

O'Dea High School Hall of Fame: Class of 2025

Joe Fugere '79



With a desire to bring the centuries-old traditions of Neapolitan cuisine shared by his beloved Italian grandparents to Seattle, Joe Fugere '79 founded Tutta Bella Neapolitan Pizzeria in 2004. In addition to numerous retail offerings in popular area grocery stores, Tutta Bella now includes neighborhood restaurants, a mobile food truck, two restaurants inside QFC, and a café and market.

While Joe is a successful business leader, his passion for social progress and belief that he can affect positive social change through his work make him special. Under his direction, Tutta Bella closely partners with a non-profit in each neighborhood location. In addition, it has received the “Human Rights Business Award” and been named Puget Sound Business Journal’s Corporate Philanthropist.

Joe’s individual accolades include serving on Seattle’s Income Inequality Advisory Committee and Human Rights Commission. He also acted as co-chair of Seattle’s first Small Business Advisory Council and was the spokesperson for the Seattle Restaurant Alliance Sidewalk Seating Initiative. He has received the Gil Centioli Memorial Award for his support of the local Italian community and the John Merrill Memorial Service Award for service to the Rainier District community.

On a national level, Joe testified before the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, & Pension at the U.S. Senate. He also attended the 2010 signing of the Small Business Lending Act at the White House, where President Obama recognized Tutta Bella for its contribution to economic recovery. Two years later, a call from the White House sent Joe and Tutta Bella staff to Air Force One, parked at Payne Field, with a special delivery of 40 pizzas to Obama and his staff. Later and after hearing about the incredible pizza, President Biden also visited Joe at a Tutta Bella restaurant to pick up a pizza while he was in Seattle.

Joe is committed to continuing to nurture a meaningful business that reaps economic and social benefits. He is also committed to nurturing his connection to O’Dea High School. We appreciate his willingness to share his talents and experience with our current students and look forward to a continued partnership into the future.

Liz Swift



Liz grew up in the Seattle area and has continued to make the Pacific Northwest her home. Her daughter, Mary, who graduated from Holy Names Academy and is now an appellate attorney, also lives in Seattle with her husband, Brian.

Liz' entire professional life, spanning 48 years, was spent at Holy Names Academy. The first nine years she taught physics and math and coached softball. She then served for 11 years as the Vice Principal, and 28 years as the Head of School and Principal before retiring in 2023. Throughout that time, and with a passion for STEM subjects, Liz continued to teach advanced physics, profoundly influencing generations of young women at Holy Names.

Under her visionary leadership at Holy Names, the school blossomed. Liz led with devotion and love, strategic thinking, and the knowledge that she was part of something larger than herself. Some of her achievements include significantly growing the scholarship endowment to keep Holy Names accessible for all families, centering her work on the Charism of the Sisters of the Holy Names, promoting excellent academics and activities, and completing numerous facility enhancements including in 2021 the most significant project since the construction of the 1908 building – a new underground parking garage and athletic complex.

Over the years, Liz served on several school boards and boards for other professional organizations, but the most meaningful for her has been her service on the O'Dea School Board, where she continues to serve. She is inspired by the dedication and commitment of the administration, trustees, alumni, and how everything centers on what is best for the young men who attend the schools. She also appreciates the fidelity to mission that is so evident at O'Dea.

Liz feels the partnership between O'Dea and Holy Names is invaluable and has strengthened both schools. Through the sharing of resources, ideas, and opportunities, each is a better place for the young men and women we serve. Liz brings an intelligent and experienced voice to the O'Dea School Board. She provides insight and advice to our strategic direction with intelligence and humor. She thinks ahead, yet is practical. We are grateful to Liz for her service to O'Dea and know we are better because she is involved and cares about our success.

Pat Welch '65



Pat is the second of eight children of John '41 and Bernice Welch. The family lived in Seattle's central district and the children attended St. Therese grade school. The seven boys all graduated from O'Dea. Pat played varsity basketball and ran track. He held the school high hurdles record from 1964, when he broke his brother Mike's record, until 1969, when his brother Marty broke his record. Pat put a strong emphasis on academics, which resulted in him being named the class of 1965 Valedictorian.

Pat continued his academic rigor by earning a B.S. in Physics from Seattle University, and both an M.S. in Physics and MBA from the University of Washington.

Pat's career included working at, and leading, several companies across the United States, rising from a financial analyst at the Ford Motor Company to CEO of GNA Corp, a Weyerhaeuser subsidiary, CEO and Chairman of the National Life Group, and President of Cigna Healthcare. In his various roles he helped significantly grow companies, led a successful business turnaround that ensured the continuance of countless jobs, and was known as a caring leader.

During his career he also served on many Boards including: American Council of Life Insurers, American Association of Health Plans, Vermont Business Roundtable, Banknorth Corp., and Champlain College.

After Pat retired, he and his wife, Mary, returned to Seattle and became involved in helping non-profit organizations, with a focus on advancing Catholic education and the Catholic social mission. Pat served for many years on the boards of the Providence Mt. St. Vincent Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul of Seattle and King County, the Archdiocesan Finance Council, the Dean's Advisory Committee of the Seattle University School of Science and Engineering, and the O'Dea High School Foundation.

Pat has particularly enjoyed his connection to O'Dea and he supports it not because so many of his family attended, but because he is convinced that O'Dea is successfully helping to develop ethical and moral young men committed to contributing to a healthy society. O'Dea has benefited from Pat's commitment as his intelligence and business acumen have significantly helped the school's and Foundation's business operations and financial success. In addition, his sound advice and sense of humor have been a great support to school leadership over many years. We are grateful to Pat for his continued belief in, and involvement at O'Dea.