Meet Valeria Sena

Alumni Spotlight

April 30, 2026

Valeria (Tkacik) Sena exemplifies how Ave Maria University shapes not only the minds of its students but their hearts and souls as well. The 2018 graduate, who majored in Politics while minoring in Theology and Environmental Science, has carried the university's mission into every aspect of her life, from her professional endeavors to her passionate commitment to pro-life advocacy. During her time on campus, Valeria was deeply involved in the Ave Maria community, serving in Student Government, the President's Circle, and as a co-founder of the Sisterhood of Mary Magdalene household. She was also a proud member of the first women's lacrosse team, earning the MVP award her senior year—an honor that reflected her character both on and off the field.

Valeria's post-graduation journey showcases the remarkable impact Ave Maria alumni have across the nation. Following her time as a Mother Teresa Scholar and her internships with the Sisters of Life in New York and a U.S. Senator from Ohio, she served in a presidentially appointed position as Confidential Assistant to Secretary Betsy DeVos at the U.S. Department of Education. She later collaborated with former Ave Maria University President Jim Towey at Aging with Dignity and Five Wishes, bringing her values and education to the service of vulnerable populations. Beyond her professional roles, Valeria established her own business as a photographer and videographer, with a special focus on Catholic weddings and nonprofit events.

Her commitment to faith and service has been recognized throughout her life. In 2016, Valeria received the St. Paul Award from Sports Faith International as the most inspirational athlete and was inducted into their Hall of Fame. She went on to be featured on EWTN's "Life on the Rock" and received Ave Maria's prestigious Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Award in 2018. Most recently, the university honored her with the Alumni Award in 2023 for her continued volunteer work and contributions to the Ave Maria University community.

Today, Valeria resides in St. Augustine with her husband, Devin Sena, VP of Marketing for the pro-life organization Live Action, and their eight-month-old son, Kolbe James. The growing family is preparing for an exciting move back to Ave Maria in the fall of 2026, where Valeria hopes to find new ways to serve the university and support its students. Her story is a beautiful testament to how Ave Maria education transforms lives and inspires graduates to build families and careers rooted in faith, service, and authentic Catholic values.

Read online for photos and videos:

https://alumni.avemaria.edu/news/meet-valeria-sena-1777559235778