

# IRISH REVIEW



A Magazine for Alumni and Friends of O'Dea High School

Spring 2025 | ODEA.ORG



# BROTHERHOOD

# Congratulations to the Class of 2025!



## CONTENTS

- 01** A Message from the Principal
- 02** Igniting Discovery: Hands-on Science at O'Dea
- 04** In Gratitude for Roy F. Simperman
- 04** Hall of Fame
- 05** Faith & Service
- 08** Athletics
- 12** Student Life
- 15** Celebrate O'Dea 2025
- 16** Campaign Update
- 18** Alumni
- 20** Where Are They Now?

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If you would like to send a letter to the editor, update your information, or contribute a written piece for consideration in the Irish Review, please send an email to Nicole Huh, Marketing & Communications Manager, at [nhuh@odea.org](mailto:nhuh@odea.org).

# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Dear O'Dea Community,

Greetings! I am excited for you to read through this edition of The Irish Review, a magazine for alumni and members of the proud O'Dea Community.

As another successful school year concludes, I am reminded of the daily efforts and creative energies of our fantastic faculty and staff in support of the proud legacy of Catholic education and our shared responsibility to implement engaging and innovative programs to serve the needs of our current students and families. Preparing both for the graduation celebrations of our senior class members while welcoming our freshman students to O'Dea is always a marvelous time of year, providing reflections on all that our seniors have accomplished while imagining all that our newest students will achieve over the next four years.

As principal, I genuinely appreciate your continued support of our efforts to realize the founding mission of O'Dea in significant and life-changing ways for the young men entrusted to our care. Investing in their high school experience and providing a foundational education grounded in our mission-centered core values of Character, Faith, and Service will serve us all well, now and in the future. For over a century, O'Dea has stood as an inspiration for educational excellence and faith formation. Thank you for celebrating and honoring this proud legacy.

Peace and Roll Irish!



Jim Walker  
Principal



## STAY IN TOUCH!



Did you move recently, change your email address, or get a new phone number? Keep your contact information up to date. Scan the QR code or contact [enews@odea.org](mailto:enews@odea.org).



## IGNITING DISCOVERY: HANDS-ON SCIENCE AT O'DEA

From biology to forensic science, O'Dea students engage in labs that bring science to life. Whether extracting DNA and analyzing genetics, investigating mock crime scenes, constructing ecosystems, or conducting chemistry experiments, they apply classroom concepts in meaningful ways. These hands-on experiences not only reinforce scientific principles but also develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

Beyond individual courses, the science department continuously evolves, working to align its curriculum



with engineering principles and cross-cutting scientific concepts. Faculty members collaborate to develop a vertically integrated science program, ensuring that students build on foundational knowledge year after year.

By fostering curiosity and innovation through hands-on learning, O'Dea's science program prepares students for future scientific pursuits, whether in college labs or professional careers. The goal isn't just to teach science, it is to ignite a passion for discovery.



When you think back on your high school science classes, what do you remember most? For many, it's the hands-on experiences: exciting experiments, engaging labs, and the thrill of discovery.



# IN GRATITUDE FOR ROY F. SIMPERMAN



Roy F. Simperman passed away on February 4, 2025, leaving a legacy at O'Dea that will live on far into the future. Throughout his more than 40 years of involvement at O'Dea, he enabled us to conduct significant building renovations to provide an enriching environment for our faculty and students. In addition, his ongoing commitment to need-based financial aid and supporting families with emergency tuition made it possible for countless students to receive an O'Dea education.

Roy received an honorary diploma from O'Dea as part of the Class of 2019 and was inducted into our Hall of Fame in 2023. In addition, the Simperman Student Resource Center was named for him in 2019. We were all blessed to have had Roy in our lives and are grateful for his care and friendship.



# HALL *of* FAME

*Honoring Character, Faith, and Service*

## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2025 HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES!

The Hall of Fame is an honor given to those who have made significant contributions to O'Dea or the greater community through their professional accomplishments, dedication to faith and service, and/or meaningful enhancement to O'Dea's student, faculty, and staff experience. We are thrilled to recognize and celebrate Joe Fugere '79, Liz Swift, and Pat Welch '65, who were inducted into the O'Dea High School Hall of Fame during this year's auction.



### **Joe Fugere '79**

Joe Fugere, an entrepreneur and Seattle business leader, is passionate about social progress and the role that businesses can have in achieving positive social change within the community. As the founder of Tutta Bella, Joe has earned local and national recognition for his partnerships and advocacy on behalf of others. Joe remains committed to O'Dea, sharing his experience and supporting its mission.



### **Liz Swift**

Liz dedicated her 48-year career to Holy Names Academy as a teacher, coach, Vice Principal, and ultimately Head of School. A champion of STEM education and student success, she played a key role in expanding scholarships, enhancing facilities, and building and strengthening the connection between Holy Names and O'Dea. Liz has served for many years on the O'Dea School Board, bringing wisdom, humor, and a deep commitment to our mission.



### **Pat Welch '65**

Pat, the Class of 1965 valedictorian, had a successful career serving in key leadership roles for several large corporations. Since his retirement, he has dedicated himself to helping non-profit organizations with a focus on Catholic social causes and education. Pat has volunteered in several areas at O'Dea, including many years of service on the O'Dea Foundation Board, where his work has significantly strengthened our financial future.

# FAITH & SERVICE

## FAITH IN ACTION: SERVING AT THE BORDER

In November, Braydon Herrmann '27, Marcello Slye '27, Dominic Stone '25, and Kobe Williams '25, traveled to Brownsville, Texas, located on the Mexican border, joining other Christian Brothers High School

### **"I FEEL COMPELLED TO HELP THOSE STRUGGLING..."**

students to serve that community. Partnering with the Catholic Charities Human Respite Center and the Good Neighbor Food Pantry, they met with and assisted people facing the challenges of immigration and poverty. After this week of service, Dominic shared, "I feel compelled to help those struggling, to learn and better understand their



circumstances, and the forces that created their unjust situation." This annual experience demonstrates O'Dea students strengthening their commitment to faith, service, and justice.

## LEADING WITH PURPOSE



Kobe Williams '25 consistently demonstrates the true qualities of a service leader at O'Dea as well as the Seattle community and beyond. As a three-year intern with the Seattle MLK Jr. Coalition, Kobe has risen to lead fellow interns in planning the organization's annual MLK Rally and Walk. In addition, for the past two years, he has served as master of ceremonies for the rally, speaking in front of over 1,500 community members. He is also a Core Team Lead with Shirts Across America, where he leads a group of fellow students building houses in New Orleans.

Kobe's parents have expressed that they are "deeply grateful for O'Dea's role in shaping Kobe into the leader he is today," and they appreciate that we have helped cultivate the values and skills that shine through in his community work.

We are grateful for the positive impact Kobe makes at school and in the community.



## PARENT HOUSE GAMES 2025: FRIENDLY COMPETITION, FIERCE HOUSE PRIDE

O'Dea parents once again came together for an exciting evening of fun and friendly competition at the Second Annual Parent House Games on April 3rd. Representing their sons' Houses, parents competed in six thrilling games, vying for the coveted Parent House Cup. The night was filled with energy, house pride, and community spirit as families cheered each other on.

A special thank you to Manny Ramos (Shan '25) and Matt & Christina Skally (Dominic '24 and Christian '26) for their continued leadership in bringing this event to life. Congratulations to Waterford for taking home the 2025 title! We love the spirit and camaraderie of our O'Dea parent community.

## O'DEA GIVES BACK

O'Dea students, faculty, and staff dedicated their time to giving back during special days of service. Sophomores put their faith into action through the Sophomore Service Retreat, while faculty and staff participated in their own Day of Service, partnering with Catholic Community

Services to assist elderly clients with outdoor yardwork at various locations, reinforcing O'Dea's commitment to servant leadership. Through hard work, prayer, and meaningful connections, the entire O'Dea community came together to make a lasting impact beyond the classroom.



## SERVING TOGETHER: FATHER'S CLUB FOOD LIFELINE EVENT

In January, O'Dea students and their dads joined together for the annual Father's Club Food Lifeline service project. Working side by side they filled boxes, built pallets, and prepared shipments for local food banks. This is a wonderful example of how our families come together to make a tangible impact in our community.



## PLAYING WITH PURPOSE

O'Dea students teamed up with Holy Names Academy to host a charity volleyball tournament, raising funds for Morgan's Message, a nonprofit dedicated to promoting mental health awareness in student-athletes. The event included 13 competitive teams, all rallying for a great cause while showcasing their skills on the court. With high-energy matches and strong school spirit, the tournament was a fun and meaningful way for students to support an important issue.



## DIAPER DRIVE

In December, the O'Dea community exceeded expectations by gathering an incredible 36,000 diapers during our Diaper Drive. These diapers were donated to our long-time community partner, Providence Regina House, who gives them to families in need through the Baby Cupboard. This incredible contribution, which will support 600 families for an entire year, reflects our students' commitment to service and their compassion for others.

# ATHLETICS

## BROTHERHOOD... YEARS IN THE MAKING



The O'Dea Brotherhood is built on lifelong connections, and Shea Carstens '17 recently experienced this in a powerful way. As a student at O'Dea, he participated in the Little Irish program, mentoring Jack, a young grade school student who looked up to O'Dea's Fighting Irish. Years later, Shea had the honor of sponsoring Jack at his Confirmation, a moment made even more meaningful by the news that his former Little Irish buddy is joining the Class of 2029 this fall.

As a new football coach at O'Dea, Shea continues to give back to the community that shaped him. This full-circle story is a testament to the strength of the O'Dea Brotherhood, where traditions of mentorship, faith, and leadership continue to inspire generations of young men.



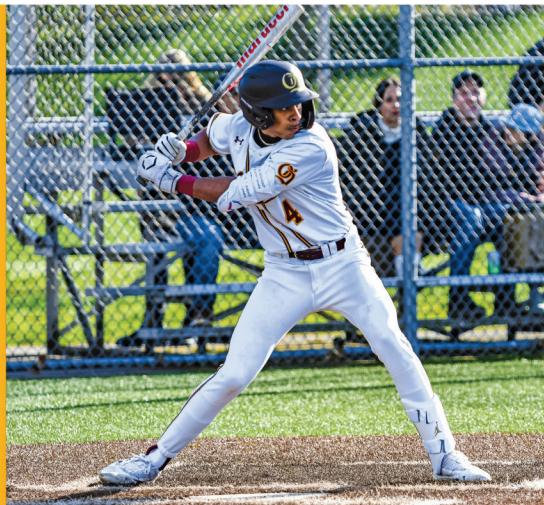
## FINDING A PLACE IN O'DEA ATHLETICS



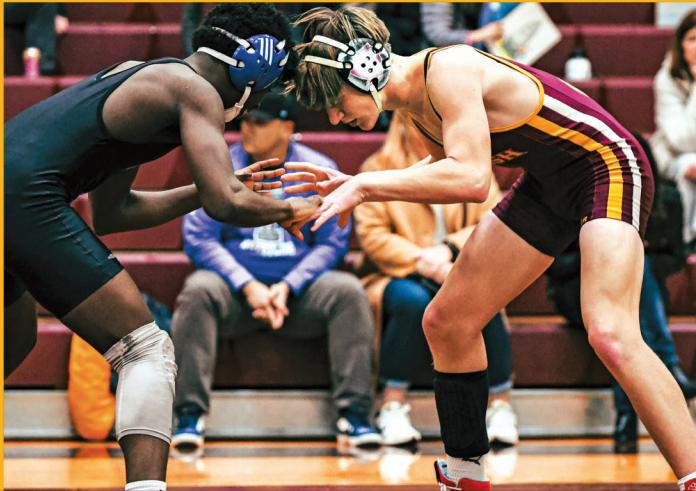
At O'Dea High School, athletics is about more than just competition. It's about connection, commitment, and building community. Whether as a varsity starter, a first-time athlete, or someone trying a new sport, this year 94% of our students participated on an athletic team for at least one season. In addition, from the first kickoff of fall to the final lap in the spring, students filled more than 650 roster spots. This affirms just how many students find their place within our teams and that there is room for everyone to grow, contribute, and thrive.

These students-athletes come from different backgrounds and bring different talents, but they all share a common experience of belonging within our athletic program. At O'Dea, athletics is not just for the few, it's for the many, with each young man finding a place to grow, lead, and connect. And in doing so, they discover what it means to be a part of a team, a gentleman, and the O'Dea Brotherhood.

**Registration for the Little Irish will be opening soon!** This is a fantastic opportunity for young athletes to learn, grow, and have fun the O'Dea way. For more information and to receive updates, email us at [enews@odea.org](mailto:enews@odea.org) and let us know you're interested. We can't wait to welcome the next generation of Irish!



## COMPETING WITH HONOR



# THE RECIPE FOR A CHAMPIONSHIP

## THE KEY INGREDIENTS BEHIND O'DEA'S 2024 STATE TITLE



Great teams don't just happen. They're built through dedication, support, and a strong community. O'Dea's 2024 3A State Championship was more than a victory on the field; it was the result of countless contributions from the entire Fighting Irish family. Like any great recipe, it took the perfect blend of tradition, teamwork, and unwavering support to create a championship team. Congratulations to the Fighting Irish, proof that when the O'Dea Brotherhood comes together, anything is possible.



### A DASH OF HOME COOKING: THE FOOTBALL MOTHERS

Behind every great athlete is the fuel that keeps them going. O'Dea's Football Moms played a crucial role in the team's success, preparing pre-game dinners for Varsity players. Their unwavering support ensured the team was nourished and ready to compete every Friday night.

### THE HEART OF THE TEAM: THE PLAYERS

No championship is possible without the athletes themselves. The Fighting Irish put in months of hard work, dedication, and perseverance to bring home the state title. From early morning workouts to late-night film sessions, their commitment to excellence on and off the field was the foundation of this year's success.



EST.



### GUIDING THE WAY: THE COACHES

Every great recipe needs expert chefs, and O'Dea's coaching staff was instrumental in leading the team to victory. Their leadership, strategic preparation, and dedication to developing young men of character played a key role in the team's championship journey.



### A GLIMPSE OF THE FUTURE: ANDREW'S LITTLE IRISH

O'Dea's legacy is built on tradition, and the Little Irish program continues to inspire future generations. These young fans, who look up to the Fighting Irish, were there every step of the way, cheering on the team and dreaming of their future under the lights.



### CAPTURING THE MOMENT: THE DIGITAL MEDIA CREW

A championship season deserves to be shared, and the O'Dea Digital Media Club made sure no moment went unnoticed. From livestreaming games to capturing highlights and interviews, their behind-the-scenes work allowed fans near and far to follow the team's journey to the top.



### GROUNDED IN FAITH: FOOTBALL MASS

Faith is at the core of O'Dea's Brotherhood. Before every game, players gathered for Football Mass, centering themselves in prayer and reflection. This tradition not only strengthened their faith but also reinforced the values of unity, gratitude, and purpose, essential ingredients in their championship journey.

### THE ELECTRIC ENERGY: THE STUDENT SECTION

A championship team needs a championship atmosphere, and the O'Dea student section delivered. Decked out in maroon and gold, the student body created an unforgettable game-day experience that fueled the team's energy and momentum.

### THE ULTIMATE HYPE CREW: PARENTS & FANS

Championship teams thrive on support, and O'Dea's dedicated parents and fans brought the energy all season long. Whether tailgating before games or packing the stands with enthusiasm, they created an unmatched atmosphere that fueled the Fighting Irish.

# STUDENT LIFE

## **SNOW MUCH FUN: O'DEA & HOLY NAMES HIT THE SLOPES!**

This past winter, students from O'Dea and Holy Names Academy joined together for Ski Bus and the opportunity to enjoy the slopes together. From first-time skiers to seasoned pros, everyone had a blast carving through fresh powder and bonding along the way. It was a great chance to make new friends, get outdoors, and create lasting memories.



## **WINTER BALL**

O'Dea and Holy Names Academy students took over the Museum of History & Industry (MOHAI) in South Lake Union for an unforgettable Winter Ball this year! The combined formal was the perfect way to celebrate the end of the semester in style.



## O'DEA MOCK TRIAL MAKES HISTORIC STATE DEBUT

For the first time in school history, O'Dea's Mock Trial team advanced to and competed at the YMCA Mock Trial State Competition, facing off against the top 26 teams in Washington. At the Tacoma Courthouse, our students showcased their legal skills, earning high praise from attorneys and judges alike, some even comparing their performance to that of law students and young attorneys.

Several team members received individual recognition: Luther Hill '25, Gobi Thomas-Goodson '25, and Nat Badley '25 were nominated for Best Witness, with Luther placing second overall. Zach Schuyler '25 and Maks Karman '25 were nominated for Best Lawyer, an incredible feat given the competition.

At the District competition, a judge singled out the O'Dea Mock Trial team in front of over 300 students,



highlighting our students' commitment to remaining kind and respectful competitors. This recognition by the judge is a testament to the team's commitment to competing with honor and integrity.

## THE MAGICAL JOURNEY TO "HADESTOWN: TEEN EDITION"

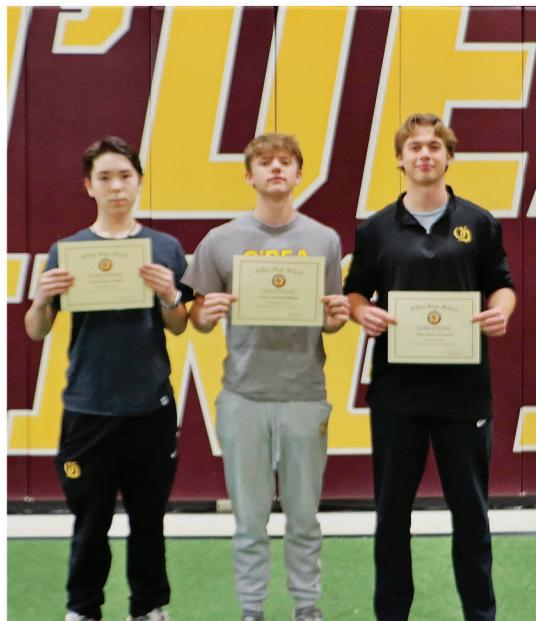


This year, O'Dea and Holy Names Academy's theater programs took on the ambitious challenge of performing *Hadestown: Teen Edition*. The production brought audiences into the world of Greek mythology with a modern twist, telling the story through music and dialogue. The cast and crew put in significant effort to bring the show to life, working together on performances, set design, and technical elements. The collaboration between the two schools made for a rewarding experience, and the production was well received by attendees. This play was a great opportunity for students to showcase their hard work and dedication to theater.

# CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE AT THE BROTHERHOOD AWARDS ASSEMBLY

O'Dea's Brotherhood Excellence Assembly recognizes students who exemplify academic achievement, leadership, and service within our community. At the Spring 2025 assembly, students from all grade levels were celebrated for their hard work and dedication to the values of O'Dea.

These students continue to uphold the spirit of excellence, leadership, and service that defines the O'Dea Brotherhood. Congratulations to all our recipients!



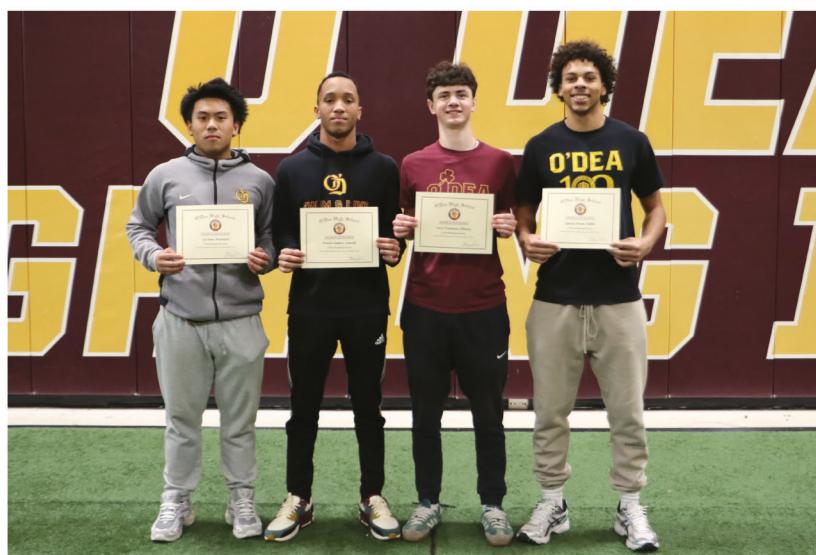
**Brotherhood Service Award:** pictured from left to right: Dominic Stone '25, Cormac Hummel '25, Ollie Ricard '25. Not pictured: Gene Woodard III '27.



**Academic Excellence Award Winners:** pictured from left to right: Ethan Read '25, Ramere Collier-Banks '26, Jack Gonzalez '28. Not pictured: Khalil Diers '27.



**Leadership Award Winners:** pictured from left to right: Chase Foster '28, Mason White '27, Chris Laylo '26, Alex Bannerman '25.



**Brotherhood Award Recipients:** pictured from left to right: A.J. Gines '26, Prentice Sanders '26, Lucas Tamalunas '26, Quincey Brown '25.

# CELEBRATE O'DEA!

## DINNER & AUCTION

On March 15th our community came together to celebrate our school and raise money to support the renovation of Room 100. A sold out crowd joined us for a night full of fellowship, food, and bidding! A special thank you to our Auction Committee and Auction Event Chairs, Molly Burdeen (mother of Miles '26 and Easton '28) and Megan Turner (mother of Lincoln '26) for their work and dedication to making the evening so special.



### THANK YOU SPONSORS!

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# THE O'DEA CAMPAIGN

## BUILDING OUR NEXT 100 YEARS



## HONORING TRADITION, BUILDING THE FUTURE

O'Dea's legacy is built on grit, brotherhood, and a relentless pursuit of excellence. For over a century, the Fighting Irish have shaped young men who lead with integrity in the classroom, on the field, and beyond.

Recently, an anonymous donor made a gift that embodies this spirit. With deep appreciation for O'Dea's mission and Monte Kohler's leadership, they contributed \$10,000 to the capital campaign, securing a naming opportunity on Kohler Field. Instead of honoring themselves, they chose to recognize the 3A

State Championship football team as a tribute to the dedication and unity that define O'Dea athletics.

This act of generosity is a testament to O'Dea's lasting impact. It reminds us that behind every championship is a commitment to something greater, including hard work, discipline, and a belief in shared success.

As O'Dea's capital campaign continues, moments like this show what is possible when a community comes together. This initiative ensures that future generations of Fighting Irish students have the facilities and opportunities they deserve while preserving our tradition and building for the future.

At O'Dea, success is never about one person. It is about all of us lifting each other up, pushing forward, and leaving something greater behind.

### WHAT PART OF O'DEA'S LEGACY WILL YOU HONOR WITH A GIFT?

Visit [www.capitalcampaign.odea.org](http://www.capitalcampaign.odea.org) to donate today.

Gifts of \$10,000 or more will be recognized at the field.

# CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

As progress continues on O'Dea's capital campaign goals, exciting changes are underway. The stained glass windows are being carefully removed for restoration, ensuring they will continue to inspire generations to come. Each step forward brings us closer to enhancing our campus while honoring the traditions that define O'Dea.

**THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY FOR YOUR UNWAVERING SUPPORT IN MAKING THIS VISION A REALITY!**

For more information on the campaign, or to make a gift, please contact: Allie DeLong Thomas, Advancement Director, at [athomas@odea.org](mailto:athomas@odea.org) or 206-923-7540



## MAKE TWICE THE IMPACT!



Your generosity can go even further! Many employers match donations, and even volunteer hours, doubling your impact on O'Dea students. It's fast, easy, and makes a real difference.

**LAST YEAR, WE RAISED \$115,000 THROUGH MATCHING GIFTS ALONE.**

Imagine what we can do this year with your help. Check with your employer today or scan the QR code to see how simple it is to double your gift and/or get a matching gift for volunteering your time!

# ALUMNI



## ITALIAN DINNER CELEBRATES AWARD WINNERS

Our 58th annual Italian Dinner brought together the Fighting Irish community for an incredible night at St. Anne's Parish. Over 300 O'Dea alumni, families, and supporters enjoyed an evening full of laughter, connection, and tradition. This year's event honored two outstanding members of the O'Dea community. Mario Banchero '92, father of Paolo '21 and Lio '26, received the Terrence Johnson Father of the Year Award. Additionally, Peter Jones '17 was recognized as the

James Bosa '98 Alumni Volunteer of the Year. We are deeply grateful to both men for their dedication and service to O'Dea.

A special thank you to Sandy & Dave Dubuque and Marci Mascio and her team for putting together the fabulous raffle baskets, which are always extremely popular. We also want to recognize Donny Jones and Travis Stanley-Jones for their hard work and dedication in making this event a success.

## NICK STEFONICK '95 SHARES POWERFUL CANCER JOURNEY AT BEARDS FOR BROS KICKOFF



The Beards for Bros kickoff assembly featured a heartfelt presentation from alumni speaker, Nick Stefonick '95. Nick, a current O'Dea parent (Rocco '25) and O'Dea Athletic Wall of Honor member, shared his inspiring journey of battling cancer as a young adult. Before he spoke, Rocco had the honor of introducing his dad. Nick's story highlighted the importance of supporting Beards for Bros, which honors the many members of our community impacted by cancer. The Beards for Bros initiative, and our official Seattle Children's Guild, the *Fighting Irish, Fighting Cancer Junior Guild*, has raised over \$158,000 for Seattle Children's Hospital since 2015. Nick's words served as a reminder of the strength of community and the power of coming together for a cause that impacts so many.

## CAREER DAY 2025

O'Dea's annual Career Day was a great success, bringing together a diverse group of professionals to inspire and educate our students. With careers spanning politics, law, healthcare, engineering, marketing, business, and the arts, our speakers provided invaluable insights into their industries. Experts from Microsoft, Seattle Children's Hospital, Delta Airlines, and more shared their experiences, giving students a firsthand look into various career paths. Special thanks to our Keynote Speaker, current O'Dea parent, Jody Hall, Founder & CEO at Wunderground Coffee, Cupcake Royale & Verite Coffee. She shared her inspiring journey, from starting at

### THANK YOU TO ALL OUR GUEST SPEAKERS

Adonis Ducksworth '93	Regi Bengalil '00	Will Schmidt '13
Sean Standley '97	Dr. Jordan Jin '09	Sam Johnson '16
Joe Brazier '99	Dan Nelson '11	Charles Hamaker '19
Patrick Lavin '99	Danny Strick '13	John Misel '19
Eddie Lincoln '00	Declan Moran '15	



## O'DEA'S LASTING LEGACY THROUGH THE GONZALEZ FAMILY

The strength of O'Dea lies not only in its commitment to academic excellence and character formation, but also in its legacy that spans generations of families. This was highlighted during the annual O'Dea Alumni Mass of Remembrance at St. James Cathedral this past January. Current O'Dea freshman, Jack Gonzalez, a fourth-generation O'Dea student, spoke about his dad's, grandfather's, and great-grandfather's connection to the school. During his reflection, Jack shared, "I strive to live in a way that honors their memory and the values that O'Dea is known for." His words reflect what makes O'Dea special, the impact the school has on families, and the values that are passed down through generations.



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

**Dr. Robert Flor '61** continues to explore Filipino culture through his work as a playwright and poet. His latest project, a radio play series, blends Filipino and Hindu mythology. Flor's passion for global mythologies has led to notable works like *Mabuhay Majesty* and *Alaskero Memories*.



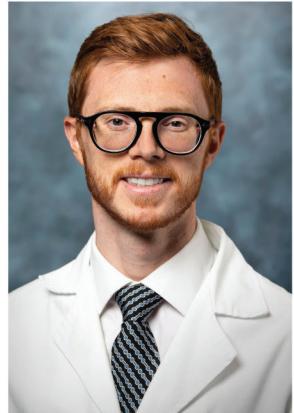
**Joe Gladstone '80**, continues to make a significant impact as a Management Professor at WSU Everett. With a grant from the Bank of America Charitable Foundation, he's building stronger ties between WSU and Native American tribes

in the Salish Sea, focusing on economic development and research. His efforts aim to increase the number of Indigenous business faculty and establish a center for American Indian business research at WSU.



**Ted Haskell '88**, the new owner of Nordic Hut at Mount Spokane State Park, was recently featured in *The Spokesman-Review* for preserving Spokane's only on-mountain Nordic ski rental. His purchase ensures access to the sport for both beginners and experienced skiers. A passionate coach and athlete, Ted is dedicated to sharing his love for skiing and helping others explore the park's trails.

**Dr. Dominic Emerson '00** was appointed Associate Director of the Comprehensive Transplant Center at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles. Dr. Emerson, a leader in thoracic transplantation and robotic cardiac surgery, has pioneered groundbreaking procedures, including the first robotic lung transplant. He has earned national recognition for his expertise and research.



**Mitch Johnson '05** was named the head coach of the NBA's San Antonio Spurs on May 2, 2025, marking an exciting new chapter in his basketball career. Mitch was a student-athlete at Stanford University before his professional

journey led him to the NBA, where legendary coach, Gregg Popovich, mentored him. Johnson now has the opportunity to continue the Spurs' winning legacy.



We are thrilled to welcome **Taylor Mays '06** back home to Seattle as the new safeties coach for the Washington Huskies football program. Stafford Mays, Taylor's dad, O'Dea School Board member, and O'Dea assistant football coach, is especially pleased to have Taylor coach at his alma mater.

**Christian Zabala '07** contributed to the music on Marvel Animation's new show, "Your Friendly Neighborhood Spider-Man," working alongside other talented artists. His work helped bring the series to life with an incredible soundtrack.



**Anthony Espinoza '10** is a teacher and coach who inspires his students through hands-on learning at Toppenish Middle School. Known as "Coach ACE," he also plays a pivotal role in youth football, founding the Jr. Wildcats Youth Football League to provide free opportunities for young

athletes. His dedication to the community was highlighted in an article in the Yakima Herald-Republic.

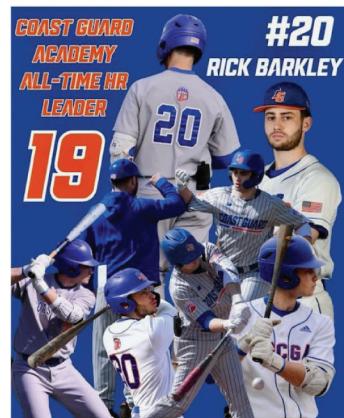
**Marcus Wong '15**, (below, center) the 2015 recipient of the Service to O'Dea Award, was the guest speaker at our fall Brotherhood Excellence Assembly, where he



shared his insights on his lifelong commitment to service. Marcus emphasized that we can make a profound impact on people by uplifting others and reminded us that service has the power to strengthen communities. Marcus is currently a Partnership Strategy Analyst with the Seattle Seahawks.

### **Rick Barkley '22**

continues to make his mark on the baseball field as a standout shortstop for the Coast Guard Academy. In a March extra-inning victory over Western New England, he made school history by hitting his 19th career home run. Barkley, a junior, is majoring in Cyber Systems.



This summer, **Simon Olech '24** will intern at the National Journalism Center in Washington, D.C. As a Political Science, History, and Economics student at Franciscan University, Simon will gain hands-on experience with an established newspaper. The internship, part of Young America's Foundation, focuses on training responsible journalists, and providing skills for future careers in journalism and law.



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