



CATHEDRAL  
7-12 HIGH SCHOOL • BOSTON

# 2026 ACADEMIC HALL OF FAME

Meet our Distinguished Inductees

## ANTHONY ELIJAH BELL '12



2012

Anthony graduated from Cathedral as a Distinguished Scholar with a 3.8 GPA, completed a full course load of Honors and AP classes, and ranked third in his class. Anthony was actively involved in numerous extracurricular activities, serving as a Student Ambassador, tutoring fellow students in English, and acting as a student representative on the Board of Discipline. He was named Student of the Year in 2009 and received the Covenant Award in 2010 for promoting racial harmony within the Cathedral community.



Today

Anthony attended Assumption College on a full scholarship, where he earned a bachelor's degree in marketing with a minor in Spanish. He served as a writer and editor for the sports section of the student newspaper and treasurer for the Men of Color Group. Anthony received the "Rising Star" Award as a freshman and was the senior class speaker for the 2016 commencement ceremony. As a first-generation college student, he consistently made the Dean's List and graduated 10th in his class of 1,700 with a 3.9 GPA.

Anthony then earned a master's degree in English from Harvard University, graduating with a 3.8 GPA. He was an active member of the Harvard Black Graduate Student Association, served as a coordinator for the Harvard Black Alumni Group, received recognition for his publications in multiple Harvard-affiliated magazines, and authored three books during his graduate studies. His thesis—a children's book titled *If These Walls Could Talk*—earned a nomination for the Harvard Prize for Most Outstanding Thesis in 2025.

Today, Anthony is a PhD student at UMass Boston, concentrating on Urban Education, Leadership, and Policy Studies. Anthony currently holds a 3.9 GPA, is in active negotiations with several book agents, and is the youngest member of his cohort at just 31 years old. Anthony currently serves as the Assistant Director of Roxbury Community College Connect, a new initiative at RCC designed to enhance the experience of minoritized students. He also leads educational programming for 617Peak, a nonprofit dedicated to helping Boston youth discover their voices through artistic expression.

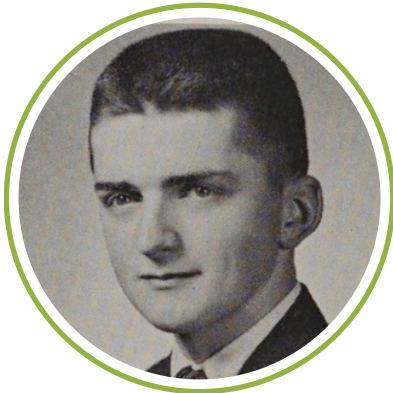


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## THOMAS M. COSTELLO PH.D. '61



1961

Tom graduated from Cathedral High School in 1961 and went on to attend Boston College, where he earned his B.S. in Mathematics. He then attended the University of Maryland, earning his M.S. and Ph.D. in Mathematics.

Tom has had a wonderfully successful career at UMass Lowell. He was first hired by Marty Meehan as the CIO, serving for 14 years, and then asked to become the head of facilities where he served for 15 years as Head of Computer Science. He did not realize he would be doing more than just keeping buildings clean – he was in control of the school's largest discretionary spending budget. In his tenure, he and Marty completed \$600-700MM in campus improvements. Tom drove the creation of the Computer Science major in the late '70s, what is now the largest undergraduate program at the university with about 1,500 majors.



Today

Tom has truly served as a jack-of-all-trades for UMass Lowell, impacting the University far beyond his job description, even dabbling in fundraising by helping to cultivate and solicit one of the school's largest donors in its history.

Tom currently serves as Professor Emeritus in the Department of Computer and Information Sciences at the University of Massachusetts Lowell. He specializes in simulation and modeling, as well as large system definition and management within computer science. He has previously served as faculty and department leader in computing subjects.

Tom is frequently cited by former students and colleagues as an outstanding professor, with many alumni crediting their success to his guidance. Tom is most proud of being a leader in creating a major university.



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## A. VANESSA LA ROCQUE '92



1992

During her time at Cathedral High School, Vanessa was a member of the girls' volleyball team, softball team, and track team. Vanessa was a member of the National Honor Society, Jefferson Forum volunteer program, and Co-President of student government her senior year. She was also a member of the international club, graduation committee, yearbook committee, peer leadership club, prom committee, gospel choir, Spanish club, and newspaper. Vanessa gave back to the South End community by volunteering at Castle Square and through a work-study at Simpson Management Company.



Today

Vanessa went on to graduate from Hampton University with a degree in Psychology, before returning to Cathedral as the head girls' volleyball coach and assistant girls' basketball coach, and working in Cathedral's guidance office as well as founding their recruiting department. Vanessa led the girls' volleyball team to the City Championships and the girls' basketball team to championship tournaments. Vanessa still coaches girls' volleyball, leading the team to an undefeated regular season and a City Championship title.

Vanessa has been working for Boston Public Schools for over 20 years, 16 of which have been dedicated to supporting Special Education students. Vanessa is a well-respected union leader and community activist. She has served as a board member of the BTU Executive Board, Committee on Political Education, Greater Boston Labor Council, and Cornerstone Collaboration. She is also Vice President of the American Federation of Teachers MA and Vice President the A. Philip Randolph Institute Greater Boston Chapter. In 2016, she was selected Paraprofessional Building Representative of the Year. Vanessa currently serves as the Co-Chair of Cathedral's Alumni Association.



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## SISTERS OF ST. JOSEPH OF BOSTON

Cathedral High School was founded in 1926 to serve Boston's large immigrant and first-generation American population. From its inception, the Archdiocese entrusted the Sisters of St. Joseph with teaching and staffing the school. They played a central role as educators and administrators, providing not only academic instruction but also Catholic formation and guidance to students.

For many decades, the Sisters of St. Joseph comprised the primary staff at Cathedral High School. They taught classes, developed curricula, led the school, managed finances, coordinated fundraising, served as spiritual role models, and provided leadership on campus. Their dedication helped shape Cathedral's enduring commitment to inclusive, faith-based education and profoundly influenced the school's character and mission.

It is estimated that over 100 Sisters of St. Joseph served at Cathedral High School, contributing more than 1,500 sister-years of service.

Although the school transitioned to primarily lay leadership and faculty in the early 2000s, Cathedral continues to maintain close ties with many members of the Sisters of St. Joseph.





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## 1976 BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

This remarkable team, led by Coach Joseph Madigan and Assistant Coach Al Brodsky, captured the Catholic Central League championships in 1974 (19-3), 1975 (20-3), and 1976 (25-1). Their lone loss came at the prestigious Catholic Tournament held at Boston College, an invitation-only event reserved for the top Catholic programs in the state. That loss was later avenged with an overtime victory over Notre Dame-Fitchburg in the state championship.

This team featured the original “triplets”, Gregory “Meme” James, Tom Jones, and James Suttles, all 1,000-point scorers. Fans from opposing teams regularly attended games simply to watch this team play, hoping to witness the famous alley-oop from Suttles to James, which alone was worth the price of admission. Over their three-year varsity careers, this core group compiled an incredible 64-7 record.

This team epitomized teamwork, resilience, and family, both on and off the court. Despite not having a home gym, they adapted and thrived, playing in a different home gym each year of their three varsity seasons. The remaining starters were equally impressive: Dwan Chandler, who went on to play at Boston College, and Gary Burke, who transferred after his freshman year and later won a championship with Notre Dame-Fitchburg. As noted in the Boston Globe article following the championships, these players returned home to the South End, where asphalt championships were forged during the offseason.

The names associated with this team are deeply woven into city basketball lore, particularly Suttles and Chandler, both proudly bred at Cathedral and in the South End. The 1976 Varsity team was comprised of Dwan Chandler, Anthony Latson, Leonard Washington, Carlton Williams, Gregory James, Tom Jones, Gary Burke, Anthony Woods, Keith Dawson, Carnell Suttles, Charles DeLoatch, and James Suttles.





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## PAUL CHISHOLM, TRUSTEE & SUPERFAN



Paul Chisholm is a living legend at Cathedral High School. During his remarkable 30+ year relationship with the school, his leadership, generosity, and deep commitment to Cathedral's mission have helped shape, transform, and strengthen its future in lasting and inspiring ways.

The list of Paul's contributions to Cathedral is both long and impressive. He has served as Board Chair, Head of School, Director of Admissions, Trustee, Mentor, and more. For decades, he has prioritized his support for Cathedral's mission. His impact extends throughout the city of Boston and across many important Catholic initiatives. His work is widely known and deeply admired. The spirit of generosity reflects both Paul and his wife, Margie.



In the business world, Paul built an exceptional career, highlighted by his decade-long tenure as CEO of Ricoh. He has also served on influential boards, including Babson College, further demonstrating his leadership and commitment to service.

Tonight, however, Paul is being honored for what may be his most cherished role: Cathedral High School's ultimate Super Fan. In Cathedral's 100-year history, no Trustee has invested more time, shown more consistent support, or demonstrated greater passion for our athletic program than Paul. Whether through leadership, mentorship, or generosity, his impact on Cathedral Athletics has been extraordinary. Most notably, Paul has built a lasting connection with students through his presence at games. He can often be found sitting among students and fans, cheering on the Panthers, encouraging student-athletes, and showing his genuine care and pride. His enthusiasm and dedication have made a lasting impression on generations of Cathedral scholars.

There is no one more deserving to be named the first-ever Super Fan to Cathedral High School's Athletic Hall of Fame.



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## DESHAWN GIBBONS '06



2006

DeShawn grew up in Roxbury and was raised by his grandmother, Barbara Gibbons. During his time at Cathedral, he was a 4-year varsity basketball player and was honored with the MVP title 3 times. He received the All-Herald, All-Globe, and All-American awards and was a 1,000-point scorer. DeShawn was a fantastic teammate and led his team to the State Championship in the Catholic Division. The team won the state title without playing a home game all season, as the new gymnasium was under construction.



Today

After his time at Cathedral, he received a full scholarship to play basketball in college. He played for Massachusetts Bay Community College (2007-2009) and LIU Post (2009-2011). At Mass Bay Community College, he scored over 1,000 points and was named a First Team All-American and National All-Star Team selection. After graduating from LIU Post, he played professional basketball overseas in Spain and Australia. His professional teams include: Reus F.C. (Reus, Spain), Shepparton Gators (Shepparton, Australia), and Team Santa Cruz (EuroBasket S. League).

After his professional basketball career ended in 2016, Gibbons founded the organization "Prove Them Wrong (Bigger Than Basketball)" (PTW The Association). PTW is an elite basketball skill development and mentorship program for boys and girls in grades 3-12. The program focuses not just on athletics but also on teaching vital life skills such as discipline, consistency, accountability, and resilience, using the game as a vehicle for personal growth. His personal mantra is "I didn't let my roots direct my route," emphasizing that background should not determine future potential. The core values of PTW are Commitment, Integrity, and Grit.



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## MACKENZY LAINE '05



2005

Mackenzy was Cathedral's football captain for all 4 of his years on the team. During his sophomore year, the Cathedral football team won their first game in several years. He had over 100 tackles every year, achieved 200 tackles his junior year, and was the team leader in sacks, tackles, and assisted tackles all 4 years. He won several football awards during his time at Cathedral, including the coach's award, team MVP in 2004, and Catholic Central League All-Star in 2004.

Mackenzy was also a member of the varsity track team during his junior and senior years. During his senior year, he won 2nd place in shot put in the CCL Championship Meet and 1st place shot put in the TCL Championship Meet.



Today

Mackenzy went on to play football at Curry College for his freshman and sophomore years. Curry won the championship in both of those years.

Mackenzy transferred to Mass Bay where he graduated with a degree in nursing. Mackenzy is currently a Licensed Practical Nurse at St. Patrick's Manor in Framingham, focusing on long-term care and rehabilitation patients. He has attributed his success to Cathedral, and has given back by donating laptops to student athletes in the name of his father, who had passed away from cancer.

Mackenzy was described by one of his nominators as kindhearted, hardworking, and dedicated to making the world better.