and more of an imperative. In light of the changes in societal and cultural mores, Mary and I became more convinced that Xavier was an integral part of forming young men to appreciate the role of faith and service to others in their lives.”

Each year, Whalen designates his gifts to Xavier's Annual Fund with a hope that the school continues to instill values of pride and service in all students.

“Xavier's teachers and staff reinforced the life lessons and faith formation that my parents instilled in me and my siblings,” said Whalen. “To this day, the mission of being a man for others is the underlying code by which I try to live my life. The Jesuits and lay staff were, through personal example, models of service to others as a way of life. My hope is that Xavier continues to assist young men to learn that service to others is also service to God and ourselves as it strengthens our society for the good of all.”

For Monica Keveny Wheeler and her late husband, Fred Wheeler '67, it was this very mission that was the catalyst for their ongoing support.

“Fred's relationship to the Xavier community was profoundly important to him, expressing often that the man he became was a direct result of his education there,” Keveny Wheeler said. “He incorporated the values, attitudes, and behaviors he learned at Xavier into his life experience. He lived the Jesuit mission and identity personally and professionally, influencing everything from personal relationships to community engagement, from career choices to how he treated colleagues and staff. This same Jesuit-inspired way of living became the foundation of our marriage and of how we raised our children. It has also defined our spiritual development and journeys, which have been most meaningful to us.”

Fred Wheeler's career in higher education fundraising spanned Ladycliff College, Georgetown University, and a remarkable 27-year

tenure at Fairfield University. Throughout his professional journey, he recognized the pivotal role of alumni support in sustaining institutions, improving facilities, and aiding tuition assistance.

**“I want Xavier to continue to improve. In particular, I'm amazed at how much more diverse the school has become over the years and how much stronger the sense of fellowship continues to become. Xavier is only changing for the better.”**

Alphonsus Mitchell '48

“We both felt strongly about the impact of the high school experience on one's development of critical thinking and life skills as the foundation to a successful future,” Keveny Wheeler said. “With positive high school experiences, success in college and our careers, we knew where our support should go. I attended St. Catharine Academy in the Bronx, which, like Xavier, is a successful private high school largely due to supportive alumni.”

Keveny Wheeler, who now serves as an adjunct professor at Fairfield University's School of Nursing and Health Studies, continues to witness the positive impact of a Jesuit education daily.

She hopes that by perpetuating the legacy of generosity she and Fred initiated, that positive impact will be passed down to future generations of Sons of Xavier.

“The Jesuit standards and expectations for its high schools, colleges, and universities offer powerful guidance to sustain growth and evolution to continue to educate students for the future,” Keveny Wheeler said. “Offering high-quality education is and will always be a challenge. My hope is that Xavier continues to have the ready

leadership and the alumni to support its necessary evolution, always guided by its Jesuit mission and identity.”

Much like the Wheelers, Andy Mihalick '66 regards Jesuit education as a beacon of hope for all young men and women committed to serving others.

“It's important to develop and educate young men and women to think critically, to use their talents to live out the Jesuit mission to serve others, and to be an example of that service,” said Mihalick. “It's important for us to contribute our time and money to the institutions that instill that in people.”

The sense of camaraderie and community that he encountered—both during his time at Xavier and as an involved alumnus—remains unparalleled and serves as his inspiration to continue his legacy of generosity.

Mihalick, who hosted the Point Lookout Reception this past summer, credits similar Xavier events, like the Beefsteak Dinner, for fueling his desire to support the community in more ways than one. “When I started to attend alumni events, I became a lot more involved and realized that I have to support all of the great things that the community is doing. If I can lend a hand in that work, I'm going to lend a hand in that work,” he said.

While Mihalick diligently juggles a demanding career as a practicing lawyer, his commitment to dedicating time for Xavier remains steadfast. He views his contributions not only as a means of supporting Xavier but also as a way to authentically embody Xavier's mission in his own life.

“The basis of our Catholic faith is to think, ‘How can we do something to improve someone else's life?’” he reflected. “That's why it's so important to support this kind of work.”

*Nick Barone '16 is Xavier's Associate Director of Communications and Marketing. He is a graduate of the University of Scranton.*



# The Next Generation Emerges

By ERIC KREBS '17





**H**igh school lasts four years, but being a Son of Xavier is something that lasts forever.

With the many responsibilities of careers, families, and all else adulthood brings—and without an 8:10 a.m. sharp bell—bringing young alumni back to 16th Street can be quite the task. Emerging Xavier Leaders, a new affinity group spearheaded by three alumni, James Amodeo '14, Mike Flynn '14, and Jake Nicholson '14, is up for the challenge.

**Over the last few years, the trio have continued to nurture their Xavier relationships at the annual Beefsteak Dinner, always making a point to coordinate and celebrate with their peers. In recent years, however, the three began to feel that they could do more to bring the young alumni community together.**

“The best thing about Xavier is the relationships,” said James Amodeo '14, co-founder of EXL. “Xavier has such a strong network, and we want it to be easy for young alumni to be tapping into it.”

Amodeo and Nicholson both hail from Rockaway and attended school together from primary school through Xavier and college at Loyola University Maryland. The two met Flynn at Xavier—Flynn is

from the other side of the Hudson River, in Bayonne, New Jersey—and the three have been close friends ever since. Nicholson is getting married in January, and both Amodeo and Flynn are in his wedding party (the majority of which, Nicholson noted, is made up of “Xavier guys”).

Over the last few years, the trio have made a point of continuing to nurture their Xavier relationships at the annual Beefsteak Dinner, always making a point to coordinate and celebrate with their peers. In recent years, however, the three began to feel that they could do more to bring the young alumni community together. “We wanted to connect with guys on a stronger and more frequent basis,” said Amodeo.

“We loved Beefsteak, we loved the alumni events, but we felt that, when we went, it was a lot of older generations,” Amodeo continued. It was at Xavier’s 2021 Hall of Fame Dinner, surrounded by the modest but dedicated group from their class year, that an idea began to foment. “We know the love is there, but, for some reason, we felt the representation among guys our age wasn’t being developed. At the dinner, that’s when we were like, ‘We really need to start getting involved.’”

A few months later, in early 2022, the trio reached out to the school to try and make their idea a reality.

Through the winter and spring, they conversed with Director of Alumni Relations Zane Massey '96 P'22 and Vice President for Advancement Shane Lavin '03, among others. “The guys had expressed a desire to organize a group that would bring together young alumni and early career professionals, that would cut across careers and really get everyone together and build connections,” said Lavin. “They were

really motivated to make this happen.”

EXL would join a wide array of alumni initiatives at Xavier, past and present—the Xavier Bar Association and Maroon, Blue and Black Initiative among them—and the trio knew they’d have to form a concrete vision of EXL’s mission, and a concrete plan to bring it to life.

What was settled on would be a group with a double purpose: to bring young alumni together, and to facilitate mentoring relationships between Sons of Xavier of different ages and at different stages in their professional development—connecting those five or 10 or 15 years into their careers with those just getting started, still in college, maybe even still at Xavier.

“With Xavier guys, I could just go to my yearbook and start rattling off names,” said Flynn, “and even with people I haven’t talked to since my five-year reunion, I can pick up the phone and say, ‘Hey, I need you to come help me do this or that,’ and they would come in a second. So, we thought, ‘Why can’t we have that for a mentorship or career setting?’”

**“Xavier has such a strong network, and we want it to be easy for young alumni to be tapping into it.”**

James Amodeo '14

“Every time I walk into a new environment, odds are I’m meeting a Xavier guy. I just think that some guys just don’t know the power or understand how to harness the power of the Xavier network,” said Nicholson. “For young alums, when you’re just trying to get out there and find a job or an internship, sometimes you can be so deep in the weeds that it’s hard to have the perspective of what’s available to you—and what should be available to you as Xavier alumni.”

To begin that mission of bringing young alums closer to 16th Street—and each other—the EXL team began planning a launch event. The event, held on November 17, 2022, took place in Xavier’s newly renovated Cook Library. There, Amodeo, Nicholson, and Flynn led a discussion of plans for the group and reinforced the importance of mentorship and fraternity writ large to an audience of nearly 60 young alumni.

“I had a bunch of people ask, ‘This is great, how do I stay involved?’” said Amodeo. “It’s in its infancy, but we have a strong foundation to keep building things from the ground up.”

“It was a great turnout. There was like a 20-year age gap from the oldest to the youngest guy, from the early 2000s to guys who had just graduated,” said Pat Steffens '11, who attended the meeting and has been involved with Xavier alumni affinity groups in the past. “It’s a great way for guys to grow their networks and relationships. You know, a rising tide lifts all boats.”

“The energy at the meeting was great,” said Massey. “Relative to

what I think this group is going to be able to do in the near future with helping guys build their networks and relationships, I think we’re just scratching the surface.”

Now Amodeo, Nicholson, and Flynn are working to keep EXL’s momentum going. Their second event takes place this November, and they hope it leads to increased programming, philanthropy, and membership across class years. The goal for all three is to build upon the foundation laid during their four years at Xavier, to help alumni prosper together and always remain men for others.

“When I was at Xavier, I had an unbelievable experience and I felt as though I had a strong relationship with every part of the organization,” said Amodeo. “That’s what EXL is about—continuing the Xavier mission of staying connected.”

*Eric Krebs '17 is a graduate of Yale University. He is a writer and economic researcher.*





Last year, 3,773 alumni, parents, faculty, staff, students, and friends strengthened Xavier with their financial gifts. Every dollar is critical to Xavier’s continued ability to educate intelligent, motivated young men of diverse backgrounds and means.

*Thank you.*

# 2022-23 Operating Results Highlights

## REVENUES

TUITION AND FEES (NET) .....	\$16,943,491
STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS .....	\$588,519
AUXILIARY ACTIVITIES .....	\$792,163
NYS REIMBURSEMENT FOR MANDATED SERVICES AND STEM .....	\$1,104,672
CONTRIBUTIONS - ANNUAL FUND .....	\$2,654,525.38
OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS .....	\$3,475,510.62
SPECIAL EVENTS (GROSS) .....	\$1,217,409
INVESTMENT RETURN AND INCOME .....	\$9,143,987

**\$35,920,277**

## EXPENSES

INSTRUCTIONAL AND RELATED COSTS .....	\$14,335,002
GENERAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS .....	\$8,417,388
OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE .....	\$1,707,891
STUDENT ACTIVITY EXPENSES .....	\$2,208,973
AUXILIARY PROGRAM EXPENSES .....	\$318,674
DEPRECIATION .....	\$1,896,865

**\$28,884,793**

## REVENUE AFTER EXPENSES

**\$7,035,484**

Xavier’s endowment consists of a set of funds established by generations of donors to provide a critical base of support to operate the school in perpetuity. The endowment saw growth in Fiscal 2023. However, like any traditional endowment operating in the state of New York, only a certain amount of money can be withdrawn from the endowment for operating needs.



# SUMMARY OF CASH GIFTS

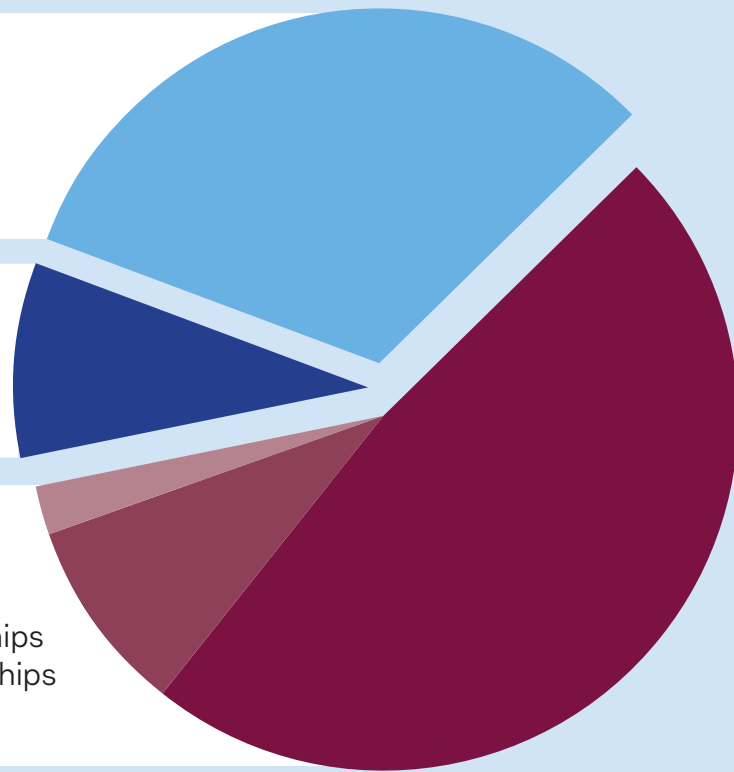
## \$7,834,353 TOTAL RAISED

**\$2,511,649**  
ANNUAL FUND

**\$690,648**  
FUNDRAISING EVENTS

**\$4,632,056**  
RESTRICTED AND OTHER MAJOR GIFTS

- \$176,227** ■ Temporarily Restricted Scholarships
- \$704,102** ■ Permanently Restricted Scholarships
- \$3,751,727** ■ Other Major Gifts



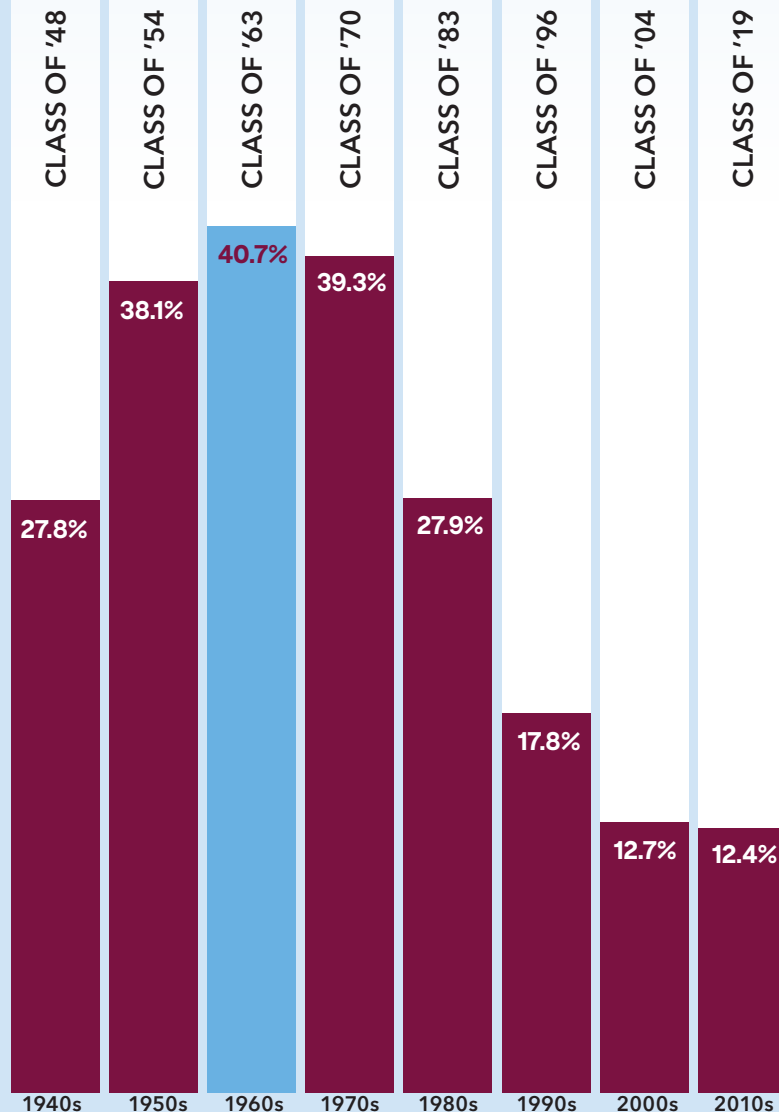
### Total Annual Giving by Class

FEWER THAN 150 MEMBERS		150 MEMBERS OR MORE	
1 1968.....	\$1,101,075	1965.....	\$284,214
2 1972.....	\$1,089,449	1964.....	\$191,512
3 1977.....	\$609,075	1967.....	\$96,155
4 1971.....	\$357,318	1978.....	\$86,340
5 1991.....	\$312,050	1980.....	\$76,067
6 1962.....	\$128,385	1975.....	\$58,136
7 1961.....	\$79,162	1983.....	\$51,500
8 1963.....	\$72,680	1973.....	\$49,418
9 1966.....	\$58,626	1970.....	\$47,375
10 1955.....	\$44,893	1984.....	\$47,135

### Percentage of Participation by Class

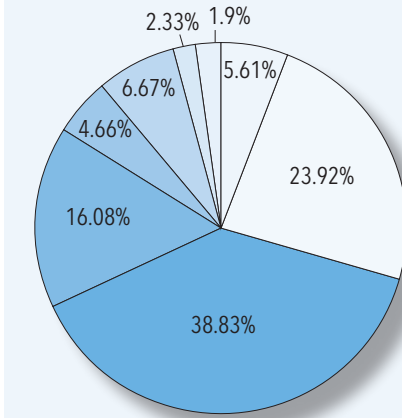
FEWER THAN 150 MEMBERS		150 MEMBERS OR MORE	
1 1963.....	40.7%	1970.....	39.3%
2 1954.....	31.8%	1964.....	36.8%
3 1959.....	37.7%	1973.....	32.9%
4 1958.....	37.6%	1967.....	30.7%
5 1961.....	37.3%	1965.....	30.4%
6 1971.....	36.7%	1983.....	27.9%
7 1972.....	36.6%	1987.....	27.5%
8 1966.....	36.2%	1978.....	27.1%
9 1962.....	34.7%	1974.....	26.7%
10 1968.....	31%	1975.....	26%

### Top Class Participation By Decade



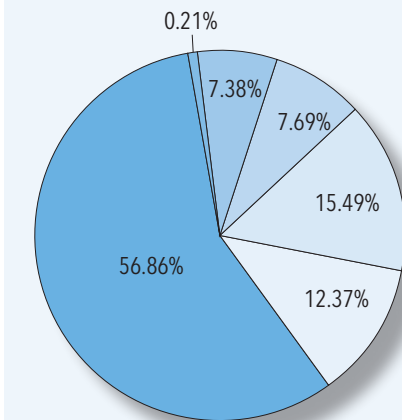
# XAVIER By the Numbers

Founded: 1847 • 2022-23 Tuition and Fees: \$22,260



#### Geographic Breakdown of the Student Body

Bronx.....	5.61%
Brooklyn.....	23.92%
Manhattan.....	38.83%
Queens.....	16.08%
Staten Island.....	4.66%
New Jersey.....	6.67%
Long Island.....	2.33%
Westchester.....	1.9%



#### Composition of the Student Body

American Indian.....	0.21%
Asian/Pacific Islander.....	7.38%
Black.....	7.69%
Hispanic/Latino.....	15.49%
Multi-racial.....	12.37%
White or Other.....	56.86%

#### Faculty & Administration

Number of Jesuits on Staff.....	2
Number of Laypersons on Staff.....	124
Number of Alumni on Staff.....	22
Student-Faculty Ratio.....	12:1



Michael Aprea '06

**MICHAEL APREA '06**  
*Religion Department Chair*

At the core of Saint Ignatius' spirituality is the understanding that all things are loved into existence by God, and that God works through the individual's most authentic and life-giving desires to help them discover their unique gifts and talents. These desires also guide the individual, helping them see how to best put these gifts to use to become their most authentic selves—persons who reflect the divine love of God in living for and with others. I draw inspiration from this understanding each day by remembering that at the heart of how I innovate on 16th Street must be a sincere humility and reverence for the persons I encounter. This spirit is embodied through the *cura personalis*—or the care for the personal development of each student I have the privilege of educating. This education begins in the classroom, but is enriched through the co-curricular activities, service and immersion trips, and conversations I encourage my students to explore each day. My ultimate goal is to help each of them consider his life and his most authentic and life-giving desire, and envision how he can become his best self—the individual God has loved into existence.

Practically, this comes to life in the classroom through my emphasis on each student's active involvement in Socratic dialogues that call them to engage both faith and reason and their personal values and beliefs to grapple with some of the most essential questions born of the human condition. It is nurtured each time I encourage my students to consider how

these high-level questions can help them recognize and respond to the challenges and opportunities they face each day. It is pushed to new horizons each time I encourage my students to explore their interests and help them recognize how what they learn in Scripture, ethics, social justice, or philosophy classes can help them discern how they should engage all disciplines. In welcoming guest speakers to 16th Street, I try to help expand my students' horizons and envision future growth and potential careers. In taking them beyond 16th Street, I transform their city and world into an extension of their classrooms. Here they can consider the relevance of what they learn with respect to their lived experiences and the lived experiences of others. In all these endeavors, I humbly hope to foster within my students a spirit of curiosity and compassion—a spirit that will drive them each day to consider how they are called to discover themselves in the other through their commitment to being stewards of creation, and persons who champion the innate dignity and value of all people. My students' response and growth and the potential I have witnessed seeing them engage these questions and their world energize the work I do. This work gives me hope that our students leave Xavier with a deeper understanding of themselves, their world, and the God who has loved them into existence—an understanding that will allow them to truly go forth and set the world on fire and transform it for the greater glory of God.

**JONATHAN RATHERAM-BROWNE**  
*Science Department Chair*

One of the greatest things about teaching in the science department is the growth mindset of all of my colleagues. The Ignatian pedagogical paradigm is at the heart of all we do.



Jonathan Ratheram-Browne



Kathy Concannon

The entire department is a creative place, always reflecting on our experience and taking action to improve the outcomes and efficiency of our lessons. We have worked hard to develop alignment throughout our courses and now have common assessments to ensure all students in a course are absorbing the same knowledge and skills.

We are currently looking holistically at the science experience of students at Xavier and identifying areas of the curriculum where a core thread of scientific practices can be woven throughout all of the years and classes. As part of this enhancement, we are planning creative ways to effectively evaluate students' knowledge of the scientific method and lab skills.

Labs can give students a chance for independent learning as well as working with lab partners, providing opportunities for peer learning and fostering interdependence and team building.

Creating and enhancing labs is always exciting and innovative. Xavier is so well-equipped; it is a pleasure to be a science teacher here. Many of my colleagues at other schools are divided into two camps: those who favor virtual labs and those who favor traditional labs. At Xavier we do both!

**KATHY CONCANNON**  
*English Teacher*

My primary means of innovation involves changing up my reading lists, methods, and, occasionally, the classes I teach to fuel my own curiosity and enthusiasm. As for technology, most of my friends at Xavier know I fall on the anti-tech side of things. I've never joined social media. I see a fundamental flaw with the "like it" concept. I tend to think the world would be a better place if we banned cell phones, or at least treated them like cars or cigarettes or alcohol, with a minimum age requirement. I did not relish the experience of remote teaching, but there are one or two technological tools I found handy then that I have kept in my teaching repertoire. I like the Question feature on Google Classroom, for instance. It acts as a discussion board, allows student interaction, enables summary posts from longer assignments, and provides a way for me to manage grading large quantities of homework in a time-efficient manner.

Document creation on Classroom is also helpful. I've always liked in-class essays. Students focus better in class, and I can minimize distractions. My department colleagues agree that



Dr. Amelio D'Onofrio

in-class essays are nearly always better than essays from home, and more likely to reflect original work. On Google Classroom, I can assign a writing topic and watch in real time as students craft their essays on Google Docs. I can browse as they write, offer reminders and suggestions, both aloud to the entire class and individually through private, typed comments. Students appreciate the immediate feedback and direction, and I can offer those who need it more help, and let the stronger writers forge ahead with minimal interference.

The option to complete an assignment with AI is tempting to a busy student. I can foster a love of reading, teach the mechanics of writing, and require that students write on Classroom, but I cannot police all work, and students are way beyond me with their technological expertise. I can encourage originality and offer a quiet space conducive to deep thinking, and even try to use ChatGPT to detect ChatGPT, but at some point the responsibility for improving, for doing the hard work, lies with each individual student. Each student has to think for himself, and he has to want to learn what I am trying to teach. Along with tech innovation, I go back to timeless tools. In the manner of Socrates, I have to ask the fundamental questions; specifically, this year I have had to ask my students (and myself), "Is it worth something for you to be able to write a good essay? Do you

want to actually engage: to read books, think about them, and compose intelligent, logical, cohesive responses? Or should we hang 'em up, stop trying, and let ChatGPT do the work?" It heartens me and may surprise some to hear that most of my students think this is still a worthwhile endeavor.

### **DR. AMELIO D'ONOFRIO** *Consulting Psychologist*

I came to 16th Street in the fall of 2019 after 25 years of training doctoral-level psychologists at Fordham University. I left the university after those many years of teaching, supervising, researching, and administration because I wanted to devote myself to being on the "front lines" again. My own experience attending a Jesuit high school was transformative—it changed my life and gave me a direction I could not have imagined at the time. I therefore made the decision to return to Jesuit secondary education so I could give back by helping the next generation of Sons of Xavier navigate the difficult terrain that many young men are experiencing in today's world.

In my work as consulting psychologist, I see students in the

midst of their struggles. Often there's a sense of lostness—a sense of sadness or fear at the pressures they feel in trying to reconcile who they are and who they want to be, while trying to manage expectations of parents, teachers, and society of what it means to be a good person in today's world. On occasion, circumstances are such that some of our young men find themselves stuck amidst these pressures; they find it difficult to see a path forward and lose confidence in being able to manage the challenges that they see ahead. The clinical manifestation of this dynamic plays out as some combination of melancholia or depression and anxiety.

In reflecting on these issues, I have found that my primary role at Xavier, in the most basic sense, has been to embody a sense of hope for the community. What I mean by this is that my presence and day-to-day work is to be a resource that can help guide our students, their parents, and our teachers and administrators, out of a place that may feel dark and narrow to one that enlarges our collective horizon of possibilities. In my 33 years of clinical practice I have come to see over and over again that there is no "mental health" issue or difficult life situation that has to become a crisis and remain so. When we listen in a new way to the young men in our charge, take them seriously, work to understand their perspective, allow ourselves to be witnesses to their struggles, and yet lovingly call them back to their higher selves, they come alive in entirely new ways. They start to see possibilities for themselves they had yet to imagine. They start to create new life scripts and narratives with more hopeful plots. They start to identify strengths they previously ignored thus igniting a renewed confidence in being able to tackle the challenges life presents to us. They start to put into words what they have buried inside and, as they do so, the negative feelings they've carried begin to have less power over their lives. They begin to feel freer and more empowered to imagine new possibilities for themselves. Their motivation increases and they become able to mobilize in more heartfelt ways to meet their newly articulated goals and projects. And, of course, over time, their anxiety and depression begin to lift.

We've accomplished this at Xavier in both implicit and explicit ways. The implicit ways have occurred by addressing issues of school culture. Specifically, by infusing in all our ways of relating and communicating the basic message that it is actually a sign of strength, not weakness, for a student to reach out to a teacher, counselor, or psychologist, and speak with them about their struggles. We follow up that message in more explicit ways by doing school-wide mental health assessments at the beginning of each academic year and as needed, and intervening immediately when we identify students who may be having a difficult time. Additionally, we offer psychoeducational presentations to students, often by grade level, that speak directly to specific developmental or mental health issues relevant to their current situation. For students who may need additional support, we've added psychology trainees to our staff that meet regularly with those students or we've referred them to therapists in the community as appropriate. More than anything else, however, we value the involvement of parents in these processes because, at the end of the day, nothing can replace the love, understanding, acceptance, and support of a student's caring parents and family.



Pat Dormer P'17

### **PAT DORMER P'17** *History Teacher, Track and Field/Cross Country Coach*

I innovate in the classroom by challenging myself to undertake new courses of study. For years, I taught modern history, which started off as post-World War II history, and then I saw a need to change it to more of a modern world history. I changed the focus so students can see themselves as not only citizens of America, but as citizens of the world. As the economy became much more turbulent, I saw the need to bring back economics.

The younger members of the department really pushed me to bring in new ways of addressing documents, construct new assignments, and always look for a fresh approach. I innovate because of my co-workers (particularly my former colleague Megan Everhart and current colleague Steve Haller) and my



Megan Fraker

desire to keep things up-to-date. For me, the pandemic forced me to learn a whole new set of skills. As a result, I'm able to use those skills in the classroom to bring history and economics to life.

In economics, students have become very focused on the subject matter. A lot of the boys leave that class wanting to study finance or business. To see them so engaged makes the class so vibrant.

**MEGAN FRAKER**  
*Director of College Counseling*

The field of college admissions is constantly changing, in particular over the past few years with test-optional admissions becoming more prevalent, and with affirmative action's exit. Our college counseling office continuously innovates in order to best serve our students and families, but the roots of our innovation are grounded in the same vision as St. Ignatius Loyola—to help others.

We seek to build relationships with our students and families through one-on-one meetings; to further relationships with post-secondary institutions by learning how their offices and admissions practices are changing, while continuing to share what makes Xavier graduates unique; and within our broader college counseling community in order to share and learn best practices. By constantly learning and caring for others, we hope to guide our students as they take responsibility for the next chapter of their lives.



Katie McCann

**KATIE MCCANN**  
*Director of Ignatian Service Programs*

Last year, during my first year at Xavier, I found it helpful to observe the school culture and build relationships with students, faculty, staff, and administrators. Everyone has welcomed me in a truly remarkable way that I've come to realize is a hallmark of the Xavier community. Xavier is an amazing place steeped in tradition, so I think innovation could be considered a fraught idea, but our Ignatian identity challenges us to seek the more, the better, the greater good, which does often lead to change. Change can be hard, but it can also be full of beauty and promise.

I'm impressed and grateful to be in a community where so many are committed to service and justice. I've enjoyed my first year on the Xavier Council for Equity, Inclusion, and Diversity (XCEID) and am grateful to all the people in the Xavier community who work towards creating a truly inclusive school community for all its members. Being part of the work of XCEID has been invaluable in gaining more experience to inform the research for my dissertation on inclusive leadership at Jesuit high schools in the Jesuit Schools Network.

Jesuit high schools hold great potential for becoming places of true belonging, and I hope to be part of the kind of innovation that might bring about that lofty ideal of a beloved community.

**RON ROBINSON**  
*Director of Music*

On 16th Street, my approach revolves around four key principles: individualized learning, technology integration, collaboration, and effortless mastery.

I tailor lessons to suit each student's unique musical abilities, learning styles, strengths, and interests, fostering engagement and motivation. Embracing technology, I use cutting-edge software and interactive platforms to enhance music education, preparing students for the modern music landscape.

I prioritize collaboration, creating a supportive environment for students to share ideas, work together on projects, and gain real-world experience. Through ensemble performances and community concerts, students develop interpersonal skills and musical empathy.

Lastly, I encourage students to strive for effortless mastery by connecting them to their inner voice and helping them overcome obstacles, physical or mental. I emphasize focus, liberation, and utilizing body, mind, and soul in music practice, performance, and composition.

With these principles, I empower students to become well-rounded musicians who can shape the future of music innovatively and meaningfully.



Ron Robinson



Photo Credit: Paul Fettes



# Dr. Chester W. Schmidt, Jr. '52

By BRIAN MCCABE P'23

“I have to give back.”

Those were the words Dr. Chester W. Schmidt, Jr. '52 used when he informed Xavier High School of his decision to leave a planned gift to the school in his will. “Xavier students are a special breed,” he said. “It is a challenging education, but you learn how to stay open, stick together, and respect others. In the end, it is about working hard and helping people.”

Known as Chet, Schmidt was born in the Bronx to hard-working, first-generation American parents. Like so many Xavier students of his era, his high school choice was made for him. Schmidt’s uncle, Roy J. Schmidt 1924, and his father, Chester W. Schmidt, Sr. 1926, both graduated from Xavier. A strong commitment to academics and service were instilled as priorities by his parents. Schmidt’s father earned degrees from Fordham University and New York University and served in the Navy during World War II. Since his father worked downtown, Schmidt remembers fondly taking the subway down from Fordham Road to 16th Street with his father each morning. Chet Schmidt was destined to be a Son of Xavier from the start, and he never looked back.

Schmidt quickly discovered that commuting from the Bronx was the easy part of his education. He describes himself as a small kid who loved sports but never made the cut. Xavier’s academics were rigorous, but he remembers how much extra help the Jesuit scholastics provided to students. He highlights the tutoring system they set up on weekends for Xavier students who wanted to be pre-med in college as an act of kind service that influenced his life. As an active Episcopalian, he was one of the few non-Catholics in his class year. However, Schmidt said he never felt like an outsider or unwelcome. “We were all in it together. Only at Xavier!”

The Regiment was his primary home. He was promoted to Major in his senior year and became the head of the Drum and Bugle Corps. “Swinging up Fifth Avenue for all the major parades and leading 1,000 guys to a special Mass at [St. Patrick’s] Cathedral were just

terrific experiences,” he recalled. “There was nothing like it!” Fr. Matthews, a Jesuit assigned to work with the Drum and Bugle Corps, made a particularly strong impression on Schmidt. “He was fun, a good teacher, and he taught us how to dance. Cadets were pressed into mixers at other schools in our fancy dress uniforms in those days. The dancing tips really helped.”

The lessons he learned on 16th Street defined the man he was to become. Schmidt carried his work ethic to Johns Hopkins University, where he earned his bachelor’s and medical degrees while playing varsity football and lacrosse (sports he did not play at Xavier). He served as a Captain in the Army Medical Corps and completed a residency in medicine at Stanford University Hospital. Schmidt later served as a member of the Johns Hopkins faculty and hospital administration for 60 years before retiring at the age of 85. In 2012, he was awarded the Lifetime Service Award from the Maryland Psychiatric Society. Most of all, he savors his time with his two daughters and four grandchildren.

Schmidt’s life has been shaped by people who did their best to give him opportunities to succeed, from parents to priests to fellow students. His response has been a lifelong dedication to taking care of others, working to make contributions to the common good, and passing on what he has learned to the next generation of bright, eager young people. It is no wonder that he officially joined the Larkin Legacy Society by naming Xavier in his will after he completed a day of service at Xavier’s most recent Career Day for members of the junior class.

His gift will help to ensure that the values that matter most to him—gratitude, respect, service, and hard work—will remain strong for years to come. Chet Schmidt isn’t only giving back; he is paying it forward.

*Brian McCabe P'23 is Xavier's Director of Engagement and Planned Giving. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees at Saint Peter's University.*





# All of our contributions make a difference.

Listed below are options to consider when making your gift.



### CASH OR CHECK

Gifts may be made by cash or check, payable to Xavier High School.



### CREDIT CARD

Credit card gifts may be made by visiting [xavierhs.org/give](http://xavierhs.org/give), sending in an Annual Fund donation card complete with your credit card information, or calling the Advancement Office at 212-337-7633.



### VENMO

Gifts may be made on Venmo @xavierhs. Please include your full name, class year, or other Xavier affiliation in the notes.



### STOCKS OR SECURITIES

A gift of appreciated stock generally offers a two-fold tax saving: avoiding capital gains tax on the increase in value of the stock and providing an income tax deduction for the full market value of the stock at the time of the gift. Gifts of stock are valued at the mean price on the date of transfer to Xavier. Stock donations should be transferred directly by your broker to Xavier's brokerage account at Vanguard. For your convenience, visit [xavierhs.org/stock](http://xavierhs.org/stock) and fill out the form to notify Xavier of the stock gift, or contact Shane Lavin '03 ([lavins@xavierhs.org](mailto:lavins@xavierhs.org) or 212-337-7611) or Thomas Nugent '09 ([nugentt@xavierhs.org](mailto:nugentt@xavierhs.org) or 212-337-7633) with the details as soon as the gift is made or instructions are sent to your broker. This will ensure proper and timely crediting of the donation to your gift record and avoid any confusion as to the origin of the gift.



### MATCHING GIFTS

Many employers will match employees' donations. This opportunity presents an additional source of income for Xavier and an easy way to leverage your gift into a larger donation. To find out if your company participates in a matching gift program, check with your human resources department or go to [xavierhs.org/give](http://xavierhs.org/give), click on Employer Gift Matching, and search for your employer.

Donors must initiate the matching gift process, so be sure to secure the proper forms to forward with your gift to Xavier. Donors are given credit for their original gift and any matching gift they secure.



### PLANNED GIFTS

Donors may consider giving through such means as life insurance, bequests, or charitable trusts. Gift planning can be a way to reduce or avoid estate and inheritance taxes. We encourage you to speak with your financial planner when considering any type of planned gift.

Xavier is pleased to provide you, your attorney, or tax advisor with additional information and assistance. Keep in mind that this information is general in nature. Always contact your professional tax advisor to learn how this general information relates to your individual circumstances. We are grateful for your philanthropic support.

For more information, please visit <http://xavierlarkinsociety.org> or contact Brian McCabe P'23, Director of Engagement and Planned Giving, at 212-924-7900, ext. 1617 or [mccabeb@xavierhs.org](mailto:mccabeb@xavierhs.org).



## SUMMER RECEPTIONS



1. Parents, friends, and Sons of Xavier on Cape Cod. 2. Dan Denihan '65 and Tony Costantini '64 in Quogue. 3. Martin Brennan '66 and the late James Keenan, S.J. in Belle Harbor. 4. Shane Lavin '03, Jessica Rivas, and Sal Rivas '03 at Point Lookout. 5. Dan Cronin '63, John Draghi '63 P'04, and Mike Greason '83 in Quogue. 6. Su Robotti, Rich Scheller '74, Bob Robotti '71, Rob Thorburn '93, and Zane Massey '96 P'22 on the Jersey Shore. 7. Joe Ingersoll '55 P'82, Rosemarie Ingersoll P'82, Peg Whelan, and Pat Whelan '66 at Point Lookout. 8. Jack Raslowsky, Rob Thorburn '93, Harrison Thorburn, and Brian McCabe P'23 on the Jersey Shore. 9. Jack Raslowsky with current and prospective students in Belle Harbor.



# Why We Give

By GENE SCHAFER AND JANE KING P'25

Education can change people's lives. It can help them focus on who they are, hone their skills, and learn about the world. We believe Xavier helps build this character in its young men.

It is well-known that it takes human energy and work to provide this to the Sons of Xavier, but it also takes money. We choose to donate to Xavier to help bring these important life lessons to young men. The world is getting more competitive and more confusing. In times such as these, young people need to learn the word of God. Xavier students come from all different faiths, and even no faith, but Xavier exposes the young men to the timeless truths of the Bible. These young people will face all kinds of challenges, temptations, and ambiguous decisions in their lives, but having the base of the Bible—learned at Xavier—can help them make the best decisions for themselves and for society.

Xavier's academics are also rigorous. Some schools have chosen to reduce this rigor in recent years, but Xavier believes young men can handle the work and the grit that it takes to truly understand oneself and gain the self-confidence to solve problems. Xavier understands the transition from middle school to high school can be challenging and exciting and lays the groundwork for that to be as smooth as possible. Our son is reading classic novels, modern books, and international writings. He is also learning technology that spans from robotics to 3D modeling and coding. Xavier makes sure its young men develop a core knowledge of the technologies and industries of the future.

Xavier also excels at sports. The school offers more than 19 athletic options so that students can compete, bond with teammates, and realize the importance of lifelong physical activity. Xavier's teams are

competitive as well, winning championships. Our son's coaches not only instill a competitive spirit but also build character. Our son once told us that cross country has taught him to "dig deep," even when his calves are burning. Xavier sports create lifetime friendships.

Xavier also offers a multitude of clubs for the young men. The clubs give the boys a chance to explore a variety of interests. The clubs may spark an interest or a talent that students never knew they had. Clubs also provide a social and learning experience and a place where kids can innovate and experiment.

Our son also participated for two years in the JROTC program. In this program, he learned family budgeting, which is, unfortunately, not taught enough in high schools. He also participated in the New York City St. Patrick's Day parade and other special events. Again, at Xavier these programs are so much more than what they seem on the surface. They broaden one's experience on the journey into adulthood.

The dress code at Xavier may seem anachronistic to some, but we think it shows respect for education. It also teaches young men how to dress properly for different situations and show respect for themselves and others.

We donate to Xavier because we believe in the future, and we believe Xavier molds men who can march into the future with confidence—and a legacy.

*Gene Schafer, a certified athletic trainer, is the founder of ARC Athletics Tribeca. Jane King, a journalist, is the founder and CEO of LilaMax Media. They live in Manhattan with their children, Lila and Max '25.*



### ABOUT THIS REPORT

Xavier High School's *Annual Report* celebrates gifts made to 16th Street during the 2023 fiscal year, from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023.

Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of this report. If an error or omission has been made, please accept our apologies and notify the Advancement Office at 212-337-7633.

