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## FLYING ABOVE THE PACK

Jude Okonkwo '17 Named Chaminade Man of the Year

by Oscar Matos '18

**E**very year, the recipient of the Chaminade Man of the Year Award has an "x-factor," a singular trait that sets him apart from the pack. Whether it be community service, exceptional leadership, or a strong work ethic, each and every Chaminade Man has proven himself outstanding in one respect or another. However, when a student so strongly demonstrates not one, but all of these characteristics, as in the case of Jude Tochukwu Okonkwo, the result is one of the most deserving choices for the school's highest honor.

Although many Chaminade students maintain active participation in several athletic and extracurricular activities, only a few rise to the level of a leadership position in these pursuits. One of the most impressive feats of Jude's high school career has been his ability to break that mold, thriving in each and every sport and activity in which he has taken part. Over the course of the last four years, he has helped guide the next generation of Flyers as a Senior Leader, was a member of the track team, and climbed the ranks en route to editorial positions on both *Tarmac* and *Skylight*, Chaminade's literary publication. On top of that, Jude was a consistent presence on the Morning Announcements as a member of the Communications Club and served as president of the Gold Glee Club. One of Jude's most telling in-school roles, though, was his position as Vice President of the National Honor Society. This was an honor bestowed upon him by his peers, something that remains indicative of the respect they have for him.

"Never before have I met someone who is so dedicated to everything he does. Jude is proof that hard work pays off," said Patrick Johnson '17, this year's recipient of the Fr. Philip Eichner, S.M. Award.

And pay off it did. During the annual senior trip to Disney World, Jude found out that he had been accepted into all eight Ivy League schools – Brown, Columbia, Cornell, Dartmouth, Harvard, Princeton, University of Pennsylvania, and Yale. Jude, who will be attending Harvard this fall, chalks up his success to the guidance of others, saying, "I had a plethora of role models in my family, church, and school community that guided me along the way."

One of the benefits of Chaminade is the variety of activities that it provides for students. As such, no one would blame a Flyer for centering his extracurricular life around the school's offerings. It takes a truly motivated student to step outside

of this comfort zone, and yet that is exactly what Jude has done time and time again. He is an active member in his parish, acting as an altar server and singing in the choir. Additionally, he teaches swimming to those with special needs in his free time.

"All of these activities complemented my interests I discovered in school," explained Jude. "I was motivated by a desire to dive deeper into these passions."

An often underrated factor in the Chaminade Man award is the fact that it emphasizes the importance of the human being lying beneath the student; at the end of the day, we are people first and scholars second, and the award reflects this. And for all of his tangible accomplishments, perhaps the most deciding factor in Jude's winning Chaminade Man is the lasting impression he leaves on virtually everyone he meets.

"Jude was an incredibly hard worker and was extremely motivated, but what stood out the most was how genuine and humble he was," said Mr. Terence McCormick '03, Jude's former history teacher. "He was a truly genuine person, and he had great relationships with everyone he met."

Chaminade is a two-way street – the school, and all that it embodies, shapes the students; while the students, in turn, shape the school.

"Receiving [the Chaminade Man of the Year Award] was just an incredible blessing, and it demonstrated Chaminade's ability to nurture an environment where the whole character is formed. I am thankful that

Chaminade gave me that opportunity," said Jude.

Like the rest of the class of 2017, the road does not end here for Jude. His growth as a person and as a student will continue long after he leaves Chaminade. However, the experiences he has had here have molded him and will stay with him forever.

"I have taken away the fact that it is the whole person that counts. Onwards into college, I will continue to grow closer to God and our Mother Mary," said Jude. "I will keep on trying to embrace all people to try to create authentic relationships just like I had at Chaminade. And most importantly, I'll strive to make the most of my many blessings, being sure not to bury any of them in the ground."

Jude's impressive four years at Chaminade leave no doubt that he'll continue to shine, and with a vast horizon of opportunity stretched out in front of him, everyone back in Mineola keeping an eye on him is excited to see just how far he goes. ➤



Rocking his trademark broad smile, Jude Tochukwu Okonkwo graciously receives this year's Chaminade Man of the Year Award from Bro. Thomas Cleary, S.M. '81.

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# FROM THE *Pilot's Seat*

## CLEAR EYES, FULL HEARTS, CAN'T LOSE Learning to Be a Team Player



by Aidan Fitzgerald '18

**"But I accomplished something far more important these past two years. I learned how to stop trying to make something great of myself, and instead focus on making something amazing with others."**

**I**t's an iconic moment.

"Clear eyes, full hearts, can't lose!" shouts Smash Williams with thunderous conviction. The words, aimed at inspiring his teammates, emanate from his mouth into the rainy sky above.

Hot off the heels of a humiliating loss and suffering the pitfalls of pride and ego, the Dillon Panthers are crumbling, only a handful of games into a once-promising season. Coach Taylor's response to the defeat is make the Panthers sprint up and down a hill during a thunderstorm. The players take their first steps isolated from one another. They share no bond of friendship or any similar characteristic which would suggest they were a team. But fighting for their season, their dreams, and their very lives on this flooded hill, they finally unify. Empowered by Smash's bellowing of the Panther motto, the team takes its next steps unprompted by Coach Taylor, plunging ahead into the dark and stormy night, together.

It's a fictional moment – found in the first season of the television series *Friday Night Lights* – but a tangible one nonetheless. Everybody can relate to that stubborn feeling – being too set in one's own ways and not willing to cooperate.

Failure only serves to make this narrow-mindedness worse. When people fail, they typically aren't very constructive. Rather, many prefer to blame themselves too much – or too little – for their own shortcomings, either way never truly trying to resolve their problems. The Dillon Panthers represent this clearly, as individual players are too caught up trying to be perfect that the group can't come together as a team. It's a self-defeating exercise, but an understandable one.

The same holds true off the field. For much of my life, I approached everything imagining myself as a lone wolf. I tended not to think I needed anyone's help, nor did I particularly want it. Until recently, I faced every task by myself, for myself. This never led to any major problems, either; I simply pursued more individual activities, never really learning to work as a member of a team, as a part contributing to a greater whole.

I entered Chaminade with this perspective and, though I immediately became very involved in school, I was only in clubs that were largely driven by the individual. I still had no particular interest in working with others and felt no real need to.

Fast-forward to sophomore year, however, when my competitive spirit was no longer satisfied with isolated

achievement. I entered my second year of Chaminade hungry to prove myself. So, I joined two clubs in which I sought to see what I could accomplish with others – Speech and Debate and *Tarmac*. For the past two years, both of these pursuits have been very rewarding. Not only have I made myself proud on a personal level, but I've also been able to rise through the ranks of each club, becoming the captain of our state champion Lincoln-Douglas debate team and a Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Tarmac*.

But I accomplished something far more important these past two years. I learned how to stop trying to make something great of myself, and instead focus on making something amazing with others. The road to get to this point was not pretty, however. To learn that working with others – and relying on others – is totally necessary, I first needed to reach my own personal breaking point. Juggling the stresses of sophomore year with the increasing and new responsibilities I faced in both Debate and *Tarmac* at the end of last year revealed to me how futile it is to try to do everything yourself. This year in *Tarmac* showed me even more how much I benefited from

working as a member of a team, and how much I have to learn from other people. I am thrilled to be one of three Co-Editors-in-Chief, and I cannot wait to see what we can accomplish. The close friendships I have developed working alongside other people have been just as rewarding as the actual work itself, if not more so.

It is through this personal development that I have come to a greater understanding of Chaminade's own motto. "Forte in Unitate" stands out in my mind as being an important lesson that each Chaminade graduate should endeavor to carry with him in everything he does. Translated as "Strength in Unity," this expression bears more truth than I recognized the first time I heard it during freshman orientation. It symbolizes the best part of the Chaminade experience in microcosm – the strong bonds we all form from our unique four years together make us far stronger than we could have become alone. Having people you trust to rely on makes all the difference in life, especially in bad times.

Whether it's on the field, in the office, or at home, we all can feel the temptation to indulge our stubbornness. Instead of trying to work with other people, we become fixated on failing on our own, mistaking obstinacy for determination. To succeed we need to move past this single-mindedness and learn to lean on others for support. Everybody makes mistakes. We all slip up from time to time, but – with clear eyes and full hearts – we often can be perfect together. ➤



**Fortes In Unitate**

# THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN...

## We Must Break Out of Our Comfort Zones Sometimes



by Nicholas Plante '18

**"Truth be told, I have found solace in continuity for most of my life. Yet, I would not be who I am today if it weren't for all those instances, even those that might not seem too significant, in which I did dare to venture out of my comfort zone."**

**H**ow we respond to change is a character-defining thing. Shying away from change and taking the easy, sometimes safer route is often in our human nature – to live a uniform, simple life. Those who defy that nature and choose to embrace change, however, are the people who truly thrive. Such driven individuals can advance in one way or another, some finding new opportunities due to their trademark charisma and others with calculated action. Still, our ability to accept change and react to it represents a personal way to find opportunities that may have never existed and to realize abilities of unforeseen potential.

Throughout our lives, we receive countless opportunities to grow – to take on new responsibilities, to meet new people, and to go places never previously imagined. Still, we generally feel hesitant to take the next step towards bettering ourselves. The very essence of change tends to arouse a sense of apprehension within us. We dread what might happen under different circumstances than those we're accustomed to and, as a result, settle for whatever we already have. Far too often, we let this fear hinder us from stepping out of our comfort zones.

Think of how frequently we are faced with the prospect of trying something new. More often than not, I myself prefer sticking to what I'm comfortable with. I find it much easier to take the straightforward path of routine than to jump into a place I've never been to before. Truth be told, I have found solace in continuity for most of my life. Yet, I would not be who I am today if it weren't for all those instances, even those that might not seem too significant, in which I did dare to venture out of my comfort zone.

Growing up, I was extremely shy. I would only initiate conversation when it was absolutely necessary. Otherwise, I was content with being a listener for the most part. In fact, I didn't even get a quote in my eighth-grade yearbook - my classmates simply wrote "silence" next to my name. When I first came to Chaminade, I still hardly spoke to anyone besides a couple of friends. I remember feeling too scared to get involved both inside and beyond the classroom; I let my fear of change control me and inhibit me from reaching my full potential. I wasn't in a single club at first, and I also backed out of baseball tryouts. Towards the end of my freshman year, though, I felt that my life had become too monotonous. I realized I wasn't getting enough out of sitting in class and then taking the bus home every day.

That's when I joined *Tarmac*.

I had always loved to write. I thoroughly enjoyed all the essays and reflection papers I was assigned at school, and I even penned some stories that I shared with my friends in my free time. However, my knowledge of news reporting was quite limited. To be honest, I don't think I ever picked up a newspaper before I joined the club. Furthermore, I felt that my style of writing was not really conducive to a quality article, so I was having doubts about becoming a member of the staff. After considering it for a few weeks, I

decided to just try it.

Trying something new always carries an element of risk. Although unfamiliarity often fills us with anxiety, we never really know what the outcome of our acts will be, no matter how strong our predictions are. One thing is for certain, however – challenging ourselves forces us to grow. When we put ourselves into different situations for the first time, we open up a whole new world of possibilities. Instead of worrying about the ways in which things could go wrong when we are making decisions, we should instead focus on an action's potential benefits.

There was a chance that I would absolutely hate *Tarmac*. But, as it turned out, that wasn't the case by any means. I have loved every moment of working for the paper from the start; I finally found my niche. By pushing myself out of my comfort zone, I began a process that proved to have a profound effect on my passage through Chaminade.

To this day, *Tarmac* plays such an important role in my life, in terms of both my high school experience and my personality as a whole. My time with the publication has enabled me to find my voice – to express who I am and what I believe. Through my hard work, I have been blessed to become a leader here, acquiring organizational and social skills as a managing editor and, more recently, Co-Editor-in-Chief. By using what I've learned over the past two years, I have also become an officer in Science Olympiad and Math Club, a choir leader in my parish, and a volunteer on the youth board at my local soup kitchen. I never would have been able to do any of this if I had not garnered the courage to go to that first *Tarmac* meeting freshman year.

In spite of our inclination to keep things the same, we cannot accomplish much at all if we constantly shrink away from the unknown. Progress ultimately stems from a willingness to journey into uncharted territories. How could we find what our strengths and weaknesses are if we don't experiment with different things? In the endeavor to broaden our horizons, we come to know ourselves better and, in turn, see where we can improve.

So, what do you say? Don't you think it's time for a change? \*

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# CROSSING THE

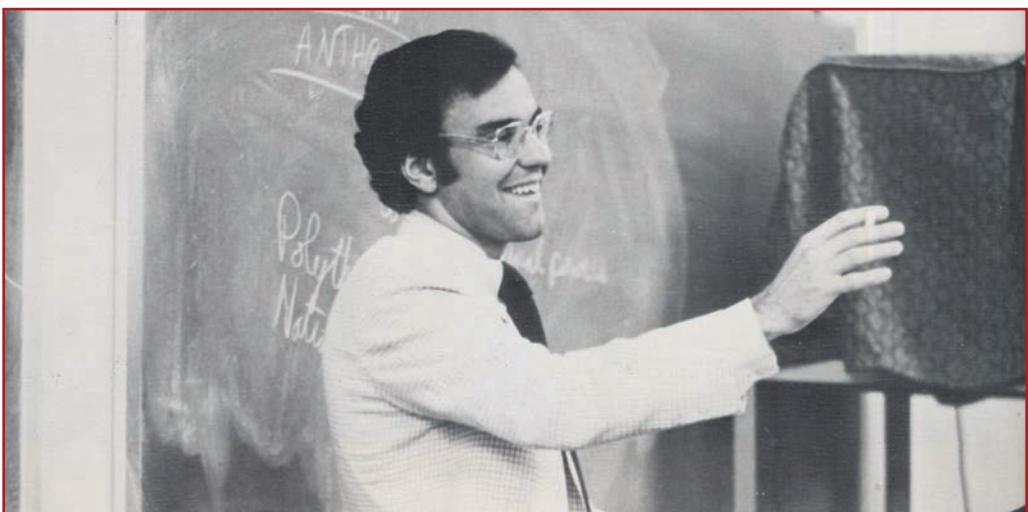
## The Chaminade Family Says Goodbye

by Chris Mercadante '18

The teaching profession is one that, at its very core, involves an essential element of selflessness. Great teachers do not pursue their professions for personal gain, but rather because they are called to better the lives of the students whom they teach. A great teacher is one who has such a positive impact on his pupils that his or her altruistic spirit is forever immortalized in their minds and hearts. Nowhere is this sentiment better exemplified than in Chaminade history teacher Mr. William Carriero '69. He is a man who has made a profound impact on countless members of the Chaminade family, prompting a communal gasp when Mr. Carriero announced earlier this year that the 2016-2017 academic year was to be his last teaching at Chaminade.

Mr. Carriero graduated from Chaminade in 1969 after being a very active student both in and out of the classroom. He participated in a number of extracurricular activities, including the Parish Religious Education Program and peer tutoring. Mr. Carriero gained an affinity for teaching while participating in these two activities.

"The opportunity to teach – to get in front of a group of people and try to glean and transmit the most important information – was something that Chaminade helped me with," said Mr. Carriero.



Even as a rookie teacher during the 1973-1974 school year, Mr. Carriero was enthraling students with his beaming smile and passion for history.

He continued his studies at Siena College, where he earned a degree in history and continued to develop his passion for teaching. After graduating in 1973, Mr. Carriero began teaching freshman and sophomore history courses at Chaminade.

"I enjoy working with people, and I have especially enjoyed the association I've had with young people here," explained Mr. Carriero. "The classroom gives you the

opportunity to share your enthusiasm for content, but also gives you the opportunity to create relationships."

In the classroom, Mr. Carriero vividly portrays history as the enthralling story of mankind, intriguing every class he teaches through his genuine interest in the subject. In fact, he has furthered his commitment to the field by becoming a moderator for the junior and senior sections of the Social Studies Club.

Mr. Carriero's fervor for history is surpassed only by his drive to educate the youth in his charge. Mr. Carriero reflected on this point, saying, "I always took personal offense at the stories in which a reporter would ask people in the street a basic American History or government question, and they wouldn't know! I kind of vowed that anybody who leaves my classroom will leave with that essential knowledge."

He taught history as a story – a long, cohesive tale filled with intrigue and pivotal players. This approach to instructing history captured the imaginations of countless Chaminade students and made Mr. Carriero's class a highly anticipated part of the typical student's day. Mr. Carriero's storytelling abilities reached far beyond the scope of American History I and II, however.

Graduates of Mr. Carriero's class fondly recall tales of the "Intercolonial Hockey League" and his innumerable battles with squirrels, among countless equally wild narratives. These anecdotes served to break up the coursework with good-humored levity while ensuring that Mr. Carriero would remain in the memories of all of those he taught.

"Mr. Carriero was one of the most memorable teachers I had during my time at

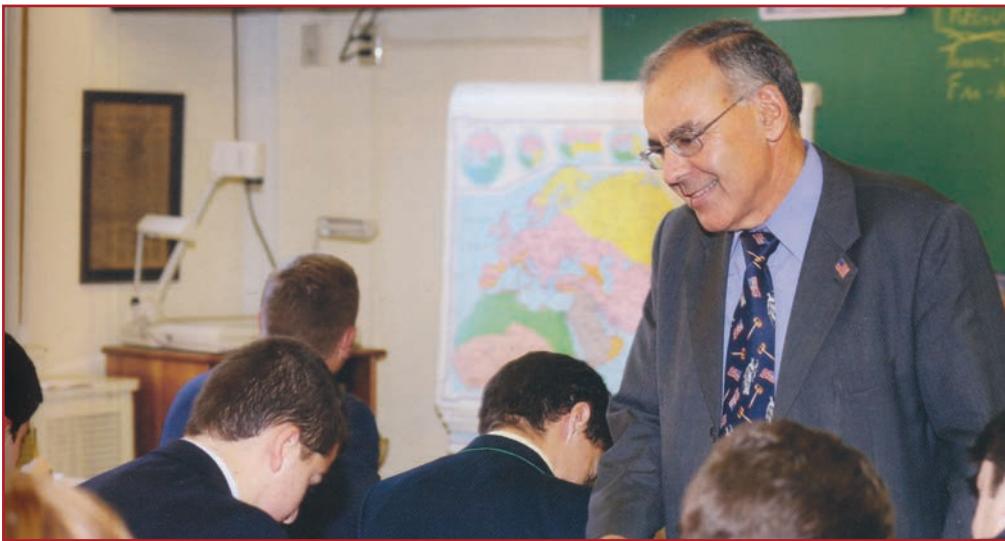


While Mr. William Carriero (right) inspired many with both his teaching and compassion for others, he also has served as a mentor to his son, Mr. Peter Carriero '96, who teaches freshman and junior mathematics at Chaminade.

# FINISH LINE

## to Retiring Mr. William

Carriero '69



Mr. Carriero's influence has spanned generations, and as his teaching career comes to a close, he will forever be remembered as a paradigm for the Chaminade Man.

Chaminade because his passion for teaching was evident every single day," said Owen Harte, a member of the class of 2016. "I enjoyed coming into class knowing I had a teacher who truly loved what he did."

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Carriero coached the cross country and track-and-field team, as well as serving as moderator of the Track Club.

Mr. Carriero began coaching the track and cross country teams during his first year of teaching at Chaminade. In his almost four decades as a coach, Mr. Carriero has elevated the Chaminade running program to a championship level. Under his leadership, the team has enjoyed several team and individual honors in both league and state competitions.

After retiring from competitive coaching in 2012, Mr. Carriero shifted his focus to the Chaminade Track Club, taking the role of head moderator. He and other Chaminade track coaches created the Track Club roughly a decade ago for students who were interested in non-competitive running. The club aims to teach students the fundamentals of running, but members also take an active role in serving the local community.

The Track Club demonstrated its commitment to service this past May by participating in the Ace in the Hole Foundation's eighth annual Beach Run and Walk, honoring Chaminade Gold Star Alumnus, 1st Lt. Michael LiCalzi '00, USMC.

"I think it's important that we let his family know that he is not forgotten here, and that our students understand that life's a whole lot more than just doing well in class and getting nice grades,"

said Mr. Carriero. "Michael LiCalzi was someone who understood that and made the sacrifice that most of us that will never be asked to make, and I want students to understand that."

Mr. Carriero has touched the lives of countless Chaminade students over the years, most especially his son, Mr. Peter Carriero '96, who is currently a freshman and junior mathematics teacher at Chaminade. Mr. Peter Carriero never had his father for history class but maintains that he played a large role in his decision to become a teacher.

He stated that it was the positive impact that his father had on the lives of his students that made him want to pursue a career in education.

Reflecting on his experiences teaching alongside his father, the younger Mr. Carriero said, "Professionally, he is an amaz-

ing resource. Any situation that has come up where I have sought his advice, he has already experienced the same thing or something similar at some point in his career."

However, Mr. Peter Carriero stated that the best part of teaching with his father was their shared lunch period.

"Sitting down and having lunch with my dad every day, especially this year being his last year, has been one of the highlights of my life," he added.

Over his 44 years of teaching and coaching, Mr. William Carriero has touched the lives of many in the Chaminade community. Through his ardor for everything antique, he transformed the tedious into the captivating and the dreaded into the anticipated, inspiring a love for history in his pupils and colleagues alike. At the same time, his genial disposition allowed him to guide young men through tough times, always encouraging them to be the best they can be, whether in the classroom or on the track.

"In my opinion, he is the personification of the Chaminade Man," explained his son. "He is the guy who does the right thing at the right time, not just because it is the right thing to do, but also because his integrity and personality would not allow him to even consider doing it any other way."

We thank you, Mr. Carriero. It's been one heck of a run. ➤



Displaying his tremendous dedication to the Chaminade community, Mr. Carriero administers the Blessed Sacrament to a student during Mass.

# AN ACE IN OUR HEARTS

## Foundation Honors Beloved Gold Star Alumnus Michael LiCalzi '00

by Patrick Grindel '18

**M**ike was a humble and disciplined guy. He knew what he wanted and wouldn't let anything get in his way," said Greg LiCalzi, Jr. '00, twin brother of 1st Lt. Michael LiCalzi '00, USMC.

One of Chaminade's Gold Star alumni, Mike gave his life for our country during Operation Iraqi Freedom in May of 2006. Along with other family members, his brother has since begun a foundation to ensure that Mike's spirit of strength lives on. Although he is no longer with us, Michael LiCalzi's unwavering courage and ultimate sacrifice will never be forgotten.

He was at first reluctant to attend Chaminade, but in the end, Mike thrived as both a student and an athlete at the school. During his high school years, he was a member of the track, cross country, and crew teams. Mike went on to the United States Naval Academy, where he excelled academically and as a talented boxer. Following his graduation from the academy, Mike was commissioned as a first lieutenant in the United States Marine

Corps. Later, in July 2005, he earned the title of Class Honor Man at the Armor Basic Officer Leaders Course in Fort Knox, Kentucky.

Only six weeks into his tour in Iraq, 24-year-old Lt. LiCalzi lost his life when one of the four tanks that he commanded flipped over a bridge in the Al Anbar province of the country. 1st Lt. LiCalzi and three other young Marines, Cpl. Steven Vahaviolos, Lance Cpl. Jason Burnett, and Lance Cpl. David Grames Sanchez, drowned before they could be rescued.

During his time in the Marines, Mike received a number of awards for his valiance as a soldier, including the Iraq Campaign Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal. The Gold Star alumnus served with the Second Tank Battalion, the slogan of which is "Ace in the Hole."

Thus, the inspiration for the Ace in the Hole Foundation, a not-for-profit organization established in hopes of keeping this hero's memory alive, is found.

Greg is currently serving the charity's president, and his father, Greg LiCalzi, Sr. '70, serves as the board chair.

"Mike inspired us. We decided that by founding the organization, we can continue to honor Mike's legacy and tell his story," said Greg LiCalzi, Jr.

Over the past nine years, more than \$650,000 has been raised and disbursed by the Ace in the Hole Foundation. These funds have helped aid the sick and disadvantaged, especially those affected by war, and much attention is also given to supporting the Second Tank

"Since [Mike] was a runner when he attended Chaminade, I feel a special connection to him," explained Mr. Carriero. "I've told the club members many stories about Michael, when he was a student-athlete here at Chaminade."

Prior to the run at the beach, Mike's brother spoke to the attendees about the foundation and its goals.

Once the event began, Mr. Carriero was moved "to witness the participation of over 50 Marines who run the race in formation, keeping cadence throughout," he explained. "I believe that the club members leave the run each year with a greater sense of appreciation and understanding."

In addition to directly assisting men and women in service, the organization has done much to promote the education of children in military families on both a local and nationwide scale. For example, in 2016, the foundation gave \$50,000 to support St. Martin de Porres in the school's mission to spread the Marianist education to elementary-aged students.

Additionally, the 1st Lt. Michael LiCalzi Scholarship is a \$3,000 award given to students who are related to a Marine Corps tanker.

Ace in the Hole's president recognizes that this scholarship has helped USMC tankers and their families to receive much-needed financial assistance for college tuition. To date, the foundation has given approximately 25 scholarships to students attending institutions such as the University of Alabama, the California Institute of Technology, and the College of William and Mary.

The Ace in the Hole Foundation is close to the heart of the Chaminade community, since it honors one of our Gold Star alumni. Mike LiCalzi laid down his life for others, and through the work of his loved ones, his legacy lives on. The many charitable works carried out in his memory emulate the values of selflessness that Chaminade promotes in its men. Through its efforts to better the community around it, the Ace in the Hole Foundation is making it possible for others to finish the noble work to which Mike himself was so dedicated. \*



In command of four tanks in the Second Tank Battalion, 1st Lt. Michael LiCalzi '00, USMC faithfully served his country in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Today, his legacy lives on through the work of the Ace in the Hole Foundation.

Battalion and other armed service members.

"One of our proudest accomplishments has been gaining the trust of Mike's former battalion stationed in Camp Lejeune, NC," said Greg. "Whether to cover medical expenses or diapers, the Ace in the Hole Foundation stands ready to support Mike's guys."

To raise money, Ace in the Hole sponsors a number of athletic events, such as yoga and cycling; their signature event, however, is the annual two-mile Beach Run and Walk held at Lido West Beach.

For the seventh consecutive year, over 500 runners braved stormy conditions to honor our fallen brother on May 13. Approximately a dozen current Flyers, including members of the Track Club under the direction of Mr. William Carriero '69 and a number of graduates, were in attendance. Chaminade alumnus Michael Klein '16 was one of the top-five finishers.

Representatives from the other Marianist schools, Kellenberg Memorial High School and St. Martin de Porres Marianist School, attended as well.

# Making Waves Outside The Pool

## Several Flyers

by Patrick Conklin '18

**A**ccording to the American Cancer Society, over one million Americans were diagnosed with some form of cancer in 2016. However, this terrible disease affects many others beyond those diagnosed, as friends and family also experience the pain and suffering cancer brings with it. Chaminade swimmer Trevor Foti '18 is one of millions of people across the nation to feel cancer's touch. His grandfather suffered from colon cancer for five agonizing years, and his grandmother is currently in her sixth year fighting a form of spine cancer. Watching his loved ones bravely confront this disease is an experience that drives Trevor as he swims to raise money so that a cure for cancer can someday be found.

This summer, Trevor will join seven of his Chaminade teammates to compete as Team Feinstein in the Sound to Cove Open Water Swim race on August 5. The event is organized by Swim Across America (S.A.A.), a nonprofit organization which hosts open water and pool events throughout the nation to raise money in support of doctors and researchers in their efforts to find a cure for cancer.

Team Feinstein was organized in 2010 by Mr. Angelo Pellicone '91, head coach of Chaminade's varsity swim team, and consists of 13 dedicated members, including Chaminade swimmers Kyle Cornish '20, Christopher Rodgers '20, Nik Daly '19, and Tom Daly '18. Recent graduates Kyle Kreuscher '17 and Michael Klein '16 also race with Team Feinstein.

The team gets its name from the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, the branch of the Northwell Health Hospital at which Mr. Pellicone is employed. Located in

## Support Swim

Manhasset, New York, the Feinstein Institute is one of 16 beneficiaries of S.A.A. In 2016 alone, the organization provided a grant of \$540,000 to the Feinstein Institute.

When he joined the swim team as a freshman, Trevor was introduced to S.A.A. by Mr. Pellicone. Trevor saw this as an opportunity to incorporate his own passion for swimming with his goal of funding cancer

## Across America

comes more important in the fight against this deadly disease. A recent study by the National Cancer Institute found that approximately 40 percent of Americans will be diagnosed with cancer at some point in their lives, yet government funding of cancer research has decreased by 25 percent over the past decade. While some may be losing faith in the possibility of finding a cure for cancer, philanthropic organizations like S.A.A. and dedicated swimmers like those on Team Feinstein are not giving up.

Every year, hundreds of teams compete at S.A.A. events. These teams are not racing for the best swim time, though. Instead, each team competes to raise as much money as possible through the support of their schools, local communities, families, and friends. Race distances range from a half-mile to one mile, five kilometers, and even 10 kilometers, and each distance requires a certain amount of money



Under the leadership of Mr. Angelo Pellicone '91 (second from left) and Trevor Foti '18 (far back), members of Team Feinstein will be participating in the Sound to Cove Open Water Swim this coming August in order to raise money for cancer research.

research, and he was eager to compete at the organization's event held on Long Island. He signed up for his first swim three years ago and has been actively participating ever since.

After serving as the leader of Team Feinstein for six years, Mr. Pellicone has handed the responsibility over to Trevor for 2017. As the leader of Team Feinstein, Trevor aims to become a "Wavemaker" by personally raising over \$1,000 for the fight against cancer. Team Feinstein's overall goal is to compile \$2,500.

The swim is an annual source of excitement and pride for Trevor. "My teammates and I talk about the event throughout the swim season and during the summer," he said. "It is such a great feeling to know that we can make a difference."

As government funding for cancer research continues to decline, the role of organizations such as Team Feinstein be-

to be raised in order for a team to compete. For example, half-mile swimmers must raise at least \$250 to swim, while 10-kilometer swimmers must raise at least \$5,000. Team Feinstein members will be competing in various distances at their event this August.

The Nassau and Suffolk County Chapters of Swim Across America have raised over \$7.6 million since their inception in 2001. This year, the goal of the Sound to Cove Open Water Swim is to raise \$300,000. If you would like to support Trevor and the other members of the swim team who are taking part, go to [swimacrossamerica.org](http://swimacrossamerica.org) to find more information and donate to Team Feinstein.

Swim Across America has had an incredibly positive impact on the fight against cancer, and the eight Chaminade swimmers from Team Feinstein take great pride in supporting such a worthy cause. ★

# Into the Deep

## The Class of 2017 Begins

by Owen Barthel '19

**L**ooking back upon their Chaminade experiences, few graduates vividly recall the day-in, day-out grind of the typical school day. Instead, the Chaminade experience is remembered as a series of moments. Whether it's the first day of 3-C Week, the first dip in the Eichner Natatorium, or the first dance at the Senior Celebration Cruise, four years at Chaminade translates to plenty of these memories. Graduation Day, however, stands out among such memories as the most significant and all-encompassing moment in one's four-year journey through high school.

A day of great joy and celebration, Graduation Sunday represents the fulfilling conclusion to four years of hard work both in and out of the classroom. However, as the seniors' Chaminade careers draw to a close, a new chapter in each of their lives begins. As they transition into college and beyond, these young men will take on a greater deal of responsibility. While their time at Chaminade High School has molded these once-anxious teenagers into confident adults, the members of the class of 2017 will still require God's grace to successfully navigate their new lives in a world full of challenges.

With this in mind, there is hardly a more appropriate day for a graduation than Pentecost Sunday. Celebrating the descent of the Holy Spirit to Jesus' disciples after His ascension into heaven, this time calls to mind the disciples' hesitation and uncertainty during their teacher's absence. God's intervention gave the disciples the strength to embark on their new ministry as proclaimers of the Good News, just as He will serve as a guiding light for Chaminade's newest graduates as they enter the next phase of their lives.

In his homily at the Baccalaureate Mass, Fr. Garrett Long, S.M. '62 noted that the new graduates are entering a dangerous and conflicted world. However, his confidence that with God, any bright future is possible has not wavered. He urged the members of the class of 2017 to keep a close connection to God, as He will help guide them through both good times and bad.

The graduation ceremony, held at the Tilles Center at the Long Island University C.W. Post campus in Brookville, New York, featured two student speakers. John Luke Hoonhout delivered his salutatorian address, describing how the Chaminade experience had helped the graduating class mature and grow as men. To the eighth-grade version of Hoonhout, Chaminade seemed like a scary place with an intimidating academic workload and an overwhelming new social system. In retrospect, he said that while surviving four years at Chaminade required some endurance, these trials have changed the members of the class of 2017 for the better. They have risen to the occasion in athletics by winning championships in swimming, basketball, soccer and more. They have learned to lead others while participating in after-school activities, forging lifelong friendships along the way. Most importantly, the graduating seniors have learned the value of good

character. From raising money to send an ailing faculty member to Disney to gathering food and money for the less fortunate, Chaminade has taught its graduates that "true happiness is living for others," said Hoonhout, who later invoked the words of one of the most principled men in history, Abraham Lincoln, when he told his classmates, "Whatever you are, be a good one." He closed his remarks with a reminder that the graduates will continue to receive guidance from both their parents and the Holy Spirit.

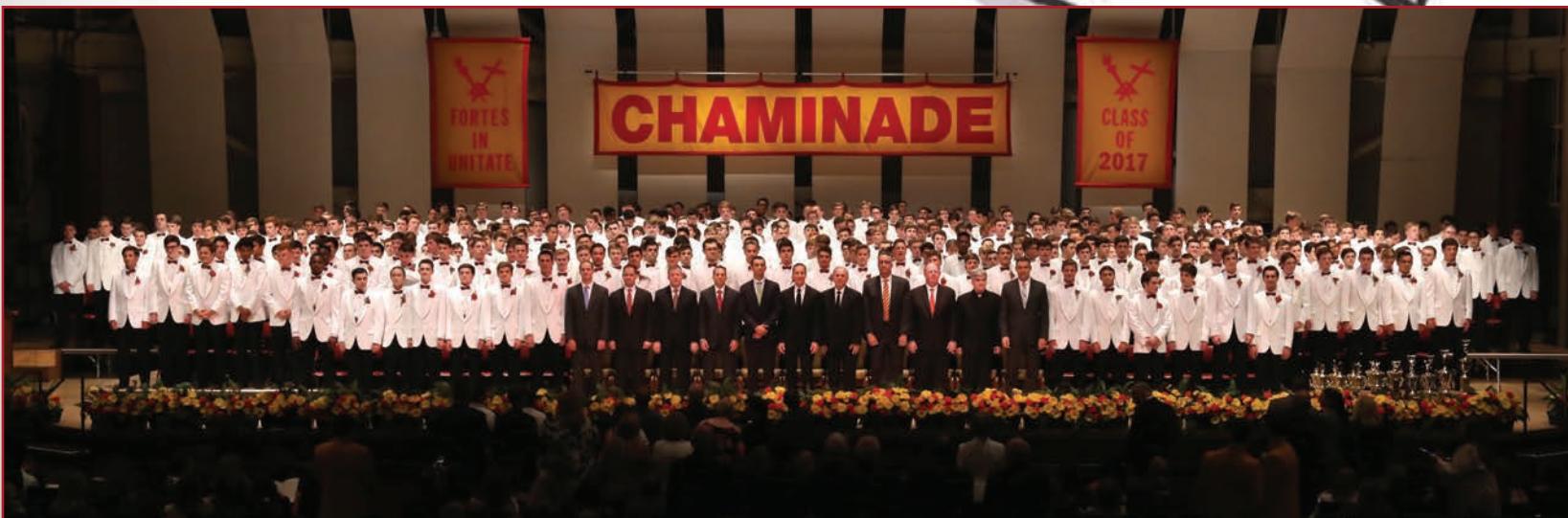
The valedictory address from Michael Anthony Carolan picked up where Hoonhout left off, thanking parents and expressing jubilation at having accomplished the goal of becoming Chaminade alumni. Additionally, Carolan spoke about the distinct characteristics of Chaminade men. Although all of the graduating seniors will soon disperse across the nation, the values instilled in them during their four years at school will remain to single them out among college students.

Carolan's speech emphasized the importance of thinking big, noting that dreaming is where achievement starts, and the quest for dreams is what truly drives people forward. He also reminded his classmates that as they embark on this new journey, they will continue to need support from their parents, as well as many others. "Reach for the stars," was Carolan's final plea to the class of 2017.

Chaminade's principal Bro. Joseph Bellizzi, S.M. '78, then reminded the graduates that they have yet another person looking out for them – Mary. As freshman, Bro. Joe called this class "Sons of Mary." Today, explained Bro. Joe, they continue to hold this title; they are protected under Her mantle, and She will love them and intercede on their behalves. Finally, the principal encouraged the class to be missionaries of Jesus and to always turn to Mary by proclaiming, "Behold your mother."

With those concluding remarks, the ceremony turned to the formal anointing of the class of 2017 as graduates of Chaminade. Bro. Joe recognized the class to resounding applause from parents, friends, and family assembled at the Tilles Center. After announcing the names of each student, some decorated with awards for four years of perfect attendance, four years on the honor roll, honor character certificates, and other recognitions of merit, the most prestigious individual awards were announced as the ceremony drew to a close. (Award winners are listed in the box to the right.)

Finally, about two hours after the graduation ceremony started, the time came to bestow the ceremony's most prestigious award on the single most deserving member of the class. After naming Jude Okonkwo as this year's Chaminade Man to raucous applause from all in attendance, Bro. Thomas Cleary, S.M. '81 closed the ceremony, flanked by his newest fellow alumni. The school's president happily sent them off with hopes of changing the broader world that lies ahead of them, while reminding them that the Chaminade family will always be here to welcome them home. 



# Step, Together

a New Stage in Their Lives

## AWARD WINNERS

### JUDE TOCHUKWU OKONKWO

#### CHAMINADE MAN OF THE YEAR AWARD

the most outstanding senior in the graduating class

### MAX AMESTEGUI

#### BRO. JOSEPH FOX, S.M. SERVICE AWARD

demonstrating the most outstanding service to the school and community

### MATTHEW CHMIL

#### FRANK "BOILER" BURNS STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARD

Chaminade's second-highest award given to a student-athlete

### ALEXANDER ORUCI

#### ANGELO FERDINANDO BAND AWARD

for excellence in and dedication to the Chaminade Band

### JUDE TOCHUKWU OKONKWO

#### ALEXANDER OTT GLEE CLUB AWARD

for excellence in and dedication to the Glee Club

### PATRICK JOHNSON

#### FR. PHILIP EICHNER, S.M. AWARD

the second-most outstanding senior in the graduating class

### RYAN SMITH

#### BRO. LOUIS FAERBER, S.M. SERVICE AWARD

given to the senior with the second most outstanding service to the school and community

### KELLEN PARADINE

#### JOHN R. LENZ "SEMPER FIDELIS" AWARD

the student who has demonstrated dedication to the pursuit of athletic achievement and excellence

### PATRICK JOHNSON

#### ROBERT C. WRIGHT SPEECH AND DEBATE CLUB AWARD

for excellence in and dedication to the Speech and Debate club

### MATTHEW CHANG

#### STRING ORCHESTRA AWARD

for excellence in and dedication to the String Orchestra

### MICHAEL CAROLAN

#### CHAMINADE ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARD

the senior with the highest cumulative average over his four years

### FRANCESCO ANIELLO TANGREDI

#### JOSEPH F. THOMAS STUDENT-ATHLETE AWARD

Chaminade's highest award for a student-athlete

### MATTHEW DOSSIE

#### PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AWARD

the student who has contributed the most to teaching Christian doctrine

### TYLER SUNDBERG

#### ALBERT KOZAR DRAMA CLUB AWARD

for excellence in and dedication to the Drama Club

### JUDE OKONKWO AND PATRICK JOHNSON

#### TRIPLE C AWARD

commemorates the Courage, Character and Commitment of these men



Nd Okonkwo



Photos Courtesy: Audi

# 5 QUESTIONS WITH...

## SCOTT KEOUGH '87

Interview by Thomas Daly '18

**A** native of Old Brookville, New York, Scott Keogh graduated from Chaminade in 1987 and Hobart College in Geneva, New York in 1991. Keogh joined Audio of America Inc. in 2006 and has been the president of the company since June 2012, after serving as Chief Marketing Officer for six years. He currently resides in McLean, Virginia with his wife and two children.

**Q:** Since starting your career at Mercedes Benz USA in 1994, you have risen steadily through the corporate ranks. What advice could you give to someone who would like to follow a similar career path?

**A:** The first thing I would say, without a doubt, is treat every assignment that comes your way with maximum energy, passion, and focus. The reason I say this is I think a lot of people try to pre-ordain and pre-prescribe their career as if it is a continuous and guaranteed ladder,

and actually, it's not. It's a series of elevators moving up and down, and you're not sure when one is going to open and when one opportunity is going to develop. So I think you always have to pursue things with passion. There will be some early assignments in your career that frankly might seem beneath you or might seem quite mundane and not that exciting, but again, you never know what is going to develop out of that. I think my career took that path because people recognized someone who is passionate about something, cares about it, and pursues things.

**Q:** Your company's ethos is "Progress through technology." What is the most impressive technological advance you have witnessed as the President of Audi America?

**A:** I think it is the one we are living through right now. The first time I experienced it was on a racetrack in Spain. I was sitting in the passenger's seat of a

vehicle, and the vehicle was autonomously going around the racetrack upwards of 150 to 160 mph – no one hitting the gas, no one hitting the break, no one turning the wheel. I think the advance of autonomous vehicles is here. We are in it right now. To have my company, Audi, be at the very forefront of that – we drove from Stanford University to Las Vegas, about six hundred miles, completely autonomous. We were the first to go that distance. When you think about how this technology developed – it was only about seven years ago when these early prototypes were in the desert, barely able to go a full mile!

**Q:** How have your education and experiences at Chaminade impacted your career?

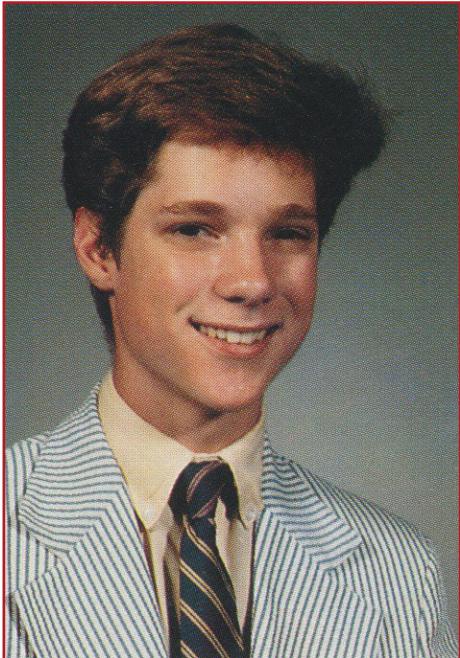
**A:** Without a doubt, coming out of junior high and the public school system, my parents said, "I think our son has some capabilities, but he needs a little bit of focus and discipline." Without a doubt,



that is what Chaminade offered me. I think I had a fair amount of capabilities and a fair amount of intellect, but when I got into Chaminade, they were able to get me to apply that with an appropriate amount of rigor and discipline. At the time I didn't like it so much, but the fact that you are going to have four years of science, four years of math, and four years of a language was part of the discipline. I think a lot of times, in life, you can cut corners and take the easy way, and when you are a young, impressionable, and somewhat immature person, you are looking for the easy way out most all the time. Chaminade, for me, was – go in straight lines; don't round the corners; do it properly. It was something I needed, and absolutely has stuck with me.

**Q:** You have a high-profile job and many responsibilities. What advice can you give to a young man who is trying to balance his professional life with his wife and children?

**A:** The first thing I will say is that nothing is more important than your wife, children, and family. I don't think you can have a successful career in isolation. I do firmly believe that you need to balance,



Scott Keogh's senior portrait from the 1987 *Crimson and Gold* yearbook.



On behalf of Audi of America, Keogh (left) accepts an award for First Place in J.D. Power and Associates' Customer Satisfaction Index, Dealer Service-Luxury Brands, from John Csernotta, Vice President of U.S. Auto Sales for J.D. Power & Associates.

and in my mind, that balance is quite clear. You need to have the family and friends and social ecosystem; that is quite important. You need to believe there is a powerful force in life, and there is a powerful guidance and direction to do the right thing. The other piece is the work, and if you can keep that in balance, I think you can do quite well, but you must have this balance. You can get some temporary wins in an unbalanced life when you only focus on career, but it is not sustainable.

I also think there is a lot of belief built up that the world will end if I do not send this text or respond to this email immediately. The world is not going to end. If you look at the United States, the world's largest economy, and the Industrial Age, all sorts of brilliant and amazing things happened before there was even an email and texting. We built the first Model T, and made it to the moon, all without communicating electronically. I think that is still the case. It is very easy to get lost in these machines, and having the discipline to put them away is important. If children are watching you look at a device, at the youngest of ages, their calculation is going to be, "this device is more important than I am." You think you can listen and hold a partial conversation,

but you can't, and they notice. You are going to deeply regret this.

I try to strike that work and life balance hard at the company. We have summer Fridays and flexible work schedules, but make no mistake, we are a very performance-oriented company that wants to be successful. The world is extremely competitive, but I think you compete better with that balance and more focus, and take the time to fulfill what's called the other side of life – your children and spirituality.

**Q:** Throughout your career, is there one regret or situation you wish you had handled differently?

**A:** At Mercedes Benz, I worked in Germany for a year. I learned about 60 percent of the German language, and I certainly wish I worked harder to perfect the German language. Had I known I'd be working in German cars for my whole career, I would have!

I studied Spanish in high school and college and went on to work on development projects and lived in Bolivia, so I became extremely well versed in Spanish. If you think everything will be okay with only learning English, you're going to have regrets. ➤

# THREE-BY-FIVE: A COMMITMENT TO CATHOLIC EDUCATION

## One Family's Presence Felt at All Three Marianist Schools

by Thomas Daly '18

**M**ost students realize that Chaminade is one of three schools on Long Island operated by the Province of Meribah in the Society of Mary. In fact, many Chaminade students attended St. Martin de Porres Marianist School or Kellenberg Memorial before choosing Chaminade as their high school. There exists one family on Long Island, however, with children who are attending all three Marianist schools at the same time!

Sergio and Anthony Arreaga '20, who attended St. Martin de Porres as elementary school students, are currently continuing their educations at Kellenberg and Chaminade, respectively. The boys have three younger siblings – Sebastian, Julio, and Monica – who still attend St. Martin's, meaning all of the Arreaga family's five children are currently being educated by the Marianist community on Long Island.

The boys' mother, Isabel, is extremely proud of her children and thankful for the Marianist education they are receiving. Resembling the selfless love of Mary our Mother, she has made countless sacrifices in order to send all her children to Catholic school because she believes the Marianist-run institutions "focus on the moral and traditional teachings of the Catholic Church like no other places on Long Island," she explained.

Anthony's mother noted, in particular, how her son's experience at Chaminade has influenced his ability to bear personal responsibilities and maintain the conviction of a young Catholic man in an increasingly secular world. Over the past year, Anthony has delved deeper into his faith-based studies that began in elementary school, focusing on his relationship with God and a serious development of his personal character.

The Provincial of the Province of Meribah, Bro. Timothy Driscoll, S.M. '76, has known Anthony since he was in first grade. Bro.

Tim admires the love Anthony and his family have displayed for Catholic education in their partnering with the Marianist family so wholeheartedly.

Since they first met so many years ago, Bro. Tim has seen Anthony gain a great deal of courage, a crucial step towards becoming a model for others to follow.

"It has been an honor to see him grow in his faith," said Bro. Tim. "This development has en-

abled Anthony to grow from a reserved young man... He now emanates confidence, knowing that God is with him and watching over him."

During his freshman year, Anthony came to know Bro. Stephen Balletta, S.M. '74 on the many service trips, pilgrimages, and retreats in which he partook. Throughout this time, Bro.

Stephen saw great development in Anthony as well, noting, "Anthony has continued to deepen his faith at Chaminade by building on the foundations given to him at St. Martin de Porres. You can tell that Anthony has enjoyed a long association with the Marianist family spirit. It shows, as Blessed Chaminade was fond of saying, in his 'every word, look, and gesture.'"

Anthony is always smiling, always cheerful, always considerate and always kind," said Bro. Steve. "Pope Francis speaks often of what he calls 'the joy of the Gospel.' Anthony provides a really good example of that joy."

The Arreaga family is a vibrant example of the development of faith through family. This is exactly how Blessed Chaminade intended our religion to be shared – through small groups, as in his Sodalities. The Arreaga family serves as one such small group, but also participates

in the larger community of the Marianist family. They are a perfect embodiment of the call to faith by Blessed Chaminade, as well as the deepening fingerprint left by the Province of Meribah on Catholic education across Long Island. ➤

*The Province of Meribah began its work in education with the foundation of Chaminade High School in 1930. After spending over five decades growing the Chaminade family, the Marianists expanded their educational offerings, taking charge of the institution that would become Kellenberg Memorial High School in 1987. The community's most recent effort to expand came in 2004, when the province devoted itself to St. Martin de Porres Marianist School in Uniondale. With the continued development of these three schools, the Marianists continue to expand their already extensive family right here on Long Island.*



Anthony Arreaga '20 (back row, second from right) celebrates his younger sister Monica's first Holy Communion with Fr. Thomas Cardone, S.M. '73, the chaplain of Kellenberg Memorial High School.

# Educational Television – A Medium, Well Done

## ETV Stays Modern With Short Film Productions, Drones, 4K Video

by Michael Tsui '18

The Educational Television Service – better known around Chaminade as ETV – has a hand in many aspects of a Flyer's daily life. The school's morning announcements, sports videos, concerts, plays, and many other events are produced and recorded by this multifaceted club. While much of the behind-the-scenes work by the students in ETV goes unnoticed, the creative films and productions put together by the club's members are certainly appreciated by the entire student body.

One of the primary functions of the club is to broadcast the morning announcements delivered by members of Communications Club. In order to prepare for the telecast that plays on monitors throughout the school each day, staff members begin their tireless work long before students enter their homerooms. Not many students realize the number of people that are required to keep the show running. Besides the producer and technical directors, individuals have to control each piece of equipment. Under the guidance of moderators Mr. Peter Carriero '96, Mr. Peter Dubon '99, and Mr. Shuchao Luo, members operate the switcher, teleprompter, microphones, cameras, livestream, visuals, and what ETV calls "the DSR." This is the master computer that controls the video and audio clips that will be played during each show.

Each morning broadcast begins with one of many creative opening sequences made by members of ETV. Introductions used in the past have included parodies of popular television shows such as *The Office* and *The Walking Dead*. Any member of the club with a new idea can seek approval to make one of these introduction videos for the morning announcements. ETV's latest creation put a spin on the

opening credits of the hit series *Game of Thrones*. This was no small task to create; the opening alone had been in the works for over a year. The video demanded a lot of CGI, or computer-generated images, and most of the models used in the video were designed solely by students. When the video first aired several weeks ago,

awards dinners following each sports season. These videos require dozens of hours of HD footage from every team to be eventually condensed into a captivating film lasting nearly 15 minutes.

The most recent spring sports season recap was the club's most ambitious pro-

duction yet. This video included the usual footage of the sports teams in action, but it also incorporated player interviews and a broad range of new special effects. One of the more complicated and visually pleasing shots, for instance, was a slow-motion video of the Chaminade volleyball team practicing under strobe lights and a fog machine.

The newest video took around 200 hours to complete, and Mr. Luo personally put in over 100 of them. A passionate foreign language and math teacher, Mr. Luo has been instrumental to the club's success, as

his expertise as a cinematographer has aided the club's expansion over the last few years.

"Mr. Luo dedicates a tremendous amount of time to assist us in each of our projects," noted ETV member Thomas Pallai '18. "His video shoots are always well-planned and organized. He has an eye for what he does, and I can't count the number of times he watches the finished project to make sure it's exactly the way we want it."

Creative people are always welcome in ETV, and new ideas are always under consideration by the moderators. The club provides all of its members with the opportunity to develop skills in various aspects of filmmaking. Whether a student is working as a cameraman or as a visual effects artist, everyone is able to further pursue his interests in this growing field.

As Mr. Luo explained, "The students of this club are truly passionate, self-driven individuals. People can sometimes overlook the amount of hard work that goes into every single video, even if it is only a few minutes long." 



Every morning students like Andrew Frangella '20, pictured here operating a Blackmagic Design Teleprompter/Camera, work together to produce Chaminade's morning announcements.

it was greeted with thunderous applause from appreciative students in homerooms all around the school building.

The ETV studio is equipped with the latest technology, which allows the club to optimize the production quality of its broadcasts. It is officially a 4K studio, meaning all videos can be shot in a resolution that is double that of the average 1080p HD monitor. In addition, ETV possesses modern camera technologies, including the drones often seen buzzing high above the school building. Tools like these enable the members to create videos of the same quality as independent film companies.

Over the past few years, ETV has begun to work on producing short films. The club creates the videos that air at the annual Founder's Dinners, as well as clips for alumni meetings, class reunions, and TORCH Fund events. These are some of the most time-consuming projects, as hundreds of hours are put into each and every one.

Among the most notable of these projects are the montages presented at the athletic

# Airstrip Analysis

## And The Band Played On...

Streaming, Social Media Have Revolutionized the Music Industry



by Oscar Matos '18

**"Artists are giving fans everything that they have to offer, letting them decide for themselves how they feel about the songs that would have been forgotten in another era."**

The internet is like a bubble that, no matter how large it seems to get, simply refuses to burst. From spurring the ongoing downfall of cable television to enabling one of the most shocking upsets in American political history, its effects are both far-reaching and often understated.

Out of all of the internet's influences, though, nothing is more overlooked than the facelift it has given the music industry. Social media, streaming services, and a 24-hour presence provide for an evolving business model that pays little attention to CDs and radios, entities considered cornerstones of the industry just a decade or so ago.

One of the greatest benefits of the internet as it pertains to music is the amount of money that streaming services save most listeners. The days of having to shell out substantial sums of money for records or

CDs are gone, and most customers no longer have to pay \$1.29 per song on iTunes, either. Today, the most the average person spends on music is a \$10.00 monthly rate for a subscription to a streaming service such as Spotify or Apple Music - a small price to pay given the fact that most people have at least a few hundred songs downloaded on these services. This makes it much easier for consumers to discover new music; instead of sitting through a 30-second preview and deciding whether or not to spend \$1.29, they can pull the trigger with no hesitation.

Additionally, mediums like Reddit and Twitter have allowed for real-time discussion and debates over music, both past and present. Instead of waiting for the next issue of *Rolling Stone*, fanatics can now turn on their laptops and share their thoughts with friends and strangers alike. Additionally, outlets like SoundCloud have allowed for small artists to share their work with the world, expanding listeners' horizons and allowing for more content to be shared than ever before. Users can follow one another and share their favorite tracks with friends, essentially creating a non-stop music convention that can entertain listeners for hours at a time.

The accessibility of the internet allows for artists to express themselves like never before. Performers like Drake have become known for releasing "loosies," songs that, for one reason or another, didn't make the final cut for a given album, but rather are released to the public separately. Another case is that of New Orleans-based singer Frank Ocean, who in recent months has taken to releasing multiple versions of his singles and guest verses. Most fans of Ocean find themselves listening to them all and deciding which one they prefer. Essentially, this is akin to throwing everything at the wall and seeing what sticks; artists are giving fans everything that they have to offer,

letting them decide for themselves how they feel about the songs that would have been forgotten in another era.

Social media has also allowed artists to release music at any given moment, leaving music fanatics on alert at all times. Take, for example, Beyoncé's 2013 self-titled visual



album, *Beyoncé*. Released with no promotion whatsoever prior to release, it shocked the world and took social media by storm, with millions of people tweeting about it or posting their reactions on Instagram. The craze surrounding the album caused people who normally wouldn't listen to Beyoncé, myself included, to give it a chance and see what all the hype was about. This kind of stunt would have had little-to-no impact in the days before social media, as it was driven entirely by the sense of community that social media outlets provide to their users.

The next time you go to a concert, pause a moment to look around, and you'll see a good chunk of the people in attendance glued on their phones. However, these devices are not distracting their users from the concert experience, but rather enhancing it, as concertgoers are sharing their impressions in real time with hundreds of friends via Snapchat or Twitter. So many in attendance will probably spend about half of the night on their phones, hesitant to put them down, only to later walk out with a smile, having thoroughly enjoyed the show.

And why wouldn't they? They could very well be just a swipe away from telling the world about their new favorite song. ➤

# PARA *Chutestrings*

## MAKING BASEBALL FUN AGAIN

### A Guideline to Creating a Game That's Not Boring

**L**egend has it that in 1839, a man by the name of Abner Doubleday invented a game that would soon resemble the sport of baseball. Doubleday later became a hero fighting for the Union Army in the Civil War, but baseball continued to develop in the absence of its supposed creator. The sport soon became so popular that many began referring to it as America's national pastime.

Baseball securely held this title until 1967, when Super Bowl I was played between the Green Bay Packers and Kansas City Chiefs. Sixty-five million people tuned in to watch that game, making up the largest television audience for a sporting event in history at the time. Over the next several decades, it became evident that football more closely filled the role of "national pastime" for many Americans. To this day, football remains the most popular sport in the country, as exhibited by the fact that this year's Super Bowl LI drew around 111.3 million viewers.

The stigma surrounding baseball today is that it is a boring sport to watch, but this is only because fans are forced to compare it to football. Before football rose to national prominence and baseball was a sport that many people followed religiously, it was seen as fun and exciting to watch. Nowadays, however, with youth football participation declining due mostly to concerns over head injuries, the future of professional football appears to be in jeopardy. Baseball will soon have the opportunity to rise in popularity once again, but in order to do so, the sport must change so that it resembles football more closely.

Arguably the biggest criticism of baseball today is that the pace of play is too slow, which results in games that are far too long. Average sports fans often find themselves disinterested in the game. Major League Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred has implemented a number of different rules in an attempt to speed up the game. These include adding a pitch clock to every team's stadium and allowing pitchers to issue intentional walks without actually having to throw the four balls previously required. While these rule changes are solid ideas, the pace of play is not really the issue. Baseball is naturally a slow game, and tweaking the rules of the sport will not result in any drastic improvement to the length of a typical contest. The average length of a baseball game in 2016 was approximately three hours, nearly the same length as the typical NFL game.

The real reason why people think baseball is boring is because it lacks action. During a football game, there is action on every single play, and fans are required to keep their eyes on the field for its entirety. However, a baseball is in play for only a small fraction of the actual game, so the average sports fan can become bored very quickly.

For the last five years or so, offense has been steadily declining in

Major League Baseball because hitters are simply not putting the ball in play. Baseball has become a game that is dominated by pitchers, to the point that roughly one-third of the outs recorded in a typical game are strikeouts. In order to generate more interest amongst the masses, offense needs to increase in a hurry.

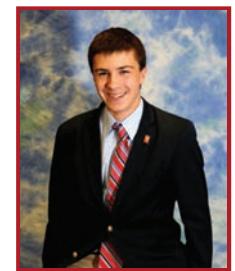
Baseball experienced a similar offensive drought in the 1960s, when teams averaged fewer than four runs per game. To fix the issue, the pitching mound was lowered from 15 to 10 inches above the rest of the playing field. It is time for Major League Baseball to once again tip the

balance of the game in the favor of hitters. In order to increase the amount of time that the ball is in play, the strike zone should be revised to make it smaller. Currently, it stretches from a player's knees to slightly below the letters on the front of his jersey. Shrinking the zone would promote more offense in the game because it would force pitchers to throw into a smaller area to avoid walking hitters. For instance, if the definition of the strike zone were changed so that it

covered the area between a player's knees and a player's belt, hitters would be able to make hard contact more consistently, which would result in more pitches being put into play.

Another reason why many consider baseball to be a boring sport is that the season is incredibly long, stretching from April to October, as each team plays 162 regular season games. As a result, the baseball season ends up testing the endurance of both the players and fans. While hardcore fans enjoy the everyday presence of the game, the majority certainly does not. Football's 16-game regular season allows for every matchup to be of high stakes, and fans only have to watch one day per week. While it's highly unrealistic for MLB to condense its regular season to 16 games, it could be shortened considerably. For instance, if the league created a 70 or 80-game regular season, more people would have an easier time following the sport. Instead of having teams play almost every day, Major League Baseball could designate two or three days per week for regular season matchups, similar to how the NFL designates Monday or Thursday nights for certain matinee games. If the season were to be shortened, each regular season game would also carry more importance and generate more interest from fans.

Baseball must adapt in order to compete with football and draw more fans to itself. If MLB implements the changes necessary to make the game more exciting for the average sports fan, it will once again deserve to hold the title of America's true national pastime. ➤



by Colin Capece '18



"Baseball will soon have the opportunity to rise in popularity once again, but in order to do so, the sport must change so that it resembles football more closely."



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1) Nicholas Cacioppo '18 has a determined look on his face as he attempts to chase down rivals from St. Anthony's and Holy Trinity in a hurdles race at the N.S.C.H.S.A.A. League Championship meet.

2) The varsity volleyball team is all smiles after capturing the N.S.C.H.S.A.A. championship. The team compiled a 13-2 regular season record before defeating St. Anthony's and St. John the Baptist consecutively in the league playoffs.

3) Midfielder Matt Chmil '17, who will begin his college career with the Duke University Blue Devils this fall, jukes past a defender in a road game against St. John the Baptist. The varsity lacrosse team reclaimed the N.S.C.H.S.A.A. league title this spring.

4) Matthew Heslin '18, who was voted by his coaches and teammates as the varsity golf team's Most Valuable Player, admires his drive onto the fairway.