

THE EAGLE REVIEW

WINTER/FALL 2023 EDITION

FROM ENCYCLOPEDIAS TO MULTIMEDIA

Get an inside look at how St. Peter's transformed an aging library into an all-new \$350,000 student center.

Featured story on page 3

#EaglesEndure

From the PRESIDENT'S DESK

Dear Friends,

As we reminisce on the warm and sacred glow of the holidays, my heart is filled with gratitude and a deep connection to our cherished community. I pray you, too, have felt the unique joy of the season.

This is a time for reflection of our blessings. It is a time when the halls of St. Peter's Boys High School echo with the camaraderie of students, past and present, in celebration of the gift that we have found each other and that we should be so fortunate to celebrate this holy season as one St. Peter's family.

Christmastime holds significance for St. Peter's. It is a season that not only marks the birth of Christ but also illustrates the enduring bond that unites us all through the traditions we hold dear. From the Nativity and tree lighting to service projects that extend a helping hand to those in need, these moments we have shared embody the values that define us.

As we venture into this new year, I am grateful to know we'll continue on with the gracious support of alumni, staff and our larger community that has been a source of strength and guidance. May the days ahead bring you moments of peace, love and joy, with kindness and gratitude for one another.

God bless,



John A. Fodera

JOHN A. FODERA '62
President
Principal, 1991–2017



Live Jesus in our hearts... Forever!

LET'S BE SOCIAL

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From the Desk of **PRINCIPAL COSENTINO**

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we begin another calendar year, I am glad to share that we do so with lots to celebrate. I am excited to share some of this with you here.

For starters, we welcomed the next generation of prospective Eagles at our October 2023 Open House. This event brought in a great crowd of seventh- and eighth-graders who left the campus excited about life at St. Peter's.

Speaking of the next generation, the TACHS exam results for next school year's freshmen look very promising! I look forward to witnessing them achieve greatness, like our 12 students who were named Soaring Eagles in October for their performance in the classroom.

Seniors eagerly await college acceptance letters, while underclassmen are exploring new academic offerings. Those in our Engineering Tomorrow program, launched last September, have engaged in incredible project-based lessons on bridges, renewable energy, bioinformatics and phototherapy. Meanwhile, alum Anthony Gonzalez '07 has taken over our computer programming, STEAM and art and music classes.

Our student-athletes have seen victory across all arenas, and the future looks just as bright. Varsity and JV football concluded a very successful season, finishing 8-3. This is one of the best records in school history, with the team winning more games this past season than the last four years combined. Best of all, five varsity players were named 1st Team All-League in the CHSFL, while junior Jeremiah Williams was awarded "Offensive Player of the Year."

Cross Country saw much success, with freshmen taking first place in the Fordham Invitational and the All Hallows Invitational, third in the SI Championship and fourth in the NY Archdiocesan championship. Congratulations to sophomore Dennis Corson who took first overall individual in the All Hallows Invitational!

Our Thanksgiving Eve pep rally was a memorable event led by student council moderator, freshman basketball coach and first-year teacher Jake DeForest '14. As always, the faculty-student game, three-point and dunk contests, and half-court shot were well

worth the anticipation. The energy led to huge wins versus Curtis that night. Congrats to coaches Ryan Woods '07, Matt Genovese '08 and Jake DeForest '14, who are all off to a great start with dominant wins during the Thanksgiving break.

And, of course, we look forward to many more successes across our athletics program. At the time of writing, our soccer team finished 3-6-3 and are very hopeful for the future. St. Peter's bowling is currently undefeated and ranked first in Staten Island. Eagles Hockey is off to a 3-1 start in divisional play, and wrestling hosted and won their first home meet on their brand-new mats against LI Lutheran and Frisch HS.

We have also made great efforts in the community. Our Annual Blood Drive was a huge success, with over 87 students and faculty donating blood. Additionally, "No Shave December" raised more than \$3,000 for the American Cancer Society, while the Thanksgiving food drive and turkey giveaway served many Staten Island families.

At the time of writing, our annual toy drive and pajama and winter hat collections are underway. Special thanks to Brother Ed Shields, who presented to all grades at this year's Lasallian Youth conference.

We have just as much to look forward to, as well. This includes a personal favorite event, the Alumni Lecture Series. This special annual series returns with Greg Pedro's '83 inspiring autobiographical presentation. Would you like to join us? All alumni are welcome to present. Don't hesitate to contact us.

As always, thank you for your support. It is a blessing to share these exciting happenings with you all.

God bless,



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Michael Cosentino".

MICHAEL COSENTINO '03
Principal
Live Jesus in our Hearts...Forever!

FEATURED STORY



From Encyclopedias to Multimedia

*See inside new \$350,000
student center at St. Peter's Boys
High School*

Article published in Staten Advanced by Annalise Knudson, 9/19/23

(All photos courtesy of Staten Island Advance/Kara Buzga)



St. Peter's Boys High School has transformed its former library space into a dedicated student center for club meetings, tutoring, group and individual study, and guest speakers.

Virtual learning during the coronavirus (COVID-19) introduced more students to online work, and both President John Fodera and Principal Michael Cosentino recognized a need for a new space for students at the New Brighton high school to be able to better utilize technology. According to the school leaders, the former library — located on the third floor and overlooking the school's football field — was filled with rows of books that students rarely used.

"We felt the need — that kids weren't using, with the advancement of technology and using laptops as research, the library books and



things were kind of outdated and weren't being used as much," said Cosentino. "So once we started moving to laptops where kids could research and obviously use the internet for those things, it was kind of apparent that we had to make a change here in the library."

With all funds raised by alumni — for a total of \$350,000 — the design and construction phase began last school year. Now, a year later, students are using the space more than ever before.

"The entire room changed," said senior Joseph Puca. "This used to be library shelves. They've definitely upgraded the Wi-Fi in here ... It's quiet and a good place to just do your work."

The space was upgraded to include new triangular desks and chairs to make it simple to reorganize the area for independent or group

FEATURED STORY

work. The space is separated into two rooms — with accordion glass doors that allow for both spaces to be used.

Puca, who is also Student Council vice president, said the space is now used for weekly morning meetings for the council.

Cosentino said the space is open for students to use before school, during their lunch period and after school for tutoring programs. The separate portion of the room — set up like a classroom with a Smart Board — could also be used for tutoring, for small classes and college visits. Students can also use the space for Educere, a program that offers more than 5,000 virtual courses for college credit. Cosentino said the room can also be used for alumni events.

"With the student center, they feel like they can go up and almost educate themselves," said Fodera. "They have a very good sense of independence coming here."



Editor's Note

St. Peter's Boys High School would like to thank the Staten Island Advance for their continued dedication to the school and alumni. Their coverage of our activities both on and off campus is invaluable.



THANK YOU

to our Lasallian Sustainers!

Because of you, St. Peter's Boys High School is able to continue providing promising young men with a path toward greatness. Thank you for being part of our Lasallian legacy.

Chris Altieri '83	Michael Cosentino '03	David Hansen '78	Thomas McGoeey '64
Peter Antonucci '82	David Cutolo '85	Charles Heffernan '61	Rich Spisto '67
Charles Blaich '63	Joseph Damitz '61	Michael Hession '11	Robert Stone '61
Marcin Boryszewski '14	Michael Deignan '84	Vincent Innocente '08	Stumpf Family '21
Robert Bress '96	William DiSalvio '68	Bill Jochym '68	David Turner '00
James Brown '92	Freund Family '24	Charles A. Kuffner '54	James West* '09, '12
Castronovo Family '21	Rosanne Gilroy* '85, '87, '92	Edward Malone '57	

**Parent of graduate(s)*

Interested in joining your St. Peter's brothers to be part of this integral program?

Contact the Advancement Office today at 718-447-1676 ext.228.

If you are a Lasallian Sustainer and do not see your name, we apologize and ask that you please contact us at your earliest convenience.

FLYING HIGH

Updates from St. Peter's Athletic Department



St. Peter's Frank Langello (52) is joined by fellow senior captains Joe Jakubouskas (8), Joe Laureano (88), Liam McBratney (9) and Matt Sweeney (3) prior to a game at Moore Catholic earlier this season. (Staten Island Advance/Jason Paderon)

Here's why St. Peter's Frank Langello 'forced' his coaches to play him on both sides of the line

Excerpts from article published in Staten Island Advance by Charlie De Biase Jr., 11/07/23

St. Peter's varsity football coach Mark DeCristoforo makes his desire to start 22 different players no secret but understands the difficulty of actually making it happen.

"With the larger roster we have this season, our main goal was to have 22 starters," he said. "But for various reasons, it's not always possible."

Injuries, of course, are one of the main roadblocks. Then there's the case of **Frank Langello**, a senior interior lineman. The three-year varsity player was slotted to play right guard on the offensive line since the team started preparing for the 2023 season.

DeCristoforo believed the six-foot-one, 250-pound Langello would see some action on the D-Line as well, but in recent weeks —

actually, for the better part of the last month — he has seen a major increase in PT as a defensive end. This was especially true during the Eagles' 40-20 CHSFL AA-1 quarterfinal victory over Fordham Prep.

According to the head coach, Langello forced the coaching staff's hand to get him more reps on the defensive side of the ball while still playing every snap on offense.

"Frank has made it difficult for us to not play him on defense, if that makes any sense," laughed the 10th-year coach. "In the beginning of the season, he wasn't seeing as much time on defense as we tried to have different starters at every position, but he was always making something happen when he did play, whether it be a sack, a



St. Peter's senior Frank Langello, middle left, blue uniform, has started at right guard from day one this season, but has seen increased time at defensive end as well. (Staten Island Advance/Annie De Biase)

hurry or tackle for a loss. We just felt that he needed to be out there (on both sides of the ball).

"He's our only guy who starts on both lines," said DeCristoforo.

In the fall of 2021, DeCristoforo made a decision to bring no sophomores to varsity as he wanted them to gel with the freshmen on the junior varsity. Midway through the season, however, the Eagles needed bodies and Langello and current starting safety **Brody Turnbull** — then, only a freshman — were promoted to varsity.

Langello was made a full-time starter on the offensive line a few games into last season and, according to the coach, during the off-season, he matured into a true leader and has never looked back.

"He's one of our senior captains who went through some bad times the last two seasons," said the coach, whose team is 8-2 overall this year after winning a combined seven games the last four seasons.

"He did his job last year, but I don't think he wanted the added responsibility of being a leader. He's now one of the guys who took on the leadership role as soon as we started preparing for this season. He's vocal, works hard and leads by example and really, just irreplaceable as a leader."

He's been instrumental as well on the O-Line. Langello has teamed with fellow offensive linemen **Gabriel Hoffler**, **Chris Bonifacio**, **Logan Kielty** and **James Howard** to pave the way for a pair of 1,000-yard rushers in junior running back **Jeremiah Williams** and junior quarterback **Marco Aruta** for the first time in program history.

Langello has put his stamp on that accomplishment.

"The scheme we currently use plays to his strengths," explained DeCristoforo of his right guard. "We're now a zone team and he's a kid that can run and knock you off the ball. He's not 6-4 and 315 pounds, but our schemes call for (blocking on) angles and quickness and Frank really fits right into that."

The Eagles rushed for a whopping 324 yards and four rushing TDs against the Rams. They also shut out the Bronx school in the second half. Langello was right in the midst of the production on both sides of the ball but, unfortunately, had to exit late with a knee injury. He was initially helped off by teammates, but later was able to put pressure on his leg and walk on his own.

Fate drew St. Peter's Chris Ledlum to becoming the highly touted player he is today

Article published in Staten Advanced by Annie DeBiase, 10/15/23

If you were to ask Chris Ledlum when he started to play basketball, you'd probably expect an answer of around five or six years old, when most kids start to play CYO or in intramural leagues.

And you'd be wrong.

Ledlum, who is poised to begin his first and only season at St. John's University after a highly successful career at Harvard University, only started playing organized basketball as a high school freshman eight years ago.

"Going into high school, I thought I was just going to play football and maybe even baseball," said the 22-year-old, who played varsity basketball for St. Peter's for two years before transferring to prep school Northfield Mount Hermon for his senior year. "At that point, I only played basketball with family members, but never anything that was organized.

"As I played more and more, I started to fall in love with basketball. But I really had no clue what I was getting into."

During his time at St. Peter's, Ledlum helped the Eagles win a pair of SIHSL Tournament varsity crowns and averaged 20.3 points and 9.0 rebounds as a junior en route to being named the SIHSL South Division Player of the Year in 2018. Furthermore, during his one season at

Northfield, he led the Gill, Mass., school to the 2019 NEPSAC Championship and was named the 2019 Gatorade Massachusetts Player of the Year in the process. To cap it off, he set single-season (939) and single-game (51) scoring records at NMH before committing to Harvard University.

"I think my best attribute in the game is being able to do whatever is needed," commented Ledlum, who averaged 18.8 points, 8.5 rebounds, and 1.8 steals as a senior for the Crimson.

"I can be an offensive player, give a big boost to our defense, just about anything that's needed for any given game."

Now the unanimous First Team All-Ivy League selection, who led the prestigious division in rebounding and scored a career-high 35 points along with 13 rebounds and six steals as a senior, is set to play for St. John's University this season.

"I'm very excited for the upcoming season; I mean, this is a brand new team from top-to-bottom," said the Brooklyn native, whose family currently resides in South Beach. "We have Rick



Staten Islander Chris Ledlum, a highly sought-after transfer from Harvard University who is poised to begin his final collegiate basketball season at St. John's University, only began playing the sport as a high school freshman. Above, he is pictured in Caransecca Arena in Queens. (Staten Island Advance/Annie DeBiase)



Pitino, who is obviously a historical coach, and 12 new players out of 14 between the transfers and the freshmen. However, we've really bonded together over the last few months and I think our ability and willingness to play together, especially in such a short amount of time, will be really big for us."

Speaking of Pitino, who most recently coached Iona College for three seasons and had a 64-22 record with the Gaels, fans might be surprised to know that this is not the first encounter Ledlum has had with the storied coach.

Harvard and Iona played each other twice through the years, including in 1994 and 2021. In the latter year, Ledlum tied for the game-high with 28 points alongside five rebounds and an assist in a 90-87 overtime loss to the Gaels.

However, while the Crimson may have lost that game, it was only the beginning for Ledlum and Pitino.

"Something that I definitely thought about when I was being recruited was how Coach Pitino coached his team during that game," said Ledlum, who was a junior at the time. "He's one of those coaches who is hard and tough, but it was clear that he loved and trusted his players by the way he coached against me."

And, according to Ledlum, the 71-year-old coach remembers that game vividly as well.

"It's funny, you know, because we joke about it together every now and then," laughed the 6-foot-6, 225-pound guard/forward. "He remembered me very well and knew that I was a tough player that he wanted on his team. And, at the end of the day, he has the last say because he did get that overtime win."

Some would remark, in fact, Pitino's "say" benefitted Ledlum in more ways than one way. While the player was previously committed to play for Tennessee in April before re-entering the transfer portal in July, signing with the Red Storm less than a week after, now the grad student is less than an hour from home. In fact, Ledlum has already been at a number of events on the Island since returning home, including watching his younger brother Aiden play his senior season of football for the Eagles.

"I mean, being able to come home when I wanted to was just the icing on the cake," said Ledlum. "Coach Pitino and the program at St. John's was, of course, the main reason I made this decision, but it's also really great that I'm able to see my friends and family."

"Everything just aligned and worked out perfectly, and I'm able to have the best of both worlds here."

Now, with less than a month before the season commences, the graduate student is focused on team goals and getting ready for his next steps after college.

"To be honest, my personal goals and our team goals are kind of the same. We all want to win the Big East championship

this year and, God-willing, a national championship, but that all comes from winning games," acknowledged Ledlum, who is looking to make an appearance in the NCAA Tournament for the first time in his collegiate career. "I think I have a good chance to start and play, but that's not something I'm worried about at the end of the day. The biggest thing is getting to practice every day and getting better."

"As long as we win the games we need to win and keep the collective goal in mind, I'll be able to reach all of my personal goals during the year and after the season ends," he concluded. "One of my goals is to play in the NBA, and being here will help me towards achieving that. I'm very excited for what's to come."



Ex-St. Peter's star Chris Ledlum (30) played for the Eagles during his sophomore and junior seasons before transferring to North Mount Hermon for his senior year. During his time at St. Peter's, Ledlum led the Eagles to a pair of SIHSL varsity crowns and averaged 20.3 points and 9.0 rebounds as a junior. (Staten Island Advance)

BASKETBALL

St. Peter's Hoops Previews 2023-24

Article published in Staten Island Advance by Charlie De Biase Jr., 11/12/23

Head coach: Ryan Woods, second season

2022-23 record: 18-9 overall

Players to watch: Qadir Martin (6-6, Sr.); Michael Spisto (5-9, Sr.); Jalen Munson (5-11, Sr.); Jorel Monroe (6-5, Sr.); Antonio Morello (5-10, Sr.); Maddox LaPierre (6-4, Sr.); Jack Clancy (6-2, Jr.); Talib Martin (6-5, Fr.).

Outlook: Big man **Qadir Martin**, point guard **Michael Spisto** and slasher **Jalen Munson** have an abundance of varsity experience and are each returning starters from last season's SIHSL Tournament championship squad. Martin, the reigning co-Jaques Award winner, averaged 16.4 points per game last season but was also a dominant rebounder and shot-blocker for the Eagles.

"We're really happy with the progression (Martin) made over the summer and believe he expanded his game by now possessing a better outside shot and more of a leadership aspect as well," said coach Ryan Woods. "His defensive presence in the paint allows our other guys to deny on the wings and just be more aggressive overall. He's a game-changer."

Spisto and Munson averaged 8.6 and 6.2 points per game a year ago, respectively, and combined for 30 shots from behind the arc, and Woods believes their improved perimeter shooting could help those statistics go up.

"(Spisto) is our quarterback out there — he makes us go and he's a ball hawk defensively. But not only does he find guys for baskets, he's worked on his jumper," said Woods. "(Munson) has also improved his outside shooting too, but still has the capability to finish through traffic, and he's also a tough defender as well."



St. Peter's Qadir Martin (2), the co-winner of the 2022-23 Jaques Award, was a dominant defender last season. (Staten Island Advance/Annie De Biase)

Another guard, senior **Antonio Morello**, was a part of STP's rotation last season and is poised to land a starting job. "He's a steady, heady guard who also shoots it well," said the coach. "He'll get a significant bump in playing time. He's tough, gives us another ball-handler and plays with an edge."

Seniors **Jorel Monroe** and **Maddox LaPierre** give the Eagles some size, additional perimeter options and will be counted on to do their share of rebounding. "Jorel stretches the floor, can hit an open



WHAT'S GOING ON *at our Alma Mater?*

three and drive to the basket, but we're also going to look for him to rebound," said Woods. "Same thing with (LaPierre). He's another good athlete who can shoot it well, but we need him to fill the stat sheet, including rebounding."

Jack Clancy, who was the Eagles' leading scorer on JV last season, has made a smooth transition to varsity and is expected to get his share of minutes as a junior. "(Clancy) shoots the ball exceptionally well. We know he can score, but he's also focused and committed — including defensively — and that's going to help us."

Talib Martin, Qadir's younger brother, becomes only the second St. Peter's player ever to make varsity as a freshman (**Stephen Mitchell**, the Eagles' all-time leading scorer, was the first between 1996-99). "He's long and rangy and he can provide a spark for us off the bench," said the coach. "Again, just like the others, we need him to rebound and defend."



Senior guard Jalen Munson is a returning starter for St. Peter's. (Staten Island Advance/Annie De Biase)

International Lasallian Days for Peace

To end our celebration of the International Lasallian Days for Peace 2023, our young men lined up in a cross on the football field to pray for worldwide peace.



Psychological Profiles of a Criminal

Mr. Barbarino's 2023 forensics class has had a tremendous time exploring their "Psychological Profiles of a Criminal" lesson throughout this school year.



ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

Joseph "Joe" Skratt '50

Joseph "Joe" Skratt '50 was born in 1933 in the heart of Staten Island. Alongside the Sisters of St. Dorothy Elementary School, Joe began his journey of faith at a young age, graduating in 1946 as part of a class of just nine girls and seven boys.

As our school's first Canadian Eagle, Joseph's St. Peter's journey began on the then Richmond Terrace campus where he studied under the guidance of Lasallian brothers. This was a unique experience, perhaps unbeknownst to many alumni, as the brothers are now notably absent from our grounds.

Joe recalls this time with fondness. Like many, it was here where Joe thrived, taking inspiration from mentors, like his favorite teacher, Br. Richard, who not only served as a scholarly guide but also helped pave the way for his future.

Following his graduation, Joe's path led to Cornell for a time. Eventually, he returned to his family's dairy farm on Lake Ontario, where he and his brothers worked the land and relished the rewarding simplicity of farm life.

After a stint with a local newspaper, a nudge from his mother steered Joe toward a year at a teacher's college. Following graduation, he married and became a Canadian citizen. He then embarked on his 22-year teaching career at St. Gregory's Elementary School, where he devoted himself to guiding children in the ways of the Lord.

Having left his mark on the students and communities he has served, Joe is finding bliss with well-deserved rest and relaxation alongside his wife of 58 years. Now enjoying the serene pastures of golf courses, he holds strong to his faith and continues to attend mass every Saturday or Sunday.

Reflecting on his years at St. Peter's, Joe fondly recalls the strong emphasis on religion in every class.

"The faith my teachers instilled during those formative years was a true blessing," he shared.

"St. Peter's, its teachings and my fellow classmates remain a guiding light to this day."

Joe mentioned that he still thinks about the connections made during his time at our school and that he "admires the teachers for keeping me with the Lord."

As he watches new generations enter and exit our school's hallowed halls, he wishes for them to keep faith at the forefront of their pursuits. After all, it has helped him shape a life he smiles back on each day.



EAGLES *out and* ABOUT



Richie LaGrotta

Class of '10

Congratulations to Richie LaGrotta for finishing the 2023 NYC Marathon in 3:10:37.



Marco Chirico **Class of '06**

Marco Chirico, chef and owner of Enoteca & Marco Polo restaurants, was honored by the Brooklyn Borough President and received a proclamation for Italian heritage and culture.



Greg Siller **Class of '99**

Congratulations to Greg Siller who finished the 2023 NYC Marathon in 4:13:38.



Jimmy Rober

Class of '05

Jimmy Rober has embarked on the newest chapter of his career in education by accepting a teaching position at I.S. 25.



Thomas McLaughlin

Class of '10

Congratulations to Thomas and Claudia McLaughlin on their wedding celebration



Bob Haspen **Class of '79**

Bob Haspen attended a wedding with his wife Barbara and family.



EAGLES *out and* ABOUT

Dennis Lormel & Tony D'Anna

Class of '69

Dennis Lormel and Tony D'Anna collaborated on compliance training sessions for senior bankers on "Geopolitics & Terrorism" on Nov. 1, 2023.



Billy Dowd **Class of '07**

Congratulations to Theresa and Billy Dowd on the birth of their son Connor William on Oct. 29, 2023.



Jerry Burt **Class of '89**

Congratulations to Jerry Burt on being named the new Lt. Governor of the Metropolitan Division of Kiwanis.



Joe Cocozello **Class of '91**

Joe Cocozello, principal of Blessed Sacrament School, with his students serving Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral NYC.



James Connolly **Class of '10**

James Connolly and his wife and daughter went pumpkin picking.



Rory Blake **Class of '79**

Congratulations to Rory and Caity Blake on the birth of their son, Carter James, over the summer.





Enzo Villani *Class of '88*

Enzo and Donna Villani visited Paris, France with their children.



Sandy Gennaro

Class of '69

Sandy and Shari Gennaro celebrated their 33rd Wedding anniversary.



Vincent Innocente & Daljit Ahluwalia

Class of '08 & '03

Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre roasted Staten Island's beloved 'piano man,' Vincent Innocente. Mr. Frank Cafaro and Daljit Ahluwalia '03 joined in on the fun.



Cliff Hagen & Michael Mulgrew

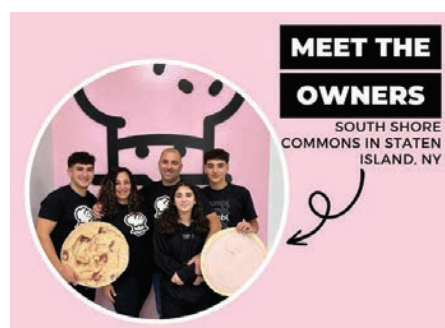
Class of '84 & '83

Cliff Hagen was honored as a recipient of the 2023 Marsh/Raimo Award for my political advocacy on behalf of the United Federation of Teachers. He received the award from fellow Eagle alumnus, Michael Mulgrew.



Robert Tarantino *Class of '93*

Robert, Aimee Tarantino and family are excited to bring family and friends together with their opening of Crumbl Cookies in Staten Island! Cookies at Crumbl are baked fresh daily with a weekly rotating menu.



EAGLES *out and* ABOUT

Manny Burgos

Class of '85

Manny Burgos was honored with the Lasallian Spirit Award for Educational Excellence at Saint John Paul II Academy in Boca Raton, Fla.



Jim, John & Terrence Engles

Class of '86, '72 & '03

Jim, John, Terrence and Mr. Engles met up for the 2023 St. Peter's Basketball Golf Outing.



Charlie Heffernan & Jack Muraca

Class of '61 & '86

Charlie Heffernan celebrated his 80th birthday with St. Peter's director of alumni Jack Muraca in Portsmouth, RI.



Richard Conti ***Class of '73***

Richard Conti was honored to receive the Albany County Young Democrats' "Forever Young Democrat Award" at their Sept. 18, 2023, Installation Reception. The award was given in recognition of his years of public service as a member of the Albany Common Council.



WHERE ARE YOU?

Hey Eagles! We know moving has a lot of components already, but please remember to let us know your new address and contact information to stay in the loop on all things St. Peter's. Our current database has a number of outdated addresses, so ask your friends and fellow alumni to send current addresses to communications@stpetersboyshs.org.

ALUMNI REUNIONS



Class of '83 Reminisce Together at 40th-Anniversary Celebration

Mike Fogarty and Kevin Scully from St. Peter's Boys and Laura Shoemaker from St. Peter's Girls High Schools teamed up this year to organize the Class of '83's 40-year reunion. The group of Alumni and Alumnae celebrated this major milestone at the Staaten.



ALUMNI REUNIONS

Class of '73 Traverses the Globe

to Reconnect at 50-Year Class Reunion

Tom Rigney and Ed Whitehouse rounded up their classmates from across the states and as far away as Spain to celebrate their 50-year reunion at the Staaten. Half-a-decade of memories were shared and many new ones were made as old friends reunited for this special occasion.



Class of '98 Comes Home

to Celebrate Football Win and 25th-Anniversary

After a soaring victory at our homecoming football game, the class of 1998 topped off the weekend with their 25-year reunion at The Kettle Black Restaurant. We could not think of a better way to celebrate this major milestone!

FEATURED ALUMNI



At Vincent Innocente's Roast at LiGreci's Staaten, are, from the left, Lillian Lagazzo, Vincent Innocente, Cara S. Liander, rear, and Chris Campbell.
(Staten Island Advance/Carol Ann Benanti)

Uproarious laughter and stinging puns:

Check out Vincent Innocente's fun and fab roast at LiGreci's Staaten

Article published in Staten Advanced by Carol Ann Benanti, 11/09/23

They arrived early, ready to serve up a sumptuous feast of sarcastic puns and stinging insults — satirical moments that would reign supreme throughout the evening.

For those who haven't heard — and we can't image who hasn't — Vincent Innocente was roasted and toasted to perfection and was the brunt of jokes and innocent ridicule during a "really big" night staged at LiGreci's Staaten.

Headlining as roasters were a playful group of Staten Island officials, community leaders, family members and friends who wouldn't have missed a chance to sear Innocente, offer some quick puns, jokes

and fun riddles — and even expose his innermost secrets.

And the best part was that the facetious tribute, which sizzled with both hilarious and tender moments, doubled as a fundraiser for the Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre (SIST), a company that presents the works of Shakespeare and other classical theatre

On a serious note — or make that the calm before the storm — Frank Williams, the producing artistic director of the Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre, opened the event with heartfelt comments from the podium:

"One of the greatest elements about being artistic director of the SIST is the sense of stewardship and being part of its almost 50-year history," he noted. "When we were created in 1975 with the mission to bring high quality Shakespearean, classical and original theatre to the residents of Staten Island . . . no one thought we would last. But here we are. Here we stand today, 48 years later, and more than 300 productions later, through high times and low times on the brink of having a dark stage forever, times of unbelievable tenacity, survival and achievement in the face of adversity and sometimes even world crisis."

Cara S. Liander, chair of the board of directors of the Staten Island Shakespearean Theater, thanked the evening's sponsors.

"I just wanted to express how grateful we are to have everyone here tonight and both Northfield Bank and the Executive Club of Staten Island here as our evening's Night's Dream event sponsors," she said. "Northfield Bank and the Northfield Bank Foundation have been monumental supporters of our organization. And the Joe Sef Foundation is here also as a Lear Dinner Sponsor... Your love and support and belief in our mission allow us to tend to our theatre company and plant the seeds to grow each year. And, boy, is the Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre growing each year.

"Tonight, we are honoring Vincent Innocente," Liander continued. "They say we only roast the ones they love, but tonight we said, 'screw it,'" she quipped.

FEATURED ALUMNI

WHAT THE ROASTERS HAD TO SAY...

JOHN CASTELLANO

"We are part of Vinnie's senior citizens group. Every time someone dies, he's got a picture of them on Facebook. So stay away from taking pictures with him. He's a huge wrestling fan and a huge Billy Joel fan. When he sees a piano, he plays for everyone. That's why they began putting locks on pianos. He's such a beautiful guy. I adore him. This is one of the hardest things I've had to do. I love you and thank you for having me play with you. We could talk about people for hours. My life is better because you are in it."

JENNIFER SAMMARTINO MALLEN

"Vincent is a gifted musician. One time he performed at one of my events and it poured. He continued playing and at the end of the event picked up the instrument, turned it over and it was filled with water. He's a joy to collaborate with."

ED BURKE

"No one has a beef with Vincent Innocente. The honoree tonight really loves Billy Joel. Some people know the keys to success, but he knows success is in his keys. And he even goes to the Florida Keys. And, don't know if his band has a cause, but it knows its effects. Thanks to Vinnie's parents for raising such a great guy. Just remember, Staten Island loves you, 'Just the Way You Are.'"

RIC PETILLO

"Vincent is the 'feast de resistance.' Notice I said feast. He tried to micromanage his own roast, even though we're up here to say things about you. They don't need us to tell them. They've figured it out for themselves. You've been one of my closest friends for 20 years. I wish you all the best. You're truly the mayor of Staten Island."

ANTHONY CAUSI

"Vincent and Shakespeare have a lot in common. 'To be or not to be? That is the question.' They say Shakespeare disappeared at a young age and Vinnie disappears every night at 2 a.m. with two trays of antipasto. He is a great friend and the band leader of the group, 'Cause and the Effects.'"

REGINA INNOCENTE (VINCENT'S MOM)

"I can't believe I'm doing this. How do I roast my own son? He is my firstborn and always wanted to get his way, and liked to be in charge. He began piano lessons when he was 4 years old. He was a precocious child and loved to sing 'Mack the Knife,' but faced the wall because he was so shy. But you couldn't find a more generous, attention-getting control freak. And I couldn't be prouder to be his mother."



"But first, the moment Vin's been waiting for his entire life — to be crowned and robed in a costume and crown we hot glued together just this morning in true theater production fashion," she said before asking former roastees, Chris Campbell and Lillian Lagazzo to do the honors.

"Vin, we couldn't find enough of your friends to fill this room, so we invited your enemies," she continued. "Vincent is the quintessential piano man in residence here on Staten Island. I cannot express how grateful I've been, year after year, for Vin being a part of our fundraising roasts and helping us continue our mission. He has donated his time, spunkiness and endless micromanaging, year after year. To this day, I know I can count on him. In any emergency, Vin is always right there when he needs me."

Around the room sat Innocente's family members, childhood friends, bandmates, a former professor, fellow performers, Frank Cafaro, a teacher and guidance counselor



From the left are Lillian Lagazzo, Chris Campbell, former roastees Vincent Innocente, Doreen Cugno, Cara S. Liander and Frank Williams. (Staten Island Advance/Carol Ann Benanti)

at St. Peter's Boys High school, Innocent's alma mater — and a surprise special guest.

"Vin, thank you so much for volunteering to be our roastee for tonight's event," Liander pointed out. "We really do only roast the ones we love."

Serving as masters of ceremony, and providing musical entertainment throughout the evening, were Jenny Kelly, a theatrical artist, and Vinnie Medugno, a recording artist, entertainer and radio personality on Music Radio 77 WABC, who introduced roaster Ed Burke, senior advisor to Borough President Vito Fossella.

The raucous roasting would be followed by Robert Kipp on keyboard who played the "Piano Man" — while Kelly and Medugno offered a vocal rendition in true satirical fashion — and Innocente serenaded the crowd with his harmonica.

The evening concluded when Innocente was honored with the Staten Island Shakespearean Theatre's "Shakey" Award for his dedication and support to the community of Staten Island — and beyond.

The assistant vice president of business development at Northfield Bank said with sincerity:

"I want to thank everyone who came out tonight, Cara Liander, Frank Williams, and everyone at the Shakespearean Theater for this 'honor' if that's what you call it, and my Northfield Bank family," Innocente said. Actually, the Shakespearean Theatre should be thanking me because, by putting my name and face on the flier, you finally drew a big crowd to one of your events."

Masters of Ceremony Vinnie Medugno and Jenny Kelly address the crowd. To the left is pianist Robert Kipp. (Staten Island Advance/Carol Ann Benanti)



Innocente would go on to acknowledge Doreen Cugno and Luanne Sorrentino, founders of the St. George Theatre, where Innocente was former director of marketing and audience services.

"Thank you for taking in a young intern and giving me a chance some 10 years ago at the St. George Theatre," he said. "Thanks to the Executive Club of Staten Island and to the North Central Kiwanis Club for being here. I'm proud to call myself a Kiwanian and thanks to Gary LiGreci of The Staaten. St. Peter's is represented here tonight by Mr. Frank Cafaro. And to my family, my dad and mom and my grandma, my favorite. My parents taught us to work hard and that your reputation is everything. . . Well, tonight my reputation took a giant hit. But life is too short to be serious all the time, and sometimes it's OK to laugh at yourself. Hope we raised a lot of money tonight and hope it will be deposited in Northfield Bank. And thank you for sharing tonight with me."

FEATURED ALUMNI



Fr. Joseph P. Tierney **Cardinal Hayes Hall of Fame Inductee**

Fr. Joseph P. Tierney '78 was born and raised on Staten Island, NY, and grew up in the Parish of St. Sylvester. He is the sixth of seven children of James and Doris Tierney.

After graduating from St. Sylvester's Schools in 1974, he attended St. Peter's Boys' High School graduating in 1978. He attended St. Peter's College, Jersey City, and graduated in 1982 with a B.A. in history. He entered St. Joseph's Seminary in Sept. 1982, where he received his Masters of Divinity in Theology degree and was ordained a priest on Nov. 15, 1986.

In his thirty-six years as a priest, Fr. Tierney's priestly assignments have been: Archbishop of Stepinac High School, White Plains (1992-2001); dean of students/procurator and director of Pastoral Formation at St. Joseph's Seminary (1996-2001); archdiocesan director of vocations for Archdiocese of New York (2001-2004);

president of Cardinal Hayes High School, Bronx (2004-2020); temporary administrator of the Church of St. Matthew/Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Hastings-on-Hudson (2018-2019); pastor of the Church of St. Gregory the Great, Harrison, NY, and pastor of the Church of St. Vito/Most Holy Trinity (2020-current).

Fr. Tierney has served as a weekend assistant at St. Anthony's Church, Nanuet (1992-1994) and at Annunciation/Our Lady of Fatima Church (1994-present). He also served as a weekend assistant at St. Matthew/Our Lady of Perpetual Help, Ardsley, and Immaculate Conception/Assumption of Our Lady, Tuckahoe. He also served as a Temporary Administrator of St. Matthew/Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

He was a member of the board of trustees of Cardinal Hayes High School, the Hayes of Cardinal & Gold Fund Board, and the NorthWest/South Bronx Regional School Board for the Archdiocese of New York. He was a member of the board of governors of Mt. Saint Agnes Academy, Bermuda. He is the chaplain of the Friendly Sons of St. Patrick, Putnam County, and the Harrison Volunteer Fire Department, Harrison, NY.



A Vietnam Veteran's Lifelong Marist Connection

Article published on marist.edu by Anthony Proia, 11/6/2023

Service has been a defining element of Bill Kuffner's '64 life. As a devoted alumnus from the Marist Class of 1968, he answered the call to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps shortly after earning his degree from Marist. Along his path, Kuffner uncovered the enduring nature of his bond with Marist and the College is now preparing to pay tribute to him later this week at McCann Arena.

Kuffner, who roomed with his twin brother Dan during their sophomore year, graduated in May of 1968. In September, Bill entered Officer Candidate School, embarking on a demanding 23-week training program to prepare him for the role of a Marine infantry platoon commander. By August 1969, he was stationed in South Vietnam, leading his own unit in the 7th Motor Transport Battalion, in support of the 3rd Marine Division's combat operations.

Marist Alumni Connect In Peace & War

Service was a defining characteristic of Marist's class of 1968. Several graduates, including Kuffner, were deployed to South Vietnam. While there, by sheer coincidence, Kuffner and a few other recent Marist alumni were stationed in the same area simultaneously. This remarkable meeting took place in August 1969 when Kuffner and four fellow Marist officers were assigned to the vicinity near the Demilitarized Zone.

The meeting, captured in an old Polaroid, shows Marist alumni Kuffner, Mike Santimauro '68, John Casserly '67, Brendan Burke '68 and Jim Barnes '68 together. Kuffner had forgotten about the photo for years. Turns out the picture was sent by Burke to Marist's then-registrar, Betty O'Brien. Years later, the photo was discovered in her archive and published in Marist Magazine. The photo not only captured their time in Vietnam but also the camaraderie shared among Marist alumni.

"I was the last one of us to arrive 'in country,'" Kuffner recounted. "In the Marines, there's a tradition where someone of equal rank welcomes you into the battalion. The lieutenant who welcomed me was Brendan Burke, who then informed me that Barnes, Santimauro and Casserly were in the same battalion! Out of the 20 officers in the battalion, five were Marist Marines."



An Honor at McCann Arena

Bill stepped in as the honorary guest coach for the Marist women's basketball team in their season-opening matchup against Army during the third annual Veterans Appreciation Basketball Game at McCann Arena. The College honors one veteran each year to sit on the bench with the team during the game. In last year's game, the College unveiled the Chair of Honor inside McCann, paying tribute to prisoners of war and those missing in action.



When asked about his enthusiasm for this guest coaching role and if he had any words of wisdom for the players, Kuffner simply quipped, "Just shoot the ball!" Bill will also be honored at the College's annual Veterans Day Luncheon.

For the Kuffner family, Marist is a family affair. Dan Kuffner '68 received the Dr. Dennis J. Murray Distinguished Service Award from the Alumni Association in 2016. Dan says this honor for his brother is well-deserved.

"The Marist tradition of service stayed with Bill his entire career, and he is an excellent example of that tradition," Dan said. "It makes perfect sense to me that he be requested to be the guest coach for the women's basketball game versus Army and the featured speaker at the Veterans Day Luncheon as he is the most honorable man I know."

FEATURED ALUMNI

Bill's daughter Margaret also graduated from Marist in 2006. The family's commitment to the College continues to this day.

"The Class of '68 played a pivotal role not only in Marist's history but also in the United States during the Vietnam conflict," said Amy Woods '97, Executive Director of Marist's Office of Alumni Relations. "Bill Kuffner and other alumni served their country with honor. On the 50th anniversary of the war's end, we extend our heartfelt salute to them. Bill and his twin brother, Dan, both '68 alumni, have been outstanding supporters of Marist, actively engaged with our community. They are cherished members of our Red Fox family."

Marist's Lifelong Impact on Kuffner

After the war, Kuffner began a career in the financial services industry, where he served in executive positions at M&T Bank, Continental Bank of Chicago, and Citibank. He's now retired and lives in Western New York with his wife Barbara, whom he married just four weeks before leaving for Vietnam. Kuffner's journey is a testament to the lasting connections and sense of community that define the Marist experience.

"Marist was the perfect place for me to be at that time in my life. 300+ guys, mostly from working-class families found great friendships that have lasted for 55 years," Bill said. "The Marist Brothers — Stokes, Kelly, LaPietra, Lang, to name just a few — were wonderful men who knew what to do and when to do it every time! Marist prepared me to venture forward personally and professionally."

Reflecting on a Life of Service

Bill emphasizes that his lifelong friendships and family connections, 55 years after graduation, continue to enrich his life, transforming the Marist experience into a treasured and lasting memory.

"Our parents endured the Great Depression and World War II in which many of our fathers and uncles served," he said. "When we came home from Nam, we were disrespected for our service. It was many years before I mentioned I was a Nam Vet. Now I am very proud of my service and wear a Marine Corps cover all the time."

IN MEMORIAM

ANTHONY PETER JOHN NASTASI, M.D.

'48 passed away on May 11, 2022, at the age of 91. Anthony was an American Academy of Orthopedic Surgery fellow, board-certified in orthopedics and belonged to the American College of Surgeons. He practiced in Staten Island, Syracuse, New York, and Casper, Wyoming.

TERENCE MICHAEL KING '11 passed away on Oct. 12, 2023, at the age of 29.

FABIO BROCCOLI '87 passed away on Oct. 23, 2023, at the age of 54. He had a lengthy career drafting plans for the City of New York Building Department for private businesses.

JOSEPH E. HARRIS JR. '70 passed away on November 12, 2023 at the age of 71.

ROBERT "BOB" FRASER '64 passed away on May 12, 2023, at the age of 76. He was a valued faculty member of the University of Washington School of Medicine Departments of Neurology, Neurosurgery, and Rehabilitation Medicine since 1977, where he served as the director of the Neurological Services Unit. Robert received multiple scholarly and research awards throughout his career.

JIM GILHOLLY '64 passed away on November 8, 2023 at the age of 77. Jim served two combat tours in Vietnam and enjoyed a long career as a member of the United States Postal Service.



From @Principal_Cos

A selection of posts from @StPetersBoysHS principal Cosentino.

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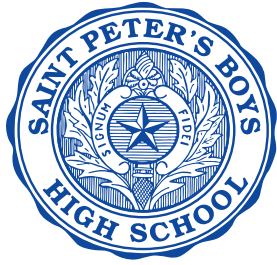
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