



***"We must proclaim our pride,  
the hallmark of a true Ritaman."  
-Eric Wong '97***

Hello Alumni and Friends,

I hope you are having a fun and enjoyable summer! I'm excited to dive into all the great things that we have going on and coming up here at St. Rita.

On Thursday, June 30th we closed out our fiscal year raising over \$1.5 million. We thank all of you for your support in helping us reach this goal!

On Friday, July 15th we held our 46th Annual Scholarship Golf Outing which raised more than \$45,000. Thank you to all our loyal attendees who braved the rain to make this event a success!

Stay tuned for future events sponsored by the Advancement Department. Once again, we are forever grateful for your support; none of these fundraising efforts and successes would be possible without you!

St. Rita Pray for Us,

Jim Juchcinski '97  
Vice President - Director of Institutional Advancement  
jjuchcinski@stritahs.com  
773-925-5029

**DONATE**

**The 46th Annual Golf Scholarship Outing**



[More Scholarship Golf Photos](#)

## Where Are They Now? Alumni Updates

### **Matt McGowan '10** ***No Slowing Down***

Since graduating from St. Rita, Matt has earned an undergraduate degree from the University of Iowa and a graduate degree from Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science.

"Mrs. Krystof had the biggest impact on me. Her classes helped me become interested in the sciences and led me down the path to a career in medicine," said McGowan.

During the early stages of the pandemic, Matt worked as an emergency medicine physician assistant.

"It was a very unique experience given so much was unknown about how to fight the virus in the beginning. It definitely helped shape me into the provider I am today," he said.

Matt more recently works as a physician assistant at Derick Dermatology.

His dad, uncles, siblings, and cousins are all Ritamen. This October, Matt will run the **Chicago Marathon** for **Walk It Out For Andrew**. This organization was established in honor of Ritamen Andrew Smialek '08. Smialek was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma in 2004 and passed away in



*Photo: Derick Dermatology*

***"When choosing a charity to raise money for, it was a no-brainer to honor a fellow Mustang."***

2009.

"Andrew was always someone to look up to. When choosing a charity to raise money for, it was a no-brainer to honor a fellow Mustang and raise money to help other children going through the same struggles he did," said McGowan.

## The Rita Report

### School & Student Highlights



#### There is a New President on Campus

This June, Deacon John Donahue was selected as the new president at St. Rita High School.

Deacon John served as the chairman of the board of directors for St. Rita from 2006 to 2011.

The appointment of Deacon John was made by Rev. Anthony Pizzo, O.S.A. Prior Provincial of the Province of Our Mother of Good Council.

"In the appointment of Deacon John, we have found a person with proven leadership abilities, excellent academic credentials, demonstrated educational experience, all combined with a pastoral perspective to serve as our new President," said Fr. Pizzo.

Read more about our new president [here](#).



#### Price '88 Returns Home

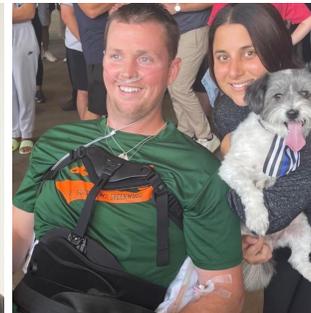
Curtis Price '88 has been named as the new St. Rita Athletic Director.

Price began his coaching career at Marian Central Catholic High School as the Assistant Coach and later Head Coach for the boys' basketball program.

Eventually he successfully worked his way to the Athletic Director role.

"I am excited to be returning home as the Athletic Director at St. Rita High School. I am looking forward to working with the St. Rita community on continuing the excellence of St. Rita athletics," said Price.

For more on Price click [here](#).



#### Fight Like a Golden

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, St. Rita hosted a **prayer service** for Chicago police officer and U.S. Army veteran Danny Golden '09.

Earlier in the month, while off-duty **Golden was shot** and permanently paralyzed from the waist down, after trying to break up a bar fight in the Beverly area.

Golden watched the prayer service live from Advocate Christ Medical Center in Oak Lawn.

The service was full as the Southside community, friends, and family prayed for his recovery and a miracle.

"It was nice to see the community pack the shrine and rally around Danny," said Andrew Mariotti, Marketing Assistant at St. Rita High School.

To support Danny please click [here](#).



#### Ritamen Becomes State Champion

Last month, EJ Nwagwu '22 became state champion after winning the 200m dash. He is also a Lawless Award winner.

"Winning feels great! It feels good to make everyone proud, prove to everyone that believes in me, and put smiles on their faces," said Nwagwu.

Nwagwu has been a part of the track and field team since his freshman year and plans to continue the sport in college.



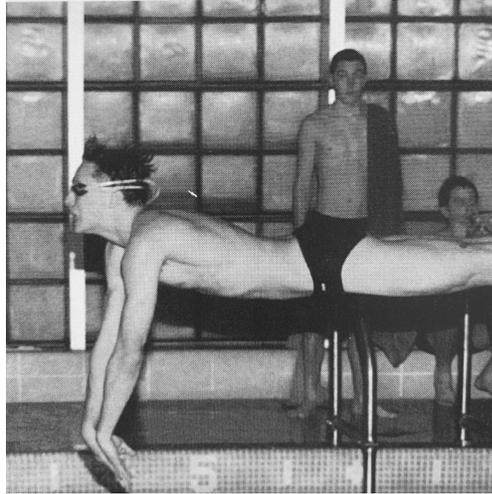
St. Rita track and field Coach Pierre Nealon stated that Nwagwu's "ability to lead by example in the classroom and on the field " is what makes him such a special member of the team.

"It is a big moment for our coaches and program as we have not had an outdoor state champion since Tony Simmons in 1993. To finally break through after twelve years here is a great feeling," said Nealon.

For more athletic news check out the

**Mustang Sports Weekly**

## Spot the Alum



### Been Splashing Since the Nineties

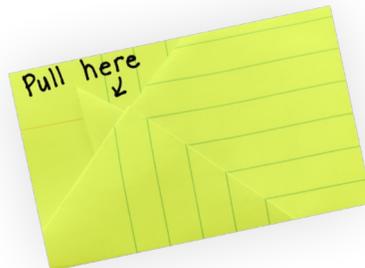
Do you know who this swimmer is? *Hint: This photo was taken in the late '90s.*

Email [alumni@stritahs.com](mailto:alumni@stritahs.com) with your answers.

## Then vs. Now

"Unofficial" Ritaman Class Note

**1996**  
Folded Line Paper



**2022**  
Text Message



What section of our eNewsletter do you most enjoy?

Where Are They Now? Alumni Updates

The Rita Report: School & Student Highlights

Spot the Alum

Then vs. Now

Poll Question

Advancement Announcements

Cascia Collection Corner

## Advancement Announcements

### Career Week

#### Presenters Needed

Our annual career week will be October 24- 28th. Presentations can be in-person or via zoom. If you are interested in participating this year, please fill out this [form](#).

Also, if you are interested in presenting in one of our classes or able to have student(s) shadow you at your workplace please email Jill Nagel at [jnagel@stritahs.com](mailto:jnagel@stritahs.com).

## Cascia Collection Corner

### Brick Walkway Campaign

#### Pave the Way for Students

Support St. Rita by becoming a part of our commemorative brick walkway located between the McCarthy Center and Mrozek Family Fitness Center.



[More Info](#)

[Alumni News](#)

[Alumni Profile Update](#)

[Brick Walkway Campaign](#)

[Mustang Store](#)



St. Rita of Cascia High School | 7740 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60620

[Unsubscribe jblaszak@stritahs.com](mailto:jblaszak@stritahs.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by [yalumni@stritahs.com](mailto:yalumni@stritahs.com) in collaboration with



Try email marketing for free today!