

## Alumni Association History

As the transition from the Christian Brothers administration to the Archdiocesan staff progressed in the early 1990's, the idea of an independent alumni association was presented as a cost savings to the school. This organization would represent the entire group of alumni and set its own course for duty and activity in benefit of the school. Our group was incorporated as a non-profit organization for the benefit of Archbishop Rummel High School, with the school's first lay principal signing the original corporate documents.

Many dedicated alumni who had been volunteering their time, talent and treasure, were energized at the thought of being able to lead all the graduates to a renewed sense of dedication to their alma mater. The board of directors was selected and the first officers were elected. Committee members recruited volunteers, planned activities and fund raising events. Former principal and teacher Brother John Fairfax, was named the Alumni Director, and acted as the liaison between the administration and the Rummel Alumni Association, Inc.

During the first ever Archbishop Rummel capital campaign, the alumni led all groups in donations, both in number of participants and total dollars raised. The Alumni Endowment Trust Fund reached its initial goal of \$100,000.00 and offered its first scholarship to the son of a deserving alumnus. Participation at the various functions was increasing and the annual "Cell-Abriation" was the main fund raising event, challenging all classes to be a part of the successes at Archbishop Rummel High School.

In 2003 as changes in the leadership of the Archdiocese of New Orleans took place, the new administration set in place new rules and guidelines. One new regulation required that any organization raising funds for the school was to deposit those funds into the school's general fund. Thus, the independent organization was to disband and turn its assets over to the school or vacate the office occupied on campus. After many passionate meetings among concerned alumni, the board of directors, the Archdiocese of New Orleans, and the school's new administration, the board of directors of the Alumni Association, Inc. opted to maintain our group's independence. The Rummel Alumni Association continued their activities of networking and fund raising to advance the mission of support for the school by increasing the Rummel Alumni Endowment Trust Fund for scholarships.

While Hurricane Katrina (2005) interrupted the lives of everyone in south Louisiana, the storm also interrupted the progress of our association. As it returned to visibility in the community, alumni continued to support the organization and school for which it exists to help improve -- Archbishop Rummel High School.

Archbishop Gregory Aymond, at the Archbishop Rummel Visioning Day in September, 2010, set the return of our association to full recognition by Archbishop Rummel High School and the Archdiocese of New Orleans as a top priority and key component of the future success of the school. Archdiocesan Chief Operating Officer Jeff Entwisle, Archbishop Rummel High School President Michael Begg and Director of Institutional Advancement Cory Howat, Rummel Alumni

Association President Dominick Impastato III and Dave Russo, Wayne Zimmerman, and Doug Tillman worked toward a resolution which resulted in the in November, 2010 [Statement from Archbishop Aymond Regarding Archbishop Rummel High School](#) announcing the reconciliation of the association with the school and the archdiocese.

**Past Presidents of Rummel Alumni Association, Inc.**

- Wade Johnson '83
- George Rucker '67
- Chuck Credo, III '68
- Pete Oddo '66
- Billy Kampen '78
- Buddy Seeling '73
- Nick Impastato '68
- Dave Russo '71
- Gary Canizaro '75
- Wade Johnson '83
- R.J. Boudreau '73
- Steve Rando '86
- Wayne Zimmerman '70