

## John A. "Tony" DeSantis

February 23, 1942 - February 14, 2005

John Anthony (Tony) DeSantis never saw the inside of a cockpit, but he was a De La Salle Pilot for 48 of his 62 years. Tony died on February 14 after a 16-month battle with cancer.

Tony graduated from the old De La Salle Collegiate High School, the all-boys prep school on Conner Road next to City Airport on Detroit's east side in 1960. After graduating from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Math Education, he taught for one year at St. Cyril's Grade School and then joined the faculty at his alma mater as a math teacher. He later added a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Science, and taught that subject as well. He taught at De La Salle for nearly the rest of his life, following the school in its move out to Warren in the early 1980's, and retiring completely only when his deteriorating health forced him to in late 2003. By conservative estimate, he taught math and computer science to at least 3000 young men over his career, including two of his own brothers. Said Terry George, De La Salle's current principal and himself a former student of Tony's, "Tony was a great math teacher and great football coach, but he was, more than anything, a great role model. We all respected him, and he encouraged and inspired us to be better students."

Tony bled purple and gold, the school's colors. He loved his work in the classroom, but his real passion was high school football. He indulged it as a

member of the Pilots' coaching staff for over 30 years and was elected to the Michigan High School Coaches Hall of Fame in 1991. "Tony loved coaching and was a great X's and O's man." said Al Baumgart, Tony's good friend and former De La Salle head coach.

Tony also loved his cottage at Higgins Lake, but his summers there always ended in the first week of August when football practice started. "From then until mid-November we had to go to his games if we wanted to see him," said his brother Joe. "That's how dedicated he was."

Tony was predeceased by his father C.J.(Babe) DeSantis. He leaves behind his mother, Betty; brothers, Joe(Patsy), Charlie(Marybeth) and Don; sisters, Mary Ann(John) Zettelmaier, Sr. Cathey DeSantis SSJ, Maggie DeSantis and Jane(Paul) Schoenherr. Tony is also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and friends of the De La Salle Community.

# Previous Events

## Service

FEB **19**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Sacred Heart Catholic Church  
1000 Eliot Street  
Detroit, Mi

# Tribute Wall



“ I responded to a colleague who had completed a task at work for me today, that he was "A scholar and a gentleman".

*Hopefully this site stays around for a long time so that all of us, and even those who did not, will know what a great influence Coach/Mr Desantis was in this world!##imported-begin##John Sokolosky##imported-end##*

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August 16, 2010 at 10:38 AM



“ Although I did not know "Tony" personally, I would like to extend my sympathies to his family. I attended Dominican with Mary Jane(73)and know that the DeSantis Family was a loving family! My father just passed away on 2-5-05 and I saw Tony's visitation when viewing my dad's guestbook. I will keep your family in my thoughts and prayers. Take care.##imported-begin##Debbie (Vermeersch) Russo##imported-end##

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February 28, 2005 at 08:16 PM

PN

*To Tony's family my name is Patricia Nieman and I just found out about Tony. Thus saddens me greatly. Tony was one of my neighbors on Woodhall in Detroit. He and I were very good friends. I will miss him greatly. God bless you his family.*

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**Patricia Nieman** - December 08, 2016 at 11:39 AM



“ Thanks Tony.

*As our teacher, you taught us the meaning of a LaSallian education. As a coach, you taught us the meaning of “Pilot Pride”. As a fellow alumnus you made us all proud of your dedication and commitment to our common bond.*

*Thanks for building our boys and making us men.*

*We'll all miss you.##imported-begin##Rich (class of '70), Mike (class of 2000), Bryan (class of 2004) Smetanka ##imported-end##*

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February 19, 2005 at 11:26 PM



“ I am sorry I am unable to attend the services this weekend, but let me take this opportunity to extend my condolences to Tony's family.

*Tony taught my Algebra II and Calculus classes at De La Salle, and he had a tremendous influence in the development of my love of mathematics and my love of learning.*

*Today, I serve as a high school math teacher in the suburbs of Chicago, and the positive experiences I enjoyed in Tony D's class have shaped the my own classroom style.*

*I hope you will appreciate the significant impact Tony had on the lives of so many people. He will be missed.*

*Regards,*

*Terry Phillips*

*DLS, Class of 1980##imported-begin##Terry Phillips ##imported-end##*

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February 19, 2005 at 04:58 PM



“ Aunt Betty & family,  
Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Love,  
Mark, Bonni, Antonette and Les Howey###imported-begin###Mark &  
Bonni Howey###imported-end###

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February 19, 2005 at 11:48 AM



“ Sincerest sympathy to the DeSantis family. We haven't seen Joe or Patsy in over 14 years, however, they have not been far from our thoughts. Losing a loved one is such a loss. We shall keep the family in our prayers.

In Christ,

Susan and Eric Riethmeier (McHugh)###imported-begin###Susan &  
Eric Riethmeier (McHugh)###imported-end###

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February 19, 2005 at 10:31 AM



“ He touched our lives in many ways. He was our childhood friend, classmate, godfather, and many other things. We will miss him.

Stan, Margie, Adam, Emily and Max###imported-begin###The Prpkop  
Family###imported-end###

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February 18, 2005 at 10:32 PM



“ *My sincere condolences to the DeSantis family. Mr. DeSantis' calculus class was one of my fondest memories of DLS. He was a great teacher.##imported-begin##Frank Palazzolo (class of 1986)##imported-end##*

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February 18, 2005 at 08:27 PM



“ *Condolences are not enough for Tony. When John Baptist de La Salle described a teacher, he was describing Tony. He was a man who touched the hearts of so many students. He was a man who had order and loved the kids. He was a man who was more than excellent as a teacher.*

*You have my prayers, and the prayers of all the Brothers in the NY District.*

*What a wonderful man he is. I give each of you a hug to comfort you and let you know how much he meant to me.*

*Brother Tom Lackey##imported-begin##Brother Tom Lackey##imported-end##*

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February 18, 2005 at 08:10 PM



“ My deepest condolences to Mr. DeSantis' family, as well as the DLS faculty and student body. Two of my four years of high school math were spent in Mr. DeSantis' classroom, and he is probably one of the main reasons my love of math continues to this day. I still recall with fondness many of his sayings (far too many to list here); I feel bad for future classes of LaSallians that will not know the pleasure of being in his classroom. He will surely be missed.

Nathan Konopka, DLS '90  
Nathan Konopka

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February 18, 2005 at 03:15 PM



“ Mr. DeSantis was as fine a person and as fine a math teacher as one could ever imagine. He commanded a class simply through his presence and earned respect by giving respect. When a raised voice could be effective, a smile, a glance, or the raised eyebrow sufficed for him. How did he ever make math so much fun? How did he ever motivate high school students to go out and buy “the big green” as he referred to it (the Calculus Problem Solver) to improve at calculus -- our entire AP Calculus class had them, and they were optional. Mr. DeSantis made college math classes easy because he taught us how to think. He touched the lives of so many and truly set an example for all. “The Chief” will be sorely missed, but never forgotten.  
Joe Lafata (DLS '81)

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February 18, 2005 at 01:00 PM



“ Going up the hill just won't be the same.  
John Bertrand

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February 18, 2005 at 12:57 PM



“ I can still see Tony in my mind's-eye saying, "Christopher, what are you...?" To be followed by a friendly, insightful remark about something I did, or should have done. He was a wonderful coach, teacher and friend. I will miss him.##imported-begin##Chris Godfrey##imported-end##

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February 18, 2005 at 10:32 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you Mrs. DeSantis and with your wonderful family. We are proud to be connected in a special way with your family. Tony has always been a friend with a quick smile and a positive word of support. He found ways to make each person he was with feel better about themselves. This is a rare quality and one we can all emulate to make this world a better place. We celebrate with you the life of a fine human being who "leaves us better off than when he found us."##imported-begin##Mike Goeddeke ('60)##imported-end##

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February 18, 2005 at 10:06 AM



“ Thank you, Mr. DeSantis, for your mentoring in math class. Thank you for sharing your knowledge, not only with me, but, with ALL the students you taught - in the classroom and on the football field.

Also, thank you Charles DeSantis, for spending time with me when I visited on Thursday evening. You made me feel welcomed.##imported-begin##Tony Veltri, Class of '74##imported-end##

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February 18, 2005 at 09:50 AM



“ We've lost a good one in Mr. D. My thoughts are with his family on this sad day. God Bless and thank you Mr. DeSantis.##imported-begin##Joe Pittel '97##imported-end##

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February 18, 2005 at 09:05 AM



“ Mr. DeSantis was truly my favorite teacher. I always looked forward to each class, even AP Calc. His humor, his dedication, and his determination still influence me to this day. I was unaware that he had cancer, and I regret not seeing him before he passed to thank him one last time, but I always had and always will have him in my thoughts.##imported-begin##Mark Seneski - Class of '90##imported-end##

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February 18, 2005 at 07:21 AM



“ Mr. Tony DeSantis was a wonderful man and truly an exceptional human being. He represented everything right and good and was a strong influence for me growing up. When I was a student, he always took a personal interest in my development. He really cared and for that I am forever thankful. I would always converse with fellow classmates and we all have a fond story and a laugh or a smile when we mentioned Tony D. I'm truly blessed and lucky to having Mr D be part of my life. As good of a teacher/mentor as he was for me, He was a much better person. I will miss you. May God Bless you and your wonderful family.##imported-begin##David Mordell '82##imported-end##

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February 17, 2005 at 10:23 PM



“ My sympathies to the family. I always enjoy Tony, not only as a teacher but years following whenever I visited the school. My prayers are with him and the family. I wish I could be at the funeral but I am committed to another funeral.

Fr. Gary Smetanka  
St. Thecla Church###imported-begin##Fr. Gary  
Smetanka###imported-end##

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February 17, 2005 at 09:54 PM



“ I had the privilege and honor of having Mr. DeSantis for calculus my senior year, after having heard from my dad how great a teacher he was when he taught my father years before. I learned as much about what it means to respect another man as I did calculus in that class. Thank you for carrying on the DLS tradition of building boys into men. You will be missed.###imported-begin##Mark Chrustowski,  
Class of '00###imported-end##

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February 17, 2005 at 07:27 PM



“ Thank you Tony. You were an outstanding role model, a gifted math teacher, a dedicated coach, and supporter of the little guy, especially if he was fast and smart like you.

May the Lord hold you close to His Sacred Heart.###imported-  
begin##Bob Mann (class of '72)###imported-end##

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February 17, 2005 at 07:23 PM



“ Of all the distinguished teachers at DeLaSalle, John DeSantis is one I thank every day. I thank him for his high expectations of his students and the personal way he helped us all. Of all the things that can be said about Mr. DeSantis, the deepest truth is that he cared about the entire collegiate community. John DeSantis, you will be missed...  
Matthew Chudy, '00

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February 17, 2005 at 05:45 PM



“ To My loving Aunt Betty, and to all my cousins,

*Family has always extended beyond our home to yours, and so, we grieve with you at the loss of son and brother, uncle, and for us, a dear cousin.*

*Miriam and I will see you tomorrow.*

*Much love and comfort,*

*Ann  
T. Ann Brazeau (Brozo)*

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February 17, 2005 at 04:14 PM



“ *To the Family of Tony DeSantis:  
I am a 1985 graduate of DLS, and had Mr. DeSantis (he'll always be Mr. to me)for math class. There were two teachers throughout my entire academic career that made an impression on me - Mr. Desantis was one of them. Not only did I learn a great deal during his course, but he was a personality. If for some reason he never shared this tidbit, myself and several others from my period referred to him reverantly as "The Chief". He was happy to be alive and taught with a vigor that was unparalleled. I always looked forward to those two mods of Algebra. As God as my witness, to this day - 20 years later - I share entertaining stories of Mr. DeSantis with other alumni who knew him. He was a fantastic teacher, and I'm certain an even better father, brother, son and friend. I'm sure he left as vivid an impression on others as he did on me. It was with great regret I read of his passing. Even though I may not be able to pay my respects in person, I wanted to validate what you will hear from many people over the coming days and weeks - he was a special man. For one last time then - Hail to The Chief.  
Warmest Regards, Tim LaRue###imported-begin##Tim LaRue###imported-end##*

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February 17, 2005 at 03:46 PM



“ *Mr. DeSantis always treated his students with the fullest respect and dignity you could imagine. He always treated us like gentleman, and was the truest gentleman himself. He always reached out to his students and would help them in any situation that arised, and he will be greatly missed. It was an honor to have Mr. DeSantis as a teacher and greater honor to get to know him as a person.###imported-begin##Clint Novak class of '00###imported-end##*

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February 17, 2005 at 02:43 PM



“ Uncle Tony,

*You will be greatly missed. Your passion for the game of football and for mathematical detail is outdone only by your incredible courage and passion for life. I can only hope to 1/2 the person you were. I hope that in my nursing career, I will be able to touch as many lives as you have in your teaching/coaching career. Bless you Tony. May you rest with peace in your heart and in your mind. You were one of the great ones who's greatness will not only be known for the time you were here, but also will be remembered for lifetimes to come.*

*Love, Martha##imported-begin##Martha Zettelmaie##imported-end##*

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February 17, 2005 at 01:32 PM



“ *I was sorry to hear of the passing of Tony DeSantis. I had the highest respect and admiration for him. He was the consummate teacher – devoted to his profession and students, commanding respect for his knowledge and experience. He always conveyed to me that we all had much to learn in our continual path to better ourselves. As time passes, my appreciation of how great a teacher he was grows. He will be missed. The lasting legacy he leaves is the thousands of young men whose lives he has touched.##imported-begin##Paul Bautista DeLaSalle Class of 1984##imported-end##*

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February 17, 2005 at 01:26 PM



“ *Special thoughts and prayers at this time of your loss of Tony. It has been many years and maybe you don't remember me, but I have very fond memories of wonderful times in your home when Mary Jane and I worked together at Crowleys.*

*May God's deep Blessings and peace be with all of you.*  
*Lynne##imported-begin##Lynne Rose (Remsburg)##imported-end##*

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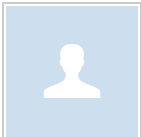
February 17, 2005 at 01:12 PM



“ *Dear Aunt Betty, Mary Ann, John, Joe, Patsy, Sr. Cathey, Chuck, MaryBeth, Maggie, Jane, Paul, and Don. We were very sorry to learn about Tony. We cannot be with you at this time but our thoughts and prayers are with you. Tony was an inspiration to all. Love, Bill, Mary Ellen and Jeanne and all the up north family.##imported-begin##Mary Elllen and Bill Tholl##imported-end##*

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February 17, 2005 at 12:14 PM



“ *Mr. DeSantis was a great teacher and, as a human being, a fantastic example for all of us at DLS. My memories of the school and the fine education I received there are indelibly linked to him and his teaching. He taught respect and discipline and the true meaning of being a "scholar." My condolences to his family and loved ones, and may his soul rest with Jesus.##imported-begin##Bryan Wolf (DLS '78)##imported-end##*

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February 17, 2005 at 12:13 PM



“ I never had the privledge of having coach D in the classroom, but from talking to other students who had I always wish I did. As for the football field I consider myself lucky to have been coached by him. He was always the one to point out the little mistakes that no one else saw to make each of his players better. You were a great role model who will be missed by the whole DLS community. We love you and God Bless!##imported-begin##Joe Novak##imported-end##

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February 17, 2005 at 11:09 AM



“ Although my family did not know Mr. DeSantis personally, we wish to extend our deepest sympathy to the DeSantis family on the death of John Anthony and to offer our prayers and consolation that John will be remembered and missed sincerely.

Carel and Mary Minjeur and sons, Carel, Patrick, and Francis##imported-begin##Mary Minjeur##imported-end##

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February 17, 2005 at 10:16 AM



“ Mr. DeSantis epitomized the LaSallian spirit and was a great teacher. His spirit will be carried on by all of the lives he touched.##imported-begin##Joseph Johnson ( 95) ##imported-end##

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February 17, 2005 at 09:41 AM



“ Joe and Patsy,  
So sorry to hear of your loss. Our thoughts are with you.##imported-begin##Donna and Kyle Parr##imported-end##

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February 17, 2005 at 07:26 AM



“ To the family of Tony,

*I wish I could be with you all as you were with us when our beloved Ramona died many years ago. I do not get around much anymore but I do pray and I will pray for Tony and all of you.*

*Raymond Silva##imported-begin##Raymond Silva##imported-end##*

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February 17, 2005 at 06:46 AM



“ *I coached with Tony at Chippewa Valley for a number of years. Tony not only taught me about being a better coach but to be a better person. He taught me to be a deeper person, to think about the big picture of life. He was a good coach, a good friend, a good man.##imported-begin##Damian Belvedere##imported-end##*

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February 17, 2005 at 06:11 AM



“ *I had Mr. Desantis, the man who has forgotten more than any of us will ever know, for calculus senior year. His sense of humor and love of teaching made him one of the best teachers I have ever had. I have nothing but the greatest amount of respect for him. Thank you for teaching me so much about math and about life. Thank you for touching so many people's lives in and out of the classroom at DLS and elsewhere. You will be missed greatly by everybody. My prayers go out to Mr. Desantis and his family.##imported-begin##Brad Ebenhoeh '03##imported-end##*

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February 17, 2005 at 12:31 AM



“ There's not too much left to say about Coach D that hasn't already been said. He was and will be, in my eyes, everything that the school was about. Whether it was coaching, in the classroom, or in the hallway, Mr DeSantis always treated you with respect and expected the same in return. The ideals of the Christian Bros. and the essence of what La Salle was supposed to be about reverberated through him, something anyone who has known him can attest to. The world, and more importantly La Salle and those who knew him, lost a good man with the passing of Mr. Tony D.##imported-begin##Keith Walewski ( '02)##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 11:44 PM



“ It was an honor to call Tony DeSantis a colleague; it was a greater honor to have him as a friend. The world is a better place because Tony DeSantis was here.##imported-begin##Brian McDonald##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 11:05 PM



“ "Tony D" also made a significant impact on the Notre Dame students who were privileged to be his students on the football field. As assistant football coach on Notre Dame teams of the mid-to-late 1970's, Mr. DeSantis was not only a wonderful teacher of the game, but a mentor to many of us off the field as well. Thank you, Tony, for inspiring countless DLS and Notre Dame young men throughout the years. You will be missed.##imported-begin##Donald J. Brosky - Notre Dame High - Class of 1979##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 05:42 PM



“ Tony challenged me to understand the world of Mathematics. From Algebra in the Room 12 "zoo" as a freshman, through Calculus, he made the learning experience interesting and I still use what he taught me. I am glad he was my teacher.##imported-begin##Michael Barron Class of '70##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 04:05 PM



“ TONY D, WAS A WONDERFUL TEACHER AND A BETTER PERSON. I GRADUATED FROM DE LA SALLE IN 1981 AND EVERY ONE IN MY CLASS HAS WONDERFUL MEMORIES OF TONY D. I HAVE QUITE A FEW FRIENDS FROM MY DAYS AT LA SALLE AND WHENEVER TONY D'S NAME IS BROUGHT UP, PEOPLE JUST SMILE AND SAY WONDERFUL THINGS ABOUT HIM. I AM VERY SORRY I WAS NOT ABLE TO ATTEND THE FUNERAL HOME. MY FAMILY AND I ARE GOING UPNORTH WITH ANOTHER FAMILY AT NOON ON THURSDAY. HE WAS CERTAINLY A DE LA SALLE MAN, "A BUILDER OF BOYS A MAKER OF MEN" HE WILL BE MISSED BY MANY.

GOD BLESS TONY D AND HIS FAMILY!!!!

PAUL TREDER##imported-begin##PAUL TREDER##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 03:08 PM



“ Mr. D was one of the most genuine people I've ever encountered. He would challenge me to my frustrations end. It's because of that perseverance that I succeed today. Thank You, Mr D.. Please keep an eye on our Pilots, God Bless.##imported-begin##Trevor Thompson '99##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 02:20 PM



“ I think I speak for everyone when I say that Coach D was the ideal coach/teacher. I will never forget spending those countless number of hours on the field with Coach D. He taught you more than just the game of football; he taught you the game of life. There was no memory that sticks out better in my mind of him than the one of him walking down the hallway each day with a pencil in his ear, and he him greeting me with "Mr. Sorgi, how are you today sir." He will always be an inspiration to all of us. He is the reason why someday I hope to send my children to DeLaSalle. God Bless Coach D and all of his family and friends.##imported-begin##Tony Sorgi Class of 05'##imported-end##

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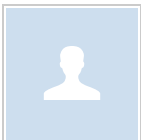
February 16, 2005 at 01:11 PM



“ The thing I'll always remember is Mr. Desantis' sense of humor and genuine care for his students and players. My friends and I still to this day will talk about him when DLS days come up. My deepest sympathy to the Desantis family.##imported-begin##Dan Wiebelhaus - Class of '87##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 01:09 PM



“ I always gave humble credit to Mr. D for helping me to do well in college calculus and the rest of the engineering program. But I did not realize how "truly" lucky we were to have him until my own children began to have their high school math teachers. It seems many teachers struggle to explain a point or go thru a simple proof. Many won't even consider staying after class to help with student questions, like he always would. If I do go into teaching, it will be because of him. God bless Tony and his family always...##imported-begin##Norb Tencza '79##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 12:46 PM



“ Coach/Mr.DeSantis was a great man and most of all a great role model. He will be missed not only by his friends and family but by the whole DLS community. Im sure he is looking down upon us right not just as he did on game day. May God bless you Mr. Desantis##imported-begin##Brandon Schell##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 12:18 PM



“ Thanks, Coach D, for being an inspirational teacher and coach.##imported-begin##Young Turners, (Frank, Scott, Jason)##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 11:33 AM



“ I studied math under Mr. DeSantis my senior year. Although math class was always first thing in the morning for me (not the time of the day when I'm at my most lucid), he made it fun. He was a very funny man who always had a quick-witted zinger for the guys in my class who got a little "out of line," and seemed to enjoy sparring back and forth with us. Most importantly, he was always willing to help me when I had trouble, especially given that math was never my strong suit. It saddened me to hear of his passing. To Mrs. Granger, Mrs. Herta, Dr. C. and all the other faculty at DLS, and to his family and close friends and the other students whom he touched, my prayers and condolences go out.##imported-begin##Chris Bubb - Class of '98##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 10:25 AM



“ *Mr. DeSantis was a great teacher and a fine example for all of the young men that passed through the halls of DLS during his tenure. His sense of humor and "board of education" helped all of us stay on task while in his classroom. He will be missed; but never forgotten.##imported-begin##Tim McDonnell--Class of 1980##imported-end##*

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February 16, 2005 at 10:24 AM



“ *Thank you Coach D for the inspiration and guidance you have given not only to me, but to thousands of others. May God Bless you!##imported-begin##Don Quest (DLS 96)##imported-end##*

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February 16, 2005 at 09:48 AM



“ *To the Desantis Family,*

*Although I haven't seen Mr. Desantis since 1987, I still think of him often. He was a great teacher and coach and I find myself sharing his lessons around balancing fun with respect and discipline as a leader and with my children.*

*I am so sorry that I will not be able to attend. My best wishes to your family.*

*Sincerely*

*Paul DLS '87##imported-begin##Paul Dominski##imported-end##*

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February 16, 2005 at 09:44 AM



“ You will always be remembered as an inspiration to all students who were lucky enough to have you as a teacher.##imported-begin##Keith Houle 92'##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 04:30 AM



“ I am certain that I am one of many, but there was little reward greater at DLS than hearing Mr. DeSantis tell you that you were a "scholar and a gentleman" after solving a math problem. Consequently, great laughs were had when Mr. DeSantis jokingly told someone he was "going to put you upside-down in a garbage can." To him, it wasn't about teaching calculus, it was about life preparation. To this day, I still remember those morning classes and how he would make certain that our day got off to a challenging start. Thanks, Mr. DeSantis##imported-begin##Zach Alter Class of '02##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 03:23 AM



“ There isn't much a person can say to express the loss we all feel with the loss of coach DeSantis. My prayers go out to his friends and family, and he will be missed by all of the La Salle family.

With Great love,  
Bill Burkhardt##imported-begin##William Burkhardt##imported-end##

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February 16, 2005 at 12:59 AM



“ Aunt Betty, Joe, & Patsy,

*Carl & I just wanted to say how sorry we are to hear of Tony's passing. There aren't enough words to say how much his presence will be missed up at the lake. Yet, I think of all the times I saw him up there, and he always had a smile on his face. He was truly happy there, and he will be greatly missed. Please know that you all will be in our prayers, and I hope that you can have a peace that passes all understanding, knowing that Tony is in a better place free of all pain.*

*We love you dearly,*

*Carl, Rosa, Aimee, Holly, & Aaron Saunders###imported-begin##Rosa & Carl Saunders###imported-end##*

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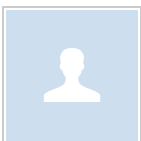
February 16, 2005 at 12:32 AM



“ As a former calculus student of Mr. Desantis, I have nothing but utmost respect for him. He was an excellent teacher and mentor, and the greater De La Salle family will miss him greatly. ~Mark Strus '98###imported-begin##Mark Strus###imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 10:45 PM



“ He was not just a classmate; he was a friend. He is an important part of my fond memories of DLS.###imported-begin##Jim Choike Class of 60###imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 10:26 PM



“ *What a role Model. Coach Desantis really was a great man and a fantastic teacher. He was always teaching me new things, from football to computer science. Thanks Coach D. I know my carrer in computer science will be great because of you. Cal Leong 03'###imported-begin##Calvin Leong###imported-end##*

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February 15, 2005 at 09:56 PM



“ *Mr. DeSantis had a great impact on life - besides learning mathematics from him, he would always inject some philosophy...life lessons. May he rest in peace.###imported-begin##James Ghofulpo###imported-end##*

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February 15, 2005 at 09:49 PM



“ *Coach DeSantis had the unique ability to be heard without ever raising his voice. He was more valuable to DLS than any of us will ever know. He always told us that he had "forgotten more than you'll ever know." Nobody who had the pleasure of knowing him will ever forget Coach D.###imported-begin##Kevin Shubnell '00###imported-end##*

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February 15, 2005 at 09:44 PM



“ Mr. DeSantis was an excellent trig/algebra teacher for me. Like many others, he made you think hard so we could learn as individuals. In our class, he was known as "The Chief". He disciplined like a commander and led the charge in making sure that each of his students understood the concepts taught. Nobody was left behind in his class. He was a great man and definitely a role model for young men. We will miss you, and thanks for the experience.##imported-begin##Mark De Clercq (Class '84)##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 09:34 PM



“ I never dreaded going to a class Mr. DeSantis taught. He made me want to learn, and for that I am tremendously grateful to be lucky enough to once have him for a teacher. God bless you Mr. DeSantis.##imported-begin##David Randazzo Class of '04##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 09:04 PM



“ Mr. DeSantis - You will be missed by all. You were a great teacher who pushed me when I thought I reached my limits and made me learn that to achieve greatness you need to test your boundaries. It is official....DeLaSalle has lost a scholar and a gentleman.....##imported-begin##Derek Garden (DLS 92)##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 08:47 PM



“ *Mr. DeSantis is one of those teachers you never forget and only appreciate more over the passage of time. A true inspiration to all for his dedication and inspiration. You will truly be missed, but not forgotten. Thank you and God Bless You!##imported-begin##Andy Beaudry Class of '87##imported-end##*

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February 15, 2005 at 08:37 PM



“ *I will always remember Tony DeSantis as one of my greatest teachers. He inspired a generation of students, and his passing is a great loss for the next generation. I know his spirit will live on in the countless lives he touched. He and his family are in my thoughts and prayers.*  
*-- Christopher van der Waerden, DLS '92,  
Washington, DC##imported-begin##Christopher van der Waerden,  
DLS '92##imported-end##*

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February 15, 2005 at 08:32 PM



“ *I had the unique privilege of being in one of Tony's first math classes at De La Salle, and being his colleague in his last year at De La Salle. He was a wonderful and enthusiastic teacher, a caring and loved coach, and a fine man who was interested in the total development of the young men he worked with. Teaching was truly his vocation. He will be missed.##imported-begin##Br. Joseph Wilkowski##imported-end##*

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February 15, 2005 at 07:22 PM



“ To Dear Aunt Betty and my cousins,

*Please know that our love is with you during this time of profound loss. I (Elizabeth), have few but very fond memories of my cousin Tony. The tribute to him at De La Salle's homepage reminds me of how much we can also celebrate Tony's life.*

*Thinking of you all,*

*Elizabeth and Fareed##imported-begin##Elizabeth Sullivan and Fareed##imported-end##*

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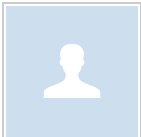
February 15, 2005 at 05:55 PM



“ Coach D was and will continue to be a great inspiration to me. I send my thoughts and prayers from Armagh, Ireland back home to the DLS community in memory of the great Coach DeSantis.##imported-begin##Chris Bondi##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 05:28 PM



“ We love u coach D##imported-begin##The Hutek family##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 04:52 PM



“ Mr. DeSantis is one of the greatest teachers and true 'educators' I have ever had. His Calc & AP Calc mentoring helped prep me for engineering college life and a successful technical career. I owe my fruits in large part to him for his knowledge sharing, style and plain old in-class charisma. Thanks and God Bless.##imported-begin##Dave Buchanan '79##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 04:45 PM



“ Thank you for being such a great teacher. You will be greatly missed at De La Salle. You are in my thoughts and prayers.

Matt Szalach

Class of '93##imported-begin##Matthew H. Szalach##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 04:36 PM



“ Mr. DeSantis tried to teach me algebra. Didn't really add up for me! However he DID teach me about respect. He did teach me about creativity. He had such a commanding presense for a soft spoken, physically unassuming guy. He expected your attention. He expected you to work. Fools were not tolerated. He made me stand on a chair in the middle of class for an hour one day. While he was at coaching football at ND I chided him for trying to use undersize D-linemen to out quick our sizable O-line at DLS. Again another embarrassing moment for me at L tackle! The crossed hands thumbs up. The perfect pyramid pile of cigarette ashes in the ahstray of his car. The sharp wit. Everything at a measured pace in complete control. The KNOWING smile. What a great man I will remember him always.##imported-begin##Gabe Lesky '81##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 03:53 PM



“ To the family and friends of Mr. DeSantis,

*To this day, I still fondly recall his algebra/trigonometry/calculus classes and the Board of Education. I am so sorry for your loss, and the loss of a true motivator, teacher and role model.*

*Sincerely,*

*Tom Landy*

*De LaSalle Class of 1986##imported-begin##Thomas M. Landy##imported-end##*

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February 15, 2005 at 03:37 PM



“ *I only had the opportunity to play one year of football under Coach D, and I regret to this day not having the opportunity to play my last two years with him and Coach Baumgart. I was fortunate enough to have Coach D for trigonometry and calculus, and after I received my engineering degree I continued to complete my teaching certification because of the impact that he and Coach Doby made on me. I continued with coaching until 1986, when I chose a different direction/career. I hope my son has the opportunity to be as fortunate as I was with having a teacher like Coach D. Take care!##imported-begin##Rick Kaczmarek (class of '76)##imported-end##*

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February 15, 2005 at 03:34 PM



“ Tony introduced me to the computer 35 years ago. Since I design software for a living I can't think of anyone who has had a larger impact on my life. He was a great guy. We will miss him.##imported-begin##Steve Hug (DLS '71)##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 03:26 PM



“ Coach D was a tremendous educator both in the classroom and on the field. I had the unique privilege of playing for and coaching with this great man. He taught me what it means to "pay attention to detail." I can speak for the current DLS Football Staff in saying...We love you and we will miss you dearly! God Bless.##imported-begin##Matthew Bitonti ##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 03:19 PM



“ Mr. DeSantis was an outstanding human being besides being a great teacher. He will be missed but his teachings and examples will live on forever. He was a true example of a Lasallian Leader in all ways. Live Jesus in our hearts... Forever.##imported-begin##Gerald R Zaccardelli##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 03:12 PM



“ "Mr. DeSantis" was an excellent coach with wonderful outlook on sports and life. I have many great memories of my football days at DLS and thinking of Mr D puts a smile on my face. My prayers are with his family and friends and I hope he saves me a spot on his team in heaven.##imported-begin##Joe Kronner (class of 1974)##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 01:46 PM



“ Thank you Mr. DeSantis for forcing me to think in your math class and for showing me how a football coach is supposed to coach. Thank you for the memories and calling me a scholar and a gentleman in class.

*Atif Lodhi '00*##imported-begin##Atif Lodhi##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 01:38 PM



“ Thanks Mr. Desantis (the man who will forget more than I'll ever know) for bringing much humor and knowledge my my calculus and computer programming class.##imported-begin##Ryan Varriale Class of 99'##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 01:07 PM



“ Mr DeSantis made an indelible impression... and not just with his "board of education". To me, his most memorable quote is, "I've forgotten more than you'll ever know."

*He'll be missed.*

*May he rest in peace.##imported-begin##Clifford A Kaye##imported-end##*

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February 15, 2005 at 01:07 PM



“Tony D” was my all time favorite teacher. He taught me Geometry and Calculus, and he is my mentor. I have left the Engineering profession to be a HS Math teacher, and it is largely Tony's example that I have tried to replicate in my classroom.

Tony, you have left an indelible mark on the lives of countless DLS students. Thanks from the bottom of my heart.##imported-begin##Steve Femminino Class of '78##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 12:44 PM



“To this day, I wonder why soda cans are shaped like soda cans. Mr. DeSantis, god bless him, made me think and think some more, no matter how hard I tried to be uninterested in calculus. The world has lost a warm-hearted, generous man.##imported-begin##Scott Timmreck##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 12:43 PM



“Coach/Mr. DeSantis,  
You have provided me great direction in my years at DLS which have carried on since I have graduated. You have taught me to the meaning of loyalty, respect and true character. You are a good man and I thank you for all the lifes teachings and the lasting impacts that you have left on many young men that will continue to spread throughout. Take care and live Jesus in your soul. Thomas Teklinski Class of 96'##imported-begin##Tom Teklinski##imported-end##

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February 15, 2005 at 12:43 PM



“ *Mr. DeSantis made me learn. He was one of the best teachers I've ever had.*

*Thank you Tony.##imported-begin##Michael Kiefer Class of 83'##imported-end##*

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February 15, 2005 at 12:19 PM



“ *Tony DeSantis was a good man. He loved life and he loved his job. He was always kind to me and we had a lot of laughs together. May god bless him.*

*Brian Girskis  
Class of 1973##imported-begin##Brian D. Girskis Class of 73'##imported-end##*

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February 15, 2005 at 12:10 PM