CERTIFIABLE SUCCESS

COMPUTER SCIENCE WEEK AT ‘D’
During early December, De La Salle held Computer Science Week. As a school that has been at the forefront of technology in Catholic secondary education in Chicago on a consistent basis, this was a great opportunity for the young women and men of De La Salle to garner an ample amount of knowledge about a wide variety of computer-related topics.

We had James Virgini, a senior design engineer from Amazon.com, visit De La Salle for an Hour of Code in which 70 of our Meteors participated and learned more about coding.

We had Br. Chris Oddo, FSC, who has served our school for years as the Director of Technological Services speak with two of our classes and provide them with his wealth of computer-related knowledge.

We had faculty member Diniah Dean attend a reception held at Google’s Chicago location along with some of the best and brightest minds in the field of technological education at the secondary level.

On the subject of best and brightest, we had students Madison Smith ‘19 and Marc Rhymes ‘20 display their impressive creativity and intelligence as they won in-house App Design and Computer Science Trivia contests, respectively.

In this issue of D Magazine, you will have the opportunity to read an excellent package of stories related to Computer Science Week and understand firsthand the integral role technology plays in the success and progress of our school as a whole and our Meteors individually.

Technology is ever-changing in this fast-paced global environment in which we live. One thing that remains constant, however, is De La Salle’s place among the innovative leaders in the field of technologically-advanced secondary education.

On behalf of everyone associated with De La Salle, I thank you for your generosity, dedication and commitment to our school. It is because of that that the Institute continues to grow and thrive.

May God’s blessings be upon you and your families as we look forward to an amazing 2019 at De La Salle.

St. John Baptist de La Salle, pray for us!

Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us!

Live Jesus in Our Hearts, Forever!

De La Salle President
Fr. Paul Novak

Mission Statement
De La Salle Institute is an independent Catholic secondary school rooted in the tradition of Christian education begun by St. John Baptist de La Salle. Founded in 1889, its mission has been, and is, to foster a desire for excellence in education. Young people from a variety of ethnic and economic backgrounds are given the opportunity to fully develop their abilities so they may be active, contributing members of our complex, changing society.
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To conclude its Computer Science Week, De La Salle was honored to welcome James Virgini, a Senior Innovation and Design Engineer from Amazon.com, who guided approximately 70 of our students through the Hour of Code initiative which consists of students creating their own apps or games as well as interactive, hands-on activities that enabled the Meteors to learn computational thinking skills in an approachable way.

The Hour of Code started as a one-hour introduction to computer science, designed to demystify “code”, to show that anybody can learn the basics and to broaden participation in the field of computer science.

It has since become a worldwide effort to celebrate computer science, starting with 1-hour coding activities and also expanding to all sorts of community efforts.

Other activities during the Hour of Code included students learning about jobs in the tech industry, discussing all the ways that technology impacts the world through innovations and our Meteors choosing and working through Hour of Code tutorials from code.org with the goal of exposing the students to coding.

The event concluded with a reflection about what was learned as well as a question-and-answer session.
CREATING AN AWARD-WINNING APP IS A SNAP

As a member in good standing, Madison Smith ’19 wanted to generate more interest in the De La Salle Meteorettes Dance Team. And how did she do that? Make posters? Have announcements read before school? Distribute flyers? Solid ideas all, but the senior decided to do something even better.

She created an app. And not just any kind of app. Smith created an app in Diniah Dean’s Intro to Mobile App Development class that won first place in a contest held in the class.

“I wanted to do something for the Dance Team and to create more support for it,” Smith said. “So that through the app, we could get our name out there a little more, so I made an app. It has quotes from the girls on the team and information about our coaches and pictures from the pep rally we performed at. Once I talked to Ms. Dean, I found easy ways to do it. I love dance so much that I didn’t think about the hard parts (of creating it). It just became fun to do.”

According to Dean, the outstanding quality of Smith’s app made her the logical choice for first place.

“Madison Smith is one of those students you get every few years that reminds you of why you love teaching,” Dean said. “Madison is a senior and until taking my class, I don’t think she realized just how great she is at coding. Madison is one of the top students in my App Development Class. During my class, I often have different app challenges for the students. Madison has consistently produced apps that are in the top of the class. Madison’s app was chosen because of her design, usability and functionality. To win first place, every feature of your app must work. The layout must be easy to use and it must look appealing. Her app exceeded all expectations.”

Taking the Mobile App Development class and learning a great deal about the creative process is something in which Smith places a great deal of value.

“I’ll use all of this in the future,” Smith said. “I would like to own my own dance company someday and this will show me how I can get that out there. It’s very inspiring. I took the class and thought that it was going to be really hard, but Ms. Dean lets us use our own creative juices and give us tips. I think she picked me because of my creativity and ability to think outside the box and go the extra mile.”

As a result of winning first place in the contest, Smith garnered two very important things: A boosting of her belief in her creative abilities as well as a box of donuts.

“Any opportunity that comes my way, I’ll take it,” Smith said. “I love to use my phone and I figured if I can create something on my phone, then other people can use it. It was a hard choice, but I figured I wanted to go for it.”

Congratulations, Madison, on a job well done!
One of the traits that make De La Salle students so successful in their academic pursuits is that the Meteors have the overwhelming drive to be the best they can be. The students enrolled in Diniah Dean’s Computer Science Essentials class, however, have given the term “driven to succeed” a whole new meaning. Not only are the Meteors learning about coding, they’re also having fun while doing so, thanks to self-driving vehicles (SDVs).

“I think they are enjoying the class very much,” Dean said. “The students actively participate and are always engaged in the class. Computer Science Essentials is a class where they get to experience every day that learning can be fun and exciting. This is not a traditional class. You may come in my class and see everyone on the floor chasing SDVs around the room.”

Which was the case during Computer Science Week. As part of the festivities, the Meteors learned how to operate their SDVs and how to park them as Lucas Sonntag ’21 created a street parking lot for the SDV to drive the path.

“Lucas did such an amazing job,” Dean said. “The entire class loved his image. I like to include my students when I create lessons. I often ask them for ideas or inputs to create a more inclusive learning environment.”

And that’s something for which the students developed an appreciation.

“What I like best about this class is that the curriculum itself is not always on the laptops,” Aidan Patino ’20 said. “We also do hands-on stuff like with the cars and we get to test stuff to see how it is in the real world. That’s really interesting to me. I enjoy problem-solving and there is a huge market for these jobs. There are good-paying jobs for doing what I love to do with problem-solving and coding. I would love to do that as a job. This is my favorite class of the day. I was really excited about learning about self-driving cars.”

The lesson in which the students learned about the SDVs was part of the introduction to Vex Coding Studio. In Vex, the students have to use code to make the SDV follow a certain path. The goal is to apply coding fundamentals to devices that move in the real world. The SDVs by themselves are immovable until the students create code with a specific set of instructions to get the SDVs rolling and to follow a certain path.

“The car is not just turning by itself,” Patino said. “You have to set the velocity and the rotation and it’s all done through code. It does whatever you tell it to do. If you don’t say it through code, the car won’t do it. You are building off the knowledge of what you know and you always need to set the velocity and set the turns. Your knowledge of the field is expanding. This is pure learning and testing and being creative with it.”

Being able to explore and increase his creativity through coding in the Computer Science Essentials class is something that student Matthew Navarro ’20 finds agreeable.
“There is non-stop learning in that class,” Navarro said. “We’re learning how to code and hands-on learning is the best. I’m not just sitting at my computer. We’re always doing hands-on learning.”

So whether making left turns or parallel parking or approaching stop signs with their SDVs, the Meteors are also learning a significant amount about the importance of coding.

“Code is everywhere and in almost everything we use on a daily basis,” Dean said. “When we wake up in the morning, we use our digital alarm clock, we make phone calls that are software-controlled, we are constantly connected to a network via our phone or computer and we make road trips based on a digital navigation system. We shop online, download films to our tablets and use programmed machines to produce clothes, food and other objects. All of the above have been programmed by a developer and since these technologies play such a large role in modern life, we need more people who understand how they work, not only for future job opportunities but also during their current education. I don’t expect everyone to become a computer engineer, but in our world, code will be the basis for everything that we do.”

Learning can be fun.
Just ask De La Salle student Marc Rhymes ‘20.

As part of Computer Science Week at our school, faculty member Diniah Dean held a computer science trivia contest during her second-period Introduction to Mobile App Development class. Perhaps it was his in-depth knowledge of the subject matter or his desire to win a bag of tasty snacks or a combination of both factors that motivated Marc. Either way, the junior was happy to be recognized as the Computer Science Trivia champion.

“Taking this class helps to be more creative, it gives me an engineering mindset and it allows me to be strategic and logical,” Rhymes said. “The trivia contest for Computer Science Week helped me learn more about computers than I ever knew. During Computer Science Week, I learned how computers started out as big things but gradually became smaller devices. It also gave me more respect for the people in the computer industry because it takes a long time to do things in coding. A lot goes into making something simple when you are trying to create something unique.”

Taking the Introduction to Mobile App class has given more opportunities for Rhymes, who is ranked No. 1 in the Class of 2020 at De La Salle and is enrolled in the Honors Program, to consider his future.

“I want to be a computer science major in college,” Rhymes said. “This is the first step for that. This is a simplified version of what I want to do in college. This helps me a lot. This helps you do something different during the school day. It doesn’t feel like work. It feels like we’re creating something nice.”

Congratulations, Marc! Keep up the great work!
According to Wikipedia, the word guru is a Sanskrit term that connotes someone who is a teacher, guide, expert or master of certain knowledge or field. And in the Indonesian and Malay languages, guru is also the name for teacher. Lofty words, to be sure.

At De La Salle, however, instead of calling the person “guru,” we just refer to him as Br. Chris Oddo, FSC, Director of Computer Services. As part of Computer Science Week, Br. Chris shared his wealth of knowledge as he addressed faculty member Diniah Dean’s classes about the evolution of technology at De La Salle.

“Br. Chris usually works behind the scenes,” Dean said. “And not many students understand just how significant his role is here. I was so excited when he agreed to come and speak to my classes. He did an outstanding job! I’m so happy that my students got to hear from one of De La Salle’s living legends.”

While our students have already had the opportunity to hear from Br. Chris, here’s your chance to meet the man who keeps the Meteors online and on task.

How long have you been at De La Salle and how long have you been in your current position?
I came to De La Salle right after graduating from Lewis College as a fulltime classroom teacher. At the end of that school year (1970-71), I left ‘D’ to teach at another school. After being away for 19 years, I returned in 1990 to serve in my current position as Director of Computer Services. Counting that first year, this is my 30th year at De La Salle.

What are your major accomplishments at ‘D’ in terms of the school’s computer program?
I am most proud of my part in helping to develop and implement our 1-to-1 computer program. We started planning and working toward getting a computer in the hands of every student and faculty member when that was not common. At the time, most students only had access to computers in their school lab.

We spent a long time planning and preparing before we were ready to give computers to each student. During that time, we installed a wireless network and began preparing the faculty to incorporate the computer into the curriculum. Of course, none of this would have been possible were it not for the support of the administration, the willingness of the faculty to accept the challenge and the skill and knowledge of our tech team.

What drew your interest to computer science?
I have always been fascinated by science and technology, but it wasn’t until college that I had the opportunity to take a computer science class. I had a rocky start in the class, and was just about ready to admit defeat and drop it.

I gave myself another week of trying before giving up. Luckily, in that week, a light went on, and things started to make sense to me. After that, I was hooked.

What do you enjoy most about working with computers?
The thing I enjoy most is being able to create useful tools that can be used to accomplish needed tasks. I enjoy the problem-solving aspects and coming up with a way to get work done using a computer.

What is your academic background in terms of computer science?
I have a Bachelor of Arts from Lewis College (now University) with a major in Psychology and minors in Theology and Math. I have a Master’s Degree from Northern Illinois University in Education concentrating on the Teaching-Learning process, and a Masters from Northwestern University in School Administration.

While I have taken many computer courses, I do not have a degree in computer science. I tended to just take classes when there was something that I needed or wanted to learn. In addition to the formal courses, I have learned a great deal from online sources and working with other individuals who are involved in the industry.
As for being a Christian Brother, how long have you been one and what made that the vocation for you?

My first contact with the Christian Brothers was as a freshman in high school (St. Patrick’s). I was impressed by the Brothers who taught me. They were a group of competent, dedicated educators and great human beings. The atmosphere that they created made me want to go to school each day.

When one of the Brothers asked if I had ever considered joining the Brothers, I was very flattered, but wondered if I could ever measure up to these impressive men. After much consideration, and some experience with tutoring, I began to believe that a life as an educator might be a good fit.

I decided I would give it a try after high school. I found that I loved being an educator, and I love being a Christian Brother. I cannot think of myself as anything else. After 53 years, I am still trying to measure up to the wonderful Brothers who were a part of my early life.
CSTA HOLDS EVENT AT GOOGLE
DINIAH DEAN ATTENDS NIGHT OF TEACHING EXCELLENCE

In the latter stages of 2018, the Computer Science Teachers Association (CSTA) held its Night of Teaching Excellence at Google’s Chicago headquarters. We’re proud to say that De La Salle faculty member Diniah Dean was among the invitees.

The members of the CSTA networked with their peers, as well as participated in a showcase of innovative teaching practices led by teachers from across the Chicagoland area.


Congratulations, Diniah, on being a part of this wonderful opportunity as presented by the CSTA and Google.

We are very proud of you! Thank you for representing De La Salle in an outstanding manner!
DIANE BROWN EARNs DOCTORATE

Is there a doctor in the house? At De La Salle, there certainly is!

On behalf of the students, faculty, staff, alumni and friends of our school, we would like to congratulate our principal, Dr. Diane Brown, Ed.D., who has earned her Doctorate in Educational Administration for Teaching and Learning from Lewis University in Romeoville.

By achieving her Doctorate of Education, Dr. Brown will participate in Lewis’ graduation ceremony in May, 2019.

“This was a personal educational goal of mine,” Dr. Brown said. “This is something that is very significant for me. My father wanted one of his kids to get a college degree and he told me in my senior year of high school that I was going to college.”

Dr. Brown has been at De La Salle since 1987 and has served the Institute in a variety of capacities.

Highlights of her time at ‘D’ include serving as the Associate Principal for Academics at our Lourdes Hall Campus for Young Women from 2002-2005, before ascending to the role as Principal of that campus until 2015. Dr. Brown was named De La Salle’s principal on July 1, 2016. Dr. Brown’s doctoral dissertation was written about Catholic elementary school principals in large, Midwestern dioceses and how they associate issues of power amidst shifting governance structures.

“Earning a Doctorate of Education was a personal goal of mine,” Dr. Brown said. “(Former De La Salle president) Br. Michael Quirk, FSC and (former Lewis University president) Br. James Gaffney, FSC played a role in my applying to this program. I could never say ‘No’ to the (Christian) Brothers, so I applied to this program. It makes me feel very good that I was able to accomplish this.”

Congratulations, Dr. Brown!

Everyone at De La Salle is very proud of you!
Since 2001, 265 De La Salle students have been chosen Illinois State Scholars by the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. For the 2018-19 school year, these 18 Meteors achieved this prestigious plaudit: Andre Alamillo; Diego Avila; Cesar Campos; Dominic Caponera; Rebecca Chavez; Krystal Corral; Charles Gens; Denise Maldonado; Charles May; Joshua Moy; Ariane O’Shield; Ruoxuan (Tiffany) Pang; Julian Ponce de Leon; George Witowski; Caroline Wood; Katie Zanin; Citlalli Zavala and Ricardo Zavala. All are members of our Class of 2019.

“Every year, it gives me great pride in knowing that another group of our students have been chosen Illinois State Scholars,” De La Salle principal Dr. Diane Brown said. “This is tangible proof that the young women and men who call De La Salle home are indeed people who are willing to put forth the exemplary effort and commitment required to succeed academically. As these Meteors move on to college and their post-De La Salle lives, I know they are more than prepared to excel in whatever avenues they choose.”

Congratulations, Meteors! We are very proud of you!
One of the great traditions in the fall of every school year at De La Salle is the induction of new members into the National Honor Society.

In November 2018, De La Salle inducted 22 of our students into the Brother J. Richard Rush, FSC Chapter of the NHS. As a result, we now have 79 Meteors maintaining membership in the NHS. Congratulations, Meteors! We are very proud of you!

Lauded were: Luis Arroyo ‘20; Xuanyan Chen ‘19; Dyana Davis ‘20; Matthew Dixon ‘20; Michael Gallagher ‘20; Samaria Holmes ‘19; YuQing (Hannah) Hu ‘19; Phillip Hunter ‘20; Jessica Martinez ‘20; Gianna Musco ‘19; Dinah Ortiz ‘20; Isabel-la Perez ‘20; Imani Phillips ‘19; Marc Rhymes ‘20; Drayona Rollins ‘20; Madelyn Smith ‘19; Alexia Tamayo ‘20; Joshua Thornton ‘20; Guadalupe Vazquez ‘20; Milan Washington ‘20; Christine Williams ‘20 and Zhuoxin (Joyce) Ye ‘20.
In 1995, HighSight became its own tax-exempt organization, providing scholarships, tutoring, mentoring, leadership development and college readiness for Chicago high school students. HighSight has provided support to need-based students, identifying prospective applicants through a network of schools, programs and community-based organizations. Qualifying students are awarded partial four-year scholarships based on financial need, character, attitude and academic potential.

For nearly 25 years, HighSight has been a partner in De La Salle Institute’s efforts to provide educational opportunities. HighSight’s support has allowed students to attend, graduate and go on to college who otherwise might not have been able to do so without financial assistance. The HighSight experience empowers our students to excel in high school and graduate from four-year colleges across the country.

Seven HighSight scholars have received scholarships for the 2018-2019 academic year through the Scholarship Granting Organization (SGO) – the new Illinois Tax Credit Program which enables individuals and corporations to reserve Illinois income tax credits based on contributions made to SGOs.

The Illinois Tax Credit Scholarship Program provides donors an opportunity to contribute to scholarships that help families send their children to De La Salle — while the donor receives a tax credit from the State of Illinois. HighSight then provides scholarships for eligible students to attend De La Salle. As an Illinois citizen, you can help change the life of a young person by contributing to an SGO and designating a De La Salle student to receive a scholarship. HighSight, Big Shoulders Fund and Empower Illinois have all been approved by the Illinois Department of Revenue to participate for this new tax credit program.

For more information about how to reserve your tax credit and make a contribution to the HighSight SGO, please contact HighSight Scholars at www.highsight.org.

Because of our partnership with HighSight, De La Salle remains on track to becoming the premier secondary school of choice for Chicago’s students, helping to develop not only the minds of today’s young people, but most important, the Lasallian values of faith, service and community. Through their commitment, HighSight scholars show a desire to get an excellent high school education, are committed to their futures and are willing to work hard, graduate from a selective college and give back to their community.

We extend our personal thanks to HighSight for its commitment to the students attending De La Salle Institute.
De La Salle is honored to announce that it has been chosen to receive a Regional Challenge – Program Growth grant from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) for 2019. De La Salle is one of 138 educational institutions from across the country to receive one of these grants and one of only three educational institutions from the state of Illinois.

“This is such an outstanding accolade for our school,” De La Salle principal Dr. Diane Brown said. “One of the facets of our curriculum that we are continuing to strengthen is our STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) program. We understand that we must continue to remain one of – if not the most – innovative secondary schools in the Chicagoland area.

“Our students have shown a very strong interest in learning more about robotics and participating in all the events related to that field. Being recipients of this wonderful grant from NASA will continue that ongoing process.”

The Regional Challenge grants are available to teams that are participating in regional competition events. The grants provide funding to cover the registration costs for the selected event.

FIRST Robotics Competition scholarships are limited to high school students who are involved or planning to get involved in school-related robotics clubs or organizations. These clubs and organizations must have the intention of inspiring students to pursue higher education and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), as well as working with schools and teachers to integrate robotics education into their daily curriculum.

De La Salle is considered a “Rookie” team as it is entering the First Robotics Competition for the initial time.

“It’s pretty cool to be selected by NASA’s Robotics Alliance Project,” De La Salle Applied Sciences and Mathematics faculty member and Robotics Club moderator Ian McNair said. “The fact that they looked at what we are doing and planning to do and want to help us build that is awesome.

“The grant is specifically being used for registration into the FIRST Robotics Challenge, which is pretty expensive. It will help us pay for parts as well as the competition we will be a part of next year.”

Congratulations to the students and faculty associated with the De La Salle Robotics Program on receiving this prestigious accolade. Best of luck in the 2019 FIRST Robotics Competition! Go Meteors!
1927 How good was our band in 1927? Good enough to win the City of Chicago Band Competition after being in existence for just 18 months. The Meteors prevailed in a 10-hour contest on April 19 of that year.

1939 Famed bandleader Tommy Dorsey (center) signed autographs for some of the Meteors in attendance at the 1939 Golden Jubilee Alumni Banquet in downtown Chicago.

1955 The “Heavies” basketball team authored quite a memorable 1955-56 season. The Meteors were 18-7 overall and 8-4 in the Catholic League, highlighted by pairs of regular-season wins over St. Rita, Mount Carmel and Leo. De La Salle placed second in the Catholic League playoffs.
1968
The Meteors learned the finer points of working in the woodshop as part of the Industrial Arts.

1980
Longtime faculty member Rich Radecki (center, in sport coat) and the members of the Science Club met every Thursday.

1998
Proving that De La Salle was always willing to meet the wishes of its students in terms of creating new clubs, 12 Meteors maintained membership in the Hip-Hop Club back in the 1998-99 school year.

2015
After turning in an outstanding performance in the annual Fall production, members of Theatre 100 took this great group photo in 2015.

2000
Thinking about his next move, Curtis James ’01 was one of the best players on the Meteors’ 1999-2000 chess team.
In November, the De La Salle Parent Association held a Sip and Paint event in the Hilton Commons. The purposes were to gather members of our Parent Association for fun and fellowship while also sharpening their creative skills. Judging by the artwork, this was a very talented group!

In all, more than 90 people were in attendance with food and beverages provided along with art supplies.

According to De La Salle Alumni Relations Coordinator Toney Howell ’06, “The Sip and Paint was a great success. This will be a signature Parent Association event moving forward.”

We thank everyone who attended the Sip and Paint and cannot wait to welcome our artists again next school year!
GIVING DRIVE
METEORS CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY

If you were looking for some truly generous and giving people this past Christmas season, you need not look further than 3434 S. Michigan Ave.

There you would find the students, faculty and staff of De La Salle who played key roles in the success of the annual Giving Drive that ran from mid-November through mid-December.

One of the primary components of the Giving Drive was the collection of food for our friends and neighbors at St. James Food Pantry. There were also toys and monetary donations provided to St. James.

In all, two busloads of food were collected and delivered by our students, faculty and staff.

“One of the things I’ve learned about our school is that the Meteors are an incredibly giving and caring group,” De La Salle campus minister Emily Vogel said. “The Lasallian concepts of faith, service and community are very much alive and thriving in the students, faculty and staff of De La Salle.

“I thank everyone who participated in this most worthwhile endeavor. I’m very proud of all our Meteors.”

PLEASE ANSWER THE CALL!

De La Salle’s annual Phonathon begins on Monday, March 4th. A fellow Meteor will be calling you to ask for your generous support of our student financial assistance program.

Participation in the annual Phonathon is a great experience for our students because it gives them the opportunity to get acquainted with De La Salle alumni and friends, share information about the school’s most recent accomplishments and raise critical funds for the school’s student financial assistance program. It allows the students the opportunity to speak directly to you – our alumni and friends! Please answer the call and respond as generously as possible. Thank you in advance for your participation and support!
ALUMNI SUCCESS STORY

JACKIE SERNEK ’10

Jackie Sernek ‘10 is the head softball coach at Cornell College in Mount Vernon, IA. She graduated from Cornell in 2014 with a Bachelor’s Degree in Kinesiology. Two years later, Jackie earned her Master’s Degree in Kinesiology and Sports Studies: Sports Administration from Eastern Illinois University.

Prior to becoming the Rams’ head softball coach, Jackie spent the 2015 season as an assistant coach at Lake Land College in Mattoon, IL. She was a graduate assistant and pitching coach at Eastern Illinois University in 2016 and was at Hampton University in Virginia as its pitching coach in 2017.

In her first season guiding Cornell’s softball program in 2018, Jackie led the Rams to a 27-21 overall record and a mark of 10-8 in the Midwest Conference. Jackie’s second season as Cornell’s coach begins on March 8 as the Rams battle Baldwin-Wallace and North Central at the Tucson Invitational.

What are the most important things you learned at De La Salle?

The most important things I learned at ‘D’ were communication, family and tradition.

Communication – having hard conversations and learning the value of perspective.

Family – a community environment both in school and in sports. I still have strong relationships with a few teachers and friends I was blessed to meet from my time at ‘D.’

Tradition – being proud of where I came from and using what I have learned in a diverse environment to help shape young minds.

How did De La Salle prepare you for life after high school?

‘D’ prepared me for life after high school by submerging me in a diverse environment. I was able to learn and develop friendships and relationships with those of different backgrounds from myself. This helped me appreciate and accept what makes every person unique.

What are your favorite De La Salle memories?

Some of my favorite memories were softball bus trips, softball competitions and religious retreats. I am an extremely competitive person so game days were always a highlight as well as the pregame hype-up music that Nicole Ortiz ’10, a lifelong friend and my high school catcher, and I would listen and dance to on the bus.

Retreats were incredible because they taught me how to look in myself and believe in the person who would look back at me in the mirror and always know that I would have support from my ‘D’ family. The retreats also taught me that it is okay to let down that guarded wall and let others see a little more of a vulnerable side of myself.
What made you choose your current career path?
As long as I could remember, I have always had a passion for coaching. I like being involved in sports and get joy out of sharing my experiences with my peers. I have always wanted to be a mentor and a role model that someone could look up to as well as encourage them that even on their worst days, there is always a positive lesson to be learned. I can honestly say that seeing success in an athlete’s face when something they have struggled with finally clicks and they get it, feel it and see the difference. Once I experienced that, there was no looking back in doing anything else.

What advice would you give parents who are interested in sending their children to De La Salle?
The advice I would give would have to be encouraging your children to get involved. It doesn’t have to be sports; just encourage them to get comfortable being uncomfortable. To try something new, because even if they do not like it, they can always say they tried it. I teach my athletes that every day: “Get comfortable being uncomfortable.” Let them experience diversity in different clubs, sports, groups, etc. It will only prepare them more for college and life after high school and help give them a sense of independence and identity when they have to step outside their comfort zone.

Did anyone have a particularly great influence on your life? If so, whom and why?
There are actually a handful of teachers at ‘D’ who influenced my life. Coach (Eric) Crosby is a coach I have always loved. I had him for one year running cross country and he has always been an inspiration to me. He was the epitome of team over self and the most genuine person I have ever met. We were actually able to meet up when he ran a half marathon in Cedar Rapids, IA last fall. Mr. (Kamaal) Khazen has always checked up on me. Although I never took any of his calculus classes – because math and I did not agree – he still took the time to get to know me as an individual.

What are your future goals for your career?
My future goal is to continue to coach here at Cornell College, my alma mater. I would love to continue to take this program to the next level from conference tournament champs to Division III championship winners.
STUDENTS SUCCEEDING AT TOLTON
GOALS REACHED THANKS TO COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

At Tolton, classroom instruction helps students move toward their goals and classmate community supports students to reach these goals. Ruby’s experience at Tolton Center has enabled her to experience the depth of community and empowered her to face times of difficulty.

Ruby’s contagious energy was evident the first day she began class. She joined the program a week late, but her passion for life and for learning helped her quickly become a leader in the community. During her coffee break, Ruby would mingle with the other students and shortly after the school year began, she invited all her classmates to her daughter’s birthday party. Ruby likes to gather and care for others.

Ruby joined Tolton with the hope of improving her English skills so she could get a better job. After a few months of studying, however, Ruby discovered some devastating news about her health. Shortly after the appointment when she heard the news, Ruby contacted her classmates to receive their care and support. Ruby is learning through her sickness how to depend upon others and receive their care.

Ruby is using her growing English conversational skills at work and in the doctor’s office. Through all this, Ruby’s daughter has been struggling academically and socially.

Ruby has used ideas from the parenting sessions at Tolton to support her daughter and advocate for her at school. In handling all these circumstances, Ruby holds fast to her faith: “I will continue to trust in Jesus and hold his hand until he brings me to an easier time.”

Ruby is confident that strengthening her English skills will help her move toward improved health, be the best mom and find better employment. Ruby is one of many students who find Tolton Center to be a safe haven. Many students share how the relationships they form here add a vibrancy to their lives that was lacking previously.

The high quality class instruction provided at the Tolton Center empowers students to reach their goals for their families and the tight-knit community strengthens students as they weather the difficulties and joys.

Another way in which those at Tolton recognize their true sense of community is through holiday celebrations.

For example, the Tolton staff and students participated in a Christmas party in which they held a posada as the carolers reenacted the story of Jesus’ birth through song. The two pictures attached to this story provide further proof of the communal purpose that is thriving at Tolton.

This story on the Tolton Adult Education Center was written by Megan Pawlak, Tolton’s Literacy Coordinator.
DEVELOPMENT 23

IN MEMORIAM

De La Salle Institute extends its deepest sympathies to the families of the following De La Salle and Lourdes alumni and friends who have recently passed away:

- Mr. Agostino A. Alagna
- Mr. Frank J. Annerino ’58
- Mr. John Beattie ’54
- Mr. Francis B. Beaver ’48
- Mr. Arnold C. Bodinet ’48
- Mr. James F. Buchalo ’63
- Mr. Noel D. Cooley ’57
- Mr. Robert A. Curley ’49
- Ms. Eleanor DeViene
- Mr. James M. Finley ’72
- Mr. Edward G. Flynn ’47
- Mr. Richard P. Fogarty, SFO ’52
- Mr. John B. Gallagher ’58
- Mr. Ronald J. Gentile ’54
- Mr. Thomas F. Grabowski ’61
- Mrs. Nancy Hauser ’68
- Mr. Thomas J. Hodek ’66
- Mr. Henry F. Kelso ’43
- Mr. Thomas P. Kula ’54
- Ms. Eileen Lawler
- Mr. Anthony D. Mims ’82
- Mr. Charles E. Molony ’29
- Mr. Rudolf G. Novak
- Mr. Gerald W. O’Connell ’43
- Dr. John W. O’Shea ’49
- Mrs. Nancy Pachanksis
- Mr. Jamie Roberts
- Mr. Thomas W. Rolland ’62
- Mr. Robert J. Russell ’60
- Mr. John W. Scully ’38
- Mr. Ivens Soto ’10
- Mrs. Darlene Tully ’69

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and may perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

St. John Baptist De La Salle, pray for us. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Live Jesus in our hearts, forever.

GIVE US A SHOUT OUT!

WORKING AT A GREAT NEW JOB?
WELCOMED A FUTURE METEOR TO YOUR FAMILY?
MOVING TO ANOTHER STATE OR COUNTRY?
WE WANT TO KNOW!

Staying in touch with all of our alumni is something that has great importance for us. Our alumni relations coordinator, Toney Howell ’06, would love to hear from you. Call him at (312) 842-7355 ext. 143 or email at howellt@dls.org. Whichever method you prefer, keep in touch with De La Salle!
We invite everyone to come out and support Catholic and Lasallian education at the 12th Annual Great Futures Gala that will be held on March 28, 2019 at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in downtown Chicago. The Gala benefits the young women and men attending De La Salle. Individual tickets are available for $300 apiece with tables of 10 available for $3,000. There are also sponsorship and ad book opportunities available.

For more information, contact De La Salle Event Manager Carl Willingham ’99 at (312) 842-7355 ext. 146 or willinghamc@dls.org.

Honored at the 12th Annual Great Futures Gala will be Sr. Rosemary Connelly, RSM, the Bertucci family and the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation.

We sincerely thank each of these individuals and families for their generosity, dedication and commitment to this most worthwhile event that benefits the young women and men who call De La Salle home.

SISTER ROSEMARY CONNELLY, RSM
Sister Rosemary Connelly, RSM, is the Executive Director of Misericordia Heart of Mercy in Chicago. A native Chicagoan, she was appointed Misericordia’s executive director in 1969. At that time, there were no services for children with disabilities, so she started a variety of programs designed to help the children achieve the highest level of independence possible. In 1976, Sister Rosemary, 39 children, and 36 dedicated staff members moved to the former site of Angel Guardian Orphanage on the North Side of Chicago at 6300 North Ridge. A visionary who has devoted 47 years to the Misericordia community, Sister Rosemary oversees a far-reaching program that includes 600 children and adult residents, an Outreach Program serving more than 140 families, 1,000 employees, and thousands of volunteers both on and off campus. On behalf of Misericordia, Sister Rosemary has received seven honorary doctorate degrees along with numerous awards and honors throughout the years. Her most recent plaudit is an Honorary Doctorate of Letters from St. Mary’s College of Notre Dame, IN in 2015. The Extollo Foundation and the students attending De La Salle thank Sister Rosemary for her exemplary contributions to the success of the 12th Annual Great Futures Gala.

THE BERTUCCI FAMILY
The Bertucci family has been the owner and operator of the Baseball Buffet at Guaranteed Rate Field, home of the Chicago White Sox, for the last 30-plus years. The excellent and delicious spread provided by the Bertucci family consists of burgers, sausage, chicken and a great variety of salads for the hungry fan. The Extollo Foundation and the students attending De La Salle thank Robert ’67, Carmen, Bruno and the entire Bertucci family for its exemplary contributions to the success of the 12th Annual Great Futures Gala.

THE BERNARD HEEREY FAMILY FOUNDATION
In the 2018-19 academic year, 62 deserving De La Salle students were awarded scholarships from the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation. Since 2007, De La Salle has been the recipient of a generous grant from the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation to provide financial assistance to families with multiple children attending De La Salle. The Foundation has awarded more than $2.25 million to De La Salle since the scholarship was established more than ten years ago. We are grateful to the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation for its generosity and endorsement of De La Salle’s position as an educational leader in Chicago. The Foundation’s investment in our students and families enables De La Salle to further the mission of providing an excellent and innovative education to the young women and men attending De La Salle. The Extollo Foundation and the students attending De La Salle thank the Bernard Heerey Family Foundation for its exemplary contributions to the success of the 12th Annual Great Futures Gala.
GOLDEN METEOR BRUNCH

Are you a De La Salle graduate from the 1950s, 1960s or 1970s? Has it been a while since you’ve been back to the Institute? Would you like to reconnect with classmates and share some great memories of being a Meteor?

If so, we would like to invite you to the Golden Meteor Brunch that will be held on April 30, 2019 from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm in the multipurpose room in the brand-new Harrison Hall in the Parmer Activity Center. More details to follow.

There is no cost to attend and there also will be a guest speaker provided.

If you are interested in attending and/or have any questions, please contact De La Salle Alumni Relations Coordinator Toney Howell ’06 at (312) 842-7355 ext. 143 or howellt@dls.org.

We hope to see you there!

Go Meteors! #WeAreD

D-FINAL EVENT!
DON’T BE LEFT ON THE BENCH!

The 28th Annual D-Final Event takes place on Saturday, April 6, 2019 in the Parmer Activity Center. Come on out and watch the men’s college basketball national semifinals, enjoy some food and fellowship with your friends and have a great time supporting the young women and men who call De La Salle home.

Admission is $35 with a special early bird rate until February 28. After that date, admission is $40 presale and $50 at the door. The young alumni rate for Meteors from the Classes of 2007-18 is $25 and lasts until March 16.

Super Raffle tickets are also available for purchase for $50 apiece or the special rate of three tickets for $100.

*For those who enjoy games of skill and chance, we also will offer Blackjack, Roulette, Texas Hold ‘Em and opportunities to spin the Money Wheel.*

For sponsorship or ticket information, please contact De La Salle Event Manager Carl Willingham ’99 at willinghamc@dls.org or (312) 842-7355 ext. 146.

We’ll see you at the 28th Annual D-Final Event on April 6! Support the Meteors!
WINTER SPORTS ROUNDUP
HIGHLIGHTS OF OUR METEOR ATHLETES

Wrestling
Five Meteors placed in the All-Chicago Catholic League Wrestling Tournament. Dominee Daniels ‘19 was third at 182 pounds and was De La Salle’s top finisher. Bryan Doyle ‘20 was fourth at 195 and Ronald Anderson ‘19 was fifth at 170. Ricky Young ‘19 (120) and Mateo Portillo ‘19 (152) each were sixth in their respective weight classes. In tournament competition, the Meteors were second at Bogan, seventh in the CCL, 10th at Leyden and 12th at Glenbrook South. In CCL competition during the season, De La Salle was victorious over St. Ignatius, Leo and St. Joseph.

Boys Bowling
Two victories over Leo in Chicago Catholic League competition highlighted the Meteors’ regular season along with triumphs over St. Laurence and Marist. In the CCL tournament, De La Salle finished first in the consolation bracket. In the Illinois High School Association’s St. Patrick Regional, the Meteors were sixth as a team with Jordan Rice ‘21 (1,137 pins) one of 10 individuals advancing to sectional competition. Rice (1,165) was 27th as an individual at the Hinsdale South Sectional.

Boys Swimming
In dual competition, the Meteors posted decisions over Solorio Academy, Latin and Mount Carmel. As far as invitational meets, De La Salle was fourth at Solorio Academy, seventh at Oak Lawn and eighth at Evergreen Park.

Girls Bowling
The Meteors finished sixth in the Girls Catholic Athletic Conference meet on the varsity level and second on the junior-varsity level. In GCAC regular-season play, St. Ignatius, Marist, Mother McAuley, Loyola Academy, St. Laurence and Trinity were among the teams defeated by De La Salle, which won eight varsity matches in conference.
Girls Basketball

During the course of the regular season, Marian Central Catholic, DePaul Prep, Regina Dominican, St. Laurence, St. Joseph and Oak Lawn Richards were among the teams defeated by the Meteors, who also placed second at the Fox Lake Grant Christmas Tournament. T.K. Howard ’21, Natalia Trejo ’19 and Janiece Dawson ’21 were selected to the All-Girls Catholic Athletic Conference White Division First Team.

Boys Basketball

One of the highlights this season for the boys basketball team was winning the championship at the St. Patrick/ Niles West Thanksgiving Tournament. The Meteors defeated Douglass, St. Patrick and Niles West in succession to finish in first place. Clyde Benton ’19 was chosen the MVP with Joshua Holmes ’20 and Alex Raiford ’19 also named to the first team. During the regular season, victories over Marmion and Fenwick in Chicago Catholic League competition and Leyden and Glenbard North in nonconference play highlighted the schedule.

Hockey

Competing as a junior-varsity program in the Green Division of the Illinois High School Hockey League Hayes-Suburban Division, the Meteors won five of their first 17 games. De La Salle defeated the DuPage Stars twice (8-5, 9-2), Joliet Catholic Academy twice (5-0, 6-1) and Kankakee (4-1). For more information on the Meteor hockey program, please contact head coach Nick Holmes at holmesn@dls.org.
Parents: If this is addressed to your son or daughter and he or she no longer resides there, please contact De La Salle’s Office for Advancement by phone or with the enclosed envelope so that we may update our records.

Facebook www.facebook.com/delasalleinstitute
Twitter (School) www.twitter.com/DLSMeteors
Twitter (Athletics) www.twitter.com/MeteorAthletics
Instagram @delasalleinstitute
YouTube www.youtube.com/delasalleinstitute

GOLF CLASSIC!

Save the Date for the 2019 De La Salle Golf Classic

Join us for a great day supporting the students of De La Salle!

Wednesday, June 26
Gleneagles Country Club
13070 McCarthy Road, Lemont, IL

For more information please contact De La Salle Event Manager Carl Willingham ’99, at (312) 842-7355 ext. 146 or willinghmc@dls.org.

OPEN HOUSE!

Welcoming 6th & 7th Graders!

De La Salle invites all students in sixth and seventh grades and their families to attend the Spring Open House.

Monday, April 15
6:00-8:00 pm
3434 S. Michigan Avenue

For more information please contact De La Salle Director of Admissions, John Brogan at (312) 842-7355 ext. 147 or broganj@dls.org.