

# THE AVALON MAGAZINE

*for alumni, friends, and family*



JOSEPH WARREN MCPHERSON

*1948-2019*

SPRING 2020





## JOIN US MAY 2021 FOR OUR ANNUAL PILGRIMAGE



*Why do we go on pilgrimage each year?*

A pilgrimage is an act of devotion—a long journey made on foot to reach a holy site (Jerusalem, Santiago, Lourdes, etc.).

A pilgrimage is a common human experience in which one seeks to fulfill a ritual obligation, to perform an act of devotion, to atone their own sins, live an experience of spirituality, or implore a grace, a miracle, a cure, etc. The sacrifice and work of prayer is not merely a intellectual act; a walking pilgrimage (in particular a long one) allows a community to physically work through prayer.



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The Avalon School, established in 2003, is an independent day school for boys, grades K-12, located in Wheaton, MD. The Avalon School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin.

### THE AVALON MAGAZINE

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# President's Perspective

Richard McPherson

“An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered.” This is one of my favorite quotations by the great English author G. K. Chesterton, who lived from 1874 to 1936. I ponder it often. It gives me a quiet confidence to help me through difficult situations. I was introduced to it when once I was upset about something and vented to Mr. Kevin Davern. He replied with a big smile, “An inconvenience is only an adventure wrongly considered.” I promptly told him where he could go.

This past August I attended the American Chesterton Conference in Kansas City, Kansas (not Missouri). It was a well-attended event with almost 600 people. It was three full days of lectures, panel discussions, and even a full-length movie on Chesterton’s masterpiece, *The Ballad of the White Horse*. Mass was celebrated by the Cardinal Archbishop of Toronto, and the Rosary was prayed each day. I was refreshed by my days with Chesterton and the many other Chestertonians from around the world. Chesterton, after all, has been a big part of our school’s ethos.

Each year on October 7 we recite his poem “Lepanto” in celebration of the great victory by the Holy Catholic League, called together by Pope Pius V in 1571, to defeat the Ottoman empire. Pope Pius had asked Catholics throughout the world to pray the Rosary for a Christian victory. The Virgin Mary answered their prayers. A few years after the battle, October 7 became the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

In his book *Orthodoxy* which some call the greatest book of Catholic apologetics in the 20th century, he reminds us of an important truth: “Men did not love Rome because she was great. She was great because they had loved her.” We have seen this great love of our small schools in the teachers, families, and many friends who have given much of themselves over the years. It is something we look for in our teachers and our families. And though we are but a small blip in the Catholic School mind, I am confident that because of this love we will someday be great.

In Chesterton’s short novel *Manalive* he has a character named Innocent Smith. Innocent is a “man found alive with two legs” as Chesterton describes him. Having two legs gives one reason to be filled with wonder and gratitude. Innocent has a lusty love for existence. We especially try to inculcate this love to into our students. As Chesterton remarks elsewhere, “We are to regard existence as a raid or great adventure; it is to be judged, therefore, not by what calamities it encounters, but by what flag it follows and what high town it assaults. The most dangerous thing in the world is to be alive; one is always in danger of one’s life. But anyone who shrinks from that is a traitor to the great scheme and experiment of being.”

Avalon and Brookewood, with help from G. K. Chesterton, will continue to be fully alive and ready to take on all ... inconveniences!



President Richard McPherson and Head of School Kevin Davern address the schools' audience during the 2019 Spring Gala.



# Ad Hoc *from the* Head of School

Kevin Davern

This year at commencement graduating senior Danny Boyle brought everyone's attention to the fraternal aspect of our school by quoting the words of an Avalon staple: "We few, we happy few, we band of brothers...."

William Shakespeare put these rousing words in to his version of King Henry V of England before the Battle of Agincourt in 1415. Henry's men are out-numbered, poorly supplied, and full of foreboding against a larger, healthier French force. Rather than caving into the understandable difficulties of the moment, Henry, full of courage and poise, points to the nobility of meeting the challenge of a noble cause against tough odds with one's comrades. He also notes that the struggle itself ennobles those who undertake it: "For he to-day that [fights with me] ...This day shall gentle his condition...."

The founding faculty took—and takes—Henry's words to heart in the on-going battle of starting a new, independent, Catholic, boys' school in a culture that is often hostile to such things, passing on a living tradition full of the stories that make life more worth living: "This story shall the good man teach his son...."

Our Black Knights have indeed been taught this specific story. Henry's oration has been part of the Avalon poetry canon since the start of the school; underclassmen commit it to memory, and it is a stand-by recitation of festival day poetry contests. Some years it is recited enough times to elicit an audible groan of "Not this again" from the audience. We teachers take solace in the fact that the groan shows the boys have heard these words before, recognize them, and know their meaning. How many young men in schools across the United States today can say that?

Henry's "We few" to the small numbers of his army also brings to mind in big-picture moments like Danny Boyle's speech at graduation that Avalon is still a young, small school and therefore only a small number of boys have walked its still-rented hallways. And while we may grow in years, Avalon will always be a small school. Our vision of education entails an atmosphere like that of a family where each student is known personally. But now, after 16 years, 13 graduating classes, and a little more than 300 graduates, I am happy to say that "We few" are not as few!

And for this I am thankful. Thank you first to you mothers and fathers for being part of the Avalonian adventure and entrusting your sons to us. Thank you to the faculty for their self-giving and dedication. And thanks to the students for your work, your life—even some of your mayhem...

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*"Our vision of education  
entails an atmosphere  
like that of a family  
where each student is  
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# In Memoriam Joseph Warren McPherson

*Joseph Warren McPherson, international educator, Maryland historian, and a founder of both The Avalon School and its sister school, Brookewood School, died September 26, 2019. He was 71.*

*Although best known in his role shepherding Brookewood through its first decade as headmaster, he also played an integral role with his brother and Avalon president, Richard McPherson, in shaping the ethos that guided the formation of Avalon, where he taught part-time in the early days of the school. Key to Brookewood's guiding principles was the motto Joe chose to inspire young women throughout their lives: Nolite Timere (Be Not Afraid).*

*Joe's life, his prodigious intellect, his ironic sense of humor, his unwavering faith, his humanity --all are evident in the eulogy (see next page) given by his son and former Avalon teacher, James McPherson, at the Mass of Christian burial on October 2, and the appreciation by Catholic Standard writer and Avalon parent, Maureen Boyle (see below).*

*God Speed, Joe McPherson  
Nolite Timere & Duc In Altum!*

*Catholic Standard, October 22, 2019*

Joseph W. McPherson, founding headmaster of Brookewood School, Kensington, and longtime educator to generations of students in Montgomery County, was remembered for his deep faith, his love and devotion to his family, and as a fierce champion of Catholic classical liberal arts education, during an Oct. 2 Mass of Christian Burial at St. John the Evangelist Parish, Silver Spring. McPherson died on Sept. 26 of a heart attack. He was 71 years old.

"The Gospel of the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:1-12 was a living reality of Joe's life. He was keenly aware of God's blessings and proud to share [them] with everyone he knew. He touched your lives and made a difference, a blessing to everyone," said Father Joseph Calis, St. John's pastor, in his homily to several hundred former students, colleagues, friends and family who filled the church beyond capacity to pay their respects and pray for McPherson's eternal rest.

A native of Boston, Mass., McPherson attended Cardinal Spellman High School in Brockton, Mass., and later graduated from Harvard with a degree in political science. He went on to earn a master's degree in economics from the Center for Research and Communication in the Philippines, and a law degree from Georgetown University. He and his beloved wife, Madlyn, had recently celebrated their 46th

wedding anniversary on Sept. 8.

"He used his education to make a difference in this world," said Father Calis, adding that McPherson's love of teaching helped pass on the Catholic faith to countless young people, among them his six children, 12 grandchildren and thousands of students throughout his nearly five decades as an educator.

In 1972, McPherson began teaching at The Heights, an all-boys Catholic school located at the time in Northwest D.C. When the school moved in 1978 to its current campus in Potomac, McPherson became its lower school headmaster. In 1984, he was named headmaster of the entire school, a position he held until 1997. He then served as provost of The Heights

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of God's blessings and  
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for two years. In 1999, he became headmaster of The American School (TASIS) in Lugano, Switzerland. Five years later, he returned to the United States and became a founding board member of The Avalon School, an all-boys Catholic school in Wheaton. He also taught at Avalon during the school's early years. In 2006, he founded Brookewood School, an all-girls Catholic school in Kensington, where he served as



the school's first headmaster and taught for 10 years until 2016. After stepping down as headmaster, he continued teaching classes at Brookewood and was still teaching at the time of his passing. He also served as a member of both schools' Board of Trustees.

"Joe was an accomplished teacher, a great teacher of teachers, a great family man, a defender of the family, a tremendous friend, and a mentor of too many to count," said Kevin Davern, headmaster of The Avalon School. "Over the years, I never lost my admiration for his tremendous personal and intellectual gifts and for the fact that he devoted those gifts to serve Jesus Christ."

In a eulogy, his son, James McPherson, said one of his dad's favorite quotes was from St. Irenaeus who said, "The glory of God is man fully alive."

One of the great avocations of McPherson's life was poetry, especially sonnets, of which he was a prolific author, having penned almost 2,000 on topics such as history, art, and nature. He also had a great affinity for his adopted home state of Maryland, which inspired him to write *The Ark and the Dove: Lord Baltimore's Venture to Maryland*, a 2017 historical volume about Maryland's founding written as an epic sonnet sequence.

For his book, McPherson said he drew on his previous extensive research into William Shakespeare's sonnets and into the authorship issue. McPherson was an ardent proponent of Edward de Vere, the 17th Earl of Oxford, as the actual author of Shakespeare's works. McPherson wrote that his other inspirations were his experience as co-chair of Montgomery County's committee celebrating the 350th anniversary of Maryland in 1984 and serving as a commissioner of Historic St. Mary's City, as well as reading Jesuit Father Andrew White's account of his voyage and his annual letters to Rome.

Richard McPherson, Joe's younger brother and teaching colleague for the past 32 years, first at The Heights, then Avalon, and finally at Brookewood, said he admired his brother's sharp intellect and prodigious mind. "He was interested in everything. He loved teaching because you have to learn so many things yourself first. It was very fulfilling for him," Richard McPherson said of his late brother. "He was the smartest guy I ever met."

McPherson said his brother had a keen interest in natural history and never lost his wonder and appreciation for God's creation. He said Joe loved



his vocation as a teacher – whether it was in the classroom or taking friends and family on historical tours of Southern Maryland or regaling his students with ghost stories around a campfire. Years ago, he said, Joe coined the expression, "The Four Pillars of Boyhood," when referring to snowball fights, creek walking, fort-building, and Capture the Flag, and was pleased to find out from his tenure at Brookewood that the girls enjoyed those outdoor activities just as much as the boys.

Tributes to McPherson from former students filled their teacher's Facebook page in the days following his death. Many wrote of their gratitude to him for his example of faith and his sense of humor, describing him as a mentor and a "true teacher."

McPherson was a longtime member of the Knights of Malta. He also served on the board of the Chelsea Academy, an independent classical liberal arts school for grades 4-12 in Front Royal, Va., and was working toward founding Dominion Hall, an international boarding Catholic liberal arts school in south central Virginia.

McPherson is survived by his wife, Madlyn; by their six children, James, Elizabeth, Catherine, Joseph, Mary, and Anne; and 12 grandchildren. Interment was at Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Silver Spring.



*Excerpts from the Eulogy for Joseph W. McPherson, Jr.*

*Given by James McPherson*

*October 2, 2019*

*St. John the Evangelist Church*

**O**n behalf of my mother, my brother and sisters, the brothers and sisters of my parents, cousins, nieces and nephews, and especially his grandchildren, I want to thank all of you for your presence here and for your many prayers for the soul of my father over the past several days. I would also like to thank you for the many stories about my father through the years.

He usually gave me quite verbose advice on any and all subjects, except for his own eulogy. He simply said, "Tell those present to pray for my soul, and for all the souls in Purgatory." And since good writers borrow and great writers steal, I went to the well and reread the eulogies he gave for his parents.

As a man with many friends and connections Dad went to many funerals. He would often spend a good amount of time after a burial going to the graves of deceased friends and saying prayers for them. He also insisted upon the care of widows and orphans in the months and years after the emotions of a funeral had passed. Please, continue to remember our mother in the months and years to follow with your prayers, calls, and visits. Pray for him, pray for our mother, pray for our family...

If you know about his love of nature, of flowers and trees, of leaves and forests, rocks and rivers, you know that he insisted on identifying their genus and species, while in the context of the beauty of God's

# A WITNESS TO BLISS AND GLAD LIFE



*Joe, Madlyn, and their six children and grandchildren.*



Creation. I think this was a metaphor for how he educated and mentored, not only students, but other teachers. Dad would want to know:

*Who are you as an individual child of God?*

*What is the best soil for you to thrive?*

*How much light?*

*How much rain?*

*Should I raise my voice and trigger adrenaline?*

*Should I joke?*

*Should I tease?*

*Should I coax?*

*Should I compel?*

Apparently, many of us needed adrenaline. He was grateful for God's creation and for his vocation.

Again, to quote Chesterton, "I would maintain that thanks are the highest form of thought. And that gratitude is happiness doubled by wonder." Wonder and gratitude were evident in his avocation, which was poetry.

J. R. R. Tolkien wrote about the origin of poetry in a culture: "But of bliss and glad life there is little to be said, before it ends; as works fair and wonderful, while they still endure for eyes to see, are their own witness, and only when they are in peril or broken for ever do they pass into song."

While alive our father was his own witness to bliss and glad life, he was a witness to the works and institutions, such as Avalon and Brookewood, fair and wonderful, that he was instrumental in developing and nurturing to endure for eyes to see.

Since his passing, his song, the poem of his life, has begun to emerge in streams of comments, posts, emails, calls and conversations. He has turned into a song, all these stories and anecdotes, weaving together into a chorus of his legend. As his song grows: exaggeration will not be discouraged, and "fabulations" are allowed if they contain Poetic Truth.

One of his favorite quotes was from St. Irenaeus who said that "The glory of God is man fully alive." Joseph McPherson was fully alive. His life and work gave glory to God. Keep him in your prayers, keep our mother in your prayers. He was well loved. We will miss him. We take solace in the fact that now he knows who really wrote Shakespeare.



Top (from left) Kevin Davern, Joe McPherson, G.K. Chesterton re-enactor Chuck Charlburg, and Rich McPherson



Bottom (from left): Joe McPherson with brother and colleague, Rich McPherson

### **An excerpt from Joe's book of sonnets, *The Ark & the Dove***

*Thus, on Our Lady's Day, the company  
Of venturers from England came ashore  
To hew a wooden cross from out a tree  
And kneel at Mass in thanks, their Lord adore.  
Four months they'd journeyed from their ancient land  
With storm, and loss, and threats and welcome cold  
To this, their river-watered Maryland  
Where three long weeks they'd kept their anchor hold.  
So on that day when all things were made new,  
They climbed with joy up on St. Clement's Isle,  
The skies and water all Our Lady's blue.  
(Thus, Nature garbed herself in finest style.)  
The lesson of a century of loss:  
There is no joy without the blessed Cross.*



## Beyond the Classroom

# Art & the Artist

**Patrick Finegan**  
*Faculty Member*

Art is about making something that has the power to move our emotions or thoughts. Aristotle claims that poetry is meant to purge our negative emotions, to act as a catharsis of them. In its creation art involves the skills, emotions, psyche, and intellect of the creator. As such, it is an exhausting, all-consuming affair for the artist. Some have even said that the acting artist participates in the divine acts of God the Father, the Creator *ex nihilo*.

But why do they do it? If the act of making a piece of art, of fine art, is so taxing and difficult, if it requires so much from the artist, it seems better and easier simply to learn the skill of making and just do it. Forget the emotional highs and lows. Forget the mental fatigue associated with working toward a goal but not quite achieving it. After all, for many centuries prior to the Italian Renaissance artists were seen as merely craftsmen, some better than others.

It is Beauty. Beauty is the motive and if one has ever experienced something beautiful—a sunset, a beautiful person, an action or event—then it is obvious why the artist suffers, dedicating so much time to trying to imitate the experience.

Thomas Aquinas defines beauty as that which having been seen, pleases. A simple sounding statement for sure, but one filled with endless and mysterious human depth. To be able to create it or imitate it requires great discipline, dedication, perseverance, and humility from the artist, for to imitate or participate in the acts of God is not easy.

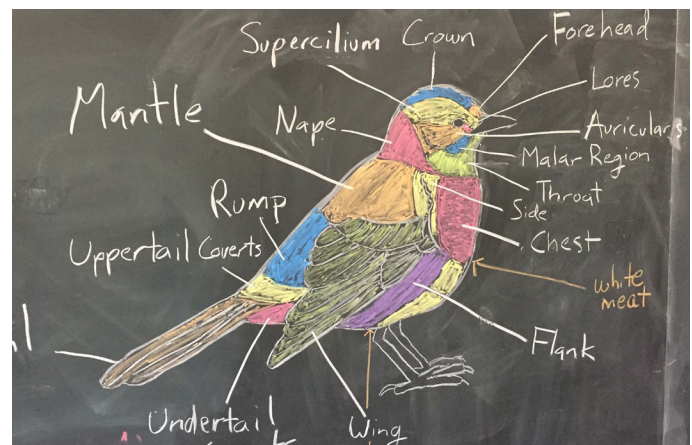
If the artist truly does participate in the creative act of God the Father, then the artist is required to make something good. God saw what He had created and saw that it was good. If the artist is a participator

in the Divine Creative Act, then necessarily the objects toward which his creative acts tend must also be good.

The good, whether truly so or only apparently, toward which every artist strives and dedicates himself is something specifically human. In being so, it has the power to elevate the mind, the soul, and the entire human person onto a higher plane, if you will.

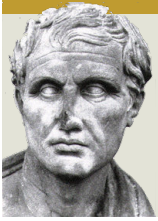
The famous artist and teacher Robert Henri once said, “I am interested in art as a means of living a life not of making a living.” The artist has a hold on a part of human existence that brings him or her into a life of constant searching, failing, starting again, and every once in a while, succeeding in pursuing beauty.

One cannot have something Good without also having it be True and Beautiful. Beauty is the desirability of the Good, as Aquinas states. Therefore, let us strive for the Good, the domain of the saint, yet be aware that while beauty shows us its desirability, it is the artist, in humility and perseverance and dedication, who should reveal the way.



*Gil McPherson's illustration of a bird on a chalkboard for the Lower School Natural History class.*



Beyond the  
Classroom

# LATIN

## Our Heritage Language

**Kevin Oriani**  
Faculty Member

As a Latin teacher and member of the “Latinosphere,” or spoken Latin movement, I often hear the question of Latin’s relevance for students today. Knowledge of Latin is required in fewer and fewer fields, and the number of speakers is a fraction of what it was even a hundred years ago. Many will argue that Latin’s presence in a curriculum improves students’ vocabulary and knowledge of grammar. Passionate latinists will explain how they fell in love with the language itself and its literature. I would like here to give a third argument to learn Latin, to which my dear colleague Jeff Kantor introduced me: we study Latin because it is our inheritance, a part of who we are.

This defense of Latin may seem counter intuitive. The commonly given arguments above appeal to universal values of Latin: anyone can improve his knowledge of grammar by studying a foreign language, especially one as structured as Latin, and anyone can learn to see the beauty of Latin literature, the way a work of art like Michelangelo’s *Pietà* holds universal appeal. The universality of these arguments, however, is also their weakness. If we wish to improve our students’ grammatical skills, why not focus intensely on English grammar or another complex foreign language, for example, Greek? If our goal is increased vocabularies, why not teach Greek and Latin roots, sparing students the headaches of declensions and conjugations? And if we wish to expose our children to beauty, we could teach them any one of the other great literary languages of the world, such as Chinese or Russian. We must then find an argument for Latin in particular. Fortunately for Latin teachers everywhere, such an argument exists: Latin is our heritage language, the patrimony of Rome and its cultural descendents.

The term *heritage language* is fairly new, but the situation it describes is as old as the Tower of Babel. Few things are as central to a society’s sense of identity as language. In Latin, a native speaker of a language is said to have imbibed it *cum lacte materno*,

“with his mother’s milk.” Like his mother, his mother tongue will always hold a special place in his heart. Like the ties of kinship, a shared language connects his heart and mind to the past, present, and future of his community. If he loses this language or does not hand it on to his children, the tradition of generations ends with him. Rarely will people choose to give up their native language, and at many times in history languages have been suppressed in order to eliminate a cultural identity. Even in situations where there is great advantage to using a language other than the native one, the two will continue in use side by side. Over time, however, the more widely used language tends to win out unless efforts are made to preserve the traditional speech as well. The term *heritage language* refers to traditional minority languages like these, ones that can only survive through a conscious decision to preserve them. The term emphasizes the fact that their speakers received these languages, like an heirloom, through the particular history of their family and culture.

Although it does not hold the international prominence it once did, Latin has survived to this day as a mark of Western education and literacy. Unlike almost any other language, Latin has been in continuous use without any substantial change since antiquity. A student of Latin learns the very same words that educated people of the Western world have been using for over two thousand years. Even if he only studies the language for a couple of years, he takes part in this ancient tradition and can feel a connection to the millions of Latin students who have gone before him. Latin inscriptions no longer will be foreign to him but will have a certain familiarity, even if he does not know exactly what they mean. By teaching Latin to our children, we have the opportunity to show them that the past, and not only the present, is part of who we are. For this reason our ancestors carefully preserved the Latin language for us. Let us not throw away this wonderful gift or leave it to gather dust in the attic but rather pass it on with joy to the next generation.

# On the



## Tradition Revisited

Inspired by a deeply rooted tradition of English schools, but adapted to the local Maryland clime, the System of Houses at The Avalon School is designed to help foster among its students the same chivalrous and noble spirit that was brought here by Lord Baltimore's first Gentlemen Adventurers. By channelling his natural sense of competition toward the service and enrichment of something larger than himself (whether in school-wide contests and festivals or simply in his daily academic work), each boy is able to ennoble both his own House and his School.



### THE STEWART HOUSE

The Stewart Dynasty, which ruled England, Scotland, and Ireland, oversaw England's first successful colonies in the New World, and their names have been enshrined from Jamestown through the Carolinas to Annapolis. James I (Stewart) knighted his former Secretary of State, George Calvert, as the First Lord Baltimore and granted him permission to found the Colony of Avalon in Newfoundland. The next Stewart, Charles I, granted the Charter for Maryland to Cecil Calvert, the Second Lord Baltimore. In honor of these Royal Founders, Avalon's Stewart House bears on its coat of arms the royal Lion Rampant (from the flag of Scotland, where the dynasty first began), the Horn (as a call to battle or the hunt), and is distinguished by the color Red (the fierce color most traditionally reserved for royalty).



### THE CARROLL HOUSE

The Carroll family, an early and influential Catholic family from Colonial Maryland, supplied not only a signer of the Declaration of Independence, Charles Carroll of Carrollton, but also the first American Bishop, John Carroll. Both of these men provided regional and national leadership before, during, and after the Revolutionary War, and John Carroll's influence is credited with having helped to insure the religious liberties enshrined in the new Federal Constitution, when only four of the thirteen States had chosen to do so in their own. In honor of this family that so strongly contributed both to the forming of Maryland as a State and to the very character of the Nation, Avalon's Carroll House bears in its coat of arms the Double-Headed Eagle (the embodiment of one eagle symbolizing the Gospel of John and the other, the American Eagle), and the Star (a symbol of Christian Hope), emblazoned on a background of Blue (the color of loyalty, peace, and the heavens).



# House



## The Houses

The Houses themselves are named in honor of men or families whose indelible mark helped form the character of Maryland: Stewart, Calvert, Carroll, and Washington. Every boy, as well as every member of the faculty and staff, is placed in one of these four Houses. Brothers, and eventually sons, will automatically be placed in the same House.

## Symbolism

The coat of arms borne by each House shares both its essential form and one symbolic color with The Avalon School Crest: gold for nobility or black for humble constancy. However, each House also bears in its coat of arms another color and symbols that represent the character or contributions of the family for whom it is named.



## THE CALVERT HOUSE

George and, later, Cecil Calvert (the First and Second Lords Baltimore) established Maryland as a colony in which Catholics and Protestants could enjoy mutual religious freedom – a concept of tolerance that would be shared by neither England nor her other colonies until the establishment of the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights. With both the Colony of Avalon and the establishment of Maryland, their efforts represented not only a spirit of adventurous courage but also a sense of Pilgrimage to a land that might afford men the free practice of their faith. In honor of Maryland's founding family, Avalon's Calvert House bears on its arms the Ship, symbolic of the Ark and the Dove that brought Maryland's first colonists, and the Shell, which is a traditional symbol of pilgrimage. This house is distinguished by the color Green, which according to tradition was borne by King Arthur in his own coat of arms and is symbolic of Ireland, where the original town of Baltimore that gave the Calverts their title is located.



## THE WASHINGTON HOUSE

Although not from Maryland himself, George Washington had close ties with some prominent Maryland families, including the Carrolls, which contributed to the formation of the character that so formed the nation itself. His friendship with John Carroll was demonstrated on a number of very public occasions and, in light of their quite distinct backgrounds, can perhaps be seen as a symbol of the new unity that both were helping to forge out of the various former colonies. Washington's influence on all of the new States of the United States, in any case, can hardly be overstated, and his decision to found the new nation's Capital on land given by both Virginia and Maryland only further underlines the influence that he had and continues to have on the State of Maryland. In his honor, then, Avalon's Washington House bears on its arms both the Sword (to represent strong and stalwart leadership in battle) and the Right Hand (for open, sincere, and just rule in peace), emblazoned on its distinct color of Silver (betokening purity and justice).



# Class of 2019 Celebrates at New Campus

*While high school graduation is often seen as an ending, Avalon's preferred term, commencement, harkens to the future. For 31 Black Knights, May 2019 brought both remembrance of years past and celebration of years to come.*

The first event of commencement month, the annual Senior Breakfast, found the soon-to-be alumni feasting on a grand repast prepared and served by the faculty, who later regaled their charges with "The Most Likely to..." winners of the Class of 2019.

Prom preparations from tux to floral offerings soon followed, and the Black Knights of Avalon escorted their ladies to the Kentlands Mansion for an evening of good food, good friends, good memories of other dances through the years, and good vibrations on the dance floor.

Then, all too soon, commencement week was upon them. Thursday's Baccalaureate Mass celebration brought together both Avalon and Brookewood graduates to seek God's manifold blessings on their new endeavors. The mothers of the

graduates also were honored, with each son making his way down the aisle to give a rose and a kiss to mom. Then friends and family adjourned to a brief reception before heading home to rest up for the culmination of commencement week.

Friday evening found the soon-to-be alums gathering in a classroom to adjust ties, smooth hair, and be "pinned" with red rose boutonnieres honoring the school shield and Mother Mary. Outside, Avalon's official bagpiper, Timothy Kirkland, Piper Sergeant of the Washington Scottish Pipe Band, welcomed guests with traditional tunes. Soon the students, led by Kirkland, entered Claridge Room and took their places on the stage. Among the Black Knights recognized were John Paul Alicea, who received the Puno Family Prize in recognition of the graduating senior best exemplifying the qualities





## THE CLASS OF 2019

John Paul Alicea	Korey McLeod
Ryan Barnes	Satchel McKinney
Alexander Bell	Huandong Meng
Daniel Boyle	Vincent Moore
Victor Calvetti	Tyler Nishi
Tobias Contini	Charles Plumb
Joshua Cotting	Salim Samura
Nicholas Gamble	Jason Scott
Seif Ingram	Peixun Shi
Carlo Jones	Todd Simmons
Chase Kimball	Owen Sloan
Khadere Kounta	Paolo Stohlman
Francesco Kushner	Justin Trent
Zhe Ma	Tyler Ward
Matthew Marinucci	Yidi Wu

of great-hearted generosity and cheerful liveliness, Victor Calvetti, who received the Archbishop's Award in recognition of the senior best embodying the qualities of faith and piety in his daily life, and Paolo Stohlman, who received The Cardinal Award in recognition of a student whose academic and personal life exemplifies Catholic principles.

Following remarks made by Daniel Boyle (see next page) and Paolo Stohlman, each graduating student had his moment in the sun as Head of School Kevin Davern outlined the Avalon career of each young man, including victories, defeats, and foibles. Following the presentation of the coveted diplomas, Mr. Tod Sloan, father of Owen '19, gave the keynote address, recounting how the Avalon philosophy would provide valuable guidance for the days, months, and years ahead.

The now-alumni then recessed to the poignant strains of the school's unofficial anthem, "The Minstrel Boy." The topography of the new campus provided a fine venue for an outdoor gathering on a beautiful, balmy evening. The night rang with shared laughter, fond reminiscences, and perhaps a brief moment of sadness as the 31 Black Knights turned toward home and the future.

*Duc In Altum, Class of 2019!*

## COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

American University ♦ Auburn University ♦ Belmont Abbey College ♦ Benedictine College ♦ Boston College ♦ Boston University ♦ C Foscari University, Venice, Italy ♦ Case Western Reserve University ♦ Catholic University of America ♦ Christendom College ♦ Clemson University ♦ Colorado State University ♦ Delaware State University ♦ Frostburg State University ♦ Gannon University ♦ George Mason University ♦ George Washington University ♦ Georgetown University ♦ James Madison University ♦ Lafayette College ♦ Loyola University Maryland ♦ Loyola University New Orleans ♦ Lycoming College ♦ McDaniel College ♦ Miami University ♦ Monmouth University ♦ Montgomery College ♦ Mount St. Mary's University ♦ North Carolina State University ♦ Ohio State University ♦ Old Dominion University ♦ Pennsylvania State University ♦ Radford University ♦ Roanoke College ♦ Rutgers University ♦ Salisbury University ♦ Shenandoah University ♦ St. John's University ♦ Stetson University ♦ Texas A & M University ♦ University of Charleston, West Virginia ♦ University of Dallas ♦ University of Delaware ♦ University of Maine ♦ University of Maryland Baltimore County ♦ University of North Carolina Wilmington ♦ University of Vermont ♦ Virginia Tech ♦ Washington and Jefferson College ♦ Washington State University

## AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS

- *The Puno Family Award: John Paul Alicea*
- *The Archbishop's Award: Victor Calvetti*
- *The Cardinal Award: Paolo Stohlman*
- *6 Advanced Placement Scholars*
- *National Latin Exam: 1 Summa Cum Laude, 1 Maxima Cum Laude, 2 Magna Cum Laude, 2 Cum Laude*
- *3 full D-1 football scholarships*
- *5 partial football scholarships*
- *1 baseball scholarship*



## Excerpts from the Commencement Speech by Danny Boyle '19

I especially thank our teachers here at Avalon. Each of them goes the extra mile for us and always wants you to do well in their classes. They were always available for conversations on any topic. As Father Roberto often says, "I have attempted to teach you, but did you learn anything?" ... I say, yes, we learned. The teachers have prepared us for college and for life and to keep the faith. They set a good example. They want the best for us and I know they will never forget any of us.

Avalon is a unique school. It's a small place where everyone really gets to know each other. It's a school with a familial bond like no other school. I'll miss the Back to School cook-outs, the Festival Days, the trials and tribulations of Murder Ball, the Galas, the Plays with Brookewood, Mr. Tobin and Mr. Gulino's English class film projects, Mr. Bostick's "extended" class periods and Mr. Tom Stroot's booming voice....

To my classmates, when I came here in eighth grade, thank you for breaking me in as soon as possible.... Thank you, and best of luck in whatever future endeavors you may have. To borrow a quote from William Shakespeare's Henry V's St. Crispin's Day speech:

*"From this day to the ending of the world, but we in it shall be remembered —  
We few, we happy few,  
We band of brothers...."*



Top: Daniel Boyle '19 addresses friends and family.

Bottom: Headmaster Davern shares stories of Tyler Nishi's feats as a Black Knight.

Below: President Richard McPherson (podium) addresses the Class of '19, honored guests, and audience.





# Black Knight Family out in the World

## ERIC, MARK, & DAVID COLLINS CLASSES OF 2007, 2011, 2012

Eric Collins is working in IT.

Mark Collins graduated from McDaniel's College and is pursuing an MBA from Loyola University (Maryland).

David Collins is currently working at the Washington Legal Foundation in Washington, DC. He married Maddie Kramer on August 16, 2019, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Gainesville, VA. He and Maddie are expecting their first child in May 2020.



## TODD JOHNSON CLASS OF 2012

Todd Johnson '12 and his wife, Larice, have one daughter, Trinity, and they currently reside in Baltimore.

Todd works in the banking industry.

## PATRICK STOLL CLASS OF 2013

Patrick married Laura Searles on October 12, 2019, at Damascus United Methodist Church. He currently works at Sirius XM in the Sports Department as an Associate Producer for soccer channel, FC 157.

## JOHN PAUL MCPHERSON CLASS OF 2013

John Paul McPherson married Katherine Arza in December of 2018 in South Florida. Their daughter Eleanor was born in October 2019. They are currently living in Silver Spring, MD, where John Paul is working as a Software Developer.

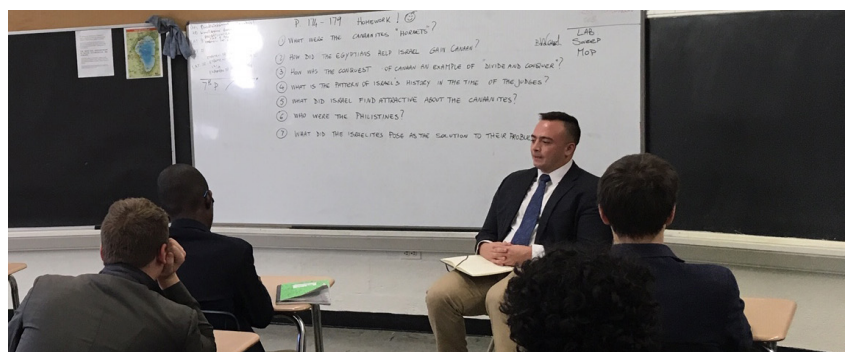


## BILLY KANTOR CLASS OF 2013

Billy studied Civil Engineering at the Virginia Military Institute and currently works at Kiewit Corporation. He will celebrate the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony in May of 2020 with his fiancée Sarah Harpring. They are pictured here with Billy's parents, Elizabeth and Jeff Kantor.

## TOMMY VINCE CLASS OF 2013

Tommy Vince addressed current Black Knights on the transition from Avalon to college. Tommy was a middle linebacker for the Catholic University of America football team. He received a BS in Civil Engineering, BS in Architecture, and an MA in Classical Architecture. Tommy is a designer for David M. Schwarz Architects in Washington, DC.



# Autumn Auction & Spring Gala Come Home



Several years ago, Avalon's administrative team crossed the threshold of the former St. Catherine Labouré School and knew they had found the school's new home. For Avalon and Brookewood President Richard McPherson, the sight of the expansive Claridge Room – including a performance stage – also brought visions of bringing the schools' annual fundraisers, the Autumn Auction and the Spring Gala, out of exile and into the heart of the school.

It took several years and persistent negotiation, but The Avalon School opened the doors of its new location in September 2018. Two months later, the Claridge Room was christened with the first Avalon~Brookewood Autumn Auction. Over 12 hours an army of volunteers transformed the cavernous space into a glittering autumnal wonderland, swathing in fall-hued netting and lighting the banks of 15-foot windows that lined both sides of the hall. The encore event in November 2019 broke records in both attendance as well as proceeds in support of the schools.

Spring 2019 also brought the Avalon~Brookewood Spring Gala home and included a number of alumni parents who returned to share the first Spring Gala on school grounds. The Claridge Room, seating 338 black-tie and begowned guests for a formal dinner, was bracketed by two back-lit eight-foot bow ties reflecting the event's name-- *A Black Tie Knight*--and celebrated the season with a profusion of cherry blossoms adorning the hall. The highlight of the evening, the student-faculty musical revue, featured more than 250 students and faculty singing and dancing on the Avalon stage, to the delight of an enthusiastic audience that included five tables of Avalon and Brookewood graduates. When the time came for

the annual "Paddles-UP," those Black Knights and Bengals were among the first to raise their hands in support of their alma maters and were soon joined by a record number of pledges from friends and family.

"The first Spring Gala on our own campus inspired extraordinary support across the Avalon and Brookewood communities," noted President McPherson. "Our parents and families – both past and present – are and will remain the heart and soul of the schools. Although in past years these two events were held in beautiful, formal locales, I think bringing them home to our campus spoke to the loyalty and support that has inspired the Avalon and Brookewood mission since the beginning.



*The faculty insists "he killed them all with kindness, dear" in their performance of When Johnny Comes Marching Home Again. Next page, top and middle: The young men and women of Avalon and Brookewood entertain a record crowd. Bottom: Just a portion of the alumni and alumnae who attended the 2020 Autumn Auction.*







## BLACK KNIGHTS ON THE MOVE



### GRIDIRON GROUND

**A**ugust 1, 2018. The clock read 5:00 AM. It was a humid 80 degrees, and fog covered the football field. All you could hear was whistle after whistle after whistle as the would-be members of the Avalon Football team ran 2 hours of sprints. That very dedication, sacrifice, commitment, work ethic, and determination would set the tone for the remainder of the season.

"Our program motto is, and will forever be, 'earned not given'," said Head Coach Tyree Spinner. In his program, everything the players attain they will have earned. They put in the time and dedication to make sure that when they achieve even small successes throughout the course of the season, it

is because they made great sacrifice and effort to earn it.

The 2018-19 Avalon Football Program faced yet another daunting schedule. They would face Dematha School, Life Christian Academy, Benedictine Preparatory School, Calvert Hall School, Ballou High School (reigning Washington DC Champions), and cross-town rival Riverdale Baptist School, as well as one of Pennsylvania's top programs in Episcopal School.

The football team finished with a 7-3 record and was ranked #19 in Maryland and #789 in the nation, the highest final ranking The Avalon School Black Knights have ever achieved. "With great work, sacrifice, and commitment come great results," observed Spinner.

The 2018-19 Avalon Football Program had much to celebrate, not just their final ranking. The graduating class finished with several stand-outs and with 14 out of 16 seniors going on to college to continue their academic and athletic careers, most of them on athletic scholarships.

Our Black Knights will leave Avalon well prepared by the faculty, administration, coaching staff, and community of parents to go out into the deep and face any challenge.

*Jayden Ashby – Gannon University (Div. 2)*

*Alexander Bell – Gannon University (Div. 2)*

*Deandre Clifton – Monmouth University (Div. 1)*

*Aaron Gibson – University of Charleston, WV (Div. 2)*

*Carlo Jones – James Madison University (Div. 1)*

*Amir Jordan – Robert Morris University (Div. 1)*

*Khadere Kounta – Old Dominion University (Div. 1)*

*Joshua Mackall – Glenville State University (Div. 2)*

*Satchel McKinney – University of Maine (Div. 1)*

*Korey Mcleod – Monmouth University (Div. 1)*

*Vincent Moore, Jr. – Shenandoah University (Div. 3)*

*Jason Scott – Gannon University (Div. 2)*

*Todd Simmons – University of Charleston, WV (Div. 2)*

*Tyler Ward – Stetson University (Div. 1)*





*Coach Dulic poses with the Black Knights basketball team after the Bishop Walker tournament.*

## BASKETBALL BUILDS CHARACTER

The Avalon Black Knights Varsity basketball team, defining success as being the best it could be, experienced much success in the 2018-19 season, in which it welcomed a new head coach, Quinton Dulic. Setting the theme for the season as "Loading," the players recognized that though they had not yet reached their full potential, they could set a goal of getting better by one percent each day. Over time those one percents "loaded up," so by season's end, the team was much better and further along than anyone had expected.

One high point of the season was beating arch-rival The Heights on their turf. The atmosphere was electric: a packed gymnasium, not an empty seat, with fans lining the walls. It was a great night for high school basketball, and the victory was particularly sweet.



Another high point was the opportunity to play in tournaments featuring some well-respected programs from our area. The Xaverian Classic, hosted by Our Lady of Good Counsel High School, pitted the Black Knights against top competition and provided valuable experience. At the Bishop Walker tournament, hosted by St. Albans, the Black Knights walked away with the consolation championship trophy, and Avalon's own Jack Boyle was named to the All-Tournament Team.

At the St. Andrews Holiday Invitational over winter break, the Black Knights played against the Kiski School from Pennsylvania as well as St. Andrews, both of whom were ranked in the top 10 by the *Washington Post*.

The team finished the season at the 76th Annual St. Anselm's Tournament. Avalon, a frequent winner of the tournament in past years, fought all the way to the finals, playing St. Anselm's in the championship game. The atmosphere was charged, with most of the Avalon community present to cheer on their team. Fighting back from a halftime deficit of 30 points, the Black Knights cut the lead to six before time ran out. With just one Minute more, who knows what might have happened. *(Cont'd on next page)*

## BLACK KNIGHTS ON THE MOVE

Because of the players' hard work and commitment to improvement, Avalon finished the season with an overall record of 13-11, the first winning season in several years. Team Captain, junior Jack Boyle, led the team in points and rebounds. Point guard Imani Anderson led in assists and steals. Jordan Robinson took the lead in blocks and was second in rebounds. Justin Trent and Ryan Richardson led the team in three-pointers.

The season's success could not have happened without the constant, unstinting support of the Avalon community of families and friends, who not only attended the games but also provided transportation to practices and games. That kind of positive energy is vital to any successful program, and we're grateful we have been able to lay a solid foundation for a culture of success in coming years. Go, Black Knights!

## SEASON PRIMES BLACK KNIGHT BASEBALL FOR SPRING



It was almost like any other season for Avalon baseball. An up and down March led to improvements in April and ultimately to the team catching on fire, winning their final nine contests in May and finishing with a 23-6 season.

However, there was a different vibe as Avalon's baseball team went into their final game of the spring season against Scotland Sports Campus. The sun shone intensely on Kelley Park, the temperature was ideal, and few clouds hung in the sky. It was a perfect May afternoon, yet it marked the first time since the inaugural year of the program, 2004 the Black Knights weren't playing their final game in a playoff.

"It was definitely a strange feeling that last game," said coach Patrick Duffy. "Normally you're feeling all the excitement and anxieties that lead you up to an important bout with your season on the line, but not that day."

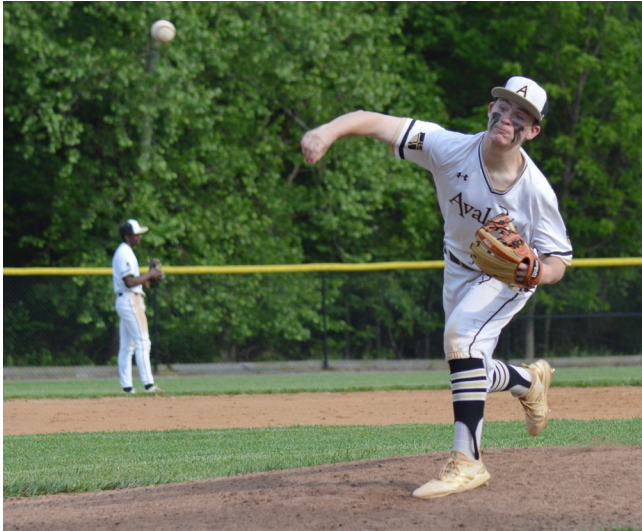
It was just another game on the schedule for Avalon, a team with nine championships in 15 years.

So without a postseason tournament to compete in, the Black Knights had only one thing left to do: play for themselves.

"We made a decision as a team early on in the season that no matter what we were going to challenge ourselves every game," coach Duffy continued. "The goal may not be for a trophy like most seasons, but we wanted to see how many wins we could tally and, more important, whom those wins were against."

Avalon, in its 16th season, took the challenge to heart and recorded its highest win total in team history as they came out victorious in 23 of their contests. Their finish included a 23-6 record with victories over Georgetown Prep, Landon, St. Mary's Ryken of the WCAC, St. Anne's Belfield, former Old Line Conference rival St. Maria Goretti, and postgrad teams Mercersburg Academy and Scotland Sports Campus. Their loaded schedule also had them playing games against Gonzaga, Gilman,





*Patrick Knapp took charge on the mound during the 2019 season.*

McNamara, and Sidwell Friends.

At the core of the team's success was a group of young men who truly loved playing with each other. On or off the field the group stuck together and found ways to stay positive despite setbacks and injuries.

"The team was tremendous, and it felt like a family," said outfielder Tri Duc Dinh, an international student who saw his first action this season. Dinh stroked his first career hit against the NOVA Lions and smacked a double versus St. Anselm's later in the season.

Leading the way for the Black Knights was fourth-year starting shortstop Seif Ingram. On a team with many new faces, Ingram's leadership helped the team gel. The Lafayette attendee commit also displayed dazzling defense the entire season and helped pace an offense that finished the spring with a .332 team batting average.

"Going into my senior year we lost a few good players, but we were able to find a way to put together an even better team," said Ingram, a Wheaton native. "I wanted to make the most out of the opportunity and to continue to grow the Avalon baseball program's reputation."

Ingram compiled 15 doubles and two triples, hammered his first two career home runs, and batted .413. He even pitched on the mound, going 2-1 with three saves and striking out 24 batters in 14 innings.

"At the end of the season the boys talked about how much they loved playing with each other," said coach Duffy. "I credit Seif with bringing those boys together and showing them

the ropes."

While Ingram led the team on the field and at the plate, Patrick Knapp took charge on the mound. Projected as the team's number three pitcher, the sophomore right hander soared to the top of the team's pitching rotation.

"[Pat] painted corners," said Avalon pitching coach Charles Devereux. "He has the same arm action on all his pitches, and he changes speeds well."

In 51 innings pitched, he struck out 46 batters and only walked 12. His 6-0 record topped all Black Knight pitchers; in addition, Knapp saved two games. He became such a reliable arm that he took to the hill in 16 of the team's 29 games. He made seven starts and nine relief appearances.

"It's like he had ice water in his veins," said coach Duffy. "It didn't matter the situation or who we were playing ... he just wanted the ball."

On that final day of the season, with the Black Knights clinging to a two-run lead, it was only fitting for Knapp to get the ball in the fourth inning. He gave Avalon three strong innings to help keep the lead. Knapp eventually gave way to Ingram in the final inning. Seif sent Scotland down in four batters and retired the season for Avalon.

There wasn't a dog pile after this win on the final day of the season. No postgame trophy ceremony or media interviews. Still, the team jumped with excitement as the final out was recorded on a ground ball to first base. Players and coaches took pictures after the game and celebrated on the field with family.

The players may not have earned a shiny prize that day, but it was a championship season nonetheless. By setting the bar high and crushing those goals together, the team showed that hard work and collaboration really do matter.



*Shortstop Seif Ingram led the team both on the field and at the plate.*



## BLACK KNIGHTS ON THE MOVE

### INTO THE DEEP

Avalon's Middle School Swim Team took to the pool at Holton-Arms School in Bethesda for the Private School Middle School Swimming Championships in both 2019 and 2020. About 15 teams from throughout the region compete for the coveted championship trophy each year.

Avalon fielded eight swimmers at the 2019 meet, with the Black Knights posting 80 percent best times. James Kolf '23 led the effort with 100% best times, most notably an astonishing ten-second drop in the 50-yard freestyle. His brothers, John and Greg, boasted 100 percent best times as well, with John dropping ten seconds in the 100-yard individual medley and Greg dropping six seconds in the 50-yard breaststroke. A true family effort.

Other swimmers with 100 percent best times included Michael Sieger and Alec Hawley. Rounding out the team were Quentin Walsh, his brother Christopher Walsh, and Peter Bronzi.

Five Black Knights returned to the event in 2020. The biggest improvement of the morning was turned in by Cullum Ray in the 100-yard individual medley, dropping from 1:57.12 to 1:37.64. Newcomers Ben Alicea and Kristian Krawiec were a welcome addition, with Krawiec the fastest Avalonian 50-yard freestyler. Patrick Stroot and Greg Kolf ably rounded out the 2020 team.

The Avalon swim team focuses on personal improvement and sportsmanship. The boys cheered each other on during each event and congratulated their teammates on improved times and effort. Afterwards, they retired to Potomac Pizza with coach Tom Stroot for the telling of heroic tales and overcoming of obstacles during the morning meet, a satisfactory conclusion to the day's event.



*Patrick De Marchi '20 goes for the goal*

### AVALON SOCCER SEASON

The Avalon Varsity Soccer Team finished the season with a record of 10-5. This year could best be described as a comeback season. After a few rough games, the team bounced back and finished the season strong. Although three seniors won't be returning next year, the majority of the team is young and promising. We can expect that the team will continue to mature and reach new heights in the coming years.



*The 2020 Avalon swim team from left to right: Ben Alicea '24, Greg Kolf '25, Kristian Krawiec '26, Patrick Stroot '26. Not pictured, Cullum Ray '26.*



# Annual Poet Laureate

## CARROLL HOUSE SWEEPS TOP HONORS AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL POET LAUREATE COMPETITION

Poetry is alive and well at Avalon, as demonstrated by the annual Middle School Poet Laureate Competition, held each February. In 2019, Carroll came full-throttle into the game, knocking all other House competitors out of the ring for the top prizes.

Adriano Ratti '25 claimed the Laurels and the title Middle School Poet Laureate with a powerful recitation of the Old English epic *Beowulf*. Anton Parker, the 7th Grade champion, competed with a moving rendition of "The Revenant" by Billy Collins, U.S. Poet Laureate 2001-2003, and 8th Grade champion, Karcsi Teleki, wowed the crowd with a performance of "The Destruction of Sennacherib" by Lord Byron. Both took home Certificates of Merit.

Sixth grader, Greg Kolf greatly warmed the hearts of audience and judges alike with "The Cremation of Sam McGee" by Robert W. Service. His presentation earned an Honorable Mention for himself and Stewart House.

Special kudos go to Middle School literature teachers, Mr. Matt Stroot and Mr. Gil McPherson, who inspire and guide their students' journeys through the poetic canon.

*Below, Middle School winners with teachers Matt Bronzi, Matt Stroot, and Gil McPherson (left to right): Bronzi, Poet Laureate Adriano Ratti'25, Greg Kolf, Anton Parker, Karcsi Teleki, and McPherson*



*Above, Lower School winners with Head of School Kevin Davern (left to right): Mason Robinson, Oliver Bilinski, Poet Laureate Patrick Stroot, Rohen Sandhu, Marino Mosely, and Davern*

## MASTERS OF THE MUSE AT LOWER SCHOOL POET LAUREATE COMPETITION

The 2019 Lower School Poet Laureate Competition demonstrated the recitation chops of Black Knights in grades 3 to 5 in front of an enthusiastic audience of family and friends, with five students receiving special recognition.

At the end of the evening, Patrick Stroot '26, wore the laurels after being crowned the 2019 Lower School Poet Laureate. Patrick recited Roald Dahl's satirical take on the three little pigs aptly named, "The Three Little Pigs."

Certificates of Merit also were bestowed on class winner Mason Robinson, class winner of the third grade, who recited William Blake's "The Tyger," and fourth grader Oliver Bilinski, who recited Hilaire Belloc's "Matilda." Patrick Stroot was also awarded a Certificate of Merit for the fifth grade. In addition, recitations by fifth graders Rohan Sandhu and Marino Moseley received Honorable Mentions for their efforts. In total, a fine showing for the Lower School.



# Avalon Adventurers

## THE INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM AT AVALON

*The International Student Program continues to bring young adventurers from around the globe to the Avalon campus.*

Summer saw the Avalon's first International Camp, which hosted ten students from China. The camp focused on ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) and sports. The one-week program allowed students to improve their English proficiency, as well as their knowledge and skill in American football, soccer, baseball, basketball, and field hockey. The success of the camp should translate this summer into an expanded international program, featuring a STEM Summer Camp.

In September 19 students hailing from China, Vietnam, Mexico, and Spain joined the ranks of Upper School Black Knights. Most of them will attend Avalon through graduation. In addition, short-term students from Italy and Guatemala studied at Avalon for eight weeks during the first semester, brushing up on their English skills and expanding their cultural literacy.

Most of our international students live with Avalon families and are fully incorporated into its day-to-day life, including the families of School President Rich McPherson and Head of School Kevin Davern. Students live, eat, celebrate holidays, and often vacation with their American hosts. Host families, as well as the school, in turn, seek to expand their guests' knowledge of American history and traditions. Among the most common adventures are visits to historic sites such as the White House and Arlington National Cemetery, where Avalon students recently laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, as well as trips to Kings Dominion, Busch Gardens, and other regional attractions.

At school, a number of the students play on Avalon sports teams – especially soccer – and the majority join their peers on stage for the annual play production and Spring Gala, giving them a unique chance to improve their language capabilities in drama and song!

While students from China historically have dominated the international program, Avalon, with its reasonable tuition, academic rigor, and family orientation, continues to seek qualified students from around the world to enrich both their experiences and those of their fellow Black Knights. Avalon and its families always have their doors open and offer a warm welcome.



*Pictured left: Avalon's international students bring their skills and enthusiasm to basketball summer camp.*

*Pictured right: International students experience history and enjoy themselves during a visit to the White House.*



# SUPPORT THE AVALON SCHOOL



*The mission of The Avalon School Advancement Office is to secure resources for the present and future operation of the school. This undertaking is accomplished by building relationships through organized activities designed to engage and attract support from the school's constituencies. Our connections with current and alumni families, donors, businesses, and foundations provide the life-blood and base of support to achieve fundraising and enrollment goals for the school.*

## JOIN US FOR OUR EVENTS

<b>September</b>	Back-to-School Cookout
<b>October</b>	Lower School Halloween Party
<b>November</b>	Autumn Auction
<b>December</b>	Alumni Basketball Game
<b>January</b>	Brookewood Alumnae Tea
<b>March</b>	5K Fun Run
	Lower School and Middle School Poetry Contests
<b>April</b>	Spring Gala
<b>May</b>	Pilgrimage
<b>June</b>	Avalon Alumni Soccer Game
	Brookewood Alumnae Field Hockey Game

## WAYS TO GIVE

### **DUC IN ALTUM FUND**

Unrestricted gifts to the annual *Duc in Altum* Fund help meet the school's ongoing needs, including faculty salaries, co-curricular activities, testing, books, fees, and maintenance of the buildings. These funds become a part of the operating budget.

Restricted gifts are designated for a particular project, such as the athletic program, the Avalon Players, scholarships, or a particular interior renovation project.

### **IN MEMORIAM GIFTS**

A gift made in memory of a deceased relative, classmate, or faculty member may be designated for the scholarship fund, or a special project, subject to approval.

### **IN HONOR GIFTS**

A gift may be made in honor of the accomplishments of a living teacher, student, or alumnus and can be designated to reflect a specific interest.

### **SECURITIES**

A gift of securities, stocks, or bonds entitles the donor to an income tax deduction; a gift of appreciated securities may also reduce capital gains tax liability\*.

### **BEQUESTS**

A bequest is a gift made through a will. It can be a percentage of an estate, a fixed dollar amount, or specific personal property or real estate. A bequest will reduce the size of the taxable portion of an estate and may lower federal estate tax liability\*.

### **DEFERRED GIFTS**

Various trust and other forms of deferred gifts offer immediate and long-range tax advantages and benefits for both your family and The Avalon School\*.

*\*Consult your attorney or financial advisor for specific information tailored to your circumstances.*



# AVALON

O, Avalon, where land to wetness tends,  
Surrounding Glastonbury and its tower,  
Where Joseph, one of Jesus' nighttime friends,  
Had stuck his staff and it began to flower!

O, Avalon, where Arthur met his death,  
Borne out upon the water grown quite high,  
When, wounded, he had no fight left or breath  
So he could not with dark disorder vie!

O, Avalon, George Calvert's early dream--  
A place where men in harmony might live,  
First set in North Atlantic's frigid stream,  
Then moved to land his sovereign king did give!

O, Avalon, enchanted name to keep  
Us strong as we put out into the deep!

*Joseph W. McPherson*  
*Provost*