



ALUMNI E-NEWS

Students Four Years
Brothers & Sisters for Life

April 2025: Champagnat Day Edition



FAITH + FAMILY + FUTURE



Wishing you and your loved ones a joyful and blessed Easter. May the hope and love of Christ fill your hearts this season. From our Marist family to yours, Happy Easter!

4200 W. 115th St., Chicago, IL
marist.net

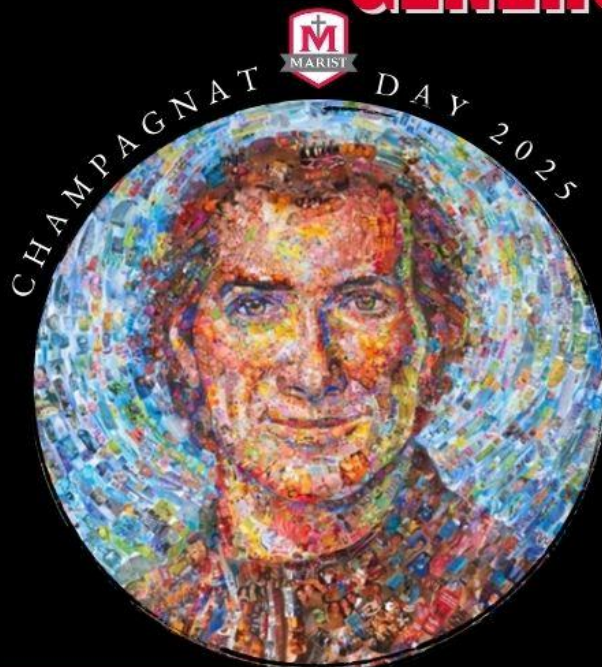


Greetings Alumni,

As we celebrate the joy and renewal of Easter, we hope this season brings you peace, hope, and special moments with loved ones.

We also look ahead with excitement to Champagnat Day, our annual day of giving and celebration of the Marist spirit. This year, we're aiming to raise \$375,000 and rally 2,000 donors across the Marist community—and we'd love for you to be part of it.

MARIST ALUMNI, THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



Proud alumni from
every generation
are leading the way
with matching gifts
for Champagnat
Day—see who's
stepping up and
join the movement!

Rob Figliulo '72

Mike Lombard '72

Ed Wood '74

Bob Klinger '80

Chris Lawler '81

Dan Brennan '82

Ed Mahoney '83

Tim Stanton '83

Matt Walsh '85

Tom Murphy '87

Gerald Beeson '90

Sean Gallagher '92

Brian Lohan '96

Michael Sorich '96

Joe Kelly '99

William Rohe '00

Patrick Couture '06

+

8

Anonymous Alumni

from the classes: 1973, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1995, 2011, 2012

Join us for in-person gatherings across the Chicagoland area as we come together to make a lasting impact: **Happy Hours 2025**

JOIN US!

CHAMPAGNAT DAY HAPPY HOUR EVENTS

APRIL
24

The Happ Inn
305 N Happ Rd,
Northfield
6PM-8PM



APRIL
30

Lizzie McNeill's
400 N McClurg Ct,
Chicago
5pm-7pm



APRIL
30

Hillgrove Tap
800 Hillgrove Ave,
Western Springs
6PM-9PM



MAY
1

Birdies Sports Bar & Grill
4036 W 111th St,
Oak Lawn
6PM-9PM



MAY
1

Franklin's Public House
12306 S Harlem Ave,
Palos Heights, IL 60463
6PM-9PM





Kaylee Hughes '19



Ben Wydra '01

Ben Wydra '01 posted this on his LinkedIn after a visit to



When Kaylee Hughes '19, who attended University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, decided to stay in the area, her family (mother and brother) followed her there!

Kaylee has a Bachelor's Degree in Child and Family Studies and a minor in military science. She is currently in the Master of Library Science program at Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU). She is also currently working in a school library and expects to graduate with her Masters this fall.

She credits Mr. Christensen as her number-one supporter and advocate through her academic career at Marist. He encouraged her early on to get out of her shell and join a club. She joined the Yearbook club, with Deacon Andy, and won the Block "M" award for it her senior year. Kaylee's father passed away at the end of her junior year at Marist in 2018.

Her dad's wake was the same day as the Junior Ring Mass and Mr. Tucker brought her class ring to the wake for her. Both Mr. Christiansen and Deacon Andy attended her father's funeral. She is very grateful to have had this support during her time at Marist. She is thriving and we are happy to say, she recently bought a home of her own! We are all rooting for you Kaylee. You make us proud!

Did you serve in the military?

We'd love to know. Your service is a big deal—and so are you. Let us celebrate and honor that part of your journey.

Also, we want to hear your Marist story.

What moment stands out? Was there a push you didn't know you needed? A mentor who believed in you and made all the difference? Share the

Marist. "Call it alumni bias, but after my tour of Marist High School Chicago today, I am confident you won't find a better private high school on the South Side." We agree, Ben! We love that! And, we love our Alumni!



Mike Bevan '85

Inspired by his son Mikey, who is intellectually disabled, Mike decided to use his next chapter to serve others through inclusive fitness. Now, as the owner of Special Strong Chicago in the Western Suburbs, he's combining his lifelong passion for fitness with a mission that hits close to home.

Mike spent most of his professional life in corporate marketing and leadership roles, including time with Midas Auto Services, Life Fitness, and Chamberlain Group. But when his son Mikey was born with intellectual disabilities and epilepsy, it shifted his priorities. He started pulling back on the professional hustle and focused more on being present at home. He wanted his second act to be about something meaningful—something that would outlast him.

The first time he saw a Special Strong post, he was struck by the athletes—seeing people who reminded him of his son thriving in a fitness space. But what really sealed it for him was the alignment with his life: fitness, faith, and family. Special Strong checks all those boxes. The very best wishes to Mike and his family on this very personal second act!

memory that shaped your path—and be sure to name the people who helped get you there. We love hearing these stories!

Update
Us



□ [Listen to Meg Dunneback's podcast on Spotify](#) to hear what's happening at Marist and beyond.

Check out this episode, where she sits down with three women from the first coed class at Marist, and explore many others stories, insights, and updates from Marist!



WE LIVE 
TO MAKE JESUS
KNOWN & LOVED



During the Lenten Season, Adoration occurred every Thursday in the Marist Chapel.

Baby RedHawk!

A warm RedHawk welcome to Bridget Roisin Hogan '43 pictured here with her very Marist family- Bridget Hopkins '09, Brian Hogan '03, Maggie Hopkins Hogan '08, Brendan Hopkins '13, Fr. Tom Hurley '85, Sean Brady '03, Brian Hogan '70, Alison Hopkins '09 (not pictured: Dan Hopkins '13, Patrick Hogan '05) Congratulations to this Happy RedHawk Family.



Alumni Spotlight



100 WINS

LEWIS X DEVC

COACH MIKE VUCSKO '07

Mike Vucsko '07, head baseball coach at Lewis University, recorded his 100th career win over Missouri-St. Louis with a 12-11 victory. Congratulations, Coach!





Michael McDonnell '25

Michael McDonnell '25 is off to The U.S. Military Academy at West Point after graduation. Bringing Honor, Glory, and Fame to our school and our country!





Student
SPOTLIGHT



Alumni Spotlight



NICOLE & RACHEL HENDERSON '12

Twin sisters Nicole & Rachel, aka RaeCola, are a DJ duo from the class of 2012. It's been announced they will be performing Sunday, August 3, 2025 at Lollapalooza!



Maggie O'Brien '21

Here's a great shot of our very own Maggie O'Brien, who received an Outstanding Student Athlete Award this past February!

Maggie currently works in the athletic department at the University of Nebraska Omaha (UNO) and co-manages softball camps for young girls during the summer. We're proud of



Congratulations to the 2015 Softball Team on their induction into the ESCC Hall of Fame!

all she's doing on and off
the field!

Alumni Spotlight



Nick Sula
Kokandy Productions



Patrick Byrnes
Theo Ubique Cabaret
Theatre

NICK SULA '96 & PATRICK BYRNES '05

2024 Jeff Award Nominees

Nick Sula - Into the Woods (2024) - Kokandy Productions

Patrick Byrnes - A Little Night Music (2024) - Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre



4th Annual
SOUTHSIDE
SUMMER FESTIVAL
Presented by Marist

THE SOUTH SIDE EVENT OF THE SUMMER

FEATURING:

POI DOG PONDERING



Advance Admission - \$35
General Admission - \$40
VIP Admission - \$150

WITH PERFORMANCES BY:
MICHAEL GLABICKI
OF RUSTED ROOT
WITH DIRK MILLER

RED POP FURY

Marist High School
4200 W 115th St.
Chicago, IL

7.19.25 **TICKETS ON SALE NOW** **MARIST.NET**

Get ready, South Side! Poi Dog Pondering is headlining the 4th annual Southside Summer Festival, presented by Marist, on Saturday, July 19, 2025! Opening for Poi Dog Pondering will be Michael Glabicki of Rusted Root, and Red Pop Fury will kick the night off at 4:00 pm. Tickets are on sale now – don't miss out! Grab yours at marist.net/southside-summer-festival/ or on the GoFan app.



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