



# Alumni Spotlight

## Matthew Sargent

### Class of 1983



**Since you have graduated from James L. Collins Catholic School what academic, career, and/or volunteer paths have you taken? What is your current job title and company?**

After I graduated from Collins Catholic School, I completed my high school education at Corsicana High School. I then completed my Associate and Bachelor degrees in Business Administration and Information Technology at AIU, and I received a Master of Accounting degree from Drake University. I have spent my career primarily in the information technology and financial fields and have worked for some of the largest public and private companies in the world including Wells Fargo, Capital One, ADP, Xerox, KPMG, and PwC. Today, I am a Vice President for Wells Fargo focusing on compliance and operational risk for the CCS division which contains areas such as credit cards, home loans, student loans, and auto loans. I am also part of the faculty at the University of Texas at Arlington and the University of North Texas. I teach technology and accounting courses for their respective College of Business. I have also spent time volunteering at various organizations including the United Way, Junior Achievement of Dallas, ALS Association, and Arthritis Foundation.

**What lesson did you learn while at James L. Collins Catholic School and how has it shaped you into the person you are today?**

The greatest lesson I learned while at Collins came from Father Merkel who was pastor of Immaculate Conception for many years. I asked him one day why he continued to work and help the church long after he had retired. His answer was that he continued to work because that helped him to learn something new every day. The lesson was that even though you may have lived a long and successful life, you will never know everything and continuing to learn is the greatest gift we can give to ourselves. That is why my educational journey will never stop and why I got into teaching so I could pass that lesson on to others.

**How have any of the four cornerstones of James L. Collins Catholic School allowed you to transform the world in your own way?**

All four cornerstones have played a part in helping to shape my world and will continue to help my world evolve as I get older. We should all be a positive influence for others by being involved in our communities and helping those who need it. In order for us to continue living in a robust society, you must have a level of respect for others and yourself, and live your life with a highest level of integrity possible. Most of all, you will need to be strong in your faith and trust in God, and understand that no matter what positive or negative things happen in life, God will always be there to help and support you when you need it. We may not always understand God's plan and why things happen the way they do, but your faith is what will give you the strength to continue moving forward.

**What advice would you like to give to the students at James L. Collins Catholic School?**

The best advice I can give students is first, enjoy your time at Collins Catholic School. It is an experience, that if treated the right way, will give you lifelong friendships, great memories, and help you on the path to accomplishing your dreams. Second, although you should enjoy your time here, take your education seriously. Your time at Collins is helping to build the foundation of your lifetime learning journey and you are receiving a level of education and commitment to faith that is second to none. Make the most of it now and it will pay you dividends later in life.

**What would you say to prospective families about why they should choose James L. Collins Catholic School?**

As parents, ultimately in all of the decisions involving our children, we are striving to give them the best opportunities and through that, the best chances to be successful in life. We want them to grow up and be strong minded and respectful adults who work hard to achieve their goals and who help their communities. By sending your children to Collins Catholic, you will be putting your children in an environment whose focus on education and faith will help instill the four cornerstones of faith, involvement, integrity, and respect, in a way that will be not duplicated in any other elementary school environment. Our children will grow up and make their own choices in life. What we can do as parents is help prepare them on how to live life the right way and to make the best decisions. By sending them to Collins, you will be giving them a great start on that journey.