

THE AVALON MAGAZINE

for alumni, friends, and family



SPRING 2021

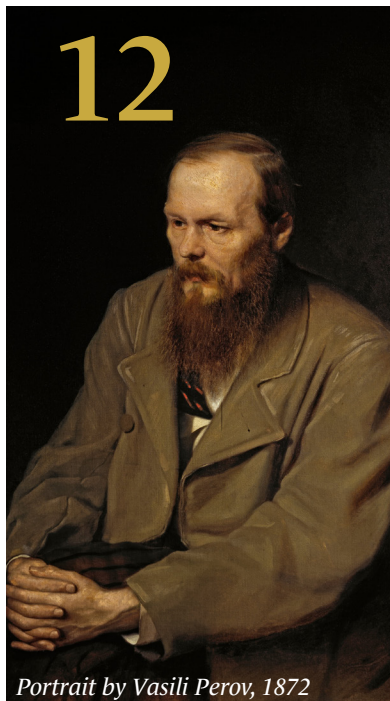


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the Avalon School

Spring 2021

THE AVALON SCHOOL

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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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From the President

RICHARD MCPHERSON

It was October 2002. I vividly remember my brother Joe calling me from Switzerland with news that Pope John Paul II was adding five new mysteries to the rosary—the Mysteries of Light. We talked for a few minutes, and then I went to the Vatican website and downloaded the Apostolic Letter. The very first paragraph grabbed me. It so perfectly encapsulated the *telos* for our schools:



Rich McPherson speaks to students at Avalon's feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

To 'set out into the deep' in order once more to proclaim, and even cry out, before the world that Jesus Christ is Lord and Savior, 'the way, the truth, and the life' (Jn 14:6), [is] the goal of human history and the point on which the desires of human history and civilization turn.

John Paul had previously written in his apostolic letter "On the Third Millennium" that the words *duc in altum* "remind us to remember the past with gratitude, live the present with enthusiasm, and to look to the future with confidence."

That day—October 16, 2002—almost a year before we opened, *Duc in Altum* became the motto of The Avalon School. I have meditated on the Gospel passage (Lk 5:1-11) where *duc in altum* comes out of the mouth of Jesus Christ, and I see how each verse gives us an image of the virtues we aspire to:

V. 4: "When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, 'Put out into the deep and lower your nets for a catch.'"

V. 5: "Master, we have been hard at it all night long and caught nothing; but if you say so, I will lower the nets." Peter gives us an exquisite example of a profession of faith and obedience.

V. 6: "Upon doing this they caught such a great number of fish that their nets were at the breaking point. They signalled their mates in the other boat to come and help them." The disciples show us the importance of helping those in need and of friendship.

V. 8: "At the sight of this, Simon Peter fell at the knees of Jesus saying, 'Leave me, I am a sinful man.'" Peter shows us the necessity of humility before the Lord.

V. 10: "Be not afraid. From now on you will be catching men." Jesus Christ spreads peace to his followers and equips them with power to spread his word and peace to others. This passage also contains Brookwood's great motto, *Nolite Timere*.

V. 11: "With that they brought their boats to land, left everything and became his followers."

We need to become his followers too. God asks much of us, even leaving everything for Him!

This Gospel reading is a beautiful example of the virtues we have tried to inculcate in our students since the beginning. And we will continue to do so.

The Avalon School's first day of school was September 3, 2003. Perhaps a great sign was the Gospel reading for that day: Luke 5:1-11.

Duc in Altum!



Avalon Ad Hoc from Head of School

KEVIN DAVERN

Avalon opened its doors on September 3, 2003, to 103 boys in grades three through nine. We've found deep water in both expected and unexpected places over the succeeding 17 years: finding an opening location then moving the school four times in the first six years of its existence, the Great Recession of 2008 and its aftermath, and a demographic contraction of school-age children that constituted a perfect storm for independent schools. More recently, of course, we found deep water in the form of COVID-19.

We set out to found a school that would be academic, masculine, and cheerful, and these remain the watchwords of The Avalon School. But they flow from deeper questions: Why teach and what should be taught? Who is being taught and who should teach them? Why do we have schools? Why do we put our children in schools? Why is there an Avalon School in Wheaton, Maryland, in 2021?

I would like to point out a fundamental and essential aspect of the Avalon experience, the thing that enables the teachers truly to work with the boys here: the small size and family orientation of the school, not simply the class sizes. While we keep the class size to about 15 boys here at Avalon, we think having a small school even more important than having small classes.

It is the small size of the school that allows for teachers to know each boy personally, and personally to develop a rapport with the student's mother and father—the young man's primary educators—so that, as parents, they can effectively delegate their authority and influence to their son's teachers.

It's also the small size of the school that has allowed us to adjust well to the COVID shutdowns last year and to develop a workable plan this year. COVID-19 has to end sometime, but the benefit of small schools—especially for boys during an era where excessive screen-time blots out friendships—will endure.

If we could break up large schools into small schools, how many more point-guards, pitchers, and varsity quarterbacks would there be? How many more leads in the play? How many more editors of the school newspaper? How many more winners of school poetry competitions and heads of houses?



“We set out to found a school that would be academic, masculine, and cheerful, and they remain the watchwords of The Avalon School.”

Today in 2021, in Avalon's 18th year, we still hold to *Duc in Altum*. We still have our founding vision: we aim to pass on truly good, true, and beautiful things, we strive to pass on these things to boys and young men that we can help become the type of men you'd like your daughters to marry, and we do these things amidst an enduring optimism rooted in the knowledge that God is Our Father and He sent His Son to redeem us. In short—despite everything—Avalon is truly academic, masculine, and cheerful.

Duc in Altum.

News Travels Fast

Avalon's 2013 Alumnus Patrick Stoll builds on an Avalon education for a career in Sports Communications at Sirius XM

by Ellen Clifford

Patrick Stoll '13, Associate Producer at SiriusXM FC Soccer Channel 157, began honing his craft as a journalist a decade ago on the school's student newspaper, *The Avalon Chronicles*. Originally writing sports coverage for the Avalon athletic website, he was soon drafted by the newspaper's faculty sponsor, Pat Duffy, to cover ALL Black Knight sports for the school community. "Covering sports throughout the school year, I learned under Mr. Duffy's tutelage to write fast, tight articles," he observes. "It was great training, and I hit the ground running in journalism school."

Since leaving Avalon, Stoll's route to on-air sports

producer has followed a clear trajectory. In the Honors Humanities program at the University of Maryland, he majored in broadcast journalism with a concentration in sports journalism, and his capstone project addressed racism in international soccer.

He also interned at a number of local media outlets, including WJLA/ABC7, WDVM, NBC Sports Washington, and SiriusXM. Following his graduation, he earned a coveted position as an associate producer at SiriusXM FC, channel 157, and now is the number 2 on two broadcasts, *The Football Show* and *Grumpy Pundits*. Both shows, which air Monday—Friday from 7 a.m. through 12 p.m., are hosted



Stoll's work at SiriusXM has included working on several shows, including *Grumpy Pundits* and the *Football Show*, both featured on XM's Soccer Channel, FC 157.

Pat (left) and his brother Kevin '16 get ready for Pat's wedding. Pat married Laura Searles in October of 2019.



In Spring of 2017, Pat celebrated his graduation from the University of Maryland, College Park with his father, Richard, his brother, Kevin, and his mother, Catharine.



by British sportscasters based in London, who cover the European Football (soccer) leagues, including Britain.

Each morning finds Stoll in the Sirius Washington office by 6:30 a.m. His duties as the associate show producer range from running the all-important audio board to developing guest ideas, to post production work from home that includes pulling interview and game highlights for promotional ads and the audio library, and posting interviews on the SIRIUS app and website.

It's a job he loves.

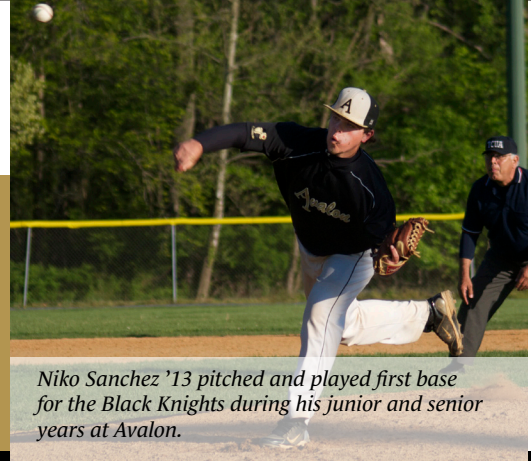
THREE FAVORITES

Soccer Team
AC MILAN

Novel
GAME OF THRONES

Podcast
PARDON MY TAKE

Thinking Outside THE BOX



Niko Sanchez '13 pitched and played first base for the Black Knights during his junior and senior years at Avalon.

Avalon's 2013 alumnus Niko Sanchez opened his training facility, Training HQ, bolstered by family and Avalon community members.

by Glencora Pipkin

“Freedom: it's the theme of my time at Avalon and the theme of my own work right now.” —
Niko Sanchez, founder and owner of Training HQ in Rockville, Maryland

Niko Sanchez graduated from Avalon in 2013, and within five years he carefully planned and opened his business, Training HQ (www.traininghq.com), in the Spring of 2019.

Sanchez transferred to Avalon his junior year, and those two years helped build the foundations for his future business. While in public school, he had been coached by Avalon teacher Patrick Duffy, who convinced Sanchez to make the switch to Avalon and the Black Knights.

“Coming to Avalon marked a crucial point in my life,” Sanchez explains. “In Montgomery County, there's this expectation that boys would just sit still and not get dirty. It felt like I came to an entirely new place when I arrived at Avalon. They understood what it was like to be a boy. [Avalon] helped me to dream and not to be bogged down by my failures/

potential obstacles. I was free to be me.”

Growing up, Sanchez played baseball with his two brothers and his father. Sports, and in particular baseball, was his “comfort space.” He bonded with his siblings through play; he learned how to deal with failure and how to work towards goals; and he learned how to strategize and innovate.

At Avalon and in college, Sanchez saw how integral sports were to education and vice versa. “Baseball can be an avenue to take you places, but without school, it's not enough. You need to understand math and English; writing and understanding math are the two most important things you can do,” Sanchez emphasizes. He especially noted how Coach Duffy's journalism class gave him

the freedom to write about what interested him.

Instead of going to a corporate job after graduating from Marymount University, Sanchez began creating his own business. While he considered his own experience as a baseball player and coach, he found that there was a need that wasn't being filled. He saw that coaches needed different spaces

“[Avalon] helped me to dream and not to be bogged down by my failures”

(left) Tommy Sanchez was a big inspiration to Niko from the beginning of his business and continues to be a major support.



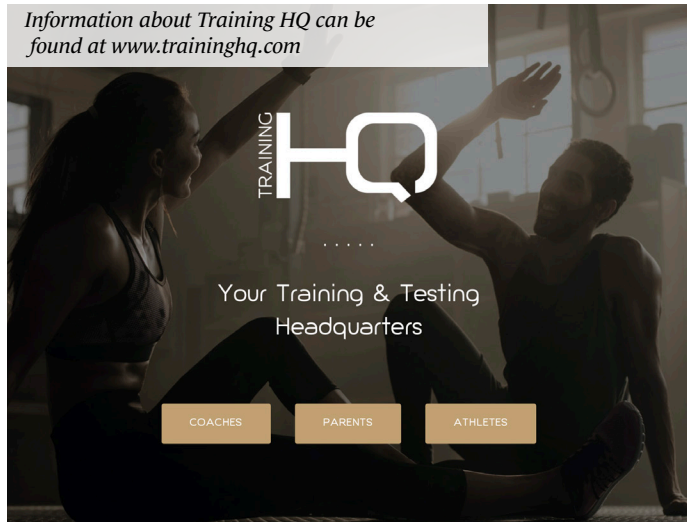
and flexibility to have training sessions. He saw that parents wanted to know that their child was, in fact, improving from his/her training sessions. And he saw that players needed concrete measures to help improve their performance, and they needed coaches to have the best tools available. Sanchez then created a business plan with his partner at the time, a father of an athlete he coached, considering all the ways they could run a successful training facility tailored to flexibility, freedom, and more accountability. Their strategy would be to “give the coach every single tool he needs so that he can best help the player,” a strategy built on the idea that best serving others can strengthen a whole community.

The Avalon community has supported the business since its inception. Coach Duffy, who was instrumental in bringing Sanchez to Avalon, now has his Avalon athletes use Training HQ as a space for workouts. Sanchez consulted his brothers, Avalon alumni Bennie '09 and Tommy '14—while creating the business. Tommy has also served as a creative support for Niko. Anthony Durbin, a former Avalon student, works as a contractor for Training HQ.

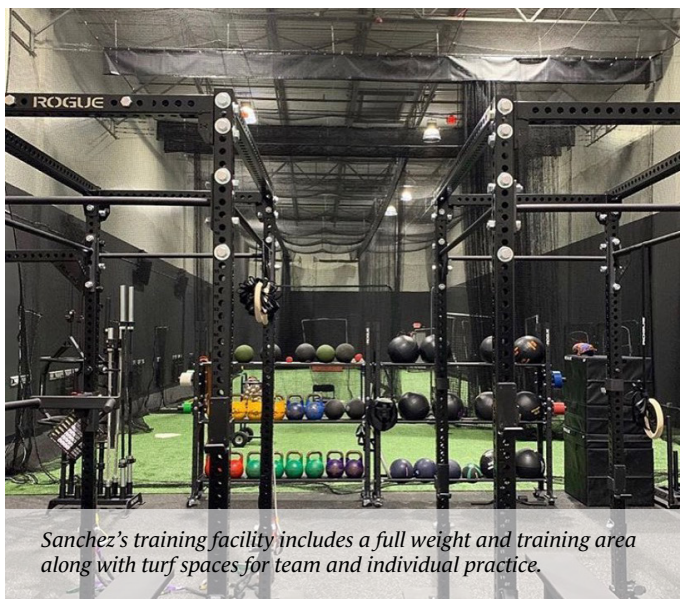
Training HQ opened in the spring of 2019, and just a short year in, Sanchez has already found ways to adapt to the difficulties of the pandemic: “The shutdowns forced us to look at our business model and allowed us to build back-end systems which could deliver lessons to kids. We learned that something as simple as creating a cleaning regimen or asking parents to fill out forms online could make a great deal of difference.”

When asked what kind of advice Sanchez has for current students, he responds, “Don’t be afraid to take risks. You fall and—guess what?—you get right back up!”

Information about Training HQ can be found at www.traininghq.com



On September 6, 2020, Niko married Kacie Townsend in Leesburg, Va.



Sanchez’s training facility includes a full weight and training area along with turf spaces for team and individual practice.



Avalon's 2007 alumnus Will Acevedo learns the value of hard work and perseverance

by Margaret Hawley

At a time when all things are unexpected, it is comforting to know that the coronavirus pandemic is not the first time we have had to live with the unknown. Avalon's motto *Duc in Altum* encourages Avalonians to cast out into the deep, take chances, and welcome unfamiliar challenges everyday.

William Acevedo '07 is a testament to this way of life—one that involves embracing hard work, resilience, and the reality of the persistence of change.

At age fifteen, Acevedo practiced these principles and began working for his parents and extended family in their catering business, which continued through his college years. Following Avalon, he initially attended Montgomery County Community College with the intention of becoming a biomedical engineer. He soon realized that his passion lay elsewhere and switched his major to criminal justice, entertaining hopes of joining the police force in some capacity. During his senior year of college, he accepted an internship in

the records department of the Montgomery County Police Department (MCPD).

"You can't be too prideful," [Acevedo] said. "You have to get down in the ditches and do the grunt work that nobody else wants to do, especially in the beginning."

"The work was tedious," he observes, but he persevered, despite being denied a position as a police officer. "You can't be too prideful," he says. "You have to get down in the ditches and do the grunt work that nobody else wants to do...especially in the beginning."

Acevedo credits his family and the Avalon community with the work ethic and resilient attitude that gave him many opportunities for professional and personal improvement. Following his internship, he began work full-time in the

MCPD records department, where he spent the next few years. Then, the MCPD's Director of Technology became aware of his work and asked if he wanted to learn the ins and outs of the department. Acevedo jumped at the opportunity and began splitting his time between the records department and the technology department, where he was learning everything anew. "Again, more grunt work," he says,

smiling, “But I didn’t mind.”

His willingness to work in two departments and his mastery of new materials and systems resulted in an offer for him to move permanently to the tech department (run out of a double-wide trailer off Seven Locks Road). Acevedo adored the work.

It was wonderful “being challenged and stimulated again and being able to effect a change,” he remarked. Acevedo’s perseverance and hard work continued to pay off. He was in a position where he had the flexibility to be creative with his solutions and to exercise his autonomy.

Acevedo now works at Motorola, as the CAD (computer-aided dispatch) systems manager for MCPD. He is the “go-to guy” for any technology issues with police and fire dispatch. In this new job, he says, “People’s lives are on the line.” If “something’s not working right,” he has to provide an answer and a solution as quickly as possible.

When asked how he manages his new responsibilities, Acevedo responds that what serves him best is “being genuine with people and creating real relationships.” In doing so he has built a strong support system. Perseverance, hard work, an attitude of service, and genuineness are some of the traits that Acevedo uses every day in the work world. Armed with these values, Acevedo approaches life with an attitude reflecting the values of a *Duc in Altum* education.

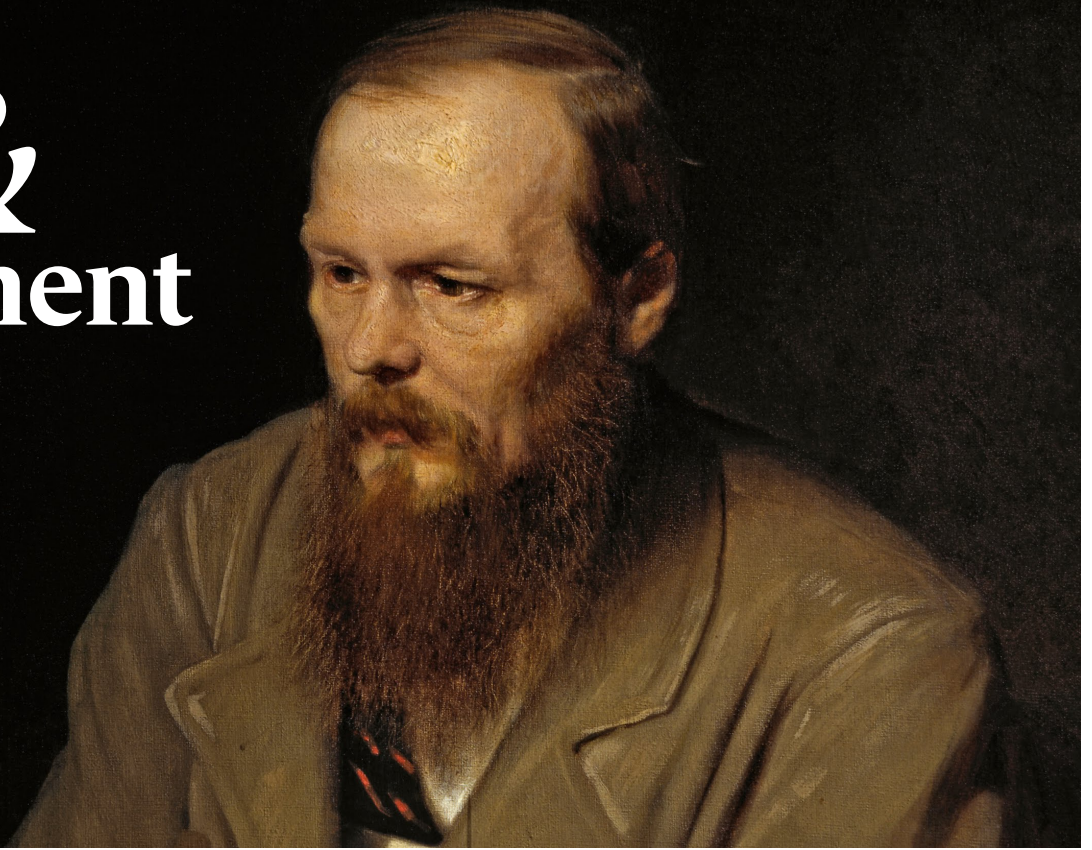


Above: Acevedo delivers the salutatorian speech during his graduation, the first class to graduate from Avalon.

Below: During Acevedo's senior year, he participated in the Avalon a capella group, pictured here singing the national anthem at Frederick Keys Stadium before an Avalon game. Left to right: John Danley, John Buhl, William Acevedo, and Mr. Dan Corey.



Crime & Punishment and Sherman McCoy



By Tom Tobin

It is common to hear the claim that “great books” are only the arbitrary selections of the past that live on because they provide cultural markers for those who wish to move in elite circles. One must know certain references or be exposed as a coarse parvenu. Sadly, this can be the case. Think of poor Maria Ruskin, the working class mistress of bond broker Sherman McCoy in *Bonfire of the Vanities* by Tom Wolfe. She foolishly let out that she did not know who Christopher Marlowe was. Her sophisticated lover, Sherman, never would have made such a mistake because although he knew nothing about Marlowe, he had learned “after nine years at Buckley, four years at St. Paul’s, and four years at Yale, that you were, in fact, supposed to know who Christopher Marlowe was.”

What makes a work of fiction great is not that it provides these markers, but that it is beautiful and it sheds light on human experience. Although even the most sophisticated and learned readers will disagree about how to apply these criteria in evaluating a

particular work, the criteria should not be abandoned for something less. Furthermore, the individual teacher of literature should select works that, for him, resonate with these qualities, lest he contribute

to his students’ suspicion that reading classics is simply part of the education of a Sherman McCoy.

Here I must just come out and say it: the work that moves me the most after twenty years of teaching AP Literature is the one about the ax murderer and the wise and gentle prostitute: Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*. It is a powerful work that really plumbs the depths of the heart and emerges in a

dawn of redemptive love. Dostoevsky energetically engages the ideas of his time, and with a deep and sound intuition, foresees the tragic destinies of the ideologies that were beginning to grip the hearts and minds of his countrymen. Yet it is a novel of ideas that never succumbs to propaganda or proselytism because his concern is how ideas affect people in their

“What makes a work of fiction great is not that it provides markers [of the elite], but that it is beautiful and it sheds light on human experience.”

real struggles of life. The cold, inhuman utilitarian logic that infects the poor, desperate student Raskolnikov is never refuted by a counter-argument. In fact, Dostoevsky draws a scenario where the theory actually seems close to reasonable. The idea is refuted by what it does to this man who has the courage and will actually to live by it. Having traded the natural bonds of love that properly shape our moral sense for a presumptuous moral calculation of an action's effects, he ends up in agonized isolation. Even the renunciation of his idea is not in itself a redemption. That only comes when he surrenders in front of the relentless, merciful love of another. The exploration of ideas in the novel is fascinating, but ultimately no idea triumphs. Abstract descriptions of what will ultimately set all things right give way to the humble heart that accepts a love that is freely given.

This novel is also so much more than a novel of ideas. It is a clever backwards detective story filled with wild and bizarre characters who somehow manage to remain quite believable. There are scenes of intense drama, beguiling symbolic dreams, and powerful dialogues. It is a genuine and moving love story with an uplifting conclusion. Filled with intensity, artistry and profound insight, any aspiring Sherman McCoy should feel ashamed of himself for merely knowing that he had to know about it.



Above: Tom Tobin congratulates Luca Contini for being named winner of Avalon's Best Short Story of 2019.

Mr. Tobin's Top Ten Post-Avalon Reads

Avalon alumni, are you looking for a good book to read outside of the excellent books you read while at Avalon? Mr. Tobin has some great suggestions (in alphabetical order):

- 1 *The Age of Innocence*
by Edith Wharton
- 2 *The Betrothed*
by Alessandro Manzoni
- 3 *Burial Rites*
by Hannah Kent
- 4 *The Buried Giant*
by Kazuo Ishiguro
- 5 *The Cypresses Believe in God*
by Jose Maria Gironella
- 6 *The End of the Affair*
by Graham Greene
- 7 *A Gathering of Old Men*
by Ernest Gaines
- 8 *Love in the Ruins*
by Walker Percy
- 9 *The Possessed*
by Feodor Dostoevsky
- 10 *A Prayer for Owen Meany*
by John Irving



CAMPS *in Corona*

Or How Avalon's Summer Camps Navigated COVID-19
with Courage and Resourcefulness

by Istvan Teleki

Avalon's Summer Program has been offering students from kindergarten through senior year opportunities to engage their minds and bodies in a fruitful and fun way since the school's first summer in 2004. From Math Boot Camp to sports camps, to Natural History Camp, there has consistently been a variety of offerings for students to choose from in order to augment their summer fun and to advance their academic or athletic abilities.

The Summer Program's camps are more than just a way to occupy the idle time of children who may otherwise be sucked into more brain-thwarting screen time. The camps are a unique opportunity for Avalon's Black Knights

and friends to spend time with some extraordinary teachers in a setting that extends beyond the walls of the ordinary classroom experience. And these teachers so love what they do that they are willing to

put in additional work before and during the summer to provide an enriching and entertaining experience for their campers. Many parents register their children knowing that this added time with a beloved teacher will positively impact their son's or daughter's future development, more than even a camp's specific activities will.

Last spring, the arrival of COVID-19 not only cruelly curtailed classes for the remainder of the spring semester, but also threatened to rip the summer's activities out of the hands of Avalon's dedicated teachers. Not to be deterred in their

"The camps are a unique opportunity for Avalon's Black Knights and friends to spend time with some extraordinary teachers in a setting that extends beyond the walls of the ordinary classroom experience."



Pictured counter-clockwise from top: Gil McPherson leads his Guitar Camp for Avalon and Brookewood students. 9th grader Jacob Nerstheimer and 8th grader Jozsi Teleki practice their skating skills with Matt Hand during Hand's Long Boarding Camp. Christian Morash holds a cicada he found during a natural history insect hunt.



efforts to offer something valuable to our families, our intrepid summer program counselors and administrators began researching state, local, and federal guidelines that would impact the running of a summer program.

Thanks to the grace of the Holy Spirit and the courage of families who wanted their children to live as normal a summer as possible, these efforts were rewarded with a successful summer program. Many adjustments had to be made, and some programs had to be canceled outright. However, as the dust settled, most of Avalon's camps remained in play.

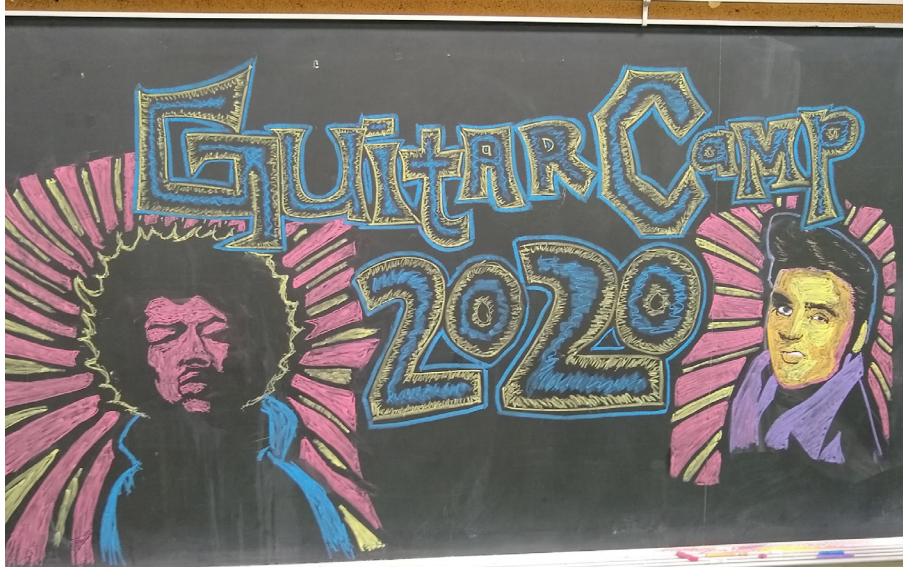
In Natural History Camp, Mrs. Adele Kolf, Mr. Gil McPherson, and I led adventurous future scientists out into the world to turn over logs and rocks in search of the next cool insect, reptile or amphibian. Creek walking, hiking, and insect hunting were some of the camp's core activities. Without the aid of transportation, all the camp's activities took place on campus or in Claridge Local Park right next door. Fortunately, there was plenty to be seen, collected, and identified.

Mr. Tom and Mr. Matt Stroot continued their efforts to combat mathematical ignorance and augment numerical knowledge in Avalon's Math Boot Camp. Highlights were Donut Fridays and excellently designed custom t-shirts commemorating the era of math camp in COVID-19 times.

In Latin Camp, Magister Kevin Oriani, Avalon's resident classicist, strove to deepen the boys' understanding of ancient Roman life by building swords, shields, and siege equipment, while feeding his troops traditional Roman rations and snacks. After winning them over with food and weaponry, he deepened their lingua Latina skills with readings and dictations for translation.

My basic and advanced Strategy Game Camps, Mrs. Yvonne O'Neill's beloved Arts and Crafts Camp and Reading Camp, Mr. Duffy's Soccer Camp, Mr. Jeff Kantor's Writing Camp, and Mr. Gil McPherson's Guitar Camp rounded out the old guard of camp offerings.

Rather than shrinking in the face of coronavirus, this summer even managed to feature some pioneer



camps in Avalon's Summer Program. Ms. Barbara Gagliotti and Mr. Tom Tobin bravely began a Brookewood Bengal Softball Camp. Their efforts were rewarded with nearly unprecedented first-year success boasting a robust group of 15 campers.

Mr. Matthew Hand's proposal of a camp to teach the art of "carving the concrete," namely Longboarding, seemed at first like a long shot. However, his perseverance in generating enthusiasm got the camp off the ground, and his passion continues to impact daily life at Avalon as many boys now regularly ride longboards at break times.

In Tolkien Exploration Camp, Mr. Jim Bostick, thane of Avalon's house system and avid Tolkien fan, shared his library and his personal insights into the mysteries of how Tolkien uncovered from the depths of his mind the world of Middle Earth and shared it with the rest of us in *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings*.

Mrs. Cherie Walsh and Ms. Andrea Francois kept

it academic with The Pen is Mightier writing camp, helping boys and girls of varying grade levels to enhance the quality of their written work.

Ms. Judy Kearns, Brookewood's resident art teacher, brought her skills to the young people in our very first Outdoor Art Camp conducted chiefly out-of-doors under tents, before COVID-19 regulations allowed us to use classroom space. St. Joseph's watchful eye mercifully kept the inclement weather at bay for most of the week.

Ultimately, it was a banner season for Avalon's Summer Program and all in a year when one may have expected the opposite. The need for living life within a community, rather than in isolation, drove teachers, parents, and campers to engage even more fully with our schools' mottos, putting out into the deep and being not afraid to brave the potential hazards of camp in the time of coronavirus.

Without a single case of COVID-19 or coronavirus-



related illness, the summer program successfully tested the waters for opening the school on a larger scale during the school year. Thank you to all of those parents, teachers, and administrators who made this particular and peculiar Avalon Summer Program a reality. *Duc in Altum et Nolite Timere!*

Pictured on left page (counter-clockwise from the top): Gil McPherson's chalkboard for Guitar Camp featuring the King and Jimi Hendrix. In Istvan Teleki's Strategy Game Camp, Adriano Ratti makes a move during a game of Mansions of Madness. In Barbara Gagliotti and Tom Tobin's Softball Camp, Grace Tifford helps show lower school girls how to throw and catch.

Pictured on this page (counter-clockwise from the top): Students in the Natural History Camp use their nets to catch minnows and other creatures. Lucy Teleki examines a luna moth during Natural History Camp. Ella Bostick sketches outside during the Art Camp.

The Class of 2020 COMMENCEMENT

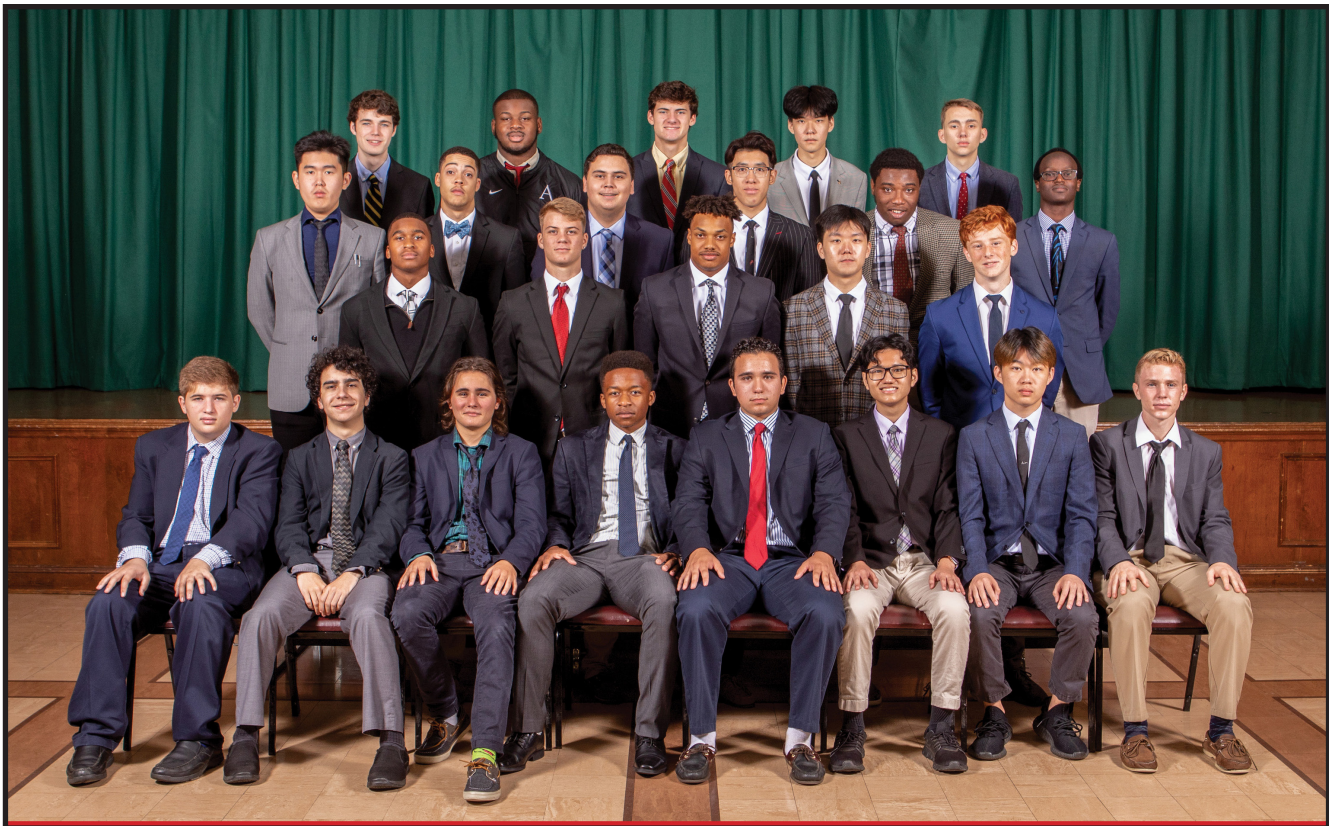
by Ellen Clifford

For the Class of 2020 and their families and friends, the Avalon commencement was a day of deferred expectations. A day not to be missed, was missed by many. A day locked in a COVID-19 present, looked to an unknown future. A celebration of boyhood, marked a day of adult acknowledgments. *Duc In Altum*, indeed!

On Friday, July 10, thirteen members of the twenty-six young men who comprised the Class of 2020 gathered (six feet apart) at the church of St. Catherine Labouré on the Avalon campus for a commencement like no other in the history of the school.

Spring had not brought the annual celebrations of the Gala student revue, prom, the Senior Breakfast, and May graduation events. But Headmaster Kevin Davern and the faculty who shepherded the class through their careers as Black Knights were determined to honor their students at the completion of their Avalon years. Working with Fr. Francesco, pastor of St. Catherine Labouré, and with an eye on evolving COVID-19 restrictions and precautions, Avalon obtained the church for the earliest date possible.

Unlike past years, the Baccalaureate Mass and Commencement ceremony were combined into one event, and the usually large audience of 150-200 was this year limited to immediate family. As the seniors processed down the aisle, teacher James Bostick led the faculty in a moving rendition of the school's rite-of-passage song, "The Minstrel Boy," in lieu of the traditional piper.



THE CLASS OF 2020

Yasin Abdallah
Tianfang Bai
John Edward Boyle
Minh Chu
John Patrick Collins
Thomas Joseph Davern
Darnell Lamont Davis

Jose De Buerba
Patrick Andrea De Marchi
Bennett Deshishku
Duc Tri Dinh
Miguel García Manzano
William James Hawley
Brandon Lamont Hilliard

Cleland Eliot Hodges
Cameron James King
Nicholas Alexander Laboy
Quingren Liu
Yunxi Liu
Sebastian Maximo Mann
Patrick Brady McElhaney

Eduardo Roberto Ponce
Christian Ronan Sorensen
Chazz Mateo Wallace
Kaiwen Wang
KunPeng Yang



*Thomas Davern,
recipient of the Puno
Family Award*



*Patrick De Marchi,
recipient of the Cardinal
Award*



*Will Hawley, recipient of
the Puno Family Award*



*Nick Laboy, Avalon's first
Ivy League student, full
football scholarship to Cornell
University.*

But the welcome by Headmaster Davern was warmly given and received, and the Mass, celebrated by Avalon's own Fr. Roberto Amoroso, bound the congregation together. Before the Headmaster's entertaining assessment of each senior and presentation of diplomas, senior Will Hawley addressed his peers, and the annual Puno Award and the Cardinal's Award were presented. Thomas Davern and Will Hawley were the recipients of the Puno Award, which acknowledges the graduating seniors who best personify the enthusiasm and dedication of one of Avalon's founding families. Patrick De Marchi was the recipient of the Cardinal's Award which celebrates the senior who best demonstrates those Christian values at the core of a Catholic—and Avalon—education.

The Keynote Speech was given this year by Mr. Kevin Boyle, father of Danny Boyle, Avalon '19, and Jack Boyle, Avalon '20. After assuring the audience that he would only speak for five minutes and relating amusing anecdotes of famous (and infamous) commencement speeches, Mr. Boyle addressed the core challenges of adulthood: "Decisions. Decisions informed by virtue ... a habitual and firm disposition to do good."

He went on to explain his and his wife, Maureen's, decision to send their two sons to Avalon and how the qualities on which they based that decision affect every student:

[After attending our] first Open House, I left with one impression: these are the gentlemen I want my boys to be surrounded by in these critical years of their development ... (and maybe I'll fire up a few cigars with them at some point). These are strong gentlemen educators who allow (the students) to be boys yet challenge them to become men ... The decisions I'm talking about go right back to that Open House ... What type of people will you choose to associate with? People who make you a better man? People who allow you to make them better? People you are proud to be seen with? What type of people will you lead? Will you follow? Are these the people who will help you achieve your ultimate goal ... heaven?

Mr. Boyle closed with a short list of tips for the graduates (see pg. 21) and counseled that they "should eliminate resentment, retaliation, and revenge from their lives." He joked that these "only cloud your decisions ... well, except for The Heights and the St. Anselm's Basketball Tournament," which met with appreciative applause.

Headmaster Davern then presented a diploma of graduation to each senior and shared a tale or two

of each boy's Avalon years with the audience, including the four international students who were unable to return to this country for the commencement. His closing remarks were evocative of Avalon day-to-day life and how that simplicity can shape the future.

"I have an image for you to consider ... It is an Avalon image," he told the graduates. "The image is that of the Avalon boy engaging in a favorite pastime in one of his native habitats: riding on a RipStik in the Avalon parking lot. This is a common, everyday image," he continued, "and is key because it is in the common, everyday activities of life—family, friends, play, and work—where you will make your life what it is going to be and where you are called to serve Christ ... The boy on his RipStik is an archetypal image of the Avalon boy, and it points to the Avalon man he is called to become ... " He went on to compare the skills required to successfully ride a RipStik with those skills necessary to move forward in life. "Real life is often complex, and like the lad riding a RipStik, you will need to find a balance between the many positions and passions on important questions and the many demands on your time and talents. Like the Avalon boy on the RipStik who doesn't merely stay upright but moves forward to play hockey, you can use the schooling and formation you've received here to move forward in college and beyond." "Deep down," he concluded, "deeper than the desire for smartphones, social media, pleasure and power, you want to move forward because you were created for an end, a telos, what you now know Aristotle and Aquinas called a final cause. That purpose is to be with your Father—the Father—in his house with many rooms, the Father of the Prodigal son, the Father who ran out on the road to welcome back his wayward son. The schooling and formation you have received at Avalon will help you to achieve that end if you apply it and build upon it. I pray that the Father—in his Providence—make up for anything lacking in those of us who have given it to you."

"Now, let's follow the directive of the Son: *Duc In Altum!*"

THE CLASS OF 2020

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Benedictine College • Catholic University of America • Cornell University • Hood College • James Madison University • Monmouth University • Montgomery College • Old Dominion University • Penn State University • Rutgers University • St. John's University, Queens, NY • Saint Louis University • St. Mary's College of Maryland • Towson University • University of Cincinnati • University of Colorado, Boulder • University of Dallas • University of Maryland, Baltimore County • University of Maryland, College Park • University of New England • University of Virginia • Washington and Lee University

AWARDS & COMMENDATIONS

The Puno Family Award: William Hawley
The Puno Family Award: Thomas Davern
The Cardinal Award: Patrick De Marchi
3 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
1 baseball partial scholarship
1 basketball player will play college basketball

Ten Black Knight Characteristics to Carry With You

by 2020 Commencement Speaker Kevin Boyle



1
Train your mind to distinguish the true nature of good and evil.



2
“Enter relationships and decisions with pure thoughts and a pure heart.” – Mother Teresa



3
Never, ever give up or give in on any matter of moral substance.



4
A life of virtue has no room for vice.



5
Practice forgiveness.



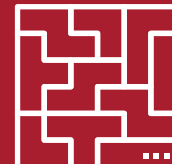
6
Virtue is its own reward; it needs no applause.



7
Do nothing – in public or private – that the people you love would not hold in esteem.



8
Treat women with respect; the respect you show will be the respect you receive.



9
Every important decision has alternatives; think them in the light of what's right.

10

Be a gentleman in all that you do.





ADVENTURES *in*

Avalon quickly adapted its learning capabilities during the Spring Quarantine. Alumni parent Maureen Boyle explores some of the challenges and successes of “tech teaching.”

by Maureen Boyle

The faculty of The Avalon School draws inspiration from 20th century scholar and poet G.K. Chesterton’s insightful words in forming and guiding the school’s philosophy of a well-rounded classical Christian education. This past spring, however, one of the author’s quotes, “An inconvenience is an adventure wrongly considered,” took on an unforeseen and greater significance for Avalon’s teachers and students alike.

When all academic institutions in Maryland closed in mid March to prevent the spread of COVID-19, the faculty and students of Avalon rose to the new challenge, transitioning quickly and without interruption to a creative and effective use of written, live, and recorded instruction on various communication platforms for the nearly 200 students of the all-boys’ school in Wheaton, Maryland.

From a natural history forum in which boys

posted their observations, pictures, or videos of plants and wildlife to teacher Tom Stroot’s weekly YouTube videos offering practical life lessons, such as “How To Cook An Egg,” to a fictional character—Professor Mortimer J. Cromwell who bore a striking resemblance to lower school teacher Istvan Teleki — reading E.B. White’s *The Trumpet of the Swan* – are just a few examples of the faculty’s energy, humor and dedication in creating online lessons with an extra dose of true Avalonian “adventure” for their students.

Tom Stroot, who teaches Upper School math, English, history and religion, said the success of the school’s inaugural remote-learning program is a credit to the commitment and ingenuity of the Avalon faculty, as well as the administration’s trust in its teachers.

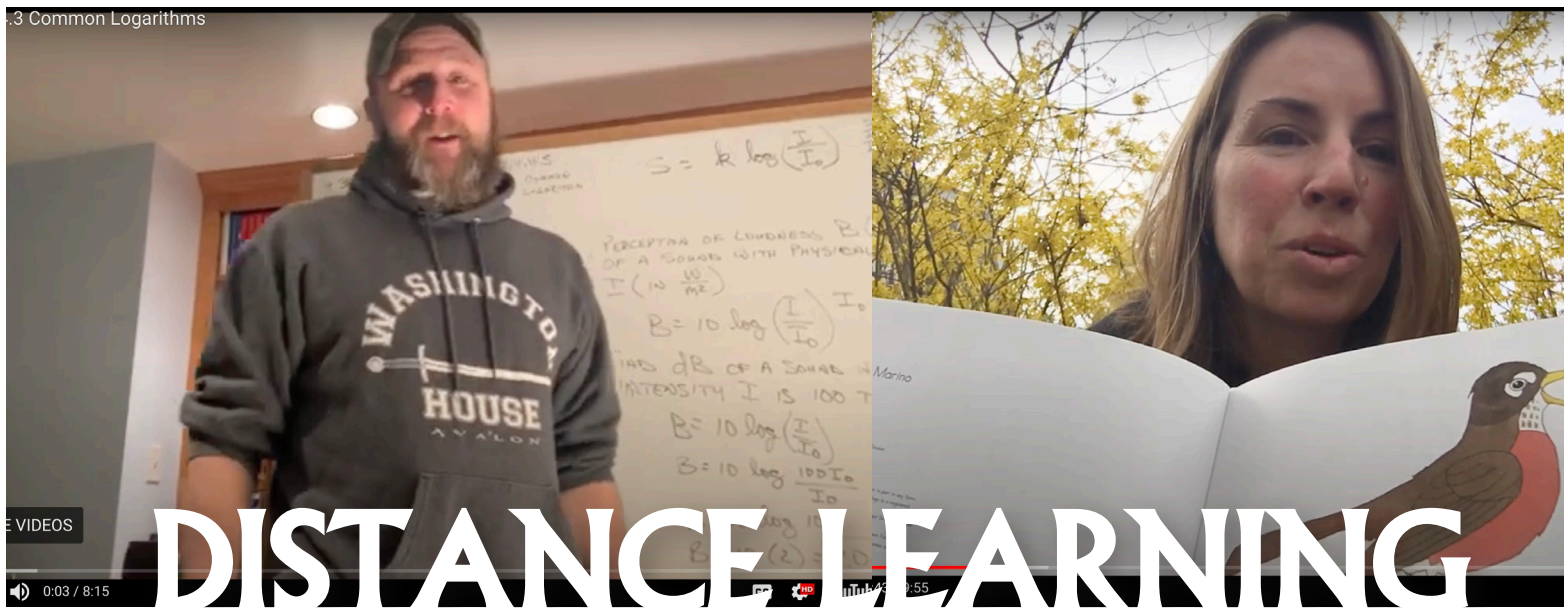
“We were allowed to teach using our individual strengths.

[Headmaster] Kevin Davern said, ‘You know your students. You know our community. Present the material in the way that works best,’” said Stroot,

“We were allowed to teach using our individual strengths. Kevin Davern said, ‘You know your students. You know our community. Present the material in the way that works best.’”

Tom Stroot

Tom Stroot teaches Upper School math and history and has taught at Avalon since its third year



Pictured above are screenshots from Gil McPherson's "Morning with McPherson," Mr. Teleki's "Literature with Professor Mortimer Cromwell," Tom Stroot's straight-shooting trigonometry class, and Adele Kolf's Kindergarten reading time

adding such flexibility allowed for class adaptability and quick fixes if necessary. "The talent of our faculty really shined through."

Avalon's faculty praises the school's gradebook/communications platform, JupiterEd, for its multiple programs, allowing teachers to implement faculty-wide distance teaching tools, as well as customize certain features to meet students' needs and class goals.

Despite the expedited shift to remote learning, the Avalon faculty kept their students on track academically, using platforms such as Google Classroom, Zoom, YouTube and Microsoft Teams—often doubling the amount of time it usually takes in a regular school year—to prepare for and teach online lessons. The faculty also went the extra mile to offer supplemental and remote resources, such as one-on-one screen time academic help for individual students.

English teacher Tom Tobin said although he looks forward to being back in the classroom this fall, he found a few silver linings to Avalon's remote instruction. "I was able to send audio files to each student with detailed instructions about how to revise their papers. I think in some ways it was better than the normal process," he said.

Avalon Headmaster Kevin Davern said the school's smaller class sizes, which serve students

so well during in-person instruction, now became the school's greatest asset and advantage in virtual learning.

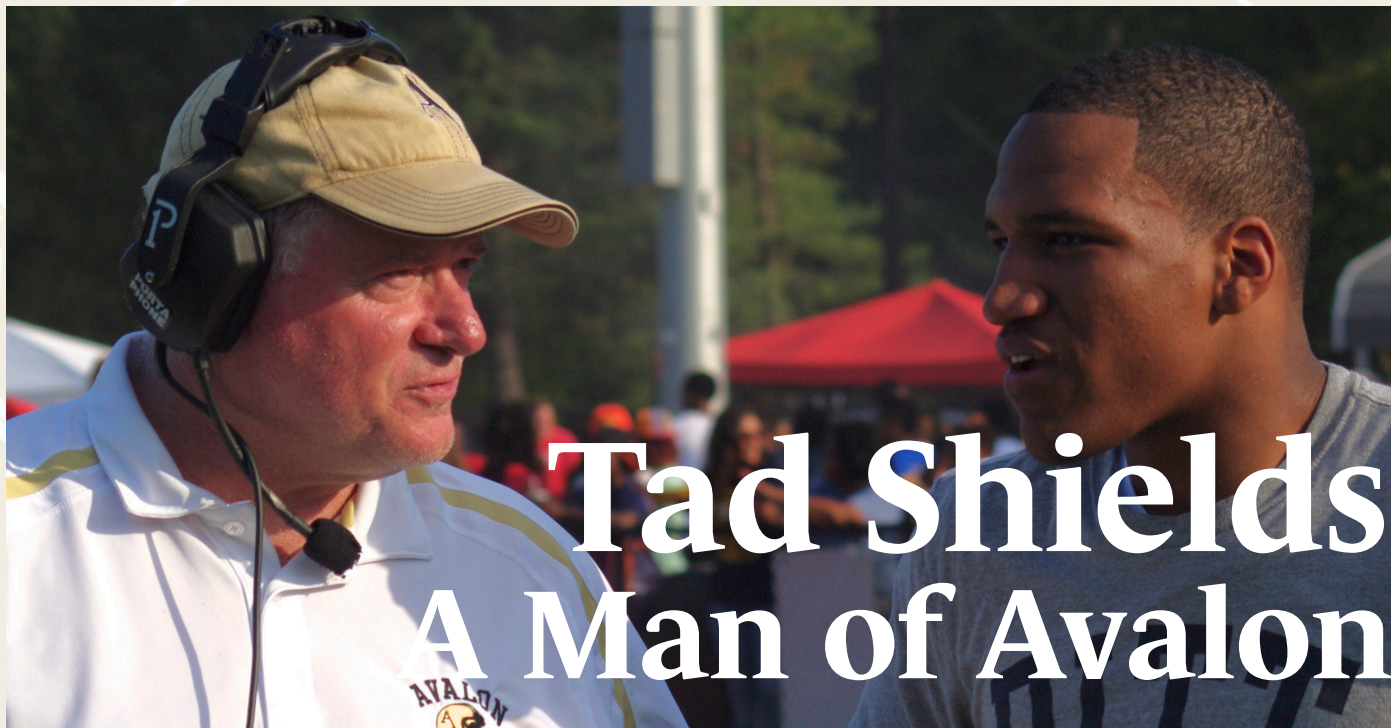
"As a group of teachers in a smaller setting, we know our students very well. And, while virtual instruction will never be as good as in-person teaching, Avalon teachers were able to tailor asynchronous lessons via screencast or on YouTube in a much more meaningful way than a bigger school could have," according to Davern.

"Our teachers did impressive work during the shut-down last school year. Whether it was watching Mrs. Kolf call on each child by name, Mr. Teleki telling young Charlie to tuck in his shirt on a YouTube video, or Tom Stroot in a variety of guises presenting math lessons on a portable whiteboard—the conviction and cheerfulness of the lessons was impressive," he said.

While some local school districts struggled mightily to meet the academic needs of students during the unprecedented shutdown, Avalon School parents applaud the school's faculty for their enthusiasm, flexibility and communication in providing a steady, engaging curriculum in a time of global anxiety.

"It was fun seeing how the faculty got creative in order to engage their students virtually ... The small class sizes at Avalon allowed the teachers to respond more quickly to the needs of their students and

Cont'd on pg. 28



by Ellen Clifford

In June 2019, Tad Shields, Avalon financier, founder, and coach, stepped down from his day-to-day duties at the school. It was, as one colleague noted, “the end of the beginning” of Avalon’s history.

One man’s dream can change a life—and create a school. Nineteen years ago a chance conversation between Avalon President Richard McPherson (then Headmaster of The Heights School) and a parent, Tad Shields (who had a son at the school), evolved from a dream of a new Catholic school serving upper Montgomery County into the reality of The Avalon School. Recognizing that there was not only a need but also a real market for such a school, the two intrepid men, one a successful entrepreneur and one an experienced educator, approached the Archdiocese, located a vacant school building for rent from the County, and the rest is history.

“Without Tad’s business acumen and financial

support, The Avalon School would not exist,” explains McPherson. “He was totally committed to Avalon, serving as its first chairman of the school’s governing body, the Board of Trustees, as well as the first Financial Officer.” Shields, who had recently

sold his successful business—a data communications equipment manufacturing company—was ready for a new challenge.

Among the most satisfying accomplishments of his tenure, Shields can count shepherding Avalon and Brookewood through the 2008 recession when other, more established schools, closed their doors, and bringing Avalon safely through the next decade to its home on the St. Catherine Labouré campus.

Among his most enjoyable were his years coaching the Avalon golf team, baseball team, and most prominently, the JV & Varsity football teams. “I played football in high school and college,” he remembers. “And like 12 years of Catholic education, I believe that football builds character traits in boys that will serve them the rest of their lives.”

“Without Tad’s
business acumen and
financial support,
The Avalon School
would not exist”

Rich McPherson
Avalon President

Shields enjoyed coaching youth football as his two sons were growing up and enthusiastically served as Avalon's first football coach. In 2004 Avalon launched its fledgling football team comprised of freshmen, sophomores then Avalon's highest grade, along with a few 8th graders. It fielded as both a JV and Varsity team. "Nobody knew what to expect of a team that had never played together before," explains Shields. "When Avalon cruised to a 45-0 victory over Model School, [the] shock was palpable." Victory after victory followed, memorably against Sidwell Friends' JV team, which Avalon routed 32-6.

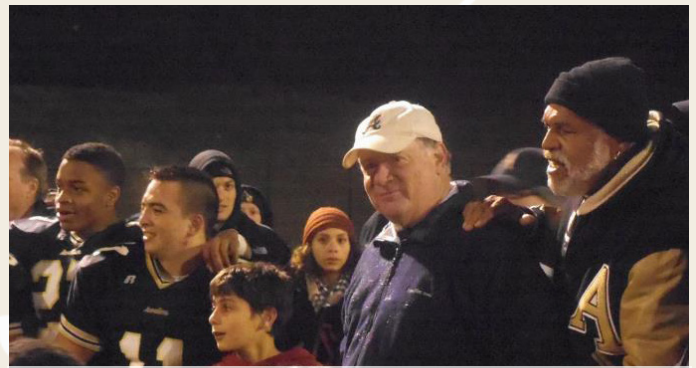
Taking the competition up a notch, the Black Knights met Georgetown Prep's freshman team, whose record of 3-1 against the top private school teams in the area caused pause if not fear. "Prep had more players on the team (including one of Shields' sons) than we had students in the Avalon high school," he laughs. But when the final whistle blew, Avalon had breezed to a 35-6 victory. "Most of Avalon attended the game," he remembers with a smile. "The place went wild." Avalon went on to have only one defeat that season and set the stage for future Avalon victories. Tad himself was named Capital Beltway League Coach of the Year in 2011.

He is particularly proud that many of the players he coached went on to college with full or partial scholarships and that two were included on NFL rosters this season: Trevon Diggs with the Dallas Cowboys and Hinwa Allieu with the Atlanta Falcons (since released). "It's not just their success on the field," he stresses. "They have grown into fine young men; I think that Avalon and football had something to do with that."

Following his retirement, Tad continued to lend his expertise to the school as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for a year. It was a celebration as much as a nod to his years of financial leadership.

There is much Shields can take pride in, but looking back, he observes that the intervening seventeen years had not changed the spirit of the school. Teachers, parents, and kids, remain much the same.

Remembering the school's first Gala in Spring 2004, he says, "There we were, at the finale, teachers and kids standing on a stage, belting out 'Avalon,' parents on their feet, cheering, and many crying, for pride in their sons and the school."



Coach Shields and Coach Ed O'Daniel with the 2013 team



Avalon Faculty 2003-4

"And it hasn't changed. I'm just glad I could be a part of it."

McPherson is confident of having Shields' continued participation in the Avalon and Brookewood communities for years to come. "After all," he notes, "Tad always said to plan for the future, and he has two granddaughters attending Brookewood and a grandson at Avalon!"

Duc in Altum, Tad Shields!

Black Knights → :→ ON THE MOVE :



2019-2020 brought unexpected challenges to Avalon's sports. The soccer, football, and basketball seasons were able to be completed, but the baseball and swimming program did not compete. We look forward to resuming a normal and robust sports schedule for the 2021-2022 season.



Basketball

by Quinton Dulic

Through the ups and downs, the injuries, and tough early losses, the Avalon Basketball team was able to accomplish its main goal, winning the championship at the St. Anselm's Invitational Tournament—the first year Avalon has won the title since 2015. After last season's second place finish, the team, which was led by seniors Jack Boyle and Thomas Davern, was determined to win the famed tournament. It was not an easy task as the first game was against a tough Washington Latin team. The following day, the game against Washington International proved to be even tougher as the game went into overtime. On the last day of the tournament, the Black Knights entered the championship against last year's champions and host school, St. Anselm's Abbey. Although it was competitive early in the game, Avalon's size and depth overpowered the young St. Anselm's squad. The Black Knights also finished the season with significant wins against respected IAC school, St. Albans, as well as Sandy Spring Friends School, champions of the PVAC. Looking forward, the Avalon Black Knights plan to defend their title next season with the return of many veteran players.

Baseball

by Patrick Duffy

On a cold March afternoon, the Avalon Black Knights baseball team completed a scrimmage with Indian Creek School in Crownsville, Maryland. The game ended in a loss, but for a practice game the team felt encouraged by the prospects of another successful season. They had won a school record 23 games the year before and had a senior-loaded team.

It was their only practice game before leaving to play two games in Raleigh, North Carolina, an annual team trip at the beginning of March to open the season. However, a day before the team would depart for the Tarheel State, everything shut down. The COVID-19 pandemic hit and there were no games, practices were canceled, and the season was effectively over.

Little did anyone know that the game in Crownsville would be the only time in 2020 Avalon's baseball team had a chance to compete. Yet, if you ask anyone surrounding the program, they'll tell you the season was a success.

So, the question becomes, how? How is success defined when players and coaches are stripped of their opportunity to showcase their talents? This is the unprecedented predicament the Avalon Black Knights baseball program found itself in during the spring of 2020.

But, when the games aren't played, and teams can't evaluate themselves on wins and losses, you look for the bright spots such as player development, academics, and what the seniors will do after the season. Which is why when all seven of your seniors make a commitment to play college baseball, you've won on an entirely different level. (Cont'd on pg. 28)

WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Updates on the 2016 Black Knights Football Team

Hinwa Allieu - Received Bachelors from University of Nebraska, Kearny and was signed as a free agent to the Atlanta Falcons.

Kimothy Bynum - Received Bachelors from St. Anselm University.

Bryan Castillo - Received Bachelors from Maine University and currently works in Washington, D.C. for ETF Construction.

Trevon Diggs - Received Bachelors from Alabama University and was drafted in the 2nd Round by the Dallas Cowboys. He started as a rookie for the Cowboys and made the All-Rookie team for the NFL.

Blake Dove - Currently finishing his senior year at Bowie State University where he plays running back.

Tully Ervin - U.S. Army Infantry Mortarman in Fort Polk, Louisiana. He is married and has a beautiful baby girl.

Michael Gladney - Finishing his senior year at Shepherd University and is the starting safety for the football team.

Daqwan Hill - Currently in his junior year at McDaniel College, playing running back for the Green Terror. He majors in Social Work.

Grant Ibeh - Received Bachelors from Central Connecticut State University and is now a free agent for the NFL. He has been invited to several team camps for the summer of 2021.

Troy Lefeged, Jr. - Received Bachelors from Utah State University and is currently playing football at Texas State University for his post-grad year. He is ranked Top 15 for Safety Position for the 2022 NFL Draft.

Jaylen Leonard - Played football at Delaware State University. He currently serves as Assistant Manager at Foot Locker in Upper Marlboro, MD.

Axel Nyembwe - Played football at Duke University. He is the Personal Assistant to Zion Williamson of the New Orleans Pelicans.

Yuka Onya - Finishing his senior year at Shippensburg University and is the starting defensive tackle for the football team.

Idris Patterson - Received Associates from Garden City Community College and now works on a police force in Kansas.

Manny Reid - Currently works in the D.C. Metro area for Cutco Company.

Caleb Still - Personal trainer at Powerhouse Gym in Hanover, MD.



“Adventures in Distance Learning,” cont’d from pg. 23

parents, and if something didn’t seem to be working, they’d try something else,” said Erica Hayton, mother of rising Avalon 5th grader Conor.

The transition to remote learning was a challenge for every parent she knows, said Hayton. However, she is grateful for how well Avalon continued, in spite of the “inconveniences,” to provide a strong and “adventurous” education that would make G.K. Chesterton proud.

“Having talked to many parents about their experiences, I am very thankful that my son is at Avalon and appreciate how hard the faculty worked to maintain the strong sense of connection that makes our Avalon community so great,” she said.

“Baseball” cont’d from pg. 27

“We’ve always had success helping our players with opportunities to compete in college, but this is a record for us,” said coach Patrick Duffy. “Seven of seven seniors on the team will play in college!”

Three players made commitments to play at the NCAA division one level, one to an NCAA division two school, one to a National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics school, and two will play at community colleges.

Devon Barnett, a 6’6” left handed outfielder, signed with NCAA DI Virginia Commonwealth University. Barnett had attention from professional teams such as the Los Angeles Dodgers, Pittsburgh Pirates, Milwaukee Brewers, and San Diego Padres.

Infielder Cameron King chose Iona College over other NCAA DI schools such as Radford and Siena.

Arundel transfer Greg Borges will play shortstop at NCAA DI Gardner-Webb. Borges homered in a fall scrimmage against rival The Heights and was also slated to pitch for the Black Knights.

Catcher Joe Lokos, a leader on the team since his freshman season, turned down several NCAA schools to attend NAIA Taylor University in Indiana. The combination of Taylor’s nationally ranked baseball program and strong engineering school were major reasons for the decision.

Lawson Tate, a super utility player, walked on and made the team at NCAA DII Jefferson University in Philadelphia. Tate’s ability to play almost anywhere on the field gave Avalon an edge when he was with us.

Eddie Ponce, despite two hip surgeries, was able to realize his dream of playing college baseball when he signed a letter of intent to play at Montgomery College. Ponce, a 4-year varsity player, will do well for the Raptors.

Jared Hurlburt, a tall hard throwing right handed pitcher, made his college commitment to play at Frederick Community College. Hurlburt was pegged as the college team’s ace, and slated to throw in a handful of their biggest games.

These players join a litany of Avalon graduates who play, or played, in college. Still, for a school which usually has 3 or 4 seniors a year, having seven, all seven, play in college is tremendous.

That’s why, when we think about the 2020 season at Avalon, it won’t be about a big win over a bigger private school, or the diving plays to save a game, or the clutch hit with runners in scoring position against a rival. It’ll be that seven young men came to Avalon with a purpose to realize their dream of playing in college, and they accomplished just that.

It also means success isn’t defined by wins and losses. Success isn’t finite. It is what you make of a situation, and how you overcome it.

Black Knight Family Out in The World



Patrick Hand

Hand '08 is married to Kate (Carter) and has two children, Jackson and Evalyn. Kate is a stress engineer for Boeing, and Patrick is studying for his bachelors of science in mechanical engineering at The Citadel in Charleston, SC.



Pat Hancock

Hancock '09 graduated from Towson University with a degree in film studies. He currently lives in Adams Morgan with his wife, Brooke, and he works as a political video editor at the labor union AFSCME.



Albert Bullock

Bullock '11 graduated from Belmont Abbey College. He currently lives in Laurel, MD, with his wife, Hallam, and works as a Robotic Process Automation (RPA) technician for the Department of Housing and Urban Development in Washington, D.C.



Lohengrin Pepicelli

Pepicelli '11 married Esther Klein of Trumbull, CT, in August 2019, and relocated to New Haven County following a honeymoon in Puglia, Italy. Esther is now expecting a baby girl due in May!



Vincent Petrucci

Petrucci '11 married Hannah Smith on August 29, 2020, in Deerwood, MN.



Phil Corcoran

Corcoran '13, a graduate of culinary school, is now a chef at Thacher & Rye, celebrity chef Bryan Voltaggio's restaurant in Frederick, MD.



Suker Li

Li '14 graduated from The Catholic University of America in 2018. He lives in Baltimore while he pursues a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at Johns Hopkins University.



Dariush Shirvanian

Shirvanian '15 graduated from George Washington University (B.A.) and Georgetown University (M.A.) majoring in cybersecurity. He currently lives in Bethesda and works for ATOS as a cyber-threat hunter.



Black Knight Teaching Alumni

1 Sam Phillips

Phillips served as Director of Admissions at Avalon, as well as a teacher, baseball coach, and extra-curricular event organizer for many years. Since July of 2014, he has been the Director of Admissions at Christendom College in Front Royal, VA. He and his wife, Katie, are the parents of six children: Isaac (10), Margaret (8), Genevieve (6), Henry (4), Charlie (1), and baby number six is set to arrive in July 2021.



2 Louise Fowler

Avalon's first and only librarian, Louise Fowler catalogued more than 1,000 books over the school's first two years before moving to southern VA in 2005. Her son, Nick, an Avalon student, went on to graduate from Seton H.S. and James Mason U. Since leaving Avalon, Louise volunteers as a carriage driver (with a Norwegian Fjord horse) in a program designed for students and adults with special needs. She and her husband, Brock, are active members of the local Chesterton Society and organizers of the Chesterton Reading Club at the Canons Regular of the New Jerusalem Church in Charles Town, WV, where they have had instruction in both Latin and the Church Fathers. They currently participate in courses and lectures offered through the Institute of Catholic Culture.

3 Jason Baxter

After Avalon, Jason Baxter earned his M.A. and Ph.D. in medieval literature at Notre Dame. In 2014 he began working at Wyoming Catholic College, where he currently teaches humanities and art history. He has written four books, including *A Beginner's Guide to Dante*, which is currently being used in high school and college classrooms around the country and has resulted in podcast and radio interviews, as well as an appearance on *EWTN Live*. He and his wife, Jodi, have five children (not all pictured here!), but have continued to travel every non-plague year to England, Italy, Austria, and Spain, experiences he has written about in his popular writing for *America*, *Church Life Journal*, and *Forma*. His new book, *An Introduction to Christian Mysticism: Recovering the Wildness of Spiritual Life*, is scheduled for publication in March 2021.



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.

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 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.

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.

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*.

VOLUNTEER

The front office, the lunch program, and other areas of the school are great ways to give of your time.

AMAZON SMILE

Add The Avalon School as a charity to your Amazon Smile Account.

THE AVALON ARMORY

Buy Avalon gear with our school logos for yourself or as gift. Visit our website for more details.

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



ACADEMIC



MASCULINE



CHEERFUL

the
Avalon School

11811 Claridge Road
Wheaton, MD 20902
www.avalonschools.org



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
(1948-2019)*