



Union

DE LA SALLE HIGH SCHOOL



“Guided...”

Guidance on the Journey through Adolescence

De La Salle Poet • De La Salle Rhodes Scholar • De La Salle Hall of Famers

Keeping Education Accessible through Financial Aid

Spring 2015



~ The Brotherhood of the Spartan is Like No Other ~

On life's journey, we are both the guided and the guides.



Mark DeMarco '78
President

Who are the people who have guided you in life? And who are the people you have guided?

Our Mission Statement uses “guide” as one of its basic verbs: “Students are Loved, Instructed, and Guided.” But “guide” is also a noun, and I enjoy thinking about its definition: A guide is one who shows the way by leading, directing, or advising; a guide is one who serves as a model for others, as in demonstrating a course of conduct.

It always amazes me to think about those individuals who guided me and shaped me into the person that I am today.

I would not be writing this to you today, as the President of this school, if it were not for my parents and my uncles and aunts (who, by the way, both on my mom’s side and my dad’s, all attended Mount Diablo High School together). They started me off in the right direction. They were the ones who led by example, and who showed me what was important in life.

And then there was this school, De La Salle High School, and the Christian Brothers that I met here. As I was growing up, they guided my steps and shaped my life. In large part they are the reason that I am here today doing what I do, carrying on the Mission in my turn, and trying to make a difference in the lives of those that we serve.

To those Brothers who guided me and are still alive today—Richard Moratto, Michael Meister, Timothy Rapa, Thomas Jones—and to those who have passed away—Robert Lee, Ray Berta, Jerome Gallegos, and Gary York—I say thank you for carrying out the Mission of the Founder. You were a blessing to me and to many others, and may God continue to bless each and every one of you.

You will read much in this magazine about those who guide and those who are guided. I want to point out particularly the article on our new middle school, De La Salle Academy. The Academy is another

place where we begin to plant the seeds of making this world a better place. The boys at the Academy have older “Spartan brothers” from the high school who volunteer there regularly as tutors and mentors, and the students at the Academy look up to them. These young Spartans are learning that one day they too will be called to guide and lead the new young Spartans who come to the Academy after them. God in His infinite wisdom has chosen Lasallian education as one means of guiding young people along the right path in life.

Finally, most of us know him as a philanthropist, but I know him as a mentor who guides me today in the work that I do and in how I live my life on a daily basis: Mr. Ken Hofmann. I have had the pleasure in my eight years at De La Salle of working with him on many projects, but it is his wisdom that I have come to appreciate most. He has shown me the meaning of philanthropy, the importance of having a purpose in life, and the value of striving for the best that you can do and be.

Who are the people who guided you in your life? Who guides you today? And who are the people that you have guided? Perhaps you do not even know how you have guided someone—but there is no question that you have. In this edition of the *Union*, you will see many examples of how we as a school have guided people—and these are just a few of those that we know about.

In the spirit of Saint John Baptist
de La Salle,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark DeMarco '78
President



Union

Spring 2015

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Read the *Union* online at www.dlshs.org

The De La Salle "Union" is a bond of unity for the extended De La Salle family — alumni, parents, alumni parents and the many friends who make up our school's growing family.

The School Seal

The school seal is an important part of the identity of De La Salle High School. The symbols used to make up the seal have particular meanings that reflect the values and purpose of the school. In the center of the seal is the Chi Rho (Kye Row). This is the Greek abbreviation of the title "Christ." The first two letters of the word Christos or "Christ" are "Chi" and "Rho," represented in the Greek alphabet as a capital "X" and "P." The fleur-de-lis, with "lis" meaning lily in French, reminds us of our French origins with Saint John Baptist de La Salle. The lamp is a symbol of knowledge, reminding us of our primary purpose as a school — education. The section of broken chain represents freedom — freedom from ignorance. The chain surrounding the seal signifies strength and unity. "Les Hommes de Foi" is French for "Men of Faith."

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About the cover: On the journey through adolescence, along the path from boyhood to manhood, De La Salle students do not travel alone. Our school culture is one of brotherhood, and the values and habits of brotherhood are both preached and practiced here. The older students are guides and mentors to the younger (this photo shows senior Sean Heiskell, at right, and freshman Marco Gee). Our faculty and staff are not just instructors and administrators; they are also guides and mentors to the boys on this journey. To discern talents and abilities, to acknowledge hopes and dreams, and to guide students toward maturity is not the work of a moment. It is a commitment that endures through all four years of high school—and beyond.



When Embarking on a Major Journey, You Want to Have Experienced Guides.

The journey through high school, from boyhood to manhood, is an exciting one, full of opportunities but fraught with difficulties. On an adventure such as this, it is wise to have a guide.

Who is more anxious about starting the first year of high school? Is it the freshman? Or is it the freshman's parents?

The freshman may have his worries and concerns. But he may view the coming four years as a very long period of time that stretches away into a distant future. His parents, however, understand how short those four years really are, how swiftly they will pass, and how precious they can be. Will their son be helped by his school to make the best use of them? Is he entering a place where he will be seen for who he is? Where his needs, challenges, and talents will be understood? Will he be welcomed for what he brings? And will he be guided where he needs to go?

For 31 years, the De La Salle High School Guidance Services Department has provided a service for freshman parents called "Orientation Program for Parent Support." The initials are OPPS. "Predictably," says department director Michael Otterstedt, with a smile, "that acronym has come to be fondly mispronounced as OOPS. Even by me." (A little humor can help to calm parental jitters.) But OPPS it is. Every July, the parents of the 280 or so new freshmen receive a letter from Mr. Otterstedt. It starts like this:

"**OPPS!** OPPS was designed by De La Salle's counselors as an opportunity for parents to discuss any concerns or questions they may have regarding their son's transition into

De La Salle High School. OPPS is an open agenda group discussion which responds to parent's concerns about such topics as: the general changes during adolescence, options for responsible behavior and parenting strategies in response to these changes, and how these changes typically manifest themselves at De La Salle. Parents can choose to begin discussions about such potential problem areas as: academic difficulties, peer pressure, sexual behavior, substance use and abuse, or, for that matter, any topic raised by a parent. Counselors can provide some information, if requested, about the school's policies and procedures, and school support programs, such as counseling.

"Knowing what to expect from your son as he moves through the 'madness' of adolescence is helpful. Furthermore, setting clear and reasonable expectations for him and yourselves, before you must react to his changes, is even more beneficial. Finally, it is most helpful to know how other parents face the demands of parenthood and to know what supportive services are available to you should you need them. The last step aids you in feeling less isolated and better equipped to meet the exciting, but demanding challenges of parenting a teenager. And this is the main purpose of the OPPS program!"

After giving more information, and dates and times, Mike Otterstedt concludes thus:



“Parenting is a serious business and we at De La Salle High School are serious in supporting the parents of our students. We are not experts offering miraculous solutions. We are friends and partners offering you our concern and experience. Know what services are available before you need them. I hope to see you at the OPPS sessions this year.”

As this sample of a first letter to parents indicates, the Guidance Services Department is a group of people who are deeply experienced, compassionate, and down-to-earth. The department has a staff of eight, including two full-time counselors who specialize in college admissions. The Co-Directors of College Counseling are Janet Appel and Esther Lopez.

The other staff members are Sean Bristol (Special Needs Counselor), Scott Drain (Counselor), Gregory MacArthur (Student Support Coordinator), Lindsay Melaas (Counselor), Michael Otterstedt (Director), and Cris Rosales (Counselor).

These skilled guides can be found, and their rich array of resources can be explored, under the COUNSELING tab on the De La Salle website. The areas in which they welcome the chance to answer the needs of students include: College Planning and Financial Aid - Personal Development - Peer Relationships - Career Decisions - Academic Difficulties - Family Relationships - Course Planning - Grief and Bereavement - Addictive Behaviors - and more.

What begins in freshman year—a structured and comprehensive program for engaging students and parents in their progression through high school—continues as the students move through the years. The Guidance Services Department has an annual timeline for its array of activities, a thorough calendar of programs extending from August through June. And at the beginning of each year, the counselors meet with all students by grade level, in small groups. (The prompts for these meetings are shown in the inset at right.) For each year of growth, the “theme” and the “essential questions” are based on the counselors’ knowledge of human development

THEMES of the four high school years.

De La Salle High School Guidance Services Department

Freshman Year “Awareness and Acclimation”

Essential Questions:

Who am I now?
How do I use my gifts?
How can I be my best self in this new environment?
How do I take advantage of opportunities?

Sophomore Year “Exploration and Involvement”

Essential Questions:

What is my identity/What identity am I developing?
How do people see me? How do I want to be seen by others?
Who am I attracting?
How do I influence others?
How am I influenced by other people?
Who am I in relation to my friends/family/others?
What paths am I on?

Junior Year “Practice and Planning”

Essential Questions:

How am I preparing for my future?
What difference am I making/do I want to make?
What do I believe? Why?

Senior Year “Leadership and Legacy”

Essential Questions:

What difference have I made here?
What difference has this place made for me?
How am I living out my beliefs?
How will I use what I’ve learned to serve others?

and of student needs, and the adults engage the students in genuine discussion of who they are and where they are headed.

Each student must meet individually with his academic and personal counselor regularly. Students are assigned alphabetically to one of four such counselors and are called in throughout the year to check on academic progress, and at the request of parents, teachers, or deans. A major concern of most parents and students is college counseling, and, again, the Guidance Services department offers a college preparation process that begins early and is approached in a disciplined way. Information, advice, and programs that are appropriate to each grade level, freshman through senior, are readily available from the counseling office, and the goal of the college counselors is to match each student with the college that will best fit that individual.

When talking to De La Salle students and alumni about their experience of the school, a frequently heard observation is that, at De La Salle, students do not “slip through the



cracks” or wander unseen through the large body of students. This brief sketch of the Guidance Services Department suggests one reason why.

But guidance doesn’t stop at the department that has that word in its name. As we have discussed in recent issues of the *Union*, our Mission Statement says that “De La Salle High School is a ... community where students are loved, instructed, **and guided**...” Everyone at De La Salle is charged with carrying out that mission, and guidance comes in many modes.

We have a Campus Ministry office and a school chaplain, who provide students with liturgies and sacraments, with service opportunities and charitable undertakings, with immersion trips and retreats, particularly the Kairos Retreat of senior year, in which students are guided toward finding and knowing God and finding and knowing their own best selves. We have a Service Learning Coordinator, who provides multiple opportunities through which students are guided toward an awareness of the needs of others and an

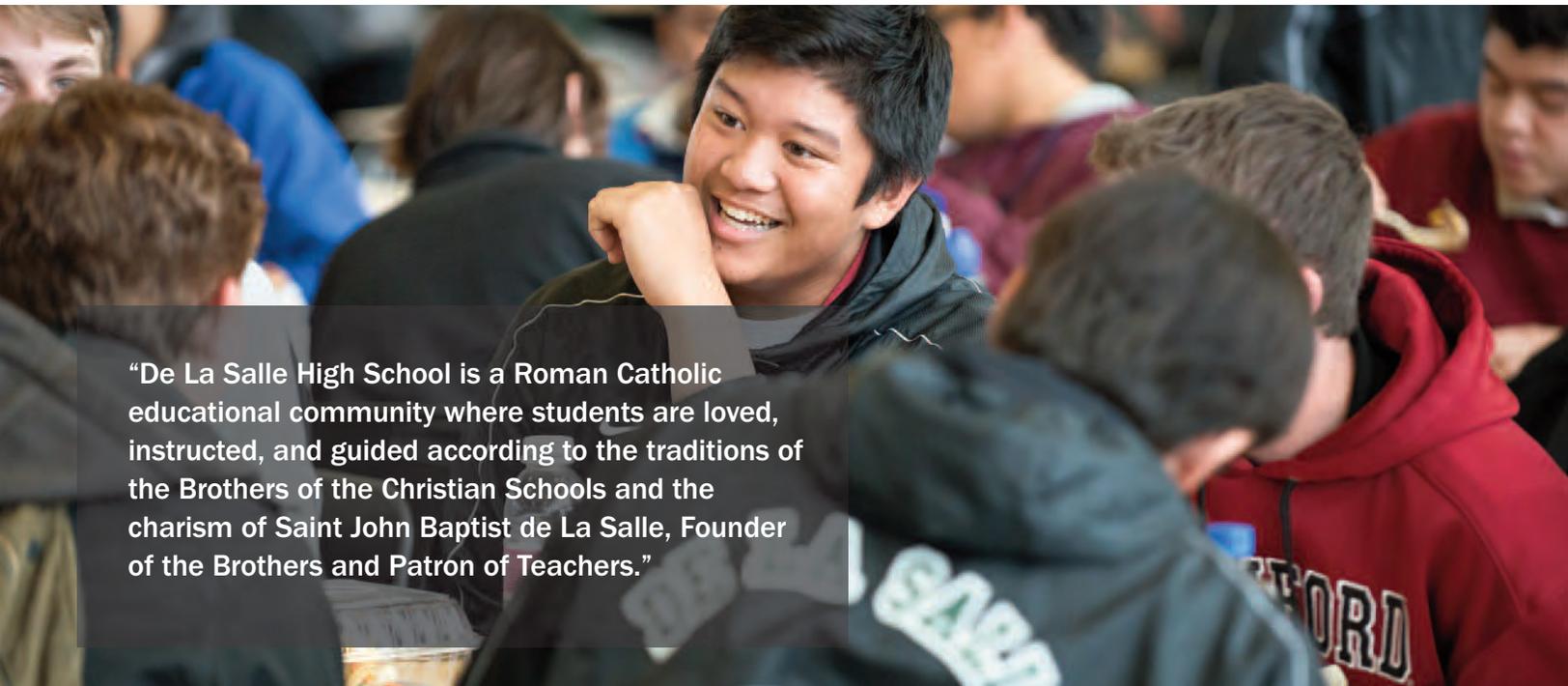
ability to answer those needs. And we have teachers and staff and coaches who are alert to the students and their unique gifts, interests, and needs—who see them for who they are and for what they have the potential to be.

Our principal, Brother Robert J. Wickman, FSC, was a primary author of the school’s Mission Statement twenty years ago, with its three fundamental verbs: love, instruct, and guide. Asked about the third of those verbs recently, Brother Robert mused, “You know, we say ‘guide.’ We don’t say ‘steer.’ Why? Because the student is an active participant in the process, not a passive recipient. And where do we hope to guide him? Toward truth. Toward the truth about himself, and others, and the world. Toward real knowledge and toward deep engagement. I would put it this way: Every student is unique and precious. Every student has a story. Our first goal is to get each student to take his own story



seriously. Our second goal is to get him to take other people’s stories seriously.”

In this issue of the *Union* you will meet some of those students and some of their guides, and you will hear some of their stories. 🌿



“De La Salle High School is a Roman Catholic educational community where students are loved, instructed, and guided according to the traditions of the Brothers of the Christian Schools and the charism of Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Founder of the Brothers and Patron of Teachers.”

High School Is Real Life, and Life Sometimes Hurts.

Life doesn't stop at the borders of the school campus. We are in the midst of life, together as a community. A veteran teacher tells us how teachers learn from students and students learn from teachers, as we help one another find our way through life's hardest moments.

*I hope you always forgive, and you never regret,
And you help somebody every chance you get,
Oh, you find God's grace, in every mistake,
And you always give more than you take.*

- Lyrics from "My Wish" by Rascal Flatts

Good Morning, and Happy Thanksgiving.... The song that is playing is "My Wish" by Rascal Flatts. It's the song I play in my classes for our end-of-the-year prayer. My hope is that my students will hear the words and take in its messages.

Two months ago, in September 2014, I received a text from Michael Hutchings, who graduated in 2013 and now goes to USC. He was in Boston, and was preparing for his football game against Boston College. Michael said that the song "My Wish" from his playlist popped up, and it made him think of me, and he wanted to tell me what he had been up to. I shared with him that I was happily awaiting the arrival of my latest grandchild. He was excited to hear that my family was growing. He also wanted to encourage me to keep getting stronger from my bout with cancer last year. What a gift it was to feel so supported by a past student. The last time I had seen Michael was in January 2014. It was at the funeral of his father....

Last week I was on campus late, and I was thinking of Michael. I had just heard "My Wish." I texted him to see how he was doing and to let him know I was thinking of him. Michael and I keep in touch because we have a bond, from a loss we both shared, that changed our lives forever. I taught Michael in his sophomore year, 2010 to 2011, fourth period, religious studies. He was in a loving, funny, ram-bunctious class. We had a great many laughs together. The heart of that class was a student named Tyler Bunn. He always had a big smile for us, and something funny to say, or do. We all loved him. Everyone in the school who knew Tyler loved him. He even came back the day after school got out and helped me pack up my classroom. I was so grateful for his kindness.

Sadly, Tyler took his own life, just one week later.

I can't remember when I've felt deeper sorrow. Tyler's funeral was the saddest I have ever attended. We all felt so lost and helpless. But the love I witnessed that day was the

Brotherhood at its finest. I was so blessed by the time we had all shared laughing that year in class. When we returned to school that fall, I was asked to speak at a prayer service for Tyler. I used the song "My Wish" as my message to the students. Tyler's presence was felt in my classroom long after his class graduated.

When I texted Michael Hutchings last week, I told him I had been thinking about him and Tyler and the impact they had on my life. I reminded him how they would wrap their arms around each other during class, and how they exuded love.

Michael responded by saying, "That was such an amazing year for me to grow. It changed my entire life experience in high school." He again reminded me to stay strong, and wished me and my family a Happy Thanksgiving. Next day,



Religious Studies Instructor Joan MacDonald is shown at graduation in 2013. She gave this talk at our Thanksgiving liturgy in 2014.

campus news

I asked Michael for a favor: Would he be willing to write a brief reflection that I could share with you today, at this Thanksgiving celebration, about his father's death? This is what he sent me last night:

"Growing up in my early teen years, it was common for me to go against everything my parents said, particularly my father. We would butt heads often, whether it was because of sports, academics, or simple duties around the house. Our relationship was one that I was not mature enough to appreciate at the time. But going through my high school years, I was able to see our father-son relationship completely evolve into a friendship.

"My dad was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer in March 2013 and passed on January 15, 2014. It wasn't until December of 2013 that we were given a timetable on how long my father had to live. This was the moment to put all of my emotions and thoughts out on the table. It was time to express my gratitude for all the life lessons and experiences we had together. He had invested a great amount of time and commitment into me. I realized it was time for me to pay it forward, and all that meant was being there for him because he was always there for me.

"Visiting him in the hospital daily, we would reminisce about all the tough times we went through to reach this point

of speaking every day on topics we once butted heads about. The one-on-one time and conversations we had were helping me come to peace with what was slowly approaching.

"There was nothing that could have prepared me for my father to pass away, there was grief immediately after. But the appreciation for our relationship and how he raised me would override that grief and allow me to come to peace with the situation. Thinking back about him now brings a smile to my face and joy to my heart.

"For the seniors sitting at the Thanksgiving liturgy today, I want to say: You guys are six months away from being on your own in college. Cherish the time you have with your parents because eventually you will wish you had more. For those of you who feel like you are too cool to express your love, it's time to put the immaturity aside and take the next step of building your lifetime relationship with your parents."

I am sharing with you about Michael Hutchings and Tyler Bunn because I want all of you to know how we as teachers are impacted by each of you year after year. Each year, each student changes us just a little bit more. You teach us many important life lessons. Some of you we keep in touch with regularly, some of you only seldom, many of you not at all... but for each of you we are grateful for the way you touch our lives. 🌿



Michael D. Hutchings, Jr., with parents Joyce and Michael in October 2012, celebrating Michael's being named to the Army All-American Football Team. Michael is now in his sophomore year at the University of Southern California.



“I thought I was too smart to get caught. But I guess I wasn’t. I very nearly blew it. But the people at De La Salle would not give up on me.”

We are talking with a De La Salle graduate of 2013 who is now in his sophomore year at the University of California at Merced. He has various grants and scholarships. Last summer he was an intern with the administrative law division of the California Public Utilities Commission in San Francisco. For summer 2015 he is seeking an internship in the banking industry. His major subject is economics, but he is also studying philosophy and political science.

“I hope to use all three,” says Eric Manzanares ’13. “I would like to be involved in business and investing, and maybe work in the area of venture capitalism. My first economics class was at De La Salle with Ms. Dickson. I learned a lot from that. And I’m studying philosophy because it teaches you logic and logical thinking. And political science will help me understand policies. De La Salle got me prepared. Maybe most important, it taught me discipline and respect. To discipline myself and to respect others—and also to respect myself.”

It sounds like a great start in life. But the road to the place where Eric could even see a worthwhile life before him was rocky. Eric came to De La Salle as a freshman, as a member of the Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program. But in his sophomore year there was an interruption in his progress—a very large interruption. “I was caught with marijuana.” It was an expelling offense.

If you ever meet the bright, personable, inquisitive, interesting Eric Manzanares, you will well understand what happened next. “Some of my teachers, when they found out, they were upset. Ms. MacLean cried. People wrote letters, they wanted to help me. And I felt terrible about that. I really didn’t know that people cared about me like that.”

Eric didn’t know much about care. His unmarried parents were 19 and 14 when he was born, in Richmond. Drug use was common among his relatives and neighbors, and his mom, he says, still had some growing up to do. She did grow up, says Eric, and in middle school she moved him from Richmond to Pittsburg—“to get me out of the Richmond scene,” says Eric. He went to Hillview Junior High School in Pittsburg. “They saw that I was smart and they encouraged me.” It was at Hillview that Eric heard a presentation about the Bishop Cummins Scholarship Program for very low-income students. Eric applied and was accepted for his freshman year. But such a transition has its challenges.

He didn’t know anybody at his new school. It was a little difficult getting acclimated. His commute was demanding. And home life remained unsettled. “It was two cultures, you know, two different cultures, and I still had the old culture with me.” The new culture attracted him. But now, in the middle of sophomore year, he had blown his chances.

“Brother Chris Brady was about to end his time as principal. He said to me, ‘I would ordinarily just expel you, but so many people have come forward for you, I’ve never seen anybody who has been here for just one year make such an

impression on so many people.” A plan was laid out. Eric had to leave De La Salle (he would return to public school); he had to pass regular drug tests and keep up his academics; and then—well, we would see...

“Everybody was great to me. But I have to thank Ms. Resch the most.” Kathy Resch is De La Salle’s Accountant. “When the new principal, Brother Robert, came in, Ms. Resch got right to him, to see about letting me back in. Well, he did, and I came back for my junior year. Thank you, Ms. Resch! I stay in touch with her on a weekly basis, she is like a second mom to me, a spiritual mom, and she is a great mentor. And I thank Mr. MacArthur, too.” Greg MacArthur is the Director of the Bishop Cummins Scholarship Program. “He watches like a hawk, he’s aware of what you’re doing, and always trying to help you do better. And the Guidance Department, they got me pointed to college. And Mrs. Wiese, in the Development Office, was great.” Karla Wiese is De La Salle’s Director of Development. “She helped us look at the gift of education we were receiving and write thank-yous to the donors for it. That really prepared me for life, you know—understanding what gratitude is and how much I owe.”

Above is the letter Eric wrote in the *Gratitude* book that is sent to donors to the Bishops Cummins Program in acknowledgement of their support.

How does the phrase go? God writes straight with crooked lines. When De La Salle High School takes on the

Dear Friend of De La Salle,

My name is Eric, a proud senior at De La Salle High School. I come from an area where I was more likely to go to prison than to graduate from high school. Growing up in Richmond, having no real role models to look up to, while having a mother who is only 14 years older than me was not easy by any means. To be honest, sometimes I wonder how I made it here, but I did; not only am I going to graduate, but I am also going to attend a four-year university. De La Salle is a big part of my success so far in life; the people here have guided me throughout high school towards a life away from the type of influences I grew up around.

I am grateful for everything you have helped provide for me by donating generous gifts to De La Salle, because without it there was no way my family could afford to put me through this school and I would not have the opportunities I have today. It was because of De La Salle that I was able to find the scholarship program called Students Rising Above, which will help me continue my education beyond high school. None of this would have been possible without generous people like you who actually care about kids like myself and want to give us an opportunity to succeed in life. Once again I want to take the time to express my gratitude toward you for your kindness and your gift of my education.

Sincerely,

Eric

responsibility for a young man’s education, we know that there can be bumps in the road, that winding road that leads to maturity. Sometimes the road is hard to see; and sometimes you can see it, but you stray off it for complicated reasons of your own.

But when a school charges itself to Love, Instruct, and Guide its students, it takes into account those complications, and it is creatively committed to finding in the tough times new opportunities for growth. As Guidance Services Department Director Mike Otterstedt says, “After Eric came back, we checked in all of the time with him to make sure that he would be successful. He did not disappoint. He is a fine young gentleman who will be successful in the future, because this school acted on its Mission Statement.” 🌿



Eric Manzanares (far right) graduates on May 19, 2013

Lights Turned Off, Desks Turned Over

An alumnus of 1989 remembers the day when students came into class to confront a dramatized moment of darkness and chaos. The question of the day was: When chaos and darkness truly hit, where will you find the path to the light?

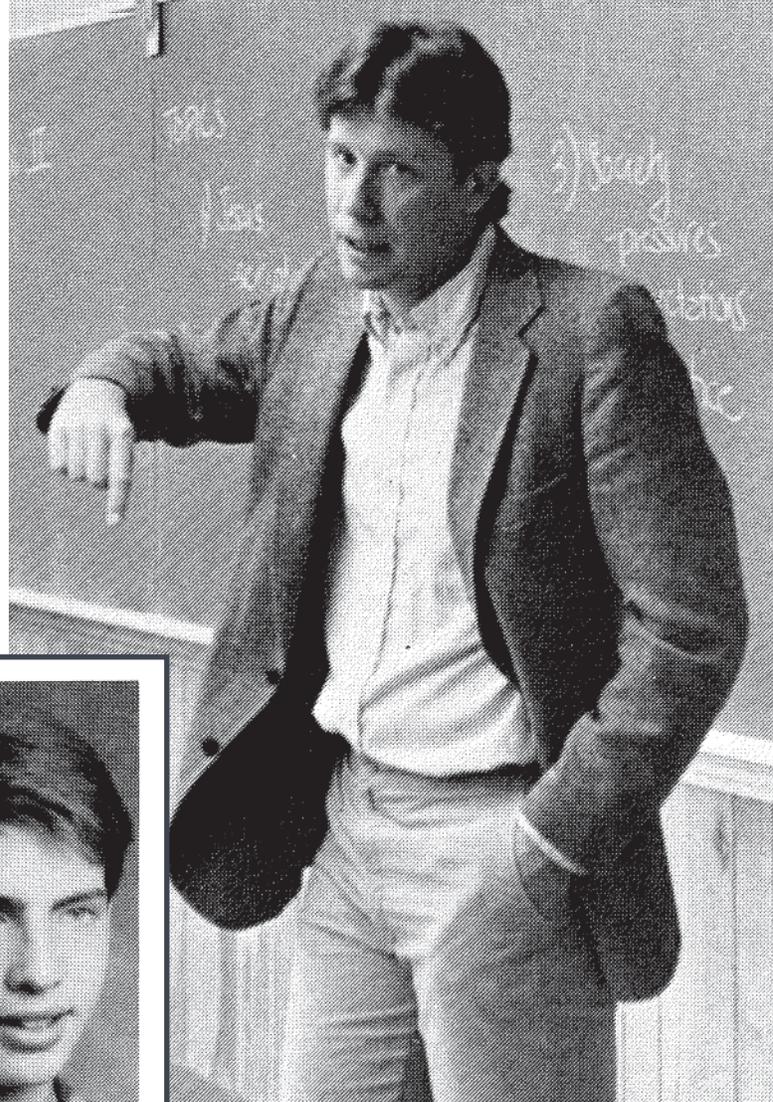
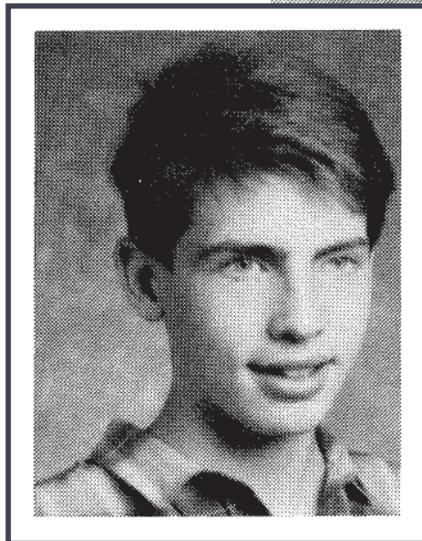
By Mark Stricherz '89

In the classroom, George Nessman experimented with more methods than any teacher or professor I know. Nessman, a De La Salle alumnus of 1977, may be best known for his eight-year tenure as head coach of men's basketball at San Jose State University. But from 1984 to 1993 he was at De La Salle High School, teaching religious studies and coaching basketball, first as an assistant and later as the head coach. Of his semi-regular classes, "Stump Nessman Day" was my favorite.

Students would write a question on a piece of paper, fold it up, and hand it in. The goal was to outsmart "Ness," as many guys called him. Being smart-alecks, we asked him questions that were impertinent or impossibly difficult. If memory serves, classmate Geoff Dawe posed this one: What is the average annual rainfall in Central America? I recall that I submitted this one: Name the previous four winners of the Honda Open golf tournament. Like any sane person, Ness whiffed on both.

One day Nessman did something in religion class that was unsettling. The event was minor, but it suggested to me the real effects of mortal sin—the feeling of a kind of death in life, the sense that ghosts not only haunt you but breathe your dreams like air, the recognition that you are like no one so much as the cop Popeye Doyle in the final scene in *The French Connection*, shooting at the wrong guy in a misguided quest.

We were freshmen or sophomores. We stepped into the room to find everything strangely changed. The blinds were down. The lights were off. A few of the desks were upside down. Dimly visible at the front of the room was Nessman. Keep quiet and stay in your seats, he told us, I don't want to hear anything from you.



Sophomore Mark Stricherz (left) and teacher George Nessman (right)

WHAT THE HECK IS GOING ON? I put the question in capital letters here because that's how it appeared in my mind. The familiar classroom had been thrown into darkness. There was nothing to see, nothing to do. You looked up front and saw Nessman glowering at you, enforcing the strange silence. You looked ahead of you, or to your side, but you didn't talk or pass notes. Some guys put their heads down on their desks, others just stared into space. I glared at the clock in the hope the ordeal would end soon. The whole thing was eerie. For nearly an hour, a roomful of 14- and 15-year-old boys, the sons of Danville business executives and Pittsburg refinery workers alike, stayed silent and solitary.

Finally, Nessman turned on the lights. Finally he spoke to us. After all these years, I couldn't remember his words exactly, so I called him to refresh my memory. He is again working in Lasallian education, as director of athletics at Justin-Siena High School in Napa.

"The basic theme of that day was that each of us needs to be jarred out of our complacency. We need to be shown the contrast between darkness and chaos and its opposite—the

light of the Gospel, and living in that light, and staying there,” said Nessman. He and colleague Charlie Noland had picked up this technique from reading about a teacher who used this one-day experiential mode of learning on his students and really grabbed their attention. “We both had success with it,” Nessman recalled. “We thought at the time it struck a chord. People were thankful and relieved after that class was done.”

Indirectly, I did have some experience with tragedy and damage. Growing up, I heard stories about an older, Irish-Catholic cousin who wandered the streets of San Francisco in search of one more drink after failing to pass the state bar exam. And in our junior year of high school, classmate Donnie Scribner, a friend since middle school, died. Donnie was a manager of the Spartan basketball team, and Nessman spoke at his funeral at St. Mary’s parish in Walnut Creek. But those tragedies could be dismissed. Donnie had a medical condition. My cousin’s descent into alcohol was the Way of Our People.

So my attitude to the possibility of personal disarray was complicated, even as I grew up. On the one hand, I recognized that we humans are fallible and that concupiscence

breeds dissolution and not joy. On the other hand, I rationalized my own failings and sins.

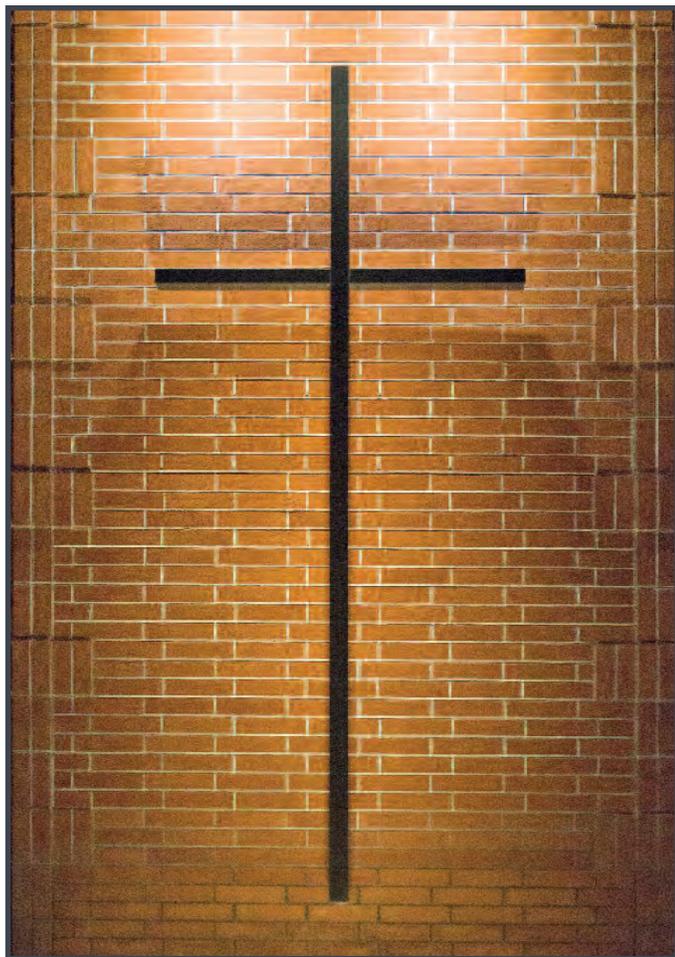
The rationalization was easy to do. By outward appearances, I was living righteously. I was married and had kids. I tried to be a good Catholic. I went to Mass. I volunteered. I went to confession regularly. I did my level best for my wife and for my kids.

Then it happened. One Saturday afternoon, I found I was all alone in my three-story row house on Capitol Hill. There was no wife. There were no kids. Only the memories of their faces and voices remained: the mustard-colored, creaky back porch where we celebrated my oldest daughter’s first birthday; the pecan tile-floor kitchen where we danced and sang to Better than Ezra’s “Good”; the backyard where underneath the elms on Sunday nights I would barbecue chicken for the family meal.

I see my children a few days every week, but I wonder what might have been for our family. Some friends tell me I shouldn’t. It’s hard not to. Like most children from divorced families, my daughters say they wish mommy and daddy would get back together. Those are more than words. One afternoon, in the half-light of the kids’ room, my oldest daughter, Grace, woke up from a nap wondering where she was. Her eyes were as big as saucers and her expression was of horror and abandonment. What on earth could be worth more than making a three-and-a-half-year-old girl feel safe and secure?

In truth, I have things easier than some. One acquaintance from college was always the life of the party; he drank; he smoked weed regularly. His harmless little vices harmed no one until they harmed everyone. One night last spring, his car collided with the car of another man. The other man is dead. His children are fatherless. And my college friend’s own kids will be without their father, when he is sentenced to many years in prison.

Mark Stricherz , journalist and author



These sufferings might be called the “temporal punishment of sin.” You don’t hear that phrase much anymore, but you can find it in the modern *Catechism of the Catholic Church*. The idea is that sin exerts a kind of spiritual chokehold in your life on earth: Like a UFC fighter caught in a three-point vise, a sinner can’t use his full strength until he is released from its grip.

What about the sacrament of Penance? Doesn’t going to confession and receiving absolution take away the punishment of sin? For decades, I thought so; I committed my sins knowing I could go to confession and be in a state of grace later. But I was only half-right. Going to confession and receiving absolution removes the eternal punishment of sin. Yet confession and absolution don’t remove the *earthly* punishment. You can be in a state of grace and still suffer darkness and chaos. I think that at last I began to see what Nessman’s eerie class long ago was intended to prepare me for.

Being haunted by the effects of one’s sins is a theme in the best of American popular culture. On television, characters such as Tony in *The Sopranos* and Walter White in *Breaking Bad* felt this way. In literature, many of Poe’s short stories, such as “The Tell-Tale Heart” and “The Black Cat,” explore the theme. In popular music, the narrator in the final stanza of Bruce Springsteen’s “Racing in the Street” dreams that he and his girlfriend will reconcile after they pursue the unmediated sacramentality of direct experience with nature:

For all the shut-down strangers
and hot rod angels
rumbling through this promised land,
Tonight my baby and me
we’re going to ride to the sea
and wash these sins off our hands



Mark Stricherz and his daughters.

Experiencing these lessons vicariously has been a gift. But the lesson from Nessman’s class was one of the few I know that laid out the solution to the darkness: the values and practice of the Gospel message. “I think religious studies courses need to be a special experience for Catholic schools,” Nessman said. So it was and should be. 🌿

Mark Stricherz (DLS ’89 and Santa Clara University ’93) has written for *The Atlantic online*, *The Weekly Standard*, and *Real Clear Politics*. The Washington correspondent for *Aleteia.org*, he is the author of *Why the Democrats Are Blue: Secular Liberalism and the Decline of the People’s Party* (Encounter Books).

Your Guide on the Way of the Cross

Lent is at its halfway point as this magazine gets to its readers. Ash Wednesday was February 18 and Easter will be April 2. Lent is a spiritual journey, its destination is the Resurrection, and as a guide and companion on that journey there is a moving set of poems by De La Salle Religious Studies Instructor John McDonough. The book is *Sonnets of the Cross: The Via Dolorosa*. It was the basis of our faculty-and-staff Day of Recollection last year, and has been used at Stations of the Cross devotions and Good Friday liturgies in Bay Area parishes. The book is a family affair: John's brother David R. McDonough did the art, and his wife Caroline did the layout. The book is published by Virtual Paper. The e-book and the paperback are available online through Amazon and other retailers.

Described by one reviewer as “transforming and powerful,” the book is also a remarkable formal achievement, a heroic crown of sonnets. A sonnet is a fourteen-line poem in iambic pentameter with a rhyme scheme of ABAB CDCD EFEF GG. A “crown of sonnets” is a series of seven sonnets, interlocked by having the last line of each poem become the first line of the next. A double challenge to a poet's skill is the attempt at a “heroic crown of sonnets,” which is a series of fifteen sonnets: The first fourteen are interlocked by having the last line of each repeated as the first line of the next; the 15th and crowning poem is simply the first lines of all of the preceding fourteen.

McDonough has added an extra bit of artistry by making the 15th sonnet an acrostic as well: The first letters of each line, read vertically, spell out THE VIA DOLOROSA (the Way of Sorrow), the Latin name for Christ's path to Calvary.

John McDonough has taught religious studies at DLS since 1997. He holds a Masters of Divinity and a Master of Arts in Theology from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. 

Sonnets of the Cross: The Via Dolorosa



A Heroic Crown of Sonnets

on

The Stations of the Cross

*Sonnets by John Patrick McDonough
Art by David McDonough*

Twelfth Station: Jesus Dies on the Cross

Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord,
 And echo your own stark, impassioned plea,
 The wail of one abandoned and ignored:
 My God, oh why have you forsaken me?
 And that is all. No more. No further test.
 No more to ask or answer, know or name.
 No. It is finished. Head bowed, now you rest
 Your spirit in the hands from whence it came.
 The pregnant clouds burst with the ages' tears
 As blood and water soak us from your side.
 The curtain in the temple torn, our fears
 Roam naked now, no place this time to hide.
 Dark waxes as the midday moon grows great,
 Sun lost to view before the hour is late.



CHRISTIAN BROTHERS RESIDENCE

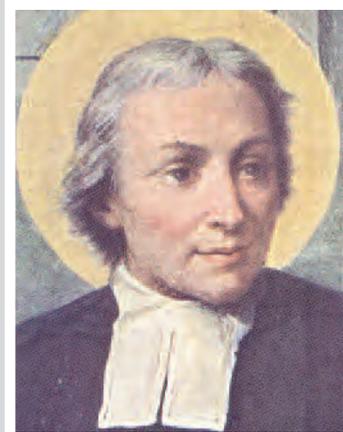
**“Young people need watchful guides
to lead them on the path of salvation.”**

- John Baptist de La Salle

The De La Salle Christian Brothers have always been more than instructors. They are also guides and mentors. Living in community as brothers to one another, they are also “big brothers” to their students. From the beginning—335 years ago—this aspect of their vocation has been consistent and explicit.

The Founder himself, St. John Baptist de La Salle, wrote many times on this topic. For instance, he told the Brothers, “One of the main concerns of those who instruct others is to be able to understand their students and to discern the right way to guide them. There are students who call for much patience, who need to be stimulated and spurred on.... This guidance requires understanding and discernment of spirits, qualities you should frequently and earnestly ask of God, for they are most necessary for you in the guidance of those placed in your care.” And he wisely reminded them, “Example makes a much greater impression on the minds and hearts of the young than do words. Young people ordinarily model themselves on the example of their teachers.”

De La Salle High School is blessed with a thriving community of Brothers on its campus. A diverse group of men of all ages (the youngest born in 1984, the oldest born in 1936), with an array of talents, skills, and interests, these men embody the Lasallian value of “union in community.” Here is a bit about the men of the De La Salle High School Brothers’ Community:



De La Salle

Brother Lawrence Haley, FSC, a DLS alumnus of the class of 1972, has a B.A. from Saint Mary’s College of Moraga and an M.A. from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. He joined the DLS faculty in Fall 2013 after a ten-year assignment at Cathedral High School in Los Angeles. Brother Lawrence teaches classes in religious studies and website design. A skilled photographer, he takes excellent photographs of athletics and school events, and also handles the complex Athletics pages on the De La Salle website.

Brother Patrick Martin, FSC, came to De La Salle in Fall 2014, after taking his first vows as a Brother. An alumnus of Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory in San Francisco, he has a B.A. from St. Lawrence University and an MFA in Creative Writing from Chapman University. He has graduate training in theology and experience with special needs education. A musician, he has started The Guitar Club, where DLS students can learn and teach musical skills.

Brother Michael Saggau, FSC, is in his sixty-first year as a Christian Brother, and the current school year is his 19th consecutive year at De La Salle. Brother Michael’s B.A. is from Saint Mary’s College and his M.A. in English is from Loyola University in Los Angeles. No longer a classroom teacher, he works with the Financial Aid Committee, the Bishop Cummins Scholarship Program, and other school groups. He is a mentor to faculty and a constant presence to students, and effectively manages the crowds of hungry students pouring into the cafeteria every day.

Brother Robert Wickman, FSC, De La Salle’s Principal and the Director of the Brothers’ Community, is from New York. He has a bachelor’s degree (in political science) from Fordham University, a master’s degree in theology from Boston College, and a master’s in educational administration from Saint Mary’s University of Minnesota. His current assignment as Principal at De La Salle began in Fall 2011; he served as Principal previously in 1994 to 1998. Brother Robert keeps current in the fields of theology, education, history, and politics through extensive reading and attendance at conferences. He also enjoys films, racquetball, and cycling.

Also living in community with the Brothers is **Mr. Anthony Carbone**, a Lasallian Volunteer serving at De La Salle Academy, the new middle school in Concord. A native of Long Island, New York, and a 2014 graduate of La Salle University in Philadelphia, Anthony is in his first year as a Lasallian Volunteer. He teaches fifth-grade Mathematics, fifth- and sixth-grade Language Arts, and fifth- and sixth-grade Physical Education. To know more about the Lasallian Volunteers and their national educational apostolate, visit their website, where you can also read Anthony’s reflections on his work, especially his essay “Counting My Blessings.”

Joining the community in Fall 2015 will be two more Christian Brothers. One is **Brother Anthony Lenz, FSC**, who is currently serving at La Salle High School in Yakima, Washington, and will be the first Christian Brother to serve

at De La Salle Academy. Brother Anthony, a native of San Francisco, is a graduate of Sacred Heart High School and Saint Mary’s College. He has been a mathematics teacher, tennis coach, athletic director, and served in many other capacities. From 1999 to 2012 he served in central Oakland at the Lasallian Educational Opportunities Center.

The other new member will be **Brother Christopher Patiño, FSC**. Brother Chris will live in community at the high school, but his work will be as Director of Vocation Promotion for the District of San Francisco New Orleans, which covers eight states (Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, Texas, and Louisiana). Brother Chris is currently serving as Dean at San Miguel High School in Tucson, Arizona. He is a graduate of Cathedral High School in Los Angeles, and his college alma mater is the University of Arizona.

Transitioning: Brother Jesús Lara, FSC, has been serving at De La Salle since Fall 2012, as a Spanish instructor and assistant director of student activities. His B.A. is from Saint Mary’s College of California and his M.Ed. from the University of San Diego. He is an alumnus of Cathedral High School and has been a teacher in Lasallian schools since 1985. In Fall 2015 he will take up a new assignment as Vice Principal/Director of Studies at San Miguel High School in Tucson, Arizona. 🌿



Brother Lawrence Haley, FSC



Brother Jesús Lara, FSC



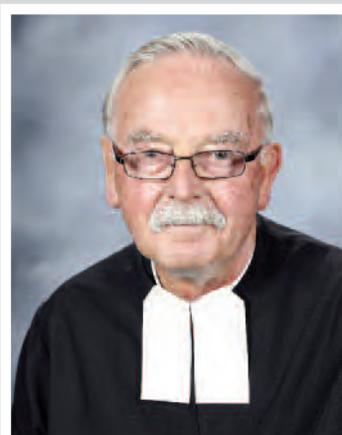
Brother Anthony Lenz, FSC



Brother Patrick Martin, FSC



Brother Christopher Patiño, FSC.



Brother Michael Saggau, FSC



Brother Robert Wickman, FSC



Mr. Anthony Carbone



The guided become guides in their turn: passing it on, and paying it forward.

Dozens of De La Salle High School students are volunteering as “big brothers” to the students at De La Salle Academy.

The ‘little brother school’ in Concord that opened in August 2014 is enriched by the presence of De La Salle High School students who tutor and mentor the fifth- and sixth-graders there. Principal Marilyn Paquette says, “We have had about three dozen De La Salle students volunteering here consistently.”

Senior Patrick Powers is one of them: “I’ve had a privileged life, and I realize that I didn’t get where I am by myself. I wouldn’t know the things I know or be able to do the things I do unless somebody had showed me how. I’ve had a rich life, and I realize I want to pay it forward. So when I heard about De La Salle Academy, I really wanted to take part.”

Patrick has been a Spartan athlete, but this year he is devoting what would have been his sports time to his role as tutor. “I’m at the Academy 3 or 4 days a week, as often as I can. I’m really getting to know the kids, and I think they know and trust me. It’s a whole new world for them, a long school day, and new responsibilities, and if I can help them develop the right skills and habits I think they can excel when they get here to De La Salle High School.”

Senior Jack Madigan also volunteers regularly. “The kids really do respond to us as if we were big brothers. When the school was brand new I had conversations with a couple of students who were feeling bad because they didn’t have friends yet—but now they do. They aren’t shy about talking to us big guys. They come right up and shake hands and introduce themselves. And they want to know all about us, too, especially about our sports.” Jack is a swimmer who will enroll at Fordham University in the fall.

Junior Ryan Byrne is also attuned to the need to give back and to pay it forward: “So many people at De La Salle are helping me, that I feel I should be passing it on and helping someone else. It’s being present to the kids that really matters, and it actually gives me joy to go there every week, or more often when I can. And we talk, and it’s fun, but my purpose really is to keep them directed toward their work, to help them focus on it, so they can progress. I particularly help them with their math and science, which seem to be the toughest subjects.”

The unique educational contribution that De La Salle Academy is making to the local community is being recognized and appreciated. This column by Tom Barnidge appeared in the Bay Area News Group papers on January 11, 2015. [Reprinted by permission.]



Big Strides in a Short Amount of Time at De La Salle Academy

- By Tom Barnidge, *Contra Costa Times*



A year ago, 1380 Galaxy Way in Concord was a vacant office building. When I stopped in Friday, it was buzzing with activity, home to 34 extraordinarily well-behaved fifth- and sixth-grade students.

Say hello to De La Salle Academy, a middle school dedicated to educating low-income youths and kid brother to the high school of a similar name. Made possible by a gift from philanthropist Ken Hofmann and set into motion by De La Salle President Mark DeMarco, it is operated by Principal Marilyn Paquette, a staff of five, and a stream of volunteers. "I'm still a little amazed at how it all came together," DeMarco said.

Inside you'll find youngsters who previously attended 16 schools from as far away as San Leandro and as nearby as Concord's Monument Corridor. They begin arriving when the doors open at 7 a.m. and don't leave until 5 p.m. They're fed breakfast, a hot lunch, an after-school snack, and a full-bodied curriculum that includes math, science, language arts, social studies, religion and Spanish. Even Spanish-speakers take Spanish.

"Just because they speak, it doesn't mean they can read and write it," Paquette said.

The premise behind the project is that a quality education should be accessible to all. As it turns out, all 34 students are minorities, but the only criteria for admission is financial need and a desire to learn.

"Everyone here met an income standard," said DeMarco. "For a family of four, that's 185 percent of the federal poverty level -- about \$44,000 per year."

"We did STAR testing (of applicants) to get a quick assessment of their math and reading skills," Paquette said, noting that applicants of varied learning levels were accepted. "The stu-

dents also had to write an essay and submit their report cards."

The final step in the admission process were in-home interviews, including questions of parents about their expectations for their sons and discipline at home; students were asked, among other things, about favorite subjects and books they'd read.

"It's important to see their family home and their surroundings," Paquette said. "Some of them come from pretty rough neighborhoods, and they're bringing that with them."

The students I saw at morning assembly were attentive and involved. They discussed the "word of the week" (*resolve*) -- a noun and a verb with two meanings, they learned. They identified the five Great Lakes, correctly answering that Superior was largest and Erie shallowest. At meeting's end, about a dozen of them were honored for good deeds they'd done during the week. DLS Academy is a mirror image of the high school, down to the words-to-live-by adages on the walls: "Faith, Integrity, and Scholarship," "Inspire and lead others by encouraging them" and the DLS hallmark: "Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve."

Not coincidentally, high school students are frequent campus visitors. About 35 of them volunteer as after-school tutors. Plans call for the school to eventually include grades 5 through 8. By the time youngsters have completed four years of structured preparation, the theory goes, they should be ready for the leap to high school. "They still have to pass the entrance exam," Paquette said. "It's not a guaranteed ticket."

Time will tell whether this grand experiment works out, but early signs are encouraging. Fourteen students, with grade-point averages of 3.0 or higher, made the honor roll last semester.

It's pretty amazing what's been done with that vacant old office building. 🌿

For complete information on De La Salle Academy, a middle school for low-income boys, visit the website www.dlshs.org.





ANNIVERSARY CAM

Celebrate the first fifty years of De La Salle education.
And help to build the foundation for the next fifty.



Ensuring Access with a Robust Endowment

Fundraising Goal: \$15 million

Status: ACHIEVED AND ONGOING!



STREAM Innovation Center

Fundraising Goal: \$20.5 million

Status: 73% Fulfilled

Target Construction

Completion Date: Fall 2015



Athletic Performance Center

Fundraising Goal: \$7.5 million

Status: 60% Fulfilled

Target Construction

Beginning Date: January 2016



Performing Arts Center

Fundraising Goal: \$7 million

Status: More Information to Come

PAIGN FOR DE LA SALLE

All readers of the *Union* have recently received the Special Edition of the magazine presenting our 50th Anniversary Campaign for De La Salle. It is an exciting moment in De La Salle history—and you are a crucial part of it. This campaign is intended to ensure that students now and in the future will have the financial aid they need and the great educational facilities they deserve. Success in this bold venture will require the support of the entire De La Salle community. Can we count on yours? Gifts of all kinds and sizes are welcome.

Current Gifts. You may make a current gift to De La Salle High School and fund it with cash, securities, life insurance policies given outright, real estate, or other assets. Gifts of appreciated securities are often particularly beneficial to the donor from a tax perspective.

Pledges. You may pledge an amount to the Campaign and arrange to fulfill it in installments over three to five years.

Estate Gifts. You may name De La Salle as a beneficiary in your will or trust.

Naming Opportunities. Through a variety of naming opportunities, donors can commemorate someone or have their own name permanently and proudly associated with the school.

For complete information: Read the Special Edition of the *Union*. And visit the De La Salle website.

To give: Use the Pledge Form in the Special Edition. Or use the envelope stapled on this page. Or visit the website to donate securely online.

Annual Fund vs. 50th Anniversary Campaign – What is the difference?



Many of you reading this already give regularly to the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund is the cornerstone of our fundraising and is the “every year” gift we ask of our entire community. Support of the Annual Fund is essential for funding curricular and co-curricular activities each and every school year. In celebration of the golden anniversary of De La Salle’s founding, the 50th Anniversary Campaign for De La Salle is a special capital project to help the school prepare for the next 50 years. With a focus on Academics, Access, Arts, and Athletics, this campaign will make transformative changes to our campus possible and will enhance financial assistance for families in need. Our hope is that families will continue to participate each year with a gift to the Annual Fund, as well as consider a one-time, stretch gift to the 50th Anniversary Campaign.



Join the Spartan Team.

Please contact Chief Advancement Officer, Heather Pastorini, at (925) 288-8106 to discuss how you can best participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

INSPIRED BY THE EXTRAORDINARY TRUE STORY

WHEN THE GAME STANDS TALL

It's not how hard you fall,
it's how you get back up.



Sportswriter Mitch Stephens of MaxPreps knows De La Salle well. Recently, he interviewed “De La Salle historian, videographer and psychologist” Dr. David Flakoll about his long association with the school. Here is an excerpt from that article:

For the last 335 De La Salle High School football games, Dr. David Flakoll has gladly and meticulously served as the program's historian and videographer. Through a very focused and skilled lens, he has transcribed every play for the last 23 seasons. "He's a staple of De La Salle football," said Terry Eidson, the team's defensive coordinator. Combine that with the fact that Flakoll has been a clinical psychologist since 1972, with an emphasis on sports psychology and peak performance, and he is one of the most qualified experts to determine what has made the Spartans stand so tall for the last three decades.

"The physical side of De La Salle is obviously very, very important," he said. "They've had great talent and receive tremendous physical conditioning.... But the real force that makes De La Salle so special in my mind is the mental aspect.... It's been an incredible act of God this all came to fruition," he said. "The whole De La Salle experience for me has been amazing."

Flakoll, whose son Jonathan Flakoll '93 was the Most Valuable Lineman on the 1992 team, spent most of his professional life prior to 1989 focused on tennis, a game he picked up himself to combat the sedentary office life of psychiatry. Many of his clients were tennis pros and aspiring professionals, and his Sports Psychology Institute "emphasized ideal performance and mental skills," while dealing with depression and low self-esteem among athletes.

His focus changed to De La Salle when Jonathan decided he wanted to be a Spartan. Flakoll, not a huge football fan at the time, started taping freshmen games, and then worked a varsity game and got totally hooked while following a sophomore wide receiver with the camera. "Amani Toomer," Flakoll said. "What an athlete. What an amazing football player.... I started taping all the varsity games soon after and I haven't stopped since." Flakoll got enamored first by the skill and excitement of De La Salle football, but then became entrenched because of the program's "deeper dynamics," involving perfect effort, goal-setting and spiritual bonding—all at the heart of *When the Game Stands Tall*."

Guiding Players to Excellence, Guiding Coaches to Understanding.

The movie *When the Game Stands Tall* was released on DVD in December, and the national conversation about the lessons of Spartan football continues. Here are two examples.



Dr. David Flakoll is honored by Brother Robert Wickman, FSC, and Athletic Director Leo Lopez '94 at his 300th consecutive game.

[In his full article, Stephens asks Dr. Flakoll ten questions as to why De La Salle football has stood so tall so long. Here are three of the Q's and A's.]

Q. What makes De La Salle football so special from your perspective?

A. "It starts with challenging the players to a high level of performance, a peak performance. The coaches get them there through a great sense of bonding and mutuality. There is a vision and care and mutual commitment to the perfect effort that is very powerful."

Q. What kind of things did your son and others take away from the program?

A. "I just think there's a great development of selflessness and purpose, and a sense of responsibility and commitment and working together. Playing in this program allows so many young people to contribute and achieve and assist one another in so many ways. It's tremendous. It's just a huge learning opportunity in so many dimensions of life. These young people aren't just learning football."

Q. The 2004 De La Salle team was very impressive. But for different reasons than the others. What do you remember about that season?

A. "I have a great deal of admiration for that 2004 team. None of the other teams I've witnessed experienced more adversity and challenges. They suffered through coach Ladouceur's heart attack scare and then the murder of Terrance Kelly. Those were real life losses and not easy to heal from."

[Excerpted with permission from an article by Mitch Stephens on MaxPreps.com published December 9, 2014.]

"I began to wonder what it would be like to gather coaches together for a screening of *When the Game Stands Tall*...."

Anne Stricherz, an alumna of Carondelet High School, teaches Religious Studies and coaches girls cross country at St. Ignatius College Prep in San Francisco. She is also a writer, with published articles, and her own blogspot, *Sports and Spirituality*. The blogspot's motto is: **Using the lens of athletics to more fully understand the spiritual life.** Ann writes frequently about De La Salle. You can visit her blogspot, search for "de la salle," and enjoy many insightful and entertaining articles on the school and its people.

The National Catholic Educational Association's quarterly journal *Momentum* is read by more than more than 90,000 administrators, teachers, and Catholic education leaders across the country. For its November 2014 issue, Anne Stricherz wrote a "DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR COACHES" based on the movie *When The Game Stands Tall*. It is excerpted here with permission.

"We all watch movies through a given lens," says Anne. "Our world view is shaped by many influences: age, race, gender, creed, life experiences, special interests, our passions and more. As a high school coach myself, a lot of this story resonated with that component of my identity. The same could be said for parents of high school athletes or an athlete who has contributed a legacy...and those tasked with building a new one.... I began to wonder what it would be like to gather coaches together for a screening of *When the Game Stands Tall*. I would love to hear how my colleagues respond. I would enjoy their thoughts on how they build a team on principles that are countercultural—that are at odds with the face of athletics at large. So, I created a discussion guide for coaches."

A Discussion Guide for High School Coaches: [an excerpt]:

Q. This program was founded on certain ideals – Perfection, Commitment, Compassion, Brotherhood, Faith. What are the ideals you have founded your program upon?

- Give examples of how you teach and model each one.
- Give examples of athletes who have lived those ideals in a memorable or unique way.
- How do you help other athletes do the same?

Q. Terrance Kelly is offered a full ride to play football at the University of Oregon. He shares his jersey with his close friend Cameron Colvin and says “it’s not just a jersey, but an answered prayer.”

- What are your athletes praying for?
- What might be tangible “answered prayers” for them to have and hold?
- How might you help your athletes realize those graces?

Q. Coach Ladouceur faces a common struggle that many seasoned or veteran coaches confront...Can I still reach kids today? And coaches who hold a program up to a counter-cultural standard at times may wonder: Is my message falling on deaf ears?

- Does this struggle resonate with you?
- How have you responded?

Q. At the team meeting the night before the championship football game, the coaching staff asks the players to share their emotions with their teammates, their brothers. When one player says “I would rather die than lose tomorrow’s game” Coach Ladouceur interjects: “Collapse. Not die. It’s just a high school football game.”

- It’s easy to lose sight of the fact that what we do is just what it is—a high school game.
- How do we keep our athletes, their parents and ourselves mindful of this truth?

Q. Two questions *When the Game Stands Tall* asks coaches to confront are “Why do you coach?” and perhaps more importantly, “Why do you stay?”

- Respond.

[*The Discussion Guide on When the Game Stands Tall also appears in full on Anne Stricherz’s blogspot “Sports and Spirituality.”*] 🌿



De La Salle students welcomed audiences and led them in prayer at the special benefit premiere on August 17, 2014.

“An elite institution, not an elitist one.”

Scott Hugo '05 spoke to the De La Salle community in October 2014 about the life-changing experience of being a De La Salle Spartan, of his friendship with Terrance Kelly '04, and of the importance of keeping this Catholic, Lasallian education accessible to all.



I had the distinct honor my junior year at De La Salle to play scout team center against Terrance Kelly. Every practice was a battle. I got some good hits on him, but I'll be the first to admit the balance was in his favor. I can still remember how TK would call out my name before a blitz. Even today I can hear his voice and see the good-natured smile on his face. Those daily battles forged a bond of mutual respect between us.

But a question has haunted me recently: Who would I be if I had never met Terrance Kelly? August 12th, 2004—the day Terrance was murdered—was a turning point in my life. It was the first time that I felt the full force of injustice. I'll never forget his parents' heroic decision to create something positive from the unimaginable pain: the Terrance Kelly Youth Foundation.

Yet if Terrance Kelly had never received financial aid, our paths would not have crossed. I would be a different person—a lesser person—oday.

The truth is that each dollar of financial aid benefits five distinct groups. **First**, financial aid benefits the recipients by offering them the chance to attend an institution where they

can thrive academically, personally, and spiritually. It grants them access to the remarkable community of love and brotherhood at De La Salle. Terrance wrote in his personal statement to the University of Oregon that “a solid education can lead to self-improvement as well as social and economic empowerment.” An education at De La Salle does just that—it empowers. **Second**, financial aid benefits the recipients' families. They can have the security and pride of knowing their son is a Spartan. **Third**, financial aid benefits the school because it reinforces the heart and soul of De La Salle. It is love and service in action, extending our notion of community to include all of our brothers and sisters. **Fourth**, financial aid benefits the people who give. It is an opportunity for them to live out and reinforce the values they hold.

And fifth, financial aid also benefits the students who never receive it. In our society, people tend to live with those of similar means and circumstances. Individuals rarely interact with people from other walks of life. But, as my Religious Studies teacher John McDonough would tell us, life is about love and connections. Financial aid at De La Salle helps forge love and connections across the divides in our society. Financial aid collapses the physical and psychological distance to bring individuals together. The lessons that are learned and the connections that are formed are priceless.

For me, one of those connections was Terrance Kelly.

The truth is, financial aid goes right to the heart of De La Salle. It is one of the most powerful manifestations of our faith and love. It is the expression of our commitment to service and justice. I can't tell you the number of individuals I've met who would have flourished at De La Salle, but who never had the chance. When I think about how much of who I am was forged during those critical years—how De La Salle brought out the best in me—I can't help but feel sadness that others do not have that same opportunity.

Because make no mistake. *An education at De La Salle is a life-altering opportunity.* De La Salle is a supportive community that loves and believes in its students. It provides the space to learn about yourself and the world around you. It



Larry Ross on the football field in 2012 for the Spartans.

provides the space to grow. De La Salle is a community of people committed to providing an exceptional spiritual and academic education, and they deliver. However, that education should not only be provided to those who are fortunate enough to grow up in the families that can afford it. It is this commitment to access that makes De La Salle an elite institution, but not an elitist one. It is a source of great pride when I tell others that I am a Spartan.

That pride is grounded in the knowledge that this commitment is shared across the school. My Honors English teacher, Alexandra Stevenson, believed in me and wrote one of my letters of recommendation for the Rhodes Scholarship. I learned a year ago that Ms. Stevenson provides extra academic support to Bishop Cummins Scholars and Spartan Success students. My football teammate and good friend at DLS, Nicco Cipolla, has joined the De La Salle Alumni Board. Nicco told me about the board's efforts to support financial aid at De La Salle, and I've never been as proud of him as I was at that moment. I've also seen that President DeMarco and Chief Advancement Officer Heather Pastorini believe in this commitment to access. They aren't simply going through the motions.



Heather Pastorini mentioned to me that when she was driving her own son Hayden to and from De La Salle, she also drove his classmate, Lawrence Ross III, one of the students receiving financial aid through the Bishop Cummins Scholarship Program, and they became very close. Both young men graduated in 2014. Today Larry Ross is at Portland State University; his friend Hayden Pastorini is at the University of Arizona.

In October 2013, at this very event, Larry Ross was standing where I'm standing now, and he spoke to this audience about his De La Salle experience.

"Looking back," said Larry, "I believe my personal relationships prior to coming here were leading me in the wrong direction... The influence of my teachers and coaches at De La Salle has turned my life around for the better... I have so many adults in my life now that refuse to let me slip through the cracks.... It is easier to rise to challenges when you know you don't want to let a lot of people down."



Terrance Kelly '04 with his grandmother and father.

Larry had identified one of the fundamental strengths of De La Salle: How the school challenges and supports young men to be the best they can be.

When I hear Larry Ross's words, I can't help but think of Terrance Kelly. It means so much to know that there are scholarships in TK's memory at DLS from The Terrance Kelly '04 Endowed Memorial Fund for Financial Aid. I am proud to know that through the school's financial aid program promising young men like Lawrence get the chance to be a part of De La Salle. Terrance's legacy continues through them.

But we are challenged to do more. Every year we must rededicate ourselves to this promise of access. Every year we must once again profess our commitment to the heart and soul of De La Salle: that our love and brotherhood should not be limited or diminished by artificial barriers like family income.



Scott Hugo gave this talk at the De La Salle Classic Evening on October 5, 2014. Scott received a bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from UCLA, attended Oxford on a Rhodes Scholarship, and earned a Masters in International Relations. He is in the final year of a joint law and public policy degree between Harvard Law School and the Kennedy School of Government. His work has focused on local government, including a summer clerkship at the Oakland City Attorney's office.

Earlier I shared a question with you: Who would I be had I never met Terrance Kelly? I want to conclude tonight with another question: *What does it mean to be a De La Salle Spartan?* According to Coach Lad, a Spartan is someone that can be counted on. That commitment and love is why we fight for each other. Larry Ross understands this: "I am learning what it means to be accountable, and while I know I am not perfect at that yet, I try harder every day."

That is a young man learning what it means to be a Spartan. But that lesson of accountability isn't for him alone. It applies to all of us. We are accountable to young men like Lawrence Ross III.

If a Spartan is someone who can be counted on, then each and every day we are challenged to be there for young men like Larry and to help them fulfill their potential. We can be the key that opens the door to De La Salle. Your presence here tonight and your support of the school's financial aid program demonstrates that you can be counted on. Thank you for answering the challenge. Thank you, and your predecessors, for the impact you've had on my life. Thank you for granting me the opportunity to know and learn from Terrance Kelly. Thank you for being Spartans. 🌿



Larry Ross at the microphone in October 2013.

Will you help make a De La Salle education accessible for all?

The Terrance Kelly '04 Endowed Memorial Fund for Financial Aid.

Terrance Kelly of the class of 2004 was a gifted student and athlete whose life was cut short one day before he would have begun his freshman year at the University of Oregon. In honor of his accomplishments both in the classroom and on the football field, the Terrance Kelly '04 Endowed Memorial Fund was established at De La Salle by Terrance's friends and family to provide financial aid so that a promising student from an underserved area can attend De La Salle and reach his full potential. Student recipients of this fund mirror Terrance's special character and qualities: a leader among his peers, a solid student, and an inspiration to others. The Terrance Kelly Fund is one of 17 endowed scholarship funds established at De La Salle by people who want to make this educational opportunity available to boys who need it.

The Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program.

The Bishop Cummins Program welcomes applications from families whose income does not exceed 185 percent of the federal poverty level. The program is a comprehensive effort to address the educational needs of qualified students who have a strong desire for a De La Salle college-preparatory

education but who lack financial resources. The program is in its sixth year of operation, and serves about five percent of our student body. Nearly one hundred percent of the Bishop Cummins Scholars have gone on to college, and most of these have been the first in their families to have a chance at higher education. In 2013-14, the actual cost of the Bishop Cummins Program was \$732,000, including \$652,000 for tuition assistance.

The Brotherhood Fund.

The Brotherhood Fund addresses the needs of all students. There is so much to a full high school experience, and the major costs of tuition and books are only the beginning. Here are a few other needs: transportation, meals, school supplies, clothing, athletic apparel; uniforms and equipment; tickets for dances, games, and events; fees for retreats, field trips, drivers' education, yearbook ads, class rings, and more. When money is short, or unforeseen needs arise, or personal emergencies strike, we need to be prepared to offer concrete assistance. Timely and focused assistance is crucial, and can be assured by your donations to The Brotherhood Fund. All disbursements are confidential. In 2013-14, The Brotherhood Fund disbursed more than \$32,000 to assist more than a hundred students.

Your support is crucial. How can you give? Please see the box below.

Establish Your Own Named Family Fund

Many of our Named Family Funds, such as the Terrance Kelly '04 Endowed Memorial Fund for Financial Aid, evolved from the passing of an alumnus or other loved one. These funds are a legacy and a promise. They seek to ensure that De La Salle will have the resources to love, instruct, and guide future generations of Spartans.

The 50th Anniversary Campaign for De La Salle offers you the opportunity to reach out to those future generations. For your gift of \$50,000 or more, one of the ways we can recognize your generosity is through the establishment of your own Named Family Fund.

Named Family Funds provide you with the ability to support a student in need each school year based upon your interests. The school will in turn provide you with the wonderful opportunity to connect personally with a current student who is benefitting from your generosity.

For more information on how you can establish your own Named Family Fund and support the 50th Anniversary Campaign, please contact Heather Pastorini at (925) 288-8106 or pastorinih@dlshs.org.



Alumni Guided to Manhood

Teamwork, commitment, dedication, accountability, and sacrifice. These priceless values became habits for the distinguished alumni from three decades who were acknowledged in 2014 at the Evening of Honor.

The annual Evening of Honor, on October 26, 2014, saw two teams and six individuals inducted into the Spartan Athletic Hall of Fame. Honored for their achievements were the 1985 Football Team, the 1996 Soccer Team, Rob Lambert '81, Greg Brown-Davis '97, Joe See '01, Demetrius Williams '01, Matt Gutierrez '02, and Dr. John K. Wilhelmy, orthopedic surgeon and De La Salle dad (Chris '03, Sean '04, and Patrick '07). Also acknowledged was our Distinguished Alumnus of the Year (and Master of Ceremonies), Sean Farnham '96. Congratulations to all the honorees. From the many fine talks delivered that day, we have excerpted these two.

Sean Farnham, class of 1996, Distinguished Alumnus of the Year. Sean Farnham, a captain of the Spartans basketball team in high school and the UCLA Bruins team in college, is a veteran television broadcaster of college basketball for ESPN and the founder of the charity "Hoops from Home," which brings basketball clinics and play to the children of military personnel on active duty.

"It's always a great honor to come back here, and to be the emcee of this great event. And it's an honor to be a Spartan and to represent De La Salle. All of us from the teams, and all the individuals, who are being recognized tonight—we understand what the De La Salle brand means, what our principles are. The principles I learned here at De La Salle have served me well in my life. I want to thank my mother and father for all the sacrifices they made to let me come here, for giving me the blessing of coming to De La Salle. There has not been a major decision in my life that De La Salle has not influenced, and often I have reached out to Brother Robert to talk about these things. He has been a mentor to me, from the time that I walked uninvited into his office on his first day here. From the educators that we have here at De La Salle came my desire to be a history major in college. Two of my favorite teachers were history teachers: Bob Sansoe, sitting right here in front of me. And Cheryl Delahoussaye, who retired from teaching at the end of last school year. They pushed me to go beyond my comfort zone.

"De La Salle is very much about getting beyond your comfort zone, being outside what you are accustomed to doing, doing not just what is asked of you but doing a little bit more than that. And in my life I have remembered that and always tried to achieve that, to do a little bit more than just what is asked. I will never forget the time Cheryl Delahoussaye was handing back papers. She handed me my paper and I started to celebrate: 'Yes!' I said, 'I got a B-plus!' She looked at me and said, 'It should have been an A.' Taking me aside, she said, 'You don't know how to write.' And she said, 'But you're going to learn.' And I had to learn: how to structure my paragraphs, and formulate my thoughts appropriately. She made me work.

"And it is that work ethic that all of us in this room know about. It's that work ethic that has created the De La Salle brand. That has made it more than just a Hollywood blockbuster movie, that has made it the foundation of our community and the source of the pride that we feel when we look at one another.

"In my job I go all over the country, and no matter where you go, when you mention the name De La Salle, everybody knows exactly what your high school is and where you went.

"It's on these De La Salle principles that I developed 'Hoops from Home' for the children of military families. It's on these principles that I raise my three children. And I ask them every day not to do what is easy but to do the difficult tasks that we have in life—to take the chance that there may be failure. Because there will be failure. And I have failed in my life. But I've always stood back up, and have looked for guidance to the principles that I learned here at De La Salle."





Matt Gutierrez, class of 2002, was inducted into the De La Salle Athletic Hall of Fame for his accomplishments in two sports, as a forward on the Spartans' first state champion basketball team and quarterback of the undefeated varsity football team. Matt went on to play quarterback in college and the National Football League. Today, retired from football, he is pursuing a variety of business and philanthropic ventures.

"In getting this honor, I feel like I'm a representative of all my teammates, the great athletes and great people I played with. My being up here is the result of the work of a lot of other people.

"The school has been here a long time, and I came in late in the game, which was lucky for me. I was able to hop up on the shoulders of the teams that came before us, the teams that had really built the programs and had earned the recognition that we were receiving at that time. Things were laid out for me and my teammates to capitalize on the attention that we were getting. We had the chance to go down south and play great teams in basketball, and in football to play on a national stage.

"It was my good fortune to be coming through at that time. Not only because of the chance to play in these big games on these huge stages, but also to learn from the great people that we have here at De La Salle. We're talking about two legendary head coaches in Coach Ladouceur and Coach Allocco. I can tell you: I was at the University of Michigan with Coach Lloyd Carr, who had come to recruit me for football. He had watched a basketball practice at De La Salle, and for all four years that I was there, every few

months he would ask about Coach Allocco and say, 'How is Coach Allocco? Man, that was one of the best practices I've ever seen in 35 years of coaching.'

"Another instance: When I was playing for the New England Patriots, and I was in the cafeteria one day shortly after I had made the team, in my rookie year, Coach Bill Belichick came up to me. And I was nervous because the head man wanted to talk to me. And he says, 'Hey, I got this DVD in the mail.' It was a documentary about our school and our football program, and he talked for fifteen minutes about how impressed he was by Coach Lad and the values he's instilling in the boys. That was just confirmation for me that people who are leaders in their field, some of the greatest coaches of their time and even of history, recognize the people that we have here and the things they are doing. So I feel very fortunate to have been able to come here to De La Salle and play for coach Allocco and Coach Lad and Coach Eidson and Coach Panella and Coach Sullivan and everybody else involved.

"Beyond the competitive arena of sports, I think we have been really fortunate to be part of De La Salle High School. It has been mentioned before that it's really not about the games and the wins. These clips of games we saw tonight, I haven't seen in 12 or 15 years. But what I have revisited many times is the memories of hanging out with friends, of hobnobbing in class with Mr. Sansoe or Mr. Emeldi. And you realize that it's really the people that make this place special. That's the reason why I try to stay around here, because when you are here you are in good company. And I hope that people like us, who have been through this school,

can continue to pass its values on to the kids that are here now and will be here in the future.

“The last thing I’d like to say is that wherever you go, De La Salle is known. And it’s really not about ‘I played at De La Salle and got a scholarship’ or ‘I played at De La Salle and won a state championship.’ For me, it’s really about a set of values and a spirit of responsibility that I learned here and that was really nurtured and developed here. It gives me the confidence to go out, no matter what I’m doing, no matter what environment I’m in, and to be confident, to compete, to get along with people, and to know that, regardless of what happens, I’m going to find a way to be successful. I’d like to say thank-you to everybody who is part of this community for that, because that is really valuable.” 

“What you have heard over and over tonight is that this community, this school, has taught us how to be successful in life, not based on the individual, but based on strengthening our core knowledge of who we are morally, challenging ourselves academically, and asking ourselves to be the best that we can be, every day, in every facet of life. These are lessons that I’ve learned, and that the 1985 football team, the 1996 soccer team, Joe See, Demetrius Williams, Greg Brown-Davis, Matt Gutierrez, Rob Lambert, and Doc Wilhelmy all share. We share the understanding that this place is special and unique. And we want to remain a part of this school, to support it as it continues to educate the hearts and minds of future generations.” - Sean Farnham '96



Good times at the reception at the Evening of Honor, October 26, 2014: from left, Coach Mike Rittenhouse, Joe See, Demetrius Williams, Matt Gutierrez, and Coach Frank Allocco.

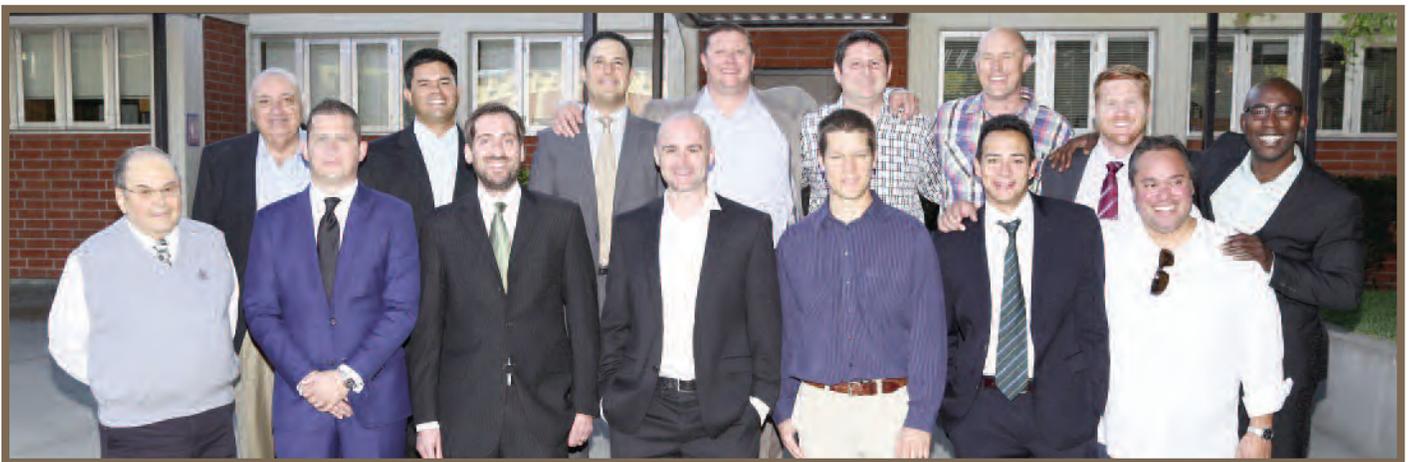
Make your nominations now for Alumnus of the Year and the Athletic Hall of Fame. Our Evening of Honor is October 25, 2015

Take the opportunity to be a part of history, by nominating deserving Hall of Famers and an Alumnus of the Year. Nomination forms and criteria are online at the school’s website under the Hall of Fame tab. The Alumnus of the Year award recognizes a man outstanding for his service to the school and the community. The Athletics Hall of Fame mirrors the history of sport at De La Salle by honoring the best of the best—students, coaches, teams, and supporters—from all decades. Current Hall of Famers includes 29 individual alumni from 1970 to 2002; eight teams; three coaches; and two supporters. Their names and accomplishments, and the list of Alumni of the Year, can be found on the Hall of Fame web page. For complete information, contact Director of Alumni Relations Lloyd Schine III '94, at SchineL@dlshs.org or 925-288-8171





1985 Football Team



1996 Soccer Team

1985 Varsity Football. Rear, from left: Coach Terry Eidson, Mike Vanderklugt, Chris Savarese, Rick Freeman, Rob Strauch, Mike Gipson, Rob Gepson. Front, from left: Chris Hawkins, Vince Genovese, Antonio Vernon, Rob Mitchell, Ron Rusca, Greg Pron, John Whitlow, Mark Lynch, Rich Bianchina, Pat Hannigan. **1996 Varsity Soccer.** Rear, from left: Coach George Sabaggha, Nick Valenzuela, David Molina, Danny Brezac, Matt Andrade, Phil Short, Billy Riley, Dwayne Harris. Front, from left: Coach Leighton Simpson, Keith DeYoung, Colin Kelly, Jason Cassidy, Tibor Hites, Mario Selva, Adrian Lucero. Thanks to these alumni for joining us at the 2014 Evening of Honor. For complete rosters of the inducted teams, visit the Hall of Fame page on the De La Salle website under the Athletics tab.



2015 A Taste of De La Salle

April 16, 2015

6 - 9 pm - \$45 per person

Great restaurants, caterers, wineries,
and breweries share their wares.

De La Salle High School
Hofmann Student Center

For more information please contact, Lauren Seeno at (925) 288-8184 or email at seenol@dlshs.org

Lloyd Schine III, Class of 1994, is New Director of Alumni Relations.

The turn of the year saw Lloyd Schine III '94 take up the duties of Director of Alumni Relations. His predecessor, Tim Roberts '88, ended nearly seven years in the job on December 1, and has moved on to work with Pacific Funding Group.

Lloyd Schine (the name is of German origin and pronounced 'sheen') graduated from DLS in 1994 and went on to Saint Mary's College in Moraga, from which he graduated in 1998 with a degree in Accounting. After a couple of years in the corporate world, he returned to Moraga in 2000 to work as Saint Mary's College's Assistant Director of Alumni Relations, and in 2004 was promoted to Director of Alumni Relations. He was also earning his Master's degree in Educational Administration, receiving that degree from Saint Mary's in 2004. After six years as Alumni Relations Director, Lloyd moved into a different niche in the world of education: In 2010, he became a classroom teacher for young children. He taught middle-school students at Northern Light School in Oakland, and was most recently a third-grade teacher at Martin Luther King Jr. School in Richmond. Lloyd received his Teaching Credential from Saint Mary's College in 2010 and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Saint Mary's in 2013.

Lloyd has continued to serve De La Salle High School over the years, first as a member of the De La Salle Alumni Association Board from 2004 to 2010, and then as a member of the school's Board of Trustees from 2010 to 2014. Lloyd and his wife, Cri, a doctor of clinical psychology, live in Pleasant Hill with their twin four-year-old sons, Kaleb and Kaden. Lloyd says, "I'm excited about the opportunity to connect with my fellow alumni, as we work toward continuing the legacy of our great alma mater. I am in the



process of meeting with alumni and finding ways that I can help engage and re-engage them. Fellow Alumni, please don't hesitate to contact me. I would enjoy talking with you about your ideas for engagement and how the Alumni Association can help in accomplishing those goals."

**Contact Lloyd Schine at (925) 288-8171 or
SchineL@dlshs.org.** 🌿

New for 2015! The Grand Reunion Weekend on Campus. September 11, 12, 13. Save the Date, Classes of 5's and 0's.

This year, classes ending in 5 and 0 are invited to reunite and reconnect. The inaugural Class of 2010 Reunion will be during Thanksgiving break (details to come). The classes of 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1975, and 1970 are invited to gather in a format that is completely new. Lloyd Schine III '94 says, "We are excited to announce a Grand Reunion Weekend, when all the generations can come home to campus together. Classes on 5's and 0's from 2005 back to

1970 are invited to campus on the weekend of September 11, 12, and 13. Events being planned include Friday Golf, Friday Evening Donor Reception, Saturday campus tours, Saturday Night Reception with dinner and dancing, and Sunday Mass and Family BBQ with activities for kids. Details are being set now, and will be provided soon. It promises to be a great and unique weekend." 🌿

In Memoriam

May they rest in peace...with God forever.

Joseph Aimar father of Thomas D. Aimar '69

Rose B. Anthony friend of De La Salle High School

Felix Reyes Avalos grandfather of Dylan P. Jensen '09

Harry Bentz, grandfather of faculty member Anne Talmadge

David C. Bizot father of Christopher D. Bizot '03

Shirley P. Callister grandmother of Devin Callister '00 and Matthew Callister '03

Rena Cecaci grandmother of Michael E. Chrobak '06

Addie Dameron grandparent of Sean M. Poirier '07

Nancy DeVincenzi mother of John DeVincenzi '71 and grandparent of Dominic J. DeVincenzi '96 and Robert J. Bellerose '06

Paul A. Diemer '83

John E. Dryden '80

Sylvester Frank Enea father of David Enea '73, Vesty Enea '79, Paul Enea '84 and grandfather of Paul Knauff '97, Matthew Knauff '00, Michael Lopez '00, Patrick Enea '08, Alexander Enea '08

Genevieve C. Estenson friend of De La Salle High School

Lou Ferrari '80 father of Stephen L. Ferrari '11

Howard Fryman brother of faculty member David Fryman

Betty J. Gallagher mother of Michael (deceased) '70, Patrick '70, Raymond '80, Francis '81, John '83, Paul '85

Steven R. Gaudenzi '70

Robert George grandparent of Matthew George '05 and Brian George '07

Leonard Gollnick II father of Leonard Gollnick '70 and Grant Gollnick '80

Bruce Gordon father of Scott Gordon '81

Sharon Hammond grandmother of James G. Bruno '11

James Hatcher father of Daniel K. Hatcher '97

Beverly Horan grandmother of Anthony J. Gutierrez '10

Ernest John Ibarolle father of Ernest J. Ibarolle '74

Patricia Ladouceur aunt of faculty member Bob Ladouceur

Christine MacLean grandmother of faculty member Kimberly MacLean

James Vincent Maloney grandfather of Charles K. Maloney '14

John A. Marks parent of Michael J. Marks '93

Edith Marzluft mother of staff member Jeffrey Marzluft

Walter L. Moffatt friend of De La Salle High School

Mary Moraga mother of Matthew H. Moraga '89

Robert Norment father of John Norment '86 and Robert J. Norment '84

Eleanor Nunes grandmother of Thomas Nunes '08

April Radnoty wife of Csaba Radnoty '77

Donna Riccabona mother of Stephen '77 and Mark '84 Riccabona and grandparent of Scott '09 and Thomas '18 Riccabona

Attar Singh grandfather of Kash Choudary '14

Laura Siri grandparent of Mark Siri '13 and Will Siri '14

Mary Souza sister of faculty member Bob Ladouceur

Jeanne W. Vaccaro mother of Edward '79 and Anthony '89 Vaccaro and grandmother of Edward Vaccaro III '08 and Robert Vaccaro '13

Albert Wagner father of Christopher Wagner '07

Richard C. Walter father of Donald E. Walter '08 and Carlton W. Walter '10

Phillip L. Weber '74

Clarence Kook Sing Yee father of Tom S. Yee '79 and Michael H. Yee '83



Staying in Touch: What's Happening?

CALLING ALL CLASSES on 5's and 0's:

Class of 2010: 2015 will be your year for your first class reunion. Classes of 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985, 1980, 1975, and 1970 will also gather, to renew the brotherhood and keep the De La Salle connection alive. Visit the Alumni page of the website regularly to keep up on all activities. Our Grand Reunion Weekend for all classes this year is September 11, 12, and 13. Visit the Alumni page of the website for updates on this and all activities. And join us on Facebook and LinkedIn and Twitter.

Keep up with DLS Alumni news and events on



Daniel P. Guernsey '84, Ed.D. Dr. Dan Guernsey began his career in education in 1988. He taught high school students in such exotic places as India, the Philippines, and California (Salesian High in Richmond, and San Joaquin Memorial High in Fresno), and earned master's degrees in English (UC Berkeley) and education (Cal State Fresno). After serving as principal of St. John's High School in Delphos, Ohio, he joined the Ave Maria Education Network in Michigan. He has been President of Ave Maria College, a Graduate Dean at Ave Maria University, and Headmaster of Donahue Academy of Ave Maria. He is now an associate professor of education at Ave Maria University in Florida and the founding chair of AMU's Education Department. As a report in the *Ave Herald* says, "Guernsey believes that the relationship between student and teacher is central to the success of the learner, and also a foundation of education. 'What is our end? What is our purpose? How do we live our lives?' These are questions he says he wants to help students explore."

Kevin Fordon '00. In January 2015 Kevin was named Head Varsity Football Coach at Archbishop Riordan High School. Kevin is a Social Science instructor at Riordan, and has years of teaching and coaching experience, including at Clayton Valley Charter High School, Concord High School, and Diablo Valley College. Kevin is a graduate of Cal State Chico. "It will be an exciting challenge to compete in the WCAL," says Kevin. "We have some great student-athletes that I am proud to coach, and I am honored to be able to represent Riordan. My former coaches Ladouceur, Hamilton, and Darr have all contributed to a wealth of football and life knowledge that I hope to share with my players."

Jonathan A. V. "Jake" Yelner '02. Jake Yelner joined the Air Force in October 2003, and was assigned to the 28th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Force Base, South Dakota. On April 29, 2008, Senior Airman Yelner, as a volunteer in Afghanistan, was on escort duty near Bagram, north of Kabul, when his Humvee struck a roadside

bomb. The 24-year-old died in the explosion. His life ended that day, but his service to the people of Afghanistan continues.

Gravely wounded with him in the blast was his friend, an interpreter named Ahmad Reshad Mushfiq, who was risking his life by working with the Americans. Mushfiq lost both legs and took shrapnel that is still lodged in his arms. But he lived. And as recent stories in the *Contra Costa Times* report, "Today, with the help of East Bay friends and nonprofit groups, Ahmad Reshad Mushfiq is attending college and setting out to succeed." The 32-year-old Mushfiq, a native of Kabul, now lives in Fremont with his wife, Farzana, and their daughter, Zahra, and is known to friends by his American nickname of "Ritchie." "When I think of the explosion, I don't think of my legs. I just remember I lost my friend Jonathan Yelner," says Mushfiq. "He left all his comforts in America to help the Afghan people, to make a difference. I can't forget it."

Ritchie and his wife waited three years for their immigrant visas in Afghanistan, hiding from Taliban forces who had threatened to kill them. Those East Bay friends mentioned in the article include Jake Yelner's mother, Yolanda Vega of Lafayette. The two bonded over their shared affection and grief for Yelner. As the *Times* reports, Mushfiq now calls her "Mom." Vega said, "He wanted to share with me the Jonathan he knew in Afghanistan, and that helped me understand what my son was like in the war." Also aiding Ritchie in establishing a new life in America is the Sentinels of Freedom, the San Ramon-based support group for wounded veterans (see the Spring 2014 *Union* for our story on veteran Mark Vomund '87.). To read more, visit the *Contra Costa Times* online and search on the keyword "yelner."



The Dartmouth Aires perform at De La Salle. See next page.



Mario Adams '08. Mario will graduate in May 2015 from William Jessup University with a degree in History. He plans to spend his ninth consecutive summer coaching in Frank Allocco's Excel basketball camp. "Then," he says, "I will be headed up to Washington state to start my post-graduate life, and hopefully a career coaching basketball. I'd like to connect with any alumni who are in the area or who have connections in Eastern Washington."

Jarrett Taylor '14. In the Fall 2014 issue of the *Union*, we saw Jarrett Taylor '14 in cap and gown, giving the valedictory address at the De La Salle commencement. In this issue we get to hear him sing. Or, we get to see him singing. Jarrett is a freshman at Dartmouth, and a member of the cool a capella group The Dartmouth Aires. On a pre-Christmas tour of campuses in the west, the Aires stopped in at DLS on December 17 to do a free show. The funky Aires have a storied history since 1946 at the venerable New Hampshire college, and were runners-

up on the NBC show "The Sing-Off." Photos show Jarrett and The Aires at the Brother Celestine Cormier Theatre.

What's Happening?
 Send your news and photos to Lloyd Schine III '94, Director of Alumni Relations, at SchineL@dlshs.org.
 —
 Log on at www.dlshs.org/alumni.

Brother Maris Golf Is May 11, 2015: Come Join the Fun



The 31th Annual **BROTHER MARIS** *Golf Tournament*

The 31st Annual Brother Maris Golf Tournament is on Monday, May 11, 2015, at beautiful Diablo Country Club. The event honors Brother Maris Spillane, FSC, a teacher and golf coach in De La Salle's early days, and the proceeds fund scholarships to De La Salle. A shotgun start, fun contests, hole prizes and hole-in-one awards, and the high-stakesshootout. Registration online opens eight weeks prior to the day. The fun includes tee prizes, refreshments, lunch, and end-of-day cocktail reception, with raffles and silent auctions. Join us in the fundraising for Alumni Endowment scholarships.

For information, contact Director of Alumni Relations Lloyd Schine III '94 at (925) 288-8171 or schinel@dlshs.org.

Sports Overview



Cross country

EBAL Champions
NCS Champions
CIF State Championships 10th place



Football

NCS Champions
NorCal Region Champions
CIF State Open Division Champions



Water Polo

EBAL 2nd place
NCS quarter-finalists

Peak Academic Performance. Athletic Director Leo Lopez '94 told the school at the Student Recognition Assembly in January, "I want to point out a tremendous accomplishment by our Fall sports. Each team, at every level—varsity, junior varsity, and freshmen—achieved a team Grade Point Average of 3.0 or greater. That is over 250 student-athletes who performed academically at a high level. Great job, everyone! And congratulations to the students, coaches, teachers, and parents." The complete GPAs for all nine teams are here: Varsity Football 3.22, JV Football 3.03, Frosh Football 3.22; Varsity Water Polo 3.44, JV Water Polo 3.38, Frosh/Soph Water Polo 3.36; Varsity Cross Country 3.43, JV Cross Country 3.29, Frosh/Soph Cross Country 3.35. Among the 168 schools in the North Coast Section, De La Salle's teams consistently rank high academically. In each sport, the top three teams are named "Scholastic Champions." For Fall 2014, this honor was won by the water polo team for its team GPA of 3.44. Congratulations, team.

Cross Country Honors. All-EBAL second team: Isais DeLeon. All EBAL first team: Roc Johnson, Austin Sanchez, Mathew Schumann.

Water Polo Honors. All-EBAL honorable mention: Ben Carter. All-EBAL second team: AJ Anzoategui, Tristen Knoflick. All-EBAL first team: Dominic Dalpiaz, Jake Simpson. EBAL Most Valuable Player: Jake Simpson. All-East Bay Honors: Jake Simpson, first team.

Football Honors. All-EBAL honorable mention: Anthony Sweeney, Sam Phillips. All-EBAL second team: Adam Meyer (WR), Blake Ogburn (Lineman), Bumpy McGee (DL), Jonathan Lopez (DB). All-EBAL first team offense: Antoine Custer (running back, EBAL Most Valuable Player), Andrew Hernandez (RB), Drew Sullivan (Lineman), Matt Medeiros (Lineman). All-EBAL first team defense: Devin Asiasi (DL), Boss Tagaloa (DL), Damon Wiley (DL), Cameron Lissarrague (LB), Je'Vari Anderson (DB). All-East Bay Team, offense: Antoine Custer (first team), Drew Sullivan (first team), Andrew Hernandez (second team), Matt Medeiros (second team), Devin Asiasi (third team). All-East Bay Team defense: Devin Asiasi (DL), Boss Tagaloa (DL), Damon Wiley (DL), Je'Vari Anderson (DB).

College Commitments for Senior Athletes. As of this writing, nine members of the class of 2015 have accepted scholarship offers from schools where they will continue their academic and athletic pursuits. Congratulations to Kyle Rodney (Bryant University, lacrosse), Myles Coston (Fresno State University, baseball), Michael McAdoo (UC Santa Barbara, baseball), Justin Hooper (UCLA, baseball), Tyler Lonestar (Saint Mary's College of California, baseball), Simba Short (Northwestern University, football), Joey Jones (University of Portland, soccer), JT Marcinkowski (Georgetown University, soccer), and Adam Mayer (University of Minnesota, football).

Athlete of the Year and Coach of the Year. *Sport Stars Magazine* named junior Antoine Custer the top Male Athlete of the Year for the fall semester. As a running back for the Spartan varsity football team, Antoine gained over 1900 yards and scored 26 touchdowns. As a rotating member of the secondary on defense, he had 23 tackles and 1.5 sacks. In the CIF state championship Open Division Bowl Game, he rushed for 268 yards and 4 touchdowns in the Spartans' 63-42 win over Centennial High School of Corona. *SportStars* also named head football coach Justin Alumbaugh the Boys Coach of the Year. In his second season as head coach, the Spartans went 14-0 and won the state championship that they narrowly lost last year.



The 49ers' new stadium welcomed De La Salle and James Logan on Saturday, October 11. It was a beautiful day in the Santa Clara sun. The Spartans defeated the Colts 51 - 7.

SUMMER FUN AND FITNESS AT DE LA SALLE for boys and girls in 4th to 9th grade

Athletic Summer Camps 2015. Again this summer, the DLS campus will host summer camps to provide fun, skill-building week-long sessions for boys and girls. There will be sessions for Championship Football Camp, Barry Basic Training Basketball Camp, Lineman Camp, Track & Field, Lacrosse, Wrestling, Quarterback & Wide Receiver, Volleyball, Baseball, Soccer, Water Polo, and Strength & Conditioning. In addition to serving local youth, these camps will also benefit students at De La Salle by providing funding for the Bishop John S. Cummins Scholarship Program for low-income families. For information and registration, visit www.dlshs.org and the Athletics/Camps and Clinics page.

STREAM Innovation Center:

1. View from ground at south end.
2. Rooftop view toward Mount Diablo.
3. Rooftop view over Quad.
4. Rooftop view over baseball diamond and football field.
5. Rooftop view over pool and track.



STREAM Innovation Center
LIVE: Construction WebCam

The time-lapse slide show
updates every half-hour
at www.dlshs.org.





From a solid present to a soaring future:
The path from here to there takes
concrete form as the walkway from
the 300 Wing to the STREAM
Innovation Center goes into place.
The new three-story facility will
open in August 2015. For more
on our 50th Anniversary
Campaign for De La Salle,
turn to page 18.



DATES TO REMEMBER • 2015

Saturday, March 14

Thursday, April 16

Sunday, May 3

Monday, May 11

Friday, May 22

Sunday, May 24

Friday-Sunday, September 11-13

FETE Spring Auction

Wine and Food: A Taste of De La Salle

Dads and Grads Barbecue

Brother Maris Golf Tournament

Baccalaureate Mass and Reception

Graduation, Class of 2015

Reunion Weekend at De La Salle!

**A grand reunion weekend for classes of
2010, 2005, 2000, 1995, 1990, 1985,
1980, 1975, 1970**

Diablo Country Club

De La Salle Campus

De La Salle Campus

Diablo Country Club

De La Salle Campus

De La Salle Campus

De La Salle Campus



2015