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The Excalibur II



VOLUME I ISSUE I

WINTER 2024

Welcome to Excalibur II

Welcome to Excalibur II. This is our first newsletter in 3 years. We will publish two times a year (now and in June).

Our Goal is to include content such as:

- Nazareth Today - Academics/Clubs/Sports etc.
- Alumni Stories
- Nazareth Teacher Spotlight
- Class Captains
- Upcoming School and Alumni Events
- Alumni News
- Former Faculty Updates

THE LEGACY CONTINUES, Go Kingsmen and Lady Kingsmen!

Alumni Unite:

Where are you? How are you?

If any alumni has photos, upcoming events, or stories they would like to share, please forward them to gbrasco@nazarethrhs.org



Join our mailing list for future Excaliburs and other Nazareth information at:
nazarethrhs.org/alumni/newsletter

Nazareth Today



BASKETBALL:

After a 29-1 record last season, Nazareth's Varsity Boys Basketball team was promoted to the AA Division of the CHSAA, a huge accomplishment for the program and we couldn't be more proud.

In their first season in a much tougher league, Coach Gary Ervin has led the Kingsmen to a 13-2 league record heading into the final game of the season, with a chance to clinch the #1 seed with a win. A highlight of the season was the team flying to Anchorage to compete in the Alaska Airlines Invitational Tournament, a great experience for the team.

We are rooting for them in the AA playoffs!

Nazareth RHS is a Catholic college preparatory high school sponsored by the Xaverian Brothers. We maintain a rigorous academic environment where students develop a life-long intellectual curiosity which empowers them to think independently in an ever changing global community. We provide unique opportunities that develop students' spiritual, intellectual, social, emotional, and physical growth. Our scholars are prepared to be successful, contributing members of society



ACADEMICS:

Nazareth students represented three of the top five spots in the Health Science Academy Program.

Nazareth Partners with SUNY Downstate through the Arthur Ashe Institute to give scholars interested in careers in medicine a chance to get real world experience with mentors during their high school career.

As recipients of Advantage Awards, Joshua Branch '23, Samantha Smith '23, and

Nicole Jordan '23 each received \$2,500 scholarships for being among the top of the HSA and STEP class.

Career Day Thursday, April 18th

Any Alumni or Friends of Nazareth who want to have an Exciting and Interactive Day at Naz to talk about career opportunities, please contact advancement@nazarethrhs.org for more information.



Nazareth Today



FOOTBALL:

Football is Back at Naz!

After dropping the football program coming out of Covid, Nazareth has reinstated the football program. Under the leadership of Coach Gary Gooden '85, they started with 25 young men and finished the season with 43 Kingsmen on the roster, 39 of whom are freshmen or sophomores. Playing an independent JV schedule which included games against Holy Cross and Xaverian as well as scrimmages against the local public school teams, we are building strong and looking forward to taking another huge leap forward.





Alumni At Nazareth

Gary Gooden '85

Gary Gooden is a natural athlete. With Nazareth, Gary played Tailback gaining more than 1100 yards in 1984, returning eight kickoffs for a 46.3 yard average. He was All City, All Conference and All District honors as a Senior. He won the 100 meter dash in 10.5 seconds and, on the same day, took the 200 meter dash CHSAA Outdoor Track & Field Championship at SJU in a mark of 21.3 seconds.

Gary went to Indiana University playing wide receiver as well as running track.. He was drafted in the ninth round of the 1989 NFL draft by the LA Raiders. After hurting his knee during a scrimmage game, his professional playing career was over.

At the suggestion of his Dad, he came back to Brooklyn to teach kids how to be a professional on and off the field.

Teaching and coaching Track & Field at Nazareth since 2009, Gary still holds records at the school. He is now the Varsity Football Coach.

Gary calls himself a football teacher rather than a coach: "Football is not just a game, it's work and you gotta work at it to be good."

Manny Trama '88

Manny Trama teaches Computer Sciences at his Alma Mater. In addition to his teaching duties, Manny is responsible for many technological advances at Nazareth:

- WiFi in all classrooms
- Photography class
- Video Production
- 3-D Printing Class
- Robotics Class

Manny loves his time at Nazareth: "Passing along knowledge to the next generation and interacting with the kids.; there is nothing more satisfying."



Alumni At Nazareth

Faculty

Gary Gooden '85 - Football Coach
Monique Fisher (Ellis) '82 - Math
Manny Trama '88 - Technology
Teresa Sacks '88 - Math & Science Teacher
Lisa Blair '12 - Guidance
Sandy Michel '90 - Assistant Principal for Enrollment

Board of Directors

John Wuestman '68 - Chair
Keishe Alleyne '92 - Vice Chair
John Barrett '73 - Treasurer/Chair of Finance and Strategic Planning
Joe Keenan '73 - Chair of Investment Committee
Joe Donley '70
Goetz Vilsaint '89
John Forni '77
Denis Wuestman '73 - Chair of Development and Strategic Planning

Committee Members

Anthony Citrolo '73 - Audit Committee
Mike Taunton '73 - Chair of Audit Committee
Gerry Ferrante '73 - Development Committee
Jim Kennelly '78 - Plant Committee

Volunteering Opportunities and Nazareth

Calling all alumni! Interested in spending some time giving back to your alma mater? Many of our alumni have “retired” but are still interested in investing their time in meaningful ways. Others just simply want to share their blessings, skills, and wisdom to help others and there is no better place than Nazareth!

Volunteering is a great way to benefit both yourself and Nazareth via doing satisfying and needed work.

Perhaps you are interested in Board or Committee Membership or would like to work on a project to help the administration or the students? A lot can be done remotely or at the school.

Interested in finding out more – contact Board Chairperson John Wuestman at advancement@nazarethrhs.org



Looking For Class Captains

Nazareth is looking to revitalize connections with alumni via our Class Captain Model. Class Captains help Nazareth maintain current contact information with Alumni, celebrate and share information on key reunion and alumni events and offer guidance on how to enrich connections with fellow alumni.



Alumni Association

To date, we have 10 years represented and are specifically looking to get in touch with Alumni from “anniversary” years ('94, '04, and '14)..

Interested in learning more about this important initiative, please contact Denis Wuestman '73 (Board of Trustees – and Chair of Development Committee) dwestman@nazarethrhs.org.

Alumni Sightings



1973 – 50th Class Reunion held on 9/30/23 at the Belle Harbor Yacht Club. Wonderful time with over 60 attendees. Gracious donation from the class of '73 of \$2,950 made to Nazareth's Lt Michael T. Russo Scholarship Fund.

The 1981 Nazareth Regional HS Varsity Baseball All-City Champs held a reunion in October at the Greenhouse Café in



Brooklyn. In attendance were: Michael Accardi, Chris Buckley, Steve Chilli, Joe Donnellan, Hugh Gillespie, Steve Kopchik, Tim Minze, Jim Portagallo, Joe Rinaldi, George Romano, John See, and Rich Behan. They shared their memories and made a generous donation to Nazareth in memory of teammates no longer with us.



Some Nazareth Alumni sending good luck and best wishes to Coach Gary Gooden on his journey to grow and strengthen the Naz Football program at the 1st Annual Football Fundraising Dinner on Saturday, February 3rd, 2024.



The Excalibur II caught up with Caden Williams '22 who is currently on a full tuition scholarship at University of Southern California (USC), majoring in Accounting and Finance.

Caden was one of the winners of the Brother Matthew Scholarship in June 2022 and attributes much of his success to the support he received from the Brother Matthew Burke Scholarship experience and Nazareth Regional High School during his formative years.

He called his transitioning to USC a unique challenge being almost 3,000 miles away from home. However, the diverse and inclusive environment at USC, with students from Australia, Germany, China, Singapore, and many other countries, allowed him to learn about different cultures and forge meaningful connections.

In addition to his rigorous curriculum, Caden is a member of investment clubs at USC and this summer will be doing an internship as an accountant at Deloitte in their New York City Headquarters.

Alumni Sightings



Our alumni continue to make a difference for Naz - even 50 years after graduating. Naz is so grateful to Jesus Linares '73 CEO of Business Relocation Services for transporting and setting up donated gym equipment for our school sports teams! Thank you Jesus and BRS for your kindness and thinking of Naz!



Class of '78 Plus Holiday Gala, NJ 12/2/23 Left to Right, First Row: Rob Santangelo, Charles Diaz, Gary Brasco, William Wright, Second Row: Jack Piccininni, TJ Otto, Jimmy Rudolph, Fred Scala, Lou Franzetti, Jimmy Lorenzo, Paul Esposito



Flatbush Christmas Party 12/1/23 NYC



John "Gemini" Lombardi '79: A Fabulous Ventriloquist, Magician, and Comedian. A Wonderful Evening: Boulton Center for the Performing Arts, Bay Shore, NY 12/29/23

Former freshman year track coach at Nazareth Regional H.S. Mr. Reinhardt with current Nazareth Track & Football Coach and Alumni Gary Gooden. Mr. Reinhart is responsible for putting together one of the greatest relays in CHSAA track and field history.



Send your Alumni Sightings to gbrasco@nazarethrhs.org

Alumni In Memoriam



Thomas Santoro '84

Thomas Santoro '84 and member of the NYPD lost his life to cancer from his actions on 9/11. In memory of Tom, Pat Mullee '84 (with support of many alumni/friends) put together a Super Bowl pool this year. As a result of this generosity, Nazareth will receive \$5,000 to establish the "Tom Santoro '84 Memorial Scholarship Fund" to benefit students who need financial assistance. Nazareth's Board has also matched \$3,000 of that amount for a total of \$8,000! We are grateful to Patrick, our alumni and Tom's wife Marlena for thinking of Nazareth in memory of Tom.

During Tom's 20-year career with the NYPD, he worked in various departments, retiring from the counterterrorism division. As much as Tom was a public servant, he was a man devoted to his family and relished his time with his sons, Jack and Michael. While his wife worked,

he played Mr. Mom taking the boys to school and to their extracurricular activities. Tom loved his vacations, especially to the Jersey Shore and cruising.

Anyone that knew Tom would say he was the jokester and would make light of even the darkest circumstances. His sense of humor and wit were always present, even when he was battling the 9/11 cancer that would take his life. When no one knew what to say...he did. He chose the perfect path for his life as a public servant as his demeanor suited the job perfectly. **"What we do in life echoes in eternity."**



Eugene McCarthy '73

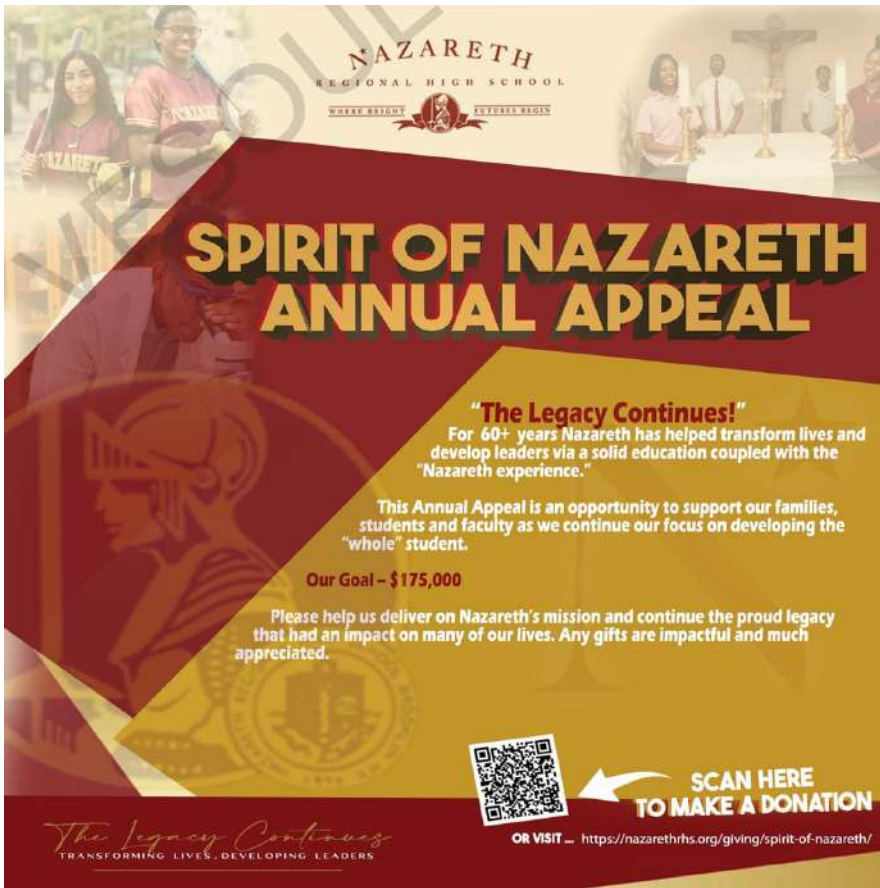
Marine Major Eugene McCarthy is a 1973 graduate of Nazareth Regional High School. Following graduation from Nazareth, Eugene went on to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis. Serving his country through active service in the United States Marine Corp, he rose to the rank of Major. His career path included training as a Navy diver and paratrooper, having completed the very challenging Army Ranger School. His spirit of commitment to his country continued as he became a Special Agent with the Drug Enforcement Administration, graduating first in

his Academy class. As a Special Agent he volunteered for several tours of duty in South America as a part of Operation Snowcap. In 1991 during Operation Desert Storm, Eugene gave his life for his country while flying a helicopter in Saudi Arabia.



Eugene is memorialized at the Major McCarthy Memorial Triangle located at East 31st Street, Avenue N, and Kings Highway in Brooklyn.

Plans are underway to reinstate the "McCarthy Brothers Memorial Run" - stay tuned for further information.



Giving to Nazareth

Thanks to all our Annual Appeal Donors – We have collected over \$82K so far this year towards the Spirit of Nazareth Fund which runs through the end of June.

Giving to Nazareth is now easier, streamlined and focused. Check out our Giving Menu at <https://nazarethrhs.org/giving> where you will see our ongoing year-round Spirit of Nazareth appeal as well as our various Scholarships/Endowments

Coming this spring at the request of many donors – donating securities to Nazareth will now be easier. A guided checklist and process will be published on our website.



www.facebook.com/NazarethRHS



Visit us on the Web

www.nazarethrhs.org

Next Excalibur II: Summer 2024