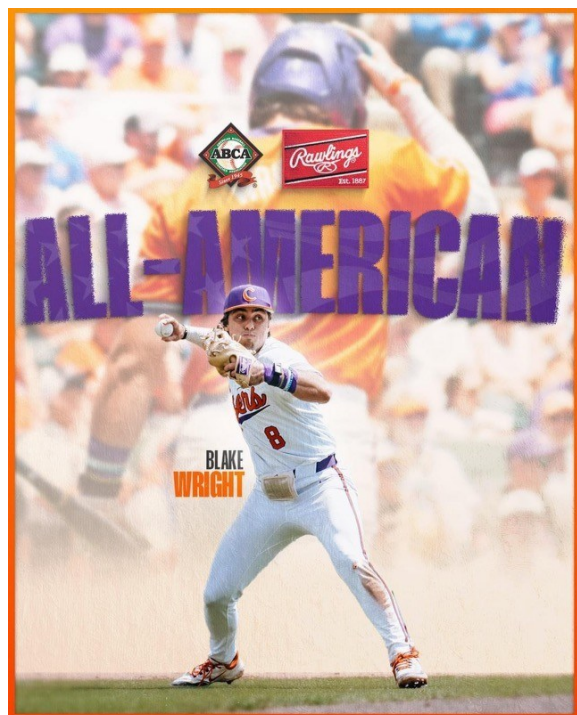


Alumni and Friends

St. Cecelia Interparochial Catholic School

An IB World School Grades PK3 through 8th Grade

March 2025



CATCHING UP WITH ALUMNUS BLAKE WRIGHT CLASS OF 2016

When did you first start playing baseball, and were there any early moments at our school that inspired your journey? I started playing baseball when I was three years old. My dad and I spent countless hours playing wiffle ball in the house and backyard baseball. St. Cecelia laid the foundation of work ethic and drive that inspired me to pursue my dream of becoming a Major League Baseball player.

Who or what inspired you the most during your time here at St. Cecelia Catholic School? My P.E teacher Mrs. Majer inspired me to pursue my dreams. She told me to always believe in myself and anything is possible.

What was your favorite memory from college, both on and off the field? My favorite memory from college was winning the regional at home during my senior year. After the victory, my teammates and I jumped into the right field stands to celebrate with our fans. We then ran around the field, high-fiving the fanbase that had supported us all year. My favorite off-the-field memories were spending time with my teammates during bus rides, plane rides, hotel stays, and inside the locker room. Another all-time memory was receiving my diploma during the graduation ceremony.

How did your time in college help prepare you for a professional career in baseball? College taught me discipline and a level of work ethic that I was able to carry over to my professional baseball career. College requires you to uphold a standard of integrity that you must follow to achieve the best version of yourself – on and off the field.

Could you describe the moment you found out you were drafted by the Colorado Rockies? It was a surreal, lifelong dream come true—a moment made even more special by sharing it with my friends and family. I wouldn't be where I am today without their unwavering support throughout my journey. Their encouragement has always been my greatest inspiration in pursuing my goals.

What has been the biggest challenge you've faced on your journey to becoming a professional baseball player? My biggest challenge was overcoming a wrist injury that sidelined me for five months during my junior year. It was a difficult time, as it marked the first major obstacle I had encountered in my baseball career. Another significant challenge was balancing the demands of pursuing an economics degree while competing at the highest level of college baseball.

Do you have any specific training or routine that you believe has contributed to your success? Yes, I dedicate countless hours to preparing my body for competition. This includes extensive time in the weight room, countless swings in the batting cage, and repetitive drills on the field to stay sharp and ready.

What career achievement are you most proud of so far, whether it's baseball-related or personal? Continuing to play baseball after spending four years as a student-athlete at Clemson University and earning my degree has been an incredible and meaningful experience.

St. Cecelia Interparochial Catholic School
1350 Court St. Clearwater • (727) 461-1207 • www.st-cecelia.org
Have news to share? Let us know at bburke@st-cecelia.org

“Celebrate the uniqueness of each person as a child of God while we proclaim the Gospel message, pray together, build community, and serve others...”

Alumni Awards, Honors & News



WRIGHT CONT.

Looking back, what do you miss the most about your time at our elementary school? I miss hanging out with my buddies from elementary school that I got to grow up and play sports with. Nothing was better than blacktop kickball and football in the grass field.

What advice would you give to current students here who may be interested in following a similar path? My biggest advice to students is to always give your best effort in everything you do. Stay focused and committed, even when challenges and temptations arise. Success comes from staying the course and making choices that keep you aligned with your goals.

How do you stay motivated and keep a positive mindset, even when things get challenging? I recognize that my journey will be

filled with numerous challenges, but I am committed to confronting them head-on. I approach each one with confidence, knowing that my preparation and the countless hours of training I've invested will help me through.

Do you have any pre-game rituals or superstitions that you follow before a big game? Before every game, I always say a prayer that gives me strength and focus. I also rely on motivational self-talk to maintain a positive mindset and prepare myself for the competition ahead.

How do you balance the excitement of playing professionally with staying grounded in your personal life? I try to approach everything with gratitude, acknowledging how fortunate I am to have the opportunity to play baseball. I focus on taking it one day at a time, enjoying each moment and fully appreciating the experience.



CLARA DALHOFF '20

St. Cecelia Catholic School Graduate Clara Dalhoff (2020) named 2024 Valedictorian at Clearwater Central Catholic High School with a 4.71 GPA. Clara now attends Georgia Tech and studies Mechanical Engineering. Please join us in congratulating Clara Dalhoff for her hard work all through high school to achieve this honor. She truly inspires excellence for us all! Congratulations Clara! We are so very proud!!!



ALICIA BARALT '17

Alicia Baralt was selected as 1 of 4 for an internship with Shark Tank in Los Angeles. Congratulations Alicia!



“Encourage students to open their hearts to God, their minds to learning, and their talents to service...”

Alumni Awards, Honors & News

WEDDINGS



Patrick Purcell '12 and Shea Hogan were married at Christ the King Catholic Church in Tampa on November 2, 2024. They met at UF and now live in Tampa. Patrick is a senior financial analyst with ReliaQuest in Tampa.

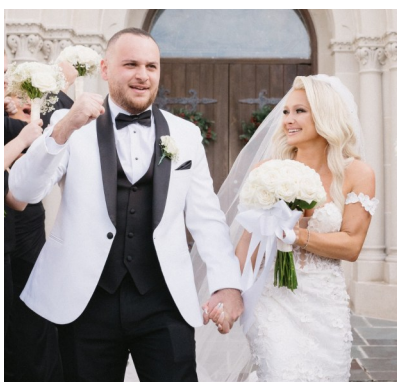


Michael Purcell '08 and Connor Shine were married at the Don Cesar in St. Pete Beach on March 23, 2024. Michael and Connor live in Washington, DC where Michael is an attorney at Ropes and Gray LLP.

Other alumni in this picture – Christopher Purcell, Brittany Curinga Purcell, Kyle Curinga, Jared Brown, Alexandra Alberdi, Patrick Purcell

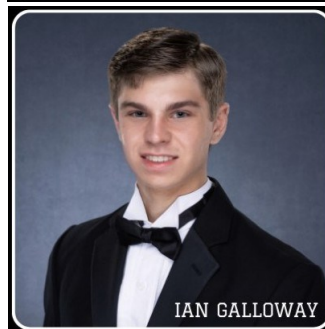


Patrick Camporini '06 marries Grace Hanna in Charleston, South Carolina.



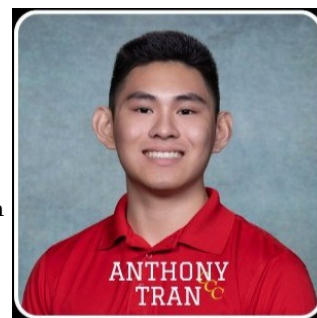
Lindsay Pittman '11 marries Alex Zakka at St. Cecelia Church on January 11, 2025.

NATIONAL MERIT COMMENDED SCHOLARS



We are proud to announce that SCS alumni Paige Daily and Ian Galloway from the SCS class of 2021 have been recognized as National Merit Finalists. The National Merit Scholarship Program is an annual academic competition among high school students for recognition and college scholarships that began in 1955. The program is

conducted by National Merit Scholarship Corporation, a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance. United States high school students enter the National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT®), which serves as an initial screen of over 1.3 million entrants each year, and by meeting published program entry and participation requirements. Paige and Ian scored in the top 1% of the PSAT/NMSQT test and will now be considered for National Merit, college- and corporate-sponsored scholarships. Anthony Tran, SCS '21, is also being recognized as a National Merit Commended Scholar. Commended Scholars must score in the top 2% (approx.) on the PSAT (out of over 1.5 million test-takers). Congratulations to these SCS alumni on their outstanding academic achievement!



“Strive to provide a strong spiritual and academic foundation so that our students can become responsible members of the Church and the community now and in the future...”

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF EXCELLENCE

Dear Alumni & Friends,

We are excited to share that our beloved school celebrated a remarkable milestone—its 75th Anniversary—on April 19th, 2024! To commemorate this momentous occasion, we hosted a spectacular dinner and dance auction at the Carlouel Yacht Club, which was sold out with over 200 enthusiastic alumni and current families in attendance. The evening was a delightful affair, featuring a scrumptious meal that tantalized everyone's taste buds, followed by lively music from an amazing seven-piece band that kept the dance floor buzzing all night long.

Earlier in the week, we kicked off the celebrations with a heartfelt Alumni Mass held on our school campus, where many gathered to reflect on the cherished moments spent at St. Cecelia. Guests also enjoyed a trip down memory lane with guided tours of our beloved school and a delightful breakfast in the STREAM Center, reconnecting with old friends and reminiscing about their time here.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this incredible celebration. It is your love and support that has made St. Cecelia Catholic School a truly special community for the past 75 years. Here's to many more years of fostering excellence in education and nurturing lifelong connections!

Best Regards,
Maryanne Del Monte, Admissions & Development Director

EVERYONE IS ELIGIBLE



\$8,000

SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

GRADES K-8TH

NEW BABIES



Congratulations to a few of our alumni on the birth of their beautiful babies! We look forward to welcoming these future Crusaders into our school! From left to right: Sunday Sebastian—Mother - Savannah (Brown)

Sebastian SCS '09, Maxine Weber—Mother - Rachel (McMullen) Weber SCS '05, Everett Olson—Mother - Jordan (Brown) Olson SCS '06 & Father - Zachary Olson SCS '05

WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Steven Arango SCS '07 is a Judge Advocate in the Marine Corps and serves as a Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for Training and Education Command (TECOM) at Marine Corps Base Quantico.

Shannon Flaharty SCS '13 is fully engaged in the St. Paul's Outreach (SPO) program, as a long standing Missionary at the University of Minnesota .

Jessica Schultz SCS '11 was inducted into the CCC Athletic Hall of Fame for cheerleading.

DEWBERRY DONUTS

We were delighted to welcome back Loretta Dewberry, the founder of the beloved Fat Tuesday donut-making tradition. She is pictured volunteering alongside her daughter, SCS alumna Johanna Wares. The Dewberry family remains a proud part of the SCS community, with Loretta's grandchildren—Joseph, Charles, and Cecily—currently attending school here. Thank you to Loretta for her time-honored tradition!



Give A Gift to help St. Cecelia Catholic School continue its mission of providing students with an affordable Catholic education. Please consider giving a gift that makes a difference now and forever. Visit <http://www.st-cecelia.org/student-life/alumni/alumni-giving/> to donate.

“CRUSADERS FOREVER! Faith, Service, Athletics, Academics”