

# Alumni Newsletter

Spring 2026

EDITION: 3

## NORTHTRIDGE TO TURN 50!

Northridge first opened its doors in 1976 with 33 boys and 8 faculty members, renting space from the Park View School in Mount Prospect. The first official day of class was held on **Thursday, September 9, 1976**—meaning this upcoming September 9, 2026, we'll celebrate our 50th anniversary!

The day before, on the feast of the Birthday of Our Lady, the school signed the lease to secure the school building. Dr. James Stenson served as the first headmaster from 1976 until 1987, bringing with him an impressive resume in the areas of academics and character formation.

During the 2026-27 school year, Northridge will celebrate its 50th anniversary. More information on specific events to follow. [Check out Northridge's history here.](#)



**SAVE THE DATE | 2026 All Alumni Reunion: Saturday, September 19, 2026**

Milestone years: '86(40), '96(30), '01(25), '06(20), '16(10), '21(5)

## COACH WILL REY MAKES HISTORY - 500TH CAREER WIN

Last month, Coach Will Rey earned his 500th career win as a high school basketball coach. The evening began with a special recognition of Northridge's seniors and their families, setting the tone for a memorable night inside a packed gym. The Knights responded with a hard-fought victory that reflected the culture Coach Rey has built throughout his career. Coach Rey's path to 500 wins is as impressive as the number itself.

He began his head coaching career at the high school level, with stops at Crete-Monee and Fenwick. He then spent nearly 20 years coaching at the collegiate level. In 2004, he returned to high school coaching and began what has become a historic run at Northridge, where he compiled 435 of his 500 victories and built one of the area's most successful programs. [Check out the full story here.](#) Congratulations, Coach Rey!



## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Saturday, April 25**  
Dinner at the Ridge



**Wednesday, May 20**  
Track & Field Sectionals



**Saturday, May 25**  
Baseball Regionals



**Wednesday, September 9**  
50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



**Tuesday, November 24**  
Alumni Homecoming  
Basketball Game



**Friday, November 13**  
All Souls  
Knights Legacy Society  
Mass & Reception



**Sunday, October 18**  
Northridge  
Open House



**Saturday, September 20**  
All Alumni Reunion  
Milestone Years:  
'86, '96, '01, '06, '16, '21



**Saturday, November 28**  
Alumni vs. Varsity Soccer  
Team Game



**Saturday, January 30**  
Trivia Night

## ALUMNI UPDATES



Our annual Alumni vs Varsity soccer match took place this past January at LoVerde Recreation Center in Niles. Varsity broke their two-year losing streak to win 7-6 against the alumni. Shane Lavaccare (10th) scored the game winner in the second period of extra time. Santi Quiroz (11th) had three goals and an assist for the varsity; Bart Bak made three goals for the alumni.

Pictured are current varsity players and the following alum: Jay Presberg '89, Johnny Presberg '18, Nico Presberg '22, Tyler Mongoven '17, Owen Mongoven '22, Greg Swon '01, Bart Bak '10, Anthony Gasper '00, Linus Coleman '25, Joey Mullen '25, Tom Snow '06, Angel Diaz '06

Thank you to all who came out!

## ALUMNI UPDATES *continued*



Jayden Lekarczyk '25 started a new role as a Financial Advisor with Tri-State Wealth Advisors in affiliation with Prudential Advisors.



John Nomellini '23 got engaged this February to Audrey Anastasi in Montreal, Canada.



Joe Egan '15 & Pat Healy ran into James Stoll '13 with his wife Michelle & son James Bosco '44 at the airport. Next thing you know: they're on the same flight to Florida sitting one row away.

**Phil Poole '02 with his wife Mary, his parents and his growing family: Oliver 17, Elliott 15, Basil 12, Amelia 10, Sebastian 8, Abigail 4, Maria 1**



**Will Lyon '17 was 1 of 10-15 Chemistry PHD's chosen per year in the USA who was awarded the Arnold O Beckman Postdoctoral Fellowship - one of the most competitive and prestigious postdoctoral fellowships. He is also getting married on May 16th, graduates with his doctorate from Princeton on May 26th and begins his post doctorate at MIT on June 1st.**

**Brennan Tobin '15 founded OddDuck Marketing Group, a social commerce agency focused on scaling TikTok Shops for e-commerce brands. The marketing group partners with brands to turn TikTok into a top revenue channel.**

## ALUMNI UPDATES *continued*



Dan Kane '20 got married March 7 in San Diego, CA. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Leo and alumni in attendance include (from left to right): Chris Skona '20, Gavin O'Connor '20, Mack Carter '20, John Kane '18, Paul Bilello '19, Dan Kane '20, Kyle Brown '19, Patrick Leah '19, Sean Holohan '19, and Luke Hanretty '19.



Luka Peric '20 joined the Northridge team in February as Assistant Admissions Director.

He also got engaged to girlfriend Bella in the same month!



Sean Keefe '20 currently serving as a Senior Airman in the U.S. Air Force at Yokota Air Base, Japan, just outside of Tokyo, where he has been stationed for nearly 4 years as a MC-130J and C-130J Aero Repair Crew Chief. His job entails removing, replacing, inspecting, and adjusting flight control surface components and landing gear components among other things.

Charlie Romano '15, winner of the 2023 ASCAP Foundation Harold Arlen Musical Theater Award and the 2024 Pipeline Arts Foundation Award and Grant, is writing a special musical sketch for this year's Dinner at The Ridge event on April 25th.

## ALUMNI UPDATES *continued*



John White '95 and Mike McEwen '08 were part of the winning team 'Donald & Associates' at the annual Northridge Trivia Night this past January.



Fraternity chapter president, Owen Coleman '22 and the Rollins College chapter of TKE was recognized as Volunteer of the Year at the annual awards ceremony hosted by the Winter Park Florida Chamber of Commerce. The event celebrates individuals and organizations making a meaningful difference in the local community.

Tito Fernandez '13 got engaged to Grace Tarpey and will marry in May of this year.



Deacon John Rahimi '15 baptized Joe Egan's second son, Andrew George Egan '44. Pictured left to right: Joe Egan, Deacon John, Charlie Romano and Conor Cleveland, all Class of 2015.

## PEER SUPPORT CORNER

From time to time, members of the Northridge community face serious challenges. In this space, we will provide information in order to support them in the ways they most welcome, whether through prayer, encouragement, or practical help.

### ★ **JoJo Sampson**

*JoJo Sampson, sister of Charles Cassidy '97, Tim Cassidy '03, and Martin Cassidy '05, is continuing a long battle with stage 4 colon cancer. She has been receiving chemotherapy every other week for the past year and a half.*

*JoJo is the mother of five young children and has been sustained by her strong faith, the support of her husband and family, and a dedicated prayer community at her parish in Raleigh, North Carolina. Please keep JoJo and her family in your prayers.*

### ★ **Paul Black '88**

*Please also pray for Paul Black '88, brother of Marty Black '86, Michael Black '88, and father of Robert Black '08, who is currently battling stage 4 prostate cancer. We ask the Northridge community to remember Paul and his family in your prayers during this difficult time.*

### ★ **Paul Herman**

*Paul had open heart surgery on Tuesday, March 24th. He is recovering slowly. Please pray for him.*

If you know of someone in the Northridge alumni community who could benefit from fellow alumni prayers, please let us know so we can include them in a future Peer Support Corner.

## RECONNECTING WITH YOU

### **IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS, IF YOU...**

- **Got married:** please share the date, bride's name, and photo.
- **Had a baby:** please share the date, name, and photo.
- **Moved homes:** please tell us from where, to where, and why you moved.
- **Got together with fellow alums:** please share a photo and a story!

### **AND/OR**

- **Got a new job:** please share your new company's name and your new title.
- **Job openings:** Are there openings at your company? Would you like to hire a Northridge Alum?

### **EMAIL RESPONSES TO**



**Jack Cleveland '07**

[jcleveland@northridgeprep.org](mailto:jcleveland@northridgeprep.org)

## IN MEMORIAM

Our alumni community lost beloved members this past year whom we will honor at our All Souls Knights Legacy Society Mass in November.



**Megan Hoffman Brier - Sister of Fr. Rocky**  
[\(Read Obituary Here\)](#)



**Jim Hilton - Parent of Alumni**  
[\(Read Obituary Here\)](#)



**Chris Davis '96 - Alumnus**  
[\(Read Obituary Here\)](#)



**Andy Klatt - Past Student**  
[\(Read Obituary Here\)](#)

## MESSAGE FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR

Fellow Alumni,

I hope you enjoyed this edition of our Alumni Newsletter. These newsletters are meant to strengthen our alumni community by providing school & alumni updates, event information, and more.

Northridge helped shape who we are—forming not only our minds, but our character, friendships, and sense of purpose. Each of us carries something from those years that continues to influence our lives today.

One of the great privileges of being part of the Northridge community is the opportunity to give back. Whether through your time by mentoring students or helping at events, your talent by sharing professional expertise, or your treasure through financial support, every contribution helps ensure that future students receive the same formation we did.

Let's build something lasting together — join us at upcoming alumni events and help spread the word to classmates and friends who haven't been back in a while. Once a Knight, always a Knight!

Cheers,  
Jack Cleveland '07, *Director of Alumni Relations* [jcleveland@northridgeprep.org](mailto:jcleveland@northridgeprep.org)

