4TH ANNUAL

FORDHAM PREP FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME
INDUCTION CEREMONY & DINNER

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2018
In Memory of Fordham Prep Football Hall of Fame Members

John Zampino ‘62
*Inducted 2017
(1944 – 2018)*

James Feddeck ‘64
*Inducted 2016
(1946 – 2017)*
Program

Cocktail Reception
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Dinner & Induction Ceremony
7:30 p.m.

Blessing
Rev. Christopher J. Devron, S.J.
President, Fordham Preparatory School

Kickoff of Program
Gabriella Gaspar P’19
Chairwoman, Fordham Prep Gridiron Club

Update on Off-Season Program
George Gaspar ‘19

State of the Fordham Prep Football Program
Patrick Deane ‘88
Head Football Coach

Induction of Candidates
Current Members of the Fordham Prep Hall of Fame

Robert Abplanalp ’39  
Inducted 2017

John Martin Beck 1918  
Inducted 2017

Mario Biaggi, Jr. ’76  
Inducted 2017

Bruce Bott ’59  
Inducted 2017

Thomas Brennan ’56  
Inducted 2017

Jack Coffey  
Inducted 2016

Howie Cook ’72  
Inducted 2017

Brian Corcoran ’76  
Inducted 2016

John Corcoran ’34  
Inducted 2016

Frank Costello ’55  
Inducted 2016

Daniel Cunniffe ’93  
Inducted 2017

Patrick Deane ’88  
Inducted 2016

Brendan Dolan ’82  
Inducted 2016

Mike Dunn ’36  
Inducted 2016

James Feddeck ’64  
Inducted 2016

Michael Fischetti P’61  
Inducted 2017

Rich Flory ’63  
Inducted 2017

Frank Frisch 1916  
Inducted 2016

William Garrity ’56  
Inducted 2016

Zev Graham ’25  
Inducted 2016

Harry Hamburger ’11  
Inducted 2016

Charles (Colin) Hays 1914  
Inducted 2016

Richard Herzing ’60  
Inducted 2016

Orest Kozicky ’73  
Inducted 2016

Richard Q. La Fond ’58  
Inducted 2016

Christopher Lockwood ’93  
Inducted 2016

Rev. Charles Matthews, SJ  
Inducted 2017

Francis McCaffrey 1907  
Inducted 2016

Rev. Victor R. Yanitelli, SJ ’29  
Inducted 2016

George Stirnweiss ’34  
Inducted 2016

George Zambetti ’68  
Inducted 2017

Calvin McCoy ’08  
Inducted 2017

Mickey McGuire  
Inducted 2016

Edmund J. McHugh ’39  
Inducted 2017

Joseph Moglia ’67  
Inducted 2016

Walter Morris ’56  
Inducted 2017

John Neary ’87  
Inducted 2017

Connor Nugent ’06  
Inducted 2016

Joseph Ososki  
Inducted 2015

Jehu Richardson ’93  
Inducted 2017

Mike Sangobowale ’01  
Inducted 2016

Vincent Santomero ’84  
Inducted 2017

Rev. Charles Matthews, SJ  
Inducted 2017

John Zampino ’62  
Inducted 2017
2018 Inductees

Rev. Patrick Francis Dealy, S.J.
*Fordham University President*

Rev. James T. Griffin, S.J.
*Prep Faculty Member*

Thomas Courtney
*Class of 1942*

Larry Miggins
*Class of 1943*

Richard Cea
*Class of 1955*

Robert A. Oswald
*Class of 1957*

Thomas Finneran
*Class of 1959*

Michael Corcoran
*Class of 1961*

John Vrionis
*Class of 1964*

Kevin Plunkett
*Class of 1972*

Joseph Reynolds
*Class of 1973*

John Cullen
*Class of 1975*

James Rowen
*Class of 1982*

Ralph Dengler
*Class of 1984*

Vincent Roman
*Class of 1986*

Greg Santomero
*Class of 1986*

Brendan Higgins, MD
*Class of 1994*

Sean Smith
*Class of 1995*

Matthew Rinklin
*Class of 2001*
2018 Inductees

The Rev. Patrick Francis Dealy, S.J.

Rev. Patrick Francis Dealy, SJ was born on April 7, 1827 in Rathkeale, County Limerick, Ireland. He immigrated to the United States at a very young age with his parents and received his earliest education at New York City public schools.

He began at St. John's College in 1843, a student in the Grammar Department, which would soon be known as Second Division, or as it is called today, Fordham Preparatory School. He completed the high school portion of his St. John's education in 1846, making him a member of what is considered the Prep's first graduating class. He entered the Society of Jesus on October 31, 1846 at just 17 years of age. He would be the first Fordham student to become a Jesuit. As a scholastic, Dealy spent 1852 and 1853 teaching Greek and Latin on the Prep level.

In 1882, Fr. Dealy was appointed 13th President of St. John's College, or in other words, of Fordham Prep and Fordham University. Not only was he the first Prep student to become a Jesuit, but he was also the first graduate of the school to serve as its president.

Fr. Dealy's tenure at Fordham was remarkable in many ways and substantively changed the direction of the school, from both an academic and athletic perspective. He is honored today as the founder of the Fordham University and the Fordham Prep Football Programs. While baseball was the most popular sport of the day on campus, it was Fr. Dealy who established the very first football program on the Rose Hill campus. One can only speculate whether football would ever have been played at the University or the Prep without his leadership and foresight in bringing football to Fordham!

After resigning from the presidency in 1885, Fr. Dealy served in various parishes, including St. Francis Xavier in Manhattan as well as parishes in Boston and Philadelphia before returning to New York where he was appointed to St. Lawrence Church in Manhattan. Tragically, he caught pneumonia while visiting a sick communicant and died in New York City on December 23, 1891. He was laid to rest on Christmas Eve in the College Cemetery, which by then had been moved to its current location on Campus near the University Church, just across the road from the Prep. In 1935, First Division Hall was renamed Dealy Hall ensuring that Fr. Dealy's name would be remembered by generations of Fordham University and Prep alumni.
The Rev. James T. Griffin, S.J.

Rev. James Thomas Patrick Griffin, SJ was born in Manhattan on March 16, 1914 to James Griffin, Sr. and Delia Carney Griffin. The Griffins were the parents of three: James, Virginia and Frank. The elder James, a streetcar conductor, died when his children were still young. The widowed Delia moved to the Bronx where she took in boarders to support her family. Fr. Griffin attended Regis High School before entering the Society of Jesus on August 14, 1931 and completed his theological studies in Weston, Massachusetts, and was ordained on June 17, 1944. After teaching assignments in Rome, Italy, Woodstock, New York, and the Philippines, Fr. Griffin returned to Fordham Prep in 1970 and served as a member of the Religious Studies Department and a student counselor — positions that he held until 1989. For nearly two decades, they called him counselor, teacher, theologian, philosopher-priest and wise man. Some even called him a mystic among us.

Today, Fr. Griffin is honored for his nearly two decades of service as the chaplain for the Fordham Prep Football Program. Although paralyzed on one side of his body, he rarely missed a class, a meeting with a student or alumnus in need of counseling, or one of his weekly masses for the football team. One alumnus commented, “after a week of beating each other up in practice, inhaling unquantifiable amounts of dirt from our practice field, running speed laps and wind sprints until we nearly collapsed, we’d gather in the warm glow of Loyola Faber Hall and listen to the wise words of one of the most genuine and kind-hearted men in the world. With a dry, but very sharp sense of humor, he would challenge us with philosophical questions during his sermons and would always remind us that men of Fordham Prep played every game to the best of their abilities – both mentally and physically, while also acting as gentlemen on the field of battle.”

Fr. Griffin died on August 5, 1993 in Murray Weigel Hall, on the Rose Hill Campus. A standing-room only memorial was held in his honor in the Loyola Faber Hall Chapel and was attended by hundreds of Prep alumni, administrators, friends and family.
Thomas Courtney, Class of 1942

Thomas Courtney was born on November 25, 1925 to Thomas and Delia Courtney. He and his family were members of the St. Barnabas parish in the Woodlawn section of the Bronx. His mother was a registered nurse and his father was a foreman for Con Edison.

Tom played football and baseball for the Prep in each of his four years. He was elected to the All Private School Third Team as a Sophomore in 1940. According to classmates, Tom was one of the top two high school football players in his senior year - the other being Art Donovan, then a student at Mt. St. Michael and a future inductee into the National Football League Hall of Fame. The 1942 Fordham Prep Yearbook refers to him as “Touchdown Tom!”

He was awarded a football scholarship to Fordham University and played for one season at the University. However, World War II was in full swing so after the last game of his freshman year, Tom asked his mother to agree to permit him to join the United States Marine Corps because he was only 17 at the time. Mrs. Courtney agreed and Tom was sent to the Pacific Theater and fought in many battles including the Battle of Tarawa. He served with distinction and was highly decorated, including 5 purple hearts.

Thanks to the G.I. Bill, Tom graduated from Fordham College in 1949 with a B.A. in Economics. While it appeared at first that Tom may follow a career similar to that of Art Donovan, who received a scholarship to the University of Notre Dame in 1942 but also left after one semester to join the United States Marine Corps, Tom decided to join the New York City Police Department. He later acquired a law degree from Brooklyn Law School and a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from CCNY, but remained as a member of the Department. When he retired in 1971, he was Supervisor of Detectives, Bureau of Special Services, at the time the most elite group of detectives in the Department. As a member of the Bureau, Tom had the opportunity to guard many Presidents of the United States during their visits to New York City. On one occasion, President Eisenhower asked Tom to hold his jacket. Tom quickly replied, “Mr. President, I’ll take a bullet for you, but I’m not holding your jacket.”

From 1972 to 1992, Tom served as the head of security at Fordham University, for both the Rose Hill and Lincoln Center campuses. In addition, he served as the Police Commissioner in Ridgefield, CT for over 20 years – an elected position which he proudly served on a Pro Bono basis.

Thomas passed away on May 8, 1994. Tom and his wife, Joan Tierney, had 9 children – many of whom followed their father’s footsteps at the Prep and at Fordham University.
Larry Miggins, Class of 1943

Larry Miggins was born on August 20, 1925 in New York City, to John and Josephine Miggins, both of whom were born in Ireland. He and his family were members of St. Benedict’s parish in the Throgs Neck section of the Bronx. His mother was a homemaker and his father was a fireman in the New York City Fire Department. Larry earned an academic scholarship to the Prep, paid for by the FDNY.

Larry was coached by the legendary Zev Graham, on both the baseball and football teams during his years at the Prep. He was a member of the 1940 Prep Baseball championship team, and also played two years of varsity basketball during which he broke a scoring record with 38 points in an away game at Chaminade High School in 1943. Larry was a Tight End and Kicker for the 1942 Prep Football championship team, at that time coached by Ray Stoviak. Larry was both the President and Valedictorian of the Class of 1943. At Graduation, he received two gold medals, one in recognition of his athletic accomplishments and one from the Prep alumni.

While Larry received a football scholarship from the University of Pittsburgh, he was only a member of the football team for a brief period. He noticed that the Pittsburgh Pirates were always practicing across from the University so he ventured over one day and was eventually invited to participate in their practices. The University of Pittsburgh baseball coach found out and offered Larry a baseball scholarship. However, Larry wished to return to New York so he entered the New York State Maritime College, where he graduated as a licensed marine engineer with commissions in the U.S. Navy and Merchant Marine. Prior to arriving at Maritime, he signed with the New York Giants professional baseball team and played two weeks with the Jersey City Giants. Larry ended up playing basketball and baseball at Maritime before graduating in January of 1946 and serving as Third Assistant Engineer on two foreign trips.

In the Spring of ’46, Larry restarted his baseball career. In his first game, he played Third Base against Jackie Robinson during Jackie’s first minor league game in Jersey City on April 18, 1946, a game which was featured in the movie “42”. He played two seasons for the New York Giants minor league baseball teams in 1946 and 1947. From 1948 through 1951, he played for the St. Louis Cardinals’ minor league teams, where he regularly lead the league in home runs and RBIs. He finally made the big club in 1952 and played the entire season for the Cardinals as the fifth outfielder. The other outfielders included Major League Baseball Hall of Famers, Stan Musial and Enos Slaughter.

During his minor league playing days, he played for the Houston Buffs and ended up settling there when he retired from baseball in 1954. He earned a
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B.A. from St. Thomas University in Houston, and later an M.A. in Criminology from Sam Houston State.

Larry joined the U.S. Probation and Parole staff in 1955, from which he took mandatory retirement in 1980, having spent 21 years as Chief of the second largest district in the country. Later, he spent ten years with the Houston Municipal Court System working for the Chief Judge and then retired for good in 1990.

He married Kathleen McMahon, from Woodford, County Galway, in 1953, and together they raised twelve children, putting all of them through college, and, to date, have 36 grandchildren.

Larry is the published baseball author of “The Secret of Power Hitting” and has two copyrighted songs. He was inducted into the Texas Baseball hall of Fame in 2003 after previously being inducted into the Maritime College baseball and basketball halls of fame.

Richard Cea, Class of 1955

Richard Cea was born on October 29, 1937 to Alice and Nicholas Cea. He and his family were members of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Pelham Manor section of Westchester County. His mother was a nurse and his father was a doctor.

Dick took over at quarterback early in the 1954 season after Tony Fiorello was injured. He led the team to an undefeated season, and the players voted him the MVP. One of his teammates later commented that “while Frank Costello was an All-American, we all realized that without Dick Cea, we would never have gone undefeated.”

Dick attended the College of the Holy Cross, graduating in 1959. He graduated from the Boston University School of Medicine in 1963 and interned at St. Luke's Hospital in New York City from 1963 to 1964 and completed his General Surgical Residency at St. Luke's from 1964 to 1966. From 1966 to 1968, at the height of the Vietnam war, Dick served in the U.S. Army Medical Corp. He was on duty during the Tet Offensive, one of the bloodiest battles of the conflict. He then completed his orthopedic residency from 1968 to 1971 at St. Luke's and became a Board Certified Orthopedic Surgeon in 1973. His private practice specialized in trauma and joint replacement.
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Dick is married with four sons and lives in Westchester County, New York. He practiced orthopedic surgery until his retirement in 2010. His father, Nicholas, was also a doctor and served as the Prep team physician during the 1954 season.

Robert A. Oswald, Class of 1957

Robert A. Oswald was born on May 18, 1939 in Crestkill, New Jersey to Anthony and Margaret Oswald. The oldest of five children, Bob and his family were parishioners of Our Lady Queen of Peace Church. His mother was a homemaker and his father was the head of an accounting department in New York City.

Bob “the Rabbit” Oswald was two sport-player at the Prep. He played baseball on the JV level for one season and then three years on the varsity team. He played on the varsity football team during his sophomore, junior and senior years. He was the co-captain of the 1956 varsity squad, playing both running back and defensive back. While Mike Conway received the Madow Trophy at the conclusion of the Turkey Bowl, it was Bob who broke the tie with his 51st point of the season on the point-after-attempt (in addition to scoring the first touchdown in the game). In 1956, he was selected as an All-City First Team, All-Catholic First Team, and All Metropolitan – First Team honoree. In addition, he received the Lou Gehrig Award and the Hoffman Award for Outstanding Achievement in Football. As a result, he became known as “all-everything” at the Prep. Bob even served as his class president in his freshman, sophomore and junior years, and then on the Senior Council as its Vice President during his senior year.

Bob received a football scholarship from the University of Detroit. After graduating with a BA in 1961, he then returned to UD to earn his master’s degree. Years later, he joined the Cintas Corporation in 1973 and instantly became one of the company’s best managers. He was often referred to as the “Wizard of Oz” in reference to his name and his fantastic business results. One of his first assignments was to open up and establish a presence in the Detroit market. Over the next 10 years, Bob not only established a presence in the Detroit market, but he also established Cintas as the preferred uniform supplier in the state of Michigan. In 1983, Bob was asked to transfer and fix the company's struggling operations in Cleveland. Over the next 20 years, Bob would take the Cleveland market from $5 million to $200 million in revenue, and secure a dominant share of the market for Cintas. Over those years, Bob built state of the art facilities in Strongsville Ohio, Painesville Ohio, Akron Ohio,
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and in Youngstown Ohio. Although Cintas is an international company, with revenues of over $8 billion, its largest share of any market is still in the north-east section of Ohio...all due to the efforts of Bob Oswald. Not surprisingly, Bob was the recipient of several Cintas "outstanding achievement awards" which were given only to those managers meeting and/or exceeding company goals. His most coveted award was the first Cintas "Coach's Award" for his mentoring of other Cintas employees and executives. Upon his retirement in 2003, there were 22 executives at Cintas who Bob had personally hired, trained and/or mentored and who were responsible for 35% of the company's operations.

Bob then served as a consultant for Union Home Mortgage, founding and chairing the Union Home Advisory Board, training its management team to expect growth and become a growth company. According to Bill Cosgrove, CEO of Union Home Mortgage, “Bob's business coaching, management training and his friendship continues to impact our company in positive ways. His name comes up in conversation on a continual basis. He prepared us for a future we couldn't even see at the time but today is our reality because of Bob's friendship and vision. Everything Bob did had a purpose.”

Among his family, Bob is remembered as a wonderful husband, father, “Papa” to his grandchildren, son, brother and friend to all. He and his wife were blessed with 50 years of marriage, 3 children (Carrie, Mike and Robert) and 8 grandchildren (Jacob, David, Anna, Grace, Sophia, Maya, Riley, and Robert Anthony III.) Bob was devoted to his Catholic Faith and his Family, and devoted time to many youth programs and served as a member of the Strongsville Rotary.

Thomas Finneran, Class of 1959

Thomas Finneran was born on February 17, 1940 at Holy Name Hospital in Teaneck, New Jersey to Hugh and Elise (Wiedeman) Finneran. The family eventually moved to Yonkers where they became members of the Sacred Heart Parish. His mother was a bookkeeper for various companies and his father was a yardmaster for the New York Central Railroad.

In 1957, “Tommy the Tank” Finneran burst onto the scene as a 6’3, 225-pound sophomore fullback, recording 5 TDs in a 7-game season that also included a 70-yard punt against Brooklyn Prep. As a junior, he earned
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national and local recognition as a 6'3, 245-pound fullback and defensive tackle. His honors included: 1958 Teen Magazine High School All-American, 1958 N.Y. Daily News All-City Tackle, 1958 New York Herald Tribune All-Scholastic Top Running Back, and 1958 New York Journal American First String All-City at Fullback, the only junior on the team. He was also named the October 15, 1958 New York JournalAmerican Schoolboy Player of the week after scoring 3 TDs and recording 2 punts with a sixty-five-yard average in addition to dominating on the defensive line. He recorded 35 points in the first 3 games and finished 11th in City scoring across public, private, and parochial schools with 51 points in seven games and averaged fifty yards per punt. In November 1958, the New York Sunday News said he was “[p]robably the most desired athlete to come out of the Prep since the Late George “Snuffy” Stirnweiss (1937).”

Not surprisingly, his athletic achievements were not limited to the gridiron. He broke the Prep shotput record numerous times and continues to hold both the freshman and overall Prep shotput records. He was also a member of New York Athletic Club eight-oar crew team that competed in Cuba and Canada. He was a member of the 1954 NYAC team that recorded 44 victories including 6 Canadian, 1 U.S. National, 8 New England, 7 Metropolitan, and one Mid-States championship.

After Fordham Prep, Tom attended Fork Union in Virginia, where he starred on the gridiron and still holds the shot-put record. He received over fifty scholarship offers to play in college and accepted a scholarship to Notre Dame. Tom played a Notre Dame for two years and then transferred to Hofstra University, where he graduated in 1965 after starring as a fullback and defensive tackle. He became best friends with teammate John Schmitt, who went on to play center for the New York Jets’ Super Bowl III team.

Tom was invited to the San Diego Chargers and Oakland Raiders AFL Camps, eventually signing with the Oakland Raiders, but did not end up playing for them. After much deliberation, he decided to hang up his cleats and enter the business world, where he enjoyed a long and distinguished career in the textile and furniture Industry. He was Vice President in Sales for 18 years at Quaker Fabrics, Vice President in Sales at Joan Fabrics in Lowell for many years, and President of American Century Home Fabrics in Salisbury, NC.

Although his career took him away from the Prep, Tom dedicated himself to Catholic high school athletics, constructing a weight room in an abandoned horse stable to help the football program at Central Catholic in Andover, MA, where his six sons starred over a twenty-year span and then went on to stellar college careers across the Northeast. Thomas and Robert both won national championships at Ithaca College. Sean and Edward each started at the University of New Hampshire, with Sean starting all four years. Brendan,
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Michael Corcoran, Class of 1961

Michael Corcoran was born in 1943 in Kew Gardens, Queens, the second of nine children (four girls and five boys) to John “Jack” Corcoran and Adele Grady Corcoran. They were members of Queen of Martyrs parish in Forest Hills. While his father’s first job was mopping floors at the Museum of Natural History, he then became a NYPD patrolman and a highly decorated detective. His father then worked as a salesperson while going to law school in the evenings and became a lawyer at the age of 34.

Michael is the third member of his family to be inducted into the Fordham Prep Football Hall of Fame. His father, Jack ’34, and his brother, Brian ’76, were inducted in 2016 as members of the Hall of Fame’s second class of inductees. In traditional Fordham fashion, the Nominating Committee saved the best for last! Although his favorite sport was football, Michael ended up swimming for 4 years on the varsity and running track in his senior year. Michael was an honors student and was inducted into the Fordham Prep Honor Society and the Maroon Key.

At Fordham College, Michael majored in English and minored in Philosophy while swimming for the Rams. With the return of football to the University in 1964, Michael and his brother, John, helped lead the revival of the football program. Michael had the honor of playing in the first Fordham University football game in over ten years, playing before a crowd of nearly 15,000 fans as the Rams hosted their old football rival New York University, coming out on top 20 to 14.

Upon graduation, Michael was commissioned an officer in the United States Marines Corps and, after 6 months of infantry training at Quantico, was sent to Vietnam. Michael participated in numerous operations during his 3-year service in the Marines. Michael then went to Australia for 4 years and taught social studies in New South Wales and West Australia. After returning to the United States, he attended Columbia Teachers’ College and earned a master’s degree in Physical Education.
John J. Vrionis, Class of 1964

John J. Vrionis was born in New Rochelle, New York in March of 1946, the son of Mary Kelly Vrionis and George Vrionis, Sr. His mother sold real estate and his father, who arrived in this country as a child from Constantinople — today Istanbul, earned a living as an insurance salesman. John and his family grew up in Larchmont, New York and were members of St. Augustine’s Parish where John attended grammar school.

John played both varsity basketball and football during his days at the Prep. His coach on the gridiron was fellow Football Hall of Fame member Joseph “Sammy” Ososki. John was a big, fleet tight end. During his last football season at the Prep, John was named to the Catholic Football Conference All Star Team, the CHSAA All-City Team and the All-City Prep School Team, among others. On the hard-court, he gave a memorable performance versus Power Memorial Academy, the team that USA Today named the #1 High School Basketball Team of the Century. He scored 20 points and pulled down 10 rebounds while matched against All-American junior center, 7’0” Lew Alcindor (NBA Hall of Famer, Kareem Abdul-Jabbar). Whatever the field, court or venue, in addition to the sheer elegance of ability, Vrionis was admired and respected for his tenacity and fearlessness and was an inspiration to all around him.

John accepted a full football scholarship to Holy Cross, where he was a letter-winner on both the football and men’s lacrosse teams while completing a demanding major in economics. Playing for the Crusaders, he caught 39 career passes for 570 yards and seven touchdowns. He was key in some of Holy Cross’ most memorable victories of the day, including a win against Boston College in 1966 and against Yale in 1967 — the Bulldogs’ only loss of that season. During his senior year, John led the team with 511 receiving yards and 42 points scored. On the lacrosse field, Vrionis led the Holy Cross team in scoring as an upperclassman, with 49 points on 36 goals and 13...
assists. He scored eight goals against Worcester Polytechnic Institute on April 13, 1968 to set a school single-game record. John was selected to play in the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association North-South College All-Star Game.

Upon graduation he was invited to try out for the New York Football Giants by owner Wellington Mara. However, John had other plans and joined the United States Navy with the goal of becoming a pilot. While in training he played two seasons with the Pensacola Goshawks, the football team of the Naval Basic Air Training Command. One of his Goshawk teammates was future NFL Hall of Famer, Lieutenant Roger Staubach. During his more than 4 years of active duty and 3 years as a reservist, Vrionis piloted several types of helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. While the USS Forrestal was stationed in the Mediterranean, John, piloting a helicopter, rescued a downed pilot and his crew after their plane had crashed after launching from the carrier. After his years of service, John would go on to earn an MBA from Providence College in 1976. He pursued a career in sales at companies including Coral of Chicago, Masonite Corporation, and Hauserman, Inc.

In 2010, John James Vrionis was inducted into the Holy Cross Varsity Club Hall of Fame for his achievements in both football and lacrosse. In 2013, John was inducted into the Prep Hall of Honor.

John and his wife Lori now live in Roswell, Georgia. They are blessed with 3 children and 10 grandchildren and will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary this December. Although he has struggled with various health ailments for years, John has been a volunteer at the local VA Hospital and Samaritan House in Atlanta, where he helps indigent men and women find paying jobs.

Kevin Plunkett, Class of 1972

Kevin Plunkett was born on April 13, 1954 to Jerry and Meg Plunkett. He and his family were members of St. Andrew's parish in the Flushing section of Queens. His mother was a school teacher and his father was a mechanic.

Described by Bruce Bott ’59 as one of the Prep’s all-time greatest athletes, Kevin was a multi-sport athlete at the Prep. He played both ways during his two years on the varsity football team – at running back and defensive back – and was the only player to do so during those years. He served as Co-Captain of the team during his senior year and lead the team to a record of 7-1, winning the Metropolitan Football...
League title and missing an undefeated season by 1 point in a 13-12 loss to the Eastern Military Academy. He also played baseball at the Prep, spending three years on the varsity and serving as Co-Captain during his senior year. His basketball career, admittedly, was uneventful except for a junior year Christmas tournament game against DeMatha in Washington, DC when Kevin was assigned to cover Adrian Dantley and ended up fouling out of the game in 3 minutes 57 seconds—a record for the tournament. He received the Fordham Prep Outstanding Athlete Award in senior year, which was presented to him by one of his favorite people at the Prep—fellow Football Hall of Fame member Joe Ososki.

Kevin was recruited to play football for Princeton University. However, after one season, the coaches decided that his talents were better suited for the baseball team. After playing on the Freshman Team (mandatory at the time), he was a 3-year starter on the varsity, winning the Ivy League Batting Championship in 1975 and receiving the Clarke Trophy, Princeton’s equivalent of the team MVP award.

After graduation, he attended NYU Business School and accepted a job offer to join the Morgan Stanley Training Program. Eventually, he would lead the International Equity Trading Desk and, at the age of only 33, was one of the youngest people ever to be made a Managing Director of the firm. Over the next 20 years, he worked for a variety of investment banks and financial institutions including UBS, Smith Barney, and Lazard Freres.

Kevin is currently managing retirement assets for a handful of clients and driving up & down I-95 from New York to Florida with his dog.

Joseph Reynolds, Class of 1973

Joseph Reynolds was born on January 12, 1955 in New York City to Ruth and Francis Xavier Reynolds. He and his family moved from Manhattan to Westchester where they were members of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Ardsley. His mother, Ruth, was a graduate of Hunter College and his father was a doctor, who graduated from Fordham University and then NYU Medical School.

Joe played three years of football during his days at the Prep. As a junior he was a member of the Prep’s Metropolitan Football League championship team. As a senior he led the team as Captain and was a First Team
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Metropolitan Football League honoree, an All-City selection and also received the Prep’s Outstanding Lineman award.

Joe went on to play rugby in college as a member of Fordham University’s Rugby Club in 1976 and 1977, and the White Plains Rugby Club in 1977 and 1978. While attending Fordham University, Joe returned to the Prep to serve as the defensive coordinator of the JV football team in 1976. Later, from 2002 to 2010, Joe served in a variety of coaching positions including as the Prep’s freshmen football team head coach and linemen coach, the JV head coach, linemen coach and defensive coordinator for the CHSFL AA JV championship team, and as varsity offensive line coach of the 2010 regular season undefeated team.

In between and after his years as a football coach at the Prep, Joe had a very successful career as the CFO of Emisphere Technologies Inc., a publicly traded biopharmaceutical company, and as partner, CFO and COO of CTA Bio Services, a clinical research company. He was also the co-owner of Bavarian Beverage Inc., a beverage distributor in Ardsley, New York.

Joe has been a longstanding and generous supporter of the Fordham Prep Football Program, and has been actively involved in the Ardsley CYO basketball and little league baseball programs, and the Stroudsburg PA CYO basketball and flag football programs.

John Cullen, Class of 1975

John Cullen was born on July 30, 1957 in the Clason Point section of the Bronx to Ellen and John Patrick Cullen Sr. He and his family, which included five sisters, were members of Saint Joseph’s parish in Bronxville. His mother was the long-time director of the Elinor Martin Pregnancy Care Center and his father had a long career with Consolidated Edison, retiring as Vice President, Radiation Safety at Indian Point nuclear power plant.

John was a throwback to the 1950’s, sporting a close-cropped military haircut while the rest of his teammates were growing long hair like a bunch of hippies. His personality matched his looks – he had the maturity, discipline, temperament, and strength of character of a true leader. John always
offered encouragement and inspiration to his teammates. John was not a showboat or flashy – while he took a quiet but determined approach to the game and as a leader, he was never intimidated.

John began his Prep football career on the freshman team, but the following year he was brought up to be a starting lineman on the varsity squad. He had reached his substantial full adult size by the age of 13 and was able to attend the Prep on a scholarship, likely enhanced by his football potential. He played both offense and defense in football, and also played hockey, skating “like a milk truck” according to Coach Bruce Bott (and breaking his jaw in one memorable game). A former football teammate recounted that “after a few failed runs up the middle on the goal line, Coach Bott called for a quarterback sneak -- quick and straight ahead. As we were breaking the huddle, John quietly turned to me [the QB] and said to follow him. He was out at left tackle, but I followed him into the end zone. The touchdown was sweet and so was growing up with John.”

John was a walk-on player at Cornell during his freshman year, and then led a big group of committed friends (including his future wife, Kim) in an intramural sports team, eventually winning the Cornell Intramural Sports Championship (after distinguishing himself in the broomstick polo competition). John graduated from the Cornell School of Industrial and Labor Relations in 1979, working in that field for several years.

However, he was a man who could do pretty much anything he set his mind to and, ultimately, he was named Plant Engineer at an O-Z Gedney foundry in Terryville, CT (teaching himself to read blueprints at night). He left that job to start his own firm, Hoss Valley Restorations, a successful contracting business that he ran for many years. When his daughters, Jamie and Kara, were young, John was often the primary parent, attending school meetings and athletic events, preparing meals, and providing the support, direction, and wise counsel that provided a rock-solid foundation for both daughters.

He was a die-hard Yankee fan, and a quiet community leader, never hesitant to address an issue, or speak up when others were reluctant. He was generous in his praise when earned, and brutal in his wrath when aroused. His hard work and strength of character were legendary.

When he was diagnosed with small-cell lung cancer in 2008, he began writing entries on the wonderful CaringBridge website that showcased his remarkable strength, humor, and love. From January 2008 until he died in August 2009, his writing and musings inspired a wide range of people who’d never met him, in addition to the many dear friends he cherished throughout his life.

John was an astonishingly strong, unwaveringly determined, one-of-a-kind,
James Rowen, Class of 1982

James Rowen was born in Rockville Center New York on February 5th, 1964 to Joyce O'Rourke Rowen and James S. Rowen. He and his family were members of the St. Agnes Cathedral. His mother was a teacher in a nearby public school and his father was a corporate lawyer who owned his own firm. Jim married his wife Diane in 1989 and they have three children Kaitlin, Jim and Megan.

Jim joined the Prep football team as a freshman and played through junior year. It was a very hot and humid day in late August 1978 when he first walked on to the Prep's pebble-encrusted back field and met a bunch of strangers who would become his teammates, his family, his closest friends and, most importantly, the guys who would provide him with the encouragement to push himself every day and live a life of continuous improvement.

Unfortunately, Jim was unable to participate in football as a senior due to an injury sustained during the off-season. However, by the end of his three-year playing career, Jim had demonstrated a commitment to his teammates, the football program and the Prep that is often overlooked by those focused on a player's stats. While most players on the roster had a one-hour roundtrip commute to the Prep, Jim lived in Long Beach NY and beginning at the age of 13 would spend over four hours on his round-trip commute to the Prep. Despite this challenge Jim demonstrated his commitment to his teams by making every practice and every game.

After graduation, Jim attended Fordham University but had to limit his athletic pursuits in order to be able to work several days a week to pay for college and commuting costs. Jim then went on to obtain an MBA from Fordham University's Graduate School of Business. Jim's commitment to his studies and continued sacrifices would ultimately become the foundation of,
2018 Inductees

and the catalyst for, his future success. Jim served as Senior Vice President at Kidder Peabody in the analytical proprietary trading unit – a joint venture with General Electric that became known as “Star Wars.” He then moved on to NatWest Securities where as a Managing Director he was responsible for Equity Derivatives and Financing. Following that role Jim became a Deutsche Bank Managing Director and Global Head of Prime Brokerage, Equity Derivative Financing and the Equity Division's Strategic Resources. Jim eventually moved on to SAC Capital where he served as the Chief Financial Officer. For the past 10 years Jim has held the role of Chief Operating Officer at Renaissance Technologies LLC.

As committed as he is to his professional and family pursuits, Jim has demonstrated an equal level of commitment to helping those in need of assistance. He has worked with schools such as Kellenberg Memorial H.S., Fordham Prep, Regis High School, Molloy College, Villanova University and Fordham University to improve their educational offerings and to enable these schools to welcome some of the most deserving but financially challenged candidates for admission. One of Jim's proudest accomplishments has been serving as the architect and sponsor of the Ignatian Challenge which annually raises tons of food for the homeless and poorest members of our local communities and, in one year alone, raised more than 50 tons of food. In April 2018, Jim sponsored the first Social Justice Tournament -- a friendly competition among 5 Jesuit High Schools designed to raise awareness and funding for selected charities dedicated developing solutions to injustices in our communities.

Over the years Jim has been a consistent and dedicated supporter of the Prep. From 2010 to 2017, Jim served as a member of the Prep's Board of Directors. He served as Chairman of the Board's Finance Committee and, from 2014 to 2017, as Chairman of the Board. More relevant to today's proceedings, he has been a loyal supporter of the Prep's football program and, especially, of the revival of the Fordham Prep Gridiron Club. Having benefitted in so many ways from participating in an organized high school football program, Jim wanted to ensure that other Prep students would have the same opportunity – thus leading him to help renovate the Prep's outdoor athletic field in 2014.

Not withstanding all of the above accolades, one of Jim's greatest attributes is his ability to engage with alumni, both young and old, to gently encourage them to join him in becoming more actively involved in and supportive of the Prep and its football program. More importantly, he has shown through his own actions that an alumnus can have a very positive, significant and long-term impact on the Prep and its football program. All that have had the opportunity to interact with Jim are extremely grateful to him for his leadership, his love of the Prep, and especially for his friendship.
Ralph A. Dengler was born on July 20, 1966 in New York City to Norbert ‘49 and Marilyn Dengler. He and his family were members of Our Lady of Refuge parish in the Fordham Manor section of the Bronx. His mother was a homemaker and raised seven children and his father was an attorney; both parents are lifelong residents of the Bronx.

Ralph was an honors student/athlete and four-year football starter and three-year rugby player. As a junior he was a CHSFL Second Team honoree. As a senior, Ralph served as team captain, and was a CHSFL First Team honoree, CHSFL All Star Team member, Daily News All City – Second Team honoree, and the recipient of the Prep’s Fischetti Award. Ralph played both ways as a fullback and linebacker, and served as the long-snapper on special teams. During his varsity career Ralph scored 23 touchdowns and was coached by fellow Football Hall of Fame member and legend, Bruce Bott ‘59.

Ralph entered the United States Naval Academy in July 1984, but was cut from the football team at the end of Plebe Summer. However, he then went on to play rugby for four years and was team captain in his senior year. In his senior year, Ralph helped the Navy win the Potomac Rugby Union Championship and was chosen as the team’s Most Valuable Forward. Ralph was also selected to the All Military U-19 Team and was a light heavyweight boxing champion as a senior.

Upon graduation in 1988, Ralph was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. He served as an Infantry Officer on Active Duty from 1988-1993 and in the Marine Corps Reserves from 2003-2010, commanding Platoon through Battalion sized Infantry units. He also served as an instructor at the Marine Corps’ Basic School and obtained a Masters of Education degree from the University of Virginia. Ralph served three combat tours during his Marine Corps career: on active duty in the Gulf War in 1991 as a Weapons Platoon Commander; and as a twice-activated Reservist in the Iraq War in 2003 as a Battalion Executive Officer and again in 2007-2008 as a Team Leader for a Combat Advisor Team embedded with the Iraqi Army. In 2010, he retired as a Colonel, with numerous personal and unit decorations.

Following his active duty, and in parallel with his Marine Corps Reserve career, Ralph attended Fordham University Law School from 1993-1996. Upon graduation, he served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx County District Attorney’s Office from 1996-1999, including one year in the Narcotics Bureau. Ralph then moved into private practice, specializing in intellectual property law litigation and counseling, which he continues to do.
2018 Inductees

today as a partner in the New York City office of Venable LLP.

He served as volunteer little league, soccer and basketball coaches for his children’s various teams in Sparta, NJ. In addition, he served as General Counsel for the town's youth football program from 2010-2014. Currently, Ralph is a member of the Board of Directors for the Marine Corps Toys for Tots Foundation.

Ralph is married to Kelly Connaghan Dengler, a Hall of Fame swimmer at Fordham University (’89) and proud parents of student/athletes: Matt (18), a freshman at Fordham’s Gabelli School of Business and a member of the football team; Ryan (17), a junior at Pope John High School and also a member of the football and track teams; Krista (12), a 7th grader at Sparta Middle School and a soccer, basketball and track athlete; and Sloane (10), a 5th grader at Helen Morgan School and also a soccer and basketball player. The Denglers live in Sparta, New Jersey.

Vincent Roman, Class of 1986

Vincent Roman was born on October 21, 1968 in the Bronx to Juanita and Vincent Roman. He and his family were members of St. Jude’s parish in the Inwood section of Manhattan. His mother was a kindergarten teacher and his father was a mailman for the U.S. Postal Service.

At the Prep, Vinnie played both football and baseball, exceeding at both. He played both 2 years on the Prep JV football team and 2 years on the varsity football team. Among his many awards, Vinnie was selected as the Football Player of the Week as a senior in 1985 and was an All-City selection in his senior year. Vinnie also played 2 years on the Prep’s JV baseball team and 2 years on the varsity baseball team.

While still at the Prep, Vinnie was scouted by several Major league baseball teams, including the New York Yankees and Houston Astros. However, at that time in his life, he was more interested in playing football. Thanks to his football and baseball coaches, especially Bruce Bott and Doug Faul, Vinnie’s game films and statistics reached the head coaches at several major colleges. As a result, Vinnie was recruited to play football by nationally ranked programs such as Nebraska and Syracuse. However, during a visit to Syracuse, Vinnie stopped to visit another Fordham Prep football alumnus, Sean Innis, at Ithaca College. While there, the football and baseball coaches made a unique offer to Vinnie - if he attended Ithaca, he would be permitted
2018 Inductees

to play both football and baseball, something no other school was going to allow him to do.

At Ithaca, Vinnie played 2 years of football before turning his focus to baseball. He was a fast outfielder, stealing 20 bases in only 28 games during the 1987 season. The decision to focus on baseball paid off as he was drafted by the Houston Astros in the 1990 MLB June Amateur Draft. Vinnie played for the Astros’ minor league teams from 1990 through 1994. He then served as a hitting instructor and outfield instructor for the Texas Rangers from 1995 through 2000. While at Ithaca, Vinnie received several awards including: 1988 Baseball All American - Second Team, 1989 Baseball All American – First Team. As a result of his baseball accomplishments, he was inducted into the Ithaca College Hall of Fame in 1998.

Vinnie married Jennifer Schuman and they currently live on Long Island with their two beautiful children – daughter, Hunter, and son, Cooper. He is a physical education teacher at Comsewogue High School, where he has served as a baseball, football, basketball and strength & conditioning coach.

Greg Santomero, Class of 1986

Greg Santomero was born on July 16, 1968 in White Plains, New York to Vincent and Lauretta Santomero. He attended Iona Grammar School in the New Rochelle section of Westchester.

In 1982, during his first year at the Prep, Greg was one of the captains for the freshman squad, suiting up as the Rams’ offensive guard and middle linebacker. During his second season, he was asked by fellow Football Hall of Fame member Bruce Bott ‘59 to jump up to the varsity where he quickly earned the starting center position. During both his junior and senior seasons, Greg started on both sides of the ball and was recognized for his athletic ability and leadership with awards such as: All-League, All New York City, CHSFL All-Star Team and The *Daily News* High School All-Star.

Greg continued playing football at The Catholic University of America where he earned a starting position on the offensive line as a guard for three of his four years on the team. Greg also played rugby for four seasons at Catholic University, continuing a rugby career that started at the Prep where he was co-captain along with Andrew “Crazy Legs” Dengler ‘86.
2018 Inductees

While at the Prep, Greg developed an eye for the creative arts – thanks in large part to his Studio Art Teacher Ms. Honigman. Later, while at Catholic University, Greg secured an internship at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services that involved working in the digital realm. Upon graduation, Greg honed his creative art skills at a few animation studios and post facilities in Times Square. Later, he became the Creative Director at NBC Sports at 30 Rockefeller Center where he won multiple Emmy Awards for his work as a visual designer and creative director. Greg combined his passion for sports along with his artistic talents and shared responsibility for designing the digital broadcast package and graphics for NBC’s Olympic Games, Super Bowl, French Tennis Open, Wimbledon and other major broadcast programming. With an extensive background in film, broadcast, web, and print, Greg decided to start his own design studio, Santo Studios, and has continued to direct and create award winning visual communication productions. In addition to his Emmy Awards, Greg received several Broadcast Design and Promax Awards.

Married to children’s media creator, Angela Santomero, they live in New York with their two teenage daughters. Greg is one of several members of the Santomero Family to play football at the Prep. His brother Vinny Santomero ’84 (a 2017 Inductee to the Fordham Prep Football Hall of Fame), his cousins Camillo Santomero ’75 and Christopher Santomero ’87, and his uncle Dr. Anthony Santomero (football teammate with Football Hall of Fame member Jim Feddeck ’64) are all proud Prep football alumni.

Brendan Higgins, Class of 1994

Brendan Higgins was born on August 18, 1976 in Hempstead, New York to Sean and Kathy Higgins. As residents of Westchester County, he and his family were members of the Transfiguration parish in Tarrytown, NY. His mother was a nurse and his father was an attorney. Interestingly, both of his grandfathers are Fordham Prep alumni - Dr. Malcom Metzer ’33 and Thomas Higgins ’39.

Brendan was a multi-sport athlete during his years at the Prep. Brendan was a four-year football player at the quarterback position. During his senior year, Brendan and fellow team captains Cliff Dealy and Pat Antolino led their team to an 8-7 victory over Iona Prep. It was the first win for the varsity football team over Iona Prep in over 30 years. Brendan and his teammates from the Class of 1994 proudly claimed victory archrival Xavier in each year
of their 4-year football careers at the Prep. At the conclusion of his senior season, Brendan was awarded the Bruce Bott Scholar-Athlete Award. Brendan also played two years of basketball for the Prep, but his other major sport was lacrosse. He was a four-year varsity lacrosse player, who at one time was the Prep’s all-time leading scorer and honored as an All-American lacrosse player at the conclusion of his senior year. In 2016, Brendan was inducted into the Prep’s Lacrosse Hall of Fame.

Brendan attended the United States Naval Academy and started off as a two-sport athlete. As a freshman, he walked-on and played quarterback for Navy’s football team. But after his freshman season, Navy switched to their current triple-option offense, which brought a quick end to Brendan’s football career. Brendan then focused his efforts on the lacrosse field and played four years for the nationally ranked Navy lacrosse team. At the conclusion of his senior season, Brendan was the recipient of the Lieutenant (junior-grade) Frank McKeone Award for Character, Leadership and Unsung Hero.

Upon graduation from the Naval Academy, Brendan was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. From 1998 to 2003, he served as an infantry and reconnaissance officer. In early 2003, he led a Marine Corps special operations platoon during the initial stages of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Brendan and his Marines were some of the first US forces to enter the city of Baghdad. His platoon successfully accomplished numerous surveillance, direct action and personal security missions throughout Baghdad and southern Iraq. Thankfully, every Marine and Sailor from his platoon returned home alive.

Brendan then pursued a career in medicine, graduating from Georgetown Medical School in 2011 and the Dartmouth Orthopedic Residency Program in 2017. He is currently in the process of completing his final year in orthopedic sports medicine fellowship training at the Steadman Clinic in Vail, Colorado. He looks forward to continuing his career of service to others by concentrating his sports medicine practice in the care of high school, college and Olympic, professional and recreational athletes and along with his wife, Kim, enduing upon his three daughters – Sadie, Maggie and Clare, the ideal of “service to others” engrained in him at Fordham Prep.
Sean Smith, Class of 1995

Sean Smith was born in August 1976 and raised in Bronxville, New York. He attended Iona Grammar School in New Rochelle, New York before heading off to Fordham Prep.

At the Prep, Sean played running back and defensive back. As a running back, he amassed over 4,100 yards rushing in his four years at the Prep. Senior year, Sean was Co-Captain and rushed for 1,395 yards and 14 touchdowns. Junior and Senior years combined, Sean scored 5 touchdowns and 4 extra points against Xavier. Those teams in 1993 and 1994 beat Xavier both times for a total combined score of 72-26.

Senior year, Sean was selected to the New York Daily News All-City First Team, the New York Newsday All-City First Team, the New York Daily News All Bronx, Manhattan and Westchester First Team, the Herald Statesman All County, the CHSFL All-League, the CHSFL Senior All Star Team, and the Downtown Athletic Club High School Heisman All Star Team. Sean won both the George Zambetti Outstanding Back Award and the Michael Fischetti MVP Awards in 1994. Sean Co-Won the Fordham Prep Jack McLaughlin Memorial Award for Outstanding Athlete in 1994.

After Fordham Prep, Sean attended The University of Dayton, graduating in 1999. Sean started his career on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, where he became the youngest person to own a direct access firm. Sean sold his company in 2006. He currently is the Founder and President of Jetty 14 Design Group.

Sean has dedicated a significant amount of his time in support of the Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in honor of his father who died while Sean was a student at the Prep. In addition, he has supported both Secret Smiles and the Sean Lugano Foundation. Following the damage caused by Superstorm Sandy in October 2012, Sean worked tirelessly to help bring food and water to the residents of Breezy Point and helped with the demolition work on many condemned homes.

Sean and his wife Carrie have three beautiful children, Kylie, Hunter and Cooper.

2018 Inductees
Matthew Rinklin, Class of 2001

Matthew Rinklin was born and raised on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. He and his family are members of the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola.

At Fordham Prep, Rinklin started at quarterback during his junior and senior years, passing for over 3,000 yards with 28 touchdowns. After the 1999 season, Rinklin was named to the All-League and All-City teams. In 2000, he was elected football captain, and at the end of the season was selected as the team’s most valuable offensive player. In the same year, he was named to the All-League, All-City and All-State teams. A three-sport athlete, Rinklin lettered in football, indoor track & field and lacrosse while at the Prep.

During college, Rinklin played football at the University of Illinois before going on to star at the University of Chicago. As starting quarterback, he led Chicago to the 2005 University Athletic Association (“UAA”) Championship. During his two-year career at Chicago, he threw for 3,364 yards, connected on 24 touchdown passes and had a .55 completion percentage. He was named to the All-UAA team in 2005 and 2006. To this day, Rinklin remains in the University of Chicago football record books across several passing categories.

After college, Rinklin began a career in asset and investment management. He is currently a Senior Vice President at Oaktree Capital Management. Rinklin remains grateful for the foundation provided to him at the Prep and for the many friendships that remain from his time at the school.
Thomas Joseph Courtney was a great man— a valuable friend, a loving husband and father and an exceptional person. For all his life, whether in his relationship with one of his young children or his wife, a fellow athlete, a fellow Marine, a fellow police officer, the President of the United States (several of with whom he had regular interaction), or a person he was representing during his legal career, he was honest, brave, smart, and hardworking. He was a good man and had a good sense of humor too. You could always rely on him. He was ever loyal and always faithful to his beautiful wife Joan Tierney, his 9 children, his alma mater, Fordham Prep and Fordham University, his Country and his God. Fordham was an important thread woven throughout his life and he valued it greatly. Thank you to the Gridiron for remembering and honoring this truly wonderful man.

From his Children
Congratulations to
all of the Newest Members of the
Fordham Prep Football Hall of Fame!
To My Friend and Mentor,
You Are Greatly Missed and
Always Remembered!

Rev. James T. Griffin, S.J.
Fordham Prep Faculty Member and
Varsity Football Chaplain

Kevin J. Rooney
FP ’88, FC ’92, LAW ’96, P’17
Congratulations to all the 2018 Hall of Fame Honorees.
Here’s to coaches, teammates, and all those united in the tradition of football at Fordham Prep, especially:

Coach Michael Corcoran ’61
Jim Rowen ’82
Ralph Dengler ’84
Vinnie Roman ’86
Greg Santomero ’86
Sean Smith ’95

The Neary Family
John ’87, Jaime, Cara, Kevin and Aidan
Congratulations!

To My Good Friend
Jim Rowen '82

And Classmate
Ralph Dengler '84

On their FP HOF Selection

Tom Huvane '84
Congratulations to

Jim Rowen ‘82
A True Man for Others

Best wishes,

John Haley ‘87
Congratulations to Coach Pat Deane ‘88, my former teammate! There could not have been a better pick for Head Coach. I am confident that he will take the Prep Football Program to new heights.

Congratulations to Ralph Dengler ‘84, my former Battalion Commander with whom I deployed to Iraq in 2003. Well deserved!

Special thanks to Kevin Rooney ‘88, Co-Chair of the Nominating Committee, for his dedication & devotion to his family, friends, the Prep and the Football Program.

Lt. Col. Nicholas J. Visconti ‘88
Congratulations to all of this year’s Inductees.

Especially those talented and dedicated players I had the privilege of playing alongside (Ralph, Vinny and Greg).

Coach Bott would be proud!

Al Cornachio (class of 1985)
Congratulations to our friend James Rowen!

This august achievement of being named to the FP Football Hall of Fame outshines your nomination as queen of the prom in ’82!

We the founding members of the FP Gaelic Society only wish you had had a better helmet.

Dia duit,

Pete, John and Dan
Congratulations on this well-deserved honor. We are so proud of all your accomplishments!

Love, The Raske Family
Mattie,

Congratulations on your induction to the Fordham Prep Football Hall of Fame. It is so well deserved and I am so proud of you!

Love your fiancé,

Joanna
Congratulations on receiving this prestigious honor. We had so much fun at your games and made so many great friends.

Mattie... we are so proud of you.

Love, Steve, Mobo, Dad, NICKIE, Eric and Julia
Congratulations on your Fordham Prep Hall of Fame Induction!

Your tireless dedication to your teammates, coaches and the Prep throughout the years as a player solidifies the immortal words of Coach Gorynski that you truly are “The Incumbent, Gregory Santomero”. We are so proud that you continue to exemplify this stature everyday throughout your life.

From your cousins,
Camillo ('75), Christopher ('87),
Christopher Frank ('22) and their families.
Congratulations to honoree Ralph A. Dengler 84’

The Dengler/Cojocaru Family

Norb ’49
Norb J. ’79
Andrew ’86
Kurt ’89
Justin ’93
Mark Cojocaru ’17
David Cojocaru ‘20
Congratulations to all of this year’s inductees, especially my teammates

Ralph Dengler

Jim Rowen

Best wishes Mike McGowan
Skyline Solutions Group
Proud of our Dad Tom Finneran Class 1959!
A great athlete and great father.

We honor his memory.
His sons
Tom, Rob, Sean, Brendan, Ned and Neil Finneran

The Dengler Family proudly congratulates all Honorees!

**Norbert Dengler '49**
**Norbert J. Dengler '79**
**Ralph A. Dengler '84**
**Andrew N. Dengler '86**
**Kurt F. Dengler '89**
**Justin L. Dengler '93**

Ad Majorem Dei Gloriam
Sean

Congratulations on your induction to the Fordham Prep Football Hall of Fame. We couldn't be more proud of you; an achievement well deserved! We are so lucky to call you ours!

May the success that has come your way today continue to lead you to more achievements in the years to come. Love you more!

Love,
Carrie, Kylie, Hunter, and Cooper

Dear Sean

Congratulations on your induction into the Fordham Prep Football Hall of Fame 2018. We are so very proud of you and your many accomplishments. Your Dad is smiling down on you!

With Much Love and Admiration,
Mom, Christopher and Megan
Congratulations to Jim Rowen!
Well done!
Class of 82’

Congratulations to all of the 2018 inductees and in particular to my teammates Kevin Plunkett and Joe Reynolds to whom I owe fond memories of our MFL championship, our Xavier game victories, multiple yards gained behind your superb blocking and in particular for all of the good times.

O.J. Kozicky ’73
To my big brother, Ralph (& uncle, godfather and brother-in-law),

Congratulations to you Ralph! You were already in the 'Brother and Uncle Hall of Fame,' and now you're inducted into the FP Football Hall of Fame! We are so proud of you for receiving this honor. You are truly the “Man in the Arena” and we celebrate this wonderful accomplishment, recognizing your excellence on the FP gridiron. You lead your football teams at FP for four years and carried the same will, determination and courage throughout your life -- to the Naval Academy, US Marines, Bronx DA’s office and now as a patent attorney. You have been a great leader and exemplify the FP call to service as a 'Man for Others'. We are privileged to have you in our lives. Excelsior!

Love always,
Andrew ’86, Christina, Jonas, Noah and Emelia Dengler

Congratulations to Tom Finneran's family on his well-deserved Hall of Fame induction.

My dad and Coach Bott loved telling stories of your football feats.

Cousin Terrence Finneran, '90 and all the Yonkers Finneran’s
Congratulations Matt!

We are all so proud of you!!!

Love,
Anna, Joe, Danielle, Dan, Patricia, Adam and Wilson

Congratulations Matt, on your induction into the Fordham Prep Football Hall of Fame.

I am very proud of you!

Love,
Pat Simone
Congratulations to Coach Michael Corcoran on your well-deserved Hall of Fame induction

CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH 2018 FORDHAM PREP FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE!

MOST ESPECIALLY, TEAMMATE RALPH DENGULER ’84 & MY BROTHER,
GREG SANTOMERO ’86.
WELCOME TO THE CLUB!
Vinny Santomero ’84 / HOF ’17 & The Santomero Family
Christopher ’87, Camillo ’75, and Anthony ’64.
Love and much affection to our cousin
John Vrionis

Eileen Jacques and James McCormack

Plunk,
You were fun to watch crashing the line.

Congratulations from your brothers in the
Class of '72!

Congratulations Sean Smith '95 and to all
Fordham Prep inductees.

The Smith Family

Christopher '92, Louise, Margaret &Emelia

To my teammates Gregory Santomero and Vincent Roman,
Congratulations fellas on your induction into the FP Football Hall of Fame! I
am so proud of you both - the many days and nights of practices, up-downs,
monkey rolls, uphill crabs, football camps in backwater towns, scrimmages,
games, bus rides, the fun times, the tough times...all unforgettable
memories. Thank you both for making our FP football experiences a lot of
fun, while at the same time, you demonstrated your outstanding talents and
skills as players and as leaders on our teams. Greg as our ironman/two-way
player and Vinny as our nuclear weapon on offense. We celebrate and salute
you Greg and Vinny!

All the best always,
Andrew Dengler '86 and the Dengler Family
Congratulations Dick Cea!

You led us to an undefeated season........
Buzzy and the 54’ Team

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FORDHAM PREP 2018 FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES!

We look forward to joining you one day!
The Fordham Prep Varsity Football Team
Fordham Prep Gridiron Club Committee

Gabriella Gaspar P’19
Stephen Loffredo P’18 and ‘20
Michael English P’20
Marc Flamino ‘85
Michael Balestra ‘94

Fordham Prep Football Hall of Fame Nominating Committee

Walter Morris ‘56 & P ‘86                Donn McNamee ‘87
Richard Q. LaFond ‘58                   John Neary ‘87
Frank D’Onofrio ‘60                     Louis DiGiorno ‘88
Dick Herzing ‘60                        Kevin Rooney ‘88 & P ‘17
Eugene Porcaro ‘62                      Alfredo D’Onofrio ‘89
John Zampino ‘62                        Michael Balestra ‘94
James Feddeck ‘64                       Paul Olivo ‘94
John Panebianco ‘73                     Joseph Evans ‘06
Jack Doran ‘76                          Connor Nugent ‘06
John Freeman ‘80                        Ken McKenna ‘07
Ramon German ‘86                        Anthony Kurtin, Prep A.D.
William Morris ‘86
Thank You

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Joanna Simone
Lt. Col. Nicholas Visconti ’88

Paul Brusco ’82
Ralph Dengler ’84
Andrew Dengler ’86
Maureen Finneran
Terrence Finneran ’90
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John Freeman ’80
Gabriella Gaspar P’19
Chris Santomero ’87

Dr. Orest Kozicky ’73
Anonymous
James Smith ’88
A Blessing

(I learned the first part of this blessing from the Rabbi who taught me Hebrew and the second part from an Irish priest)

May God be gracious to you and kindly to you;

May His face shine upon you and bring you deep and abiding peace;

May He guard you and guide you every step of the way;

May the road rise before you; May the wind be at your back;

May the rain fall softly on your land; May God hold you and all whom you love in the palm of His hand;

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen!

Rev. James T. Griffin, S.J.
Celebrating Fordham Prep’s Past,
Investing in its Future