

# Prep Talk

SUMMER 2019

Flintridge Preparatory School  
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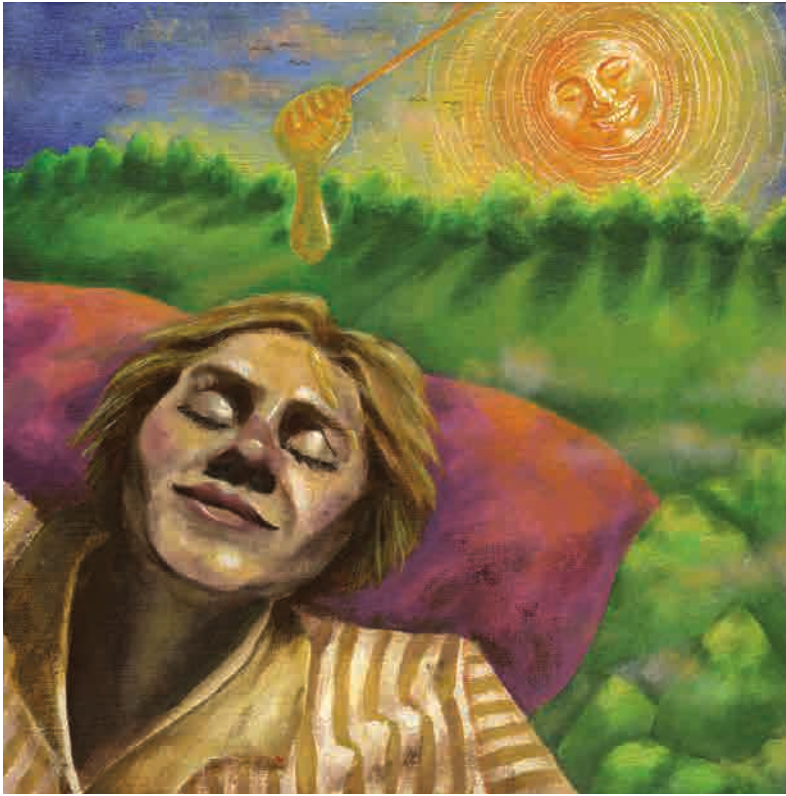


# ALUMNI CALENDAR & SPECIAL EVENTS



\* By invitation only.

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Anna Turyшева '21

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## From the Headmaster



When she first read Flintridge Prep's "trifecta" of Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Honor Code, USC Vice President of Admissions and Planning Katharine Harrington, an ethics scholar and member of our Board of Trustees, remarked, "How Aristotelian!"

I was gratified, since Aristotle had always sat at the center of our community-building enterprise. Aristotle, who believed in a life guided by a clear purpose, an "archer's mark," would have approved of our school Mission to influence graduates permanently to realize an "engaged, balanced and responsible life." That Greek advocate of the golden mean would salute our Vision Statement's balance of intellectual, ethical and emotional development. Finally, he would have agreed with our Honor Code that a good life consists of living in community among others with shared values.

Aristotle was a practical man, who believed that we are a rational species with passions, some of which should be cultivated while others should be tamed. We all succumb to temptation, but the reasonable person who understands the values of the community will fall less far, less frequently. More importantly, Aristotle felt that community members with a clear moral center were more likely to achieve virtue, happiness and success.

So, as we celebrate the 20th anniversary of Prep's Honor Code this year, we are confident in our ability to nurture creative individuality within collaborative clarity. Aristotle, the ancient Greek, is looking very 21st century.

— Peter Bachmann, Headmaster



# FLINTRIDGE PREP'S TRIFECTA



## MISSION

Flintridge Preparatory School seeks to nurture in its students the knowledge, critical skills, community values and creativity essential for an engaged, balanced and responsible life.

*Adopted by the  
Board of Trustees  
May 2014*



## VISION

We are committed to providing a school environment that values ethical and emotional development as equally important to intellectual development.

*Adopted by  
the Board of Trustees  
May 1998*



## HONOR CODE

My responsibility as a student, teacher or parent in the Flintridge Prep community is to be honest, kind, generous and respectful.

*Adopted by  
Faculty, Students and Parents  
Annually*



# Honor Code

Shaping Prep Life Through Honesty,  
Kindness, Generosity and Respect

by Mel Malmberg

"My responsibility as a student, teacher or parent in the Flintridge Prep community is to be honest, kind, generous and respectful," reads the Prep Honor Code. Signed by students and faculty at the first Morning Meeting of the year, the Honor Code pervades the Prep community on and off campus, and provides, according to Headmaster Peter Bachmann, "our antidote to the exploitable, arbitrary and broken systems we face. Prep's answer is integrity and perspective."

As Bachmann wrote in a March 2019 letter to the community after the recent college admissions scandal broke, "This nation was founded in a pledge of honor. Each year, the students and adults of Prep confirm their

pledge of honor in ritualized ceremony. The signers of the Declaration realized that a nation without common values is no nation. They called people capable of transcending mere selfishness virtuous. Those incapable they called corrupt."

Bachmann continued, addressing those involved in the scandal as having demonstrated "levels of cynicism and entitlement that are value-free."

"I've never bought the success or integrity trade-off. I've seen too much success with integrity," he emphasized. "We believe in our values—and in our kids."

Bachmann, a historian, sees the Honor Code as part of a "trifecta" of foundational

documents at the core of the school's identity. Along with the Mission Statement and Vision Statement, Prep's values, and Prep's community, have been shaped by the Honor Code.

### AN AUTHENTIC INCEPTION

Prep's Honor Code arose organically, says Bachmann, as a logical outgrowth of the push for balance among ethical, emotional and academic development early in his tenure as headmaster. The school's Vision Statement, adopted by the Board of Trustees in 1998, states, "We are committed to providing a school environment that values ethical and emotional development as equally important to intellectual development."

In 1999, intent on codifying these essential values, Bachmann visited English classes across all grades, and asked what words described the atmosphere at Prep. "Respectful was the number one response," he says. He did two rounds of reviews with students, one in the fall and one in the winter, tinkering with the language, and in between, he shared a draft with the Board.

"We all knew we were on to something," Bachmann says. In the winter, the students voted in favor of the Honor Code; a vote from the faculty followed, and then it was approved by the Board.

In 2004, Katherine Thompson '05 asked why parents didn't sign it, and the insights from her query led to the code's current iteration.

### HONOR REVISITED: THE RISE OF THE INTERNET

Like any foundational document, the Honor Code is flexible enough to withstand challenges. In 2003-04, remembers Bachmann, the digital world was moving from nascent to ubiquitous. The confluence of anonymity and access brought forth issues like "online bullying, or just simple cattiness; we were encountering more plagiarism, from sites like Wikipedia, or published essays; we were confronted with the ease of cheating generally. So, we adjusted," he says. Against the backdrop of an evolving world, the change arose organically—this time from a senior's curiosity about, and passion for, Prep's culture.

Thompson (see profile page 10) studied the Honor Code her senior year. "I ran for Commissioner General and lost, but I still wanted to be involved with the school," she explains. Director of Human Development Mike Roffina, with whom she was close from managing the girls cross country team, suggested that, alongside with her work on the Conduct Review Committee (see article page 9), she might investigate the then-five-year-old Honor Code. With the help of Bachmann and Dean of Students Midge Kimble, Thompson spent the first part of the academic year creating a series of surveys and convening focus groups, asking students about the Honor Code.







"First, we asked if they knew about it," she says. "Then, we got at deeper questions, like, what constitutes plagiarism in your mind, how should it be addressed, and did they feel that any repercussions were equitable." Thompson, Kimble and Bachmann found that students had a wide variety of opinions on all types of infractions, and many students felt that the case-by-case, ad hoc nature of punishment for misdeeds felt unfair and haphazard.

Thompson presented her findings to the faculty, along with a series of recommendations that were adopted and are still followed today. "That's one of the amazing things about Prep," she says about presenting her research, "That I was allowed to do that as a student!"

Thompson urged the faculty to discuss the mechanics and effects of plagiarism with students. She talked about the positive aspects of standardizing consequences, so students knew there was an even playing field across disciplines, activities and grade levels. Finally, she proposed ritualizing the signing of the Honor Code, and said that everyone in the community, including parents, faculty and staff, should sign it too. "We had come to realize that the Honor Code was inclusive, reciprocal and community oriented," she explains, but it needed to be more tightly woven into the fabric of the school.

"I urged the faculty, 'Don't just read this and put it on a shelf. Don't assume it's been understood. You have to live it, and explain it, and make it a part of the culture.'"

## THE HONOR CODE TODAY

Today, the Honor Code has been fully ritualized and embraced; most people on campus feel it is foundational. At the first all-school meeting, a copy is passed out to every student, faculty and staff member; Bachmann explains the Honor Code and its function; he signs his own copy, and the rest of the room follows suit. "We will hunt down anybody who missed that meeting, and ask them to sign it," Bachmann points out. "It's that important." The mood in the room is serious, and Bachmann is all business when he presents; it's a thoughtful process.

Isaac LaMarr '19 remembers the ceremony's importance at his first all-school meeting. "When you first begin at Prep, you want to feel a part of the community. The signing ceremony feels like the start of something," he says.

Science Department Chair Laura Kaufman loves the tradition. "It's wonderful to start the year with a public reminder of our shared values," she says.

Most teachers go over the code in their initial class meetings; grade level deans talk about it with their advisees; and on class trips, Peer Counselors introduce the concept to their 7th and 9th grade counterparts. New students see the Honor Code in action as they observe and get to know older students, and absorb it as part of the school's culture.

Teachers often include the Honor Code on exams. Math Department Chair Lesley Fox says, "I have the Honor Code at the bottom of each page of all of my tests! I don't discuss it too much with my students, but I will bring up how I feel strongly on my part to uphold it with respect to how I run the class: homework, test calendar, no homework days, etc. In return, I expect them to uphold it too. It's a matter of mutual respect.

"I remember when the Honor Code came into being and I still feel so proud to be at a school with an honor code. I love our Honor Code, because its simplicity is profound."

"I put it on the syllabus and bring it up as a useful guideline when we do peer response in class, since being kind, honest, generous and respectful are great approaches to editing," says Sarah Cooper, who teaches 8th grade history and is dean of studies.

French teacher Dr. Lauren Van Arsdall has her students translate and illustrate the Honor Code. She hangs the efforts on the wall of her classroom. "I point to these illustrations if a





discussion gets out of hand," she says. "I love that we have an Honor Code and that it's really a part of life here."

In athletics, the Honor Code is presented to the coaches by the athletic director (AD), says outgoing AD Garrett Ohara '84. "We let coaches know that sports at Prep are about character development. The kids notice and emulate how you treat opponents, officials and your team. If we yell, kids think that's okay."

Ohara also notes that the Honor Code stays with the athletes beyond Prep. "Our graduates carry the Honor Code with them when they play at the college level, which is great."

On teams, reinforcement comes from all the students, especially seniors and Athletic Council on Leadership members, who are primed to lead. There is automatic cooperation and sacrificing to meet goals at the team level. "I just heard about two seniors on the soccer team who went out of their way to unify the team. They told the underclassmen: 'We're here to serve you, we want you to play more and get better.' That's a prime example of the generosity we expect," Ohara says.

Though the Honor Code permeates the Prep community, reminders are necessary, especially around big events like Prom or a tense playoff game. Inevitably, students and adults may breach the code of conduct. The student's signed Honor Code page from the beginning of the year comes out (Kimble keeps them in her office), and a discussion ensues. When an incident is serious, a meeting in front of the Conduct Review Committee is called (see article page 9). But in keeping with the Honor Code itself, honesty, kindness, respect and generosity come into play as the student and Committee look to heal the infraction and move forward.

## SOLID GROUND, SHIFTING SOCIETY

Plagiarism is still a pervasive issue, and bullying (and worse) has become easier, faster and more ubiquitous—and on more platforms—that it was 15 years ago. Additional pressure, which has stressed students and parents, comes from the increasingly intense college search process. Yet Bachmann says, "There is an internal robustness that helps Prep, that keeps us in line, thanks to the Honor Code."

Director of College Counseling Gloria Díaz Ventura says, "Colleges know we are true to our Honor Code. We report infractions, which



we are aware not all independent schools do, yet over the years we have built a strong reputation for Prep, and the colleges have come to value our honesty. If it is necessary to report a student infraction senior year, colleges can rescind an admission offer and we do not take that lightly.

"With the expectation of honesty often-times comes vulnerability. Our students are managing more stress than we know. Many students are adept code-switchers, managing one personality at Prep and one within their family."

The Honor Code guides a student's 15-month-long college application process, says Ventura. "Students know they are expected to be honest and respectful," she explains, "and, if necessary, we remind them to be kind to each other, encouraging them to take care of each other, especially during the release of admission decisions. Occasionally, we have had to contact parents in the past to remind them that they also signed the Honor Code, stressing the importance of being kind to their child, and us, and to other parents. The Class of 2019 has been one of the best of my career, because the majority of parents and students remained true to our process and our values."

Brooke Yoshino, associate director of college counseling, says, "To identify the ways in which the Honor Code can be measured, one must examine the ways in which our students interact with others in the most stressful times."





But there are external influences impacting Prep students, Ventura and Yoshino agree. "So many outside forces overshadow the value of honesty and integrity. Yet it is the values of the family that influence a student most. The college counselor is not there at a student's home when they hit 'send' on an application," says Ventura. "We are placing our trust in every student."

### A SOPHISTICATED COMPACT

Bachmann has a thoughtful, Great Books-style philosophy about the Honor Code at Prep. "Yes, you must sign it," he says. "But that really means, 'I understand it.' You have to sign it, even if you don't agree with it. You can agree to disagree with our Honor Code, but you must abide by it."

Developmentally, many 7th graders are "prudential"—they see a rule, and they don't want to cross that line. They may not believe in the rule, but they believe in the punishment if they break it. By the 11th and 12th grades, most everyone has internalized the values sincerely. A minority stay prudential, and Bachmann says that works too. Students are free to disagree and debate.

"We love being questioned about it," says Bachmann. "We don't want humorless kids, we want them to think about it, to maybe wrestle with it. We sometimes talk about absolute versus relative values. These are not four values forever, for your whole life—just what Prep agrees on. But we do agree, and we uphold these values."



"We have a saying here called 'kind candor.' We try to be candid; we encourage our kids to be candid. And they know we stand by that, and by the Honor Code, on every occasion. If teachers or coaches have poor student evaluations, we write them up. If Gloria Ventura needs to have a conversation with a college, she will."

"The reciprocity is paramount," Bachmann adds. "Students call us to account as teachers. If we are too assertive in the classroom, if we favor a student, they ask: 'Are you respecting us as students?' If I get out of line, my students definitely call me on it. And they are pleased to see the Honor Code at work."

### PREP (AND THE HONOR CODE) FOR LIFE

The Honor Code is a community builder, a bulwark, a guide, a foundation, a basic part of Prep for Life. Breaches of the Honor Code are the exception, says Bachmann, "but we also know the Honor Code is aspirational. We are in an age of anxiety. We can step in with counseling, if it's appropriate. We involve parents, talk about what outside stresses are causing behaviors. We are compassionate."

Prep's Honor Code is, ultimately, more conscience driven than consequence driven, preparing students for, as the Mission Statement reads, "an engaged, balanced and responsible life."

"I truly believe honesty is not for suckers," says Bachmann. "If your ethics are prudential, unconsidered, eventually the world will catch up to you; the world will catch on."

"Community values that genuinely arise out of community are worth honoring, worth preserving. But take from Prep what you want, what speaks to you."

"That's why I avoid using the word graduation and use Commencement instead. It's a beginning," Bachmann explains. "How will you apply what you've learned?"

On the next-to-last day of school, just before his own Commencement, Isaac LaMarr reflected on his years at Prep, his next steps and the respect that students and faculty feel for one another 20 years after the Honor Code was put into place. "The Honor Code is unspoken. We don't recite it every day, but we live it. It's the way we live here. It's what makes us all belong." ■

# The Conduct Review Committee: Learning, Redemption and Perspective

by Mel Malmberg

Prep's campus guidelines are clearly stated in the student handbook, and reinforced by the Honor Code, as well as Peer Counselors and faculty. But when a student makes a major error in judgment, they are called for a hearing before the Conduct Review Committee (CRC).

"This is the consequence phase," explains Dean of Students Midge Kimble. "We already have investigated, and we know an incident has occurred. Now the student has the opportunity to show remorse, and learns what the consequences will be: suspension, an essay or any kind of restitution, like an apology."

Kimble explains that the basic structure of the CRC has been in place since before she started at Prep in 1991. Each CRC hearing consists of her; Barrett Jamison, dean of student life; the student's grade level dean and, crucially, a student member.

Students run for membership on the CRC by presenting to the Student Senate Executive Committee that selects a dozen sophomores, juniors and seniors each year. For the last few years, members have also assembled monthly with Kimble to discuss campus issues. "We're Prep's under-the-radar pit crew," says Isaac LaMarr '19, who served on the committee for three years.

"The students help us to be sensitive to what's happening on campus," says Kimble. "They act as a sounding board. I bounce ideas off them, and they ask me questions. I learn a lot from them, and we have great communication."

The biggest, and potentially toughest, job that student members provide is filling the student position in a CRC hearing. Ava Ferry '18 was on the CRC for two years. "No one wants to see a kid raked over the coals for one mistake, and that was my idea of the process, before I saw it firsthand.

"Being on the CRC allowed me to see the amount of humanity and compassion that the Prep administration possesses," Ferry says. "We were focused on not just being punitive, but finding a punishment that would be productive."

Katherine Thompson '05 was also on the CRC. Initially she joined because, as she says, somewhat rue-

fully, "I was always a kid who had some beliefs about right and wrong." The CRC had a big impact on her time at Prep, and her subsequent career in education (see profile page 10).

"I came in to my first hearing with the mindset that this is cut-and-dried," remembers Thompson. "I had a know-it-all sort of attitude." The committee was looking at a plagiarism offense, and she was primed. "But the student talked about the scenario—they took an impulsive decision to lift some copy—and I remember that changed my thinking.

"I felt so much empathy," she explains. "I understood it was not malicious, and they were just trying to get their homework done. They were distraught and remorseful, and I began to see how much more complex these things are."

LaMarr says that serving on CRC hearings has been invaluable. "It's made me better able to understand people, and other perspectives. It helps me not to be defensive. It's helped me de-escalate situations. And I've learned there is no good guy, no bad guy. I can see the big picture."

Kimble says of the conduct review process: "This should be a learning experience for students called to account. Students need to stumble; that's how they learn. I hope they learn, 'I can come back from my mistakes.' We meet with parents and students after any suspension, and the message is, 'This was redemptive. Let's move on.'" Indeed, students who face the Conduct Review Committee can run for student office after a year.

Says Ferry, "A hearing helps students learn, because it can be the wake-up call that they need to get back on track."

LaMarr agrees. "The most successful outcome is when you are helping to fix a problem that has been going on for a long time. It's a weight the student had been carrying for so long, and we are able to help."

"Behaviors and consequences are complicated," says Kimble. "There can be extenuating circumstances, ambiguity. The CRC is a model of honesty, kindness, respect and generosity. We want to see remorse and learning, and we go from there." ■

**"This should be  
a learning experience  
for students."**

*Midge Kimble, Dean of Students*



## Alumni Profile

### A Generous Education: Honoring Student Potential

by Mel Malmberg

**Katherine (Katy) Thompson '05** is assistant head of school for enrollment & marketing at the Grosse Pointe Academy in Michigan and is pursuing an MBA at the University of Michigan, exploring the intersection of finance and entrepreneurship in education.

Thompson traces her philosophy of education back to her time at Prep. The Honor Code and its values were important guideposts; equally formative was being mentored and guided in appropriate and challenging ways. "So many adults trusted me," she says, citing Michael Roffina, Peter Bachmann, Peter Vaughn and Midge Kimble. "They didn't treat me like a 16-year-old, even though I was.

"Kids are capable of a lot, with support and mentorship especially," she believes. "They deserve to be heard, and to follow their passions. Whether they are five or seven, or 16

or 18—kids care and want to be involved, and they are capable of great things."

Thompson's first job out of Georgetown, where she studied American history and French, was at an international law firm that went bankrupt. As her job was imploding, she realized that the happiest she had ever been (including living and working in Paris) was at Prep. Thompson's law firm position was eliminated one Wednesday morning; that afternoon, she boarded a train to rural Pennsylvania for an interview at a boarding school called Mercersburg Academy. She got the job as assistant director of admission, traveling around the US and abroad to recruit high school students. She was also the assistant track coach, worked with the student council and chaperoned the French exchange program. Most importantly, she was a student adviser.

"You were just all in," Thompson says of working at a boarding school that puts students and their needs at the center of its mission. "I felt at home from the first day. It was a lifestyle, and a philosophy of supporting students and their needs, just like Prep.

"When I think of what I am most proud of, I think of my advisees. I tried to cultivate an atmosphere of openness. It was important to me that they felt known by me in all sorts of ways,

and knew that I genuinely cared for them and enjoyed spending time with them. Now my advisees are in college, or have graduated—and we're still in touch. I hear from some of them weekly.

"One of the great things about going to a school like Prep or Mercersburg is that the adult network who cares for you expands," Thompson says. "It does not replace your family, but that support, care and trust is so important. I feel lucky to this day that teachers at Prep invested so much in me. I wanted that same experience for my advisees."

At Mercersburg, Thompson also found a great mentor, the school's Assistant Head of School for Enrollment Tommy Adams. When Adams moved to Michigan in 2016 to become Head of School at the Grosse Pointe Academy, Thompson followed a year later. "My boss, like Peter Bachmann, exemplifies the value of 'generosity,'" she says. "He has trusted me, given me opportunities, challenged me—and also held me accountable."

While her new position is at a day school that ends in 8th grade, the student-centric philosophy is the same one that has resonated with Thompson throughout her life. "Even though our youngest students are just three years old, they are taught respect for one another and their surroundings. The school builds from there, with 8th graders serving as buddies for 1st graders. We believe they can be role models. We hold them to high standards and they meet them," she says.

In her current role, Thompson has developed a new international student program and is building bridges to greater Detroit through recruitment efforts. Her MBA work has bolstered her belief in connection, rapport and community in a school setting.

"If your relationship is built on a paycheck or a contract, rather than trust and a desire to work together, I don't believe you'll be as successful," she says. "You have to commit to being part of a team, with the messiness that implies.

"In a real community, collaboration is crucial—and it takes time and investment. I had great examples of teachers at Prep who have inspired my own work with students. It's the power of human relationships." ■



Katherine Thompson '05 (center) poses with her advisees at Mercersburg Academy.



# AFTER 41 YEARS, **ALEX RIVERA** HANGS UP HIS WHISTLE



*by Nicole Haims Trevor '91*

Rivera's legacy lives on in the hearts of a generation of athletes. For some, he embodies tough love. For the rest, just love.

The first thing you need to know about Alex Rivera is that what you see is what you get. There are no two Alexes. He is passionate, generous, loyal and kind. He sets a high personal bar for himself and for others. Neat and tidy, his longish graying hair is the only visible sign of a rebellious spirit.

But there's a twinkle in his eyes. He has plans. Adult or student, athlete or colleague, parent or alum—whatever the connection, Alex is invested in you. He listens and he reserves judgment. He tries to walk in others' shoes. These are characteristics he brought to Prep in 1978 as a young coach, and he says he learned them from his own middle school coaches growing up in East LA.



"On any day you see Alex, he's going to stop and ask you about yourself, about your day, about what's going on in your life," says Julie Mejia, a 14-year veteran of the physical education (PE) department and its incoming chair. "And if he is helping you through something, it comes from a special place in his heart that really cares about you, that wants to help get you to a better place. And he's going to give you a hug at the end and he's going to ask you who loves you."

Back in 1978, Rivera was recognizable for his energy, his talent and again, the good hair. He was coaching in a Japanese youth league when he connected with a parent named Betty Chu, who happened to be on the Board of Trustees when then-Prep Headmaster Ed Anderson was looking for a new PE teacher. Once hired, Rivera immersed himself in Prep's culture, working with John Plumb '64, Jim Wood, John Neupauer and others to understand the culture and history of the school. In short order, he earned respect as a leader. But Rivera still looks back on those early days with the perspective of someone who can't believe he won the lottery.

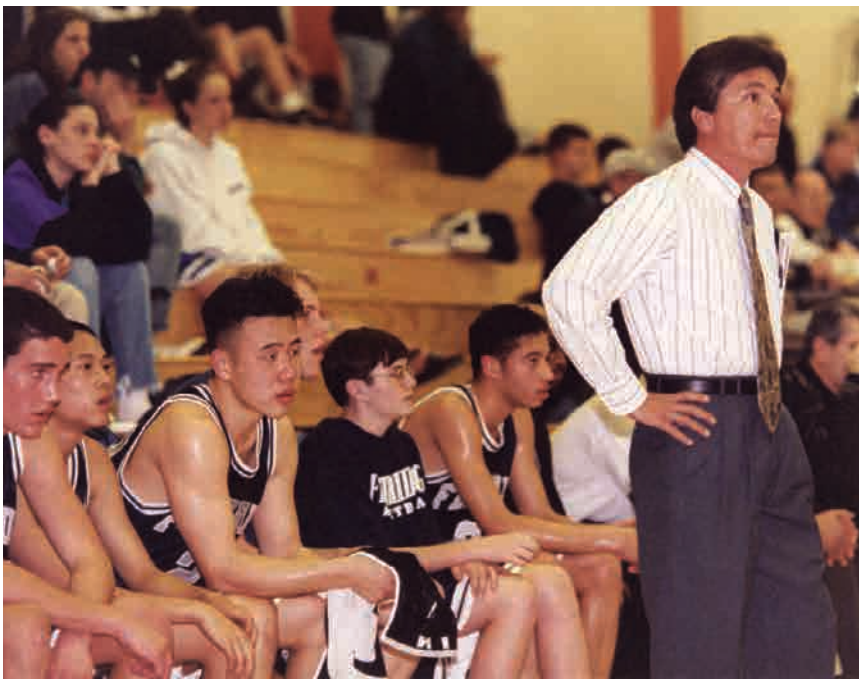
"Ed Anderson was like my second father. The opportunity he gave me was tremendous. He came all the way down to Roosevelt High School to watch me coach. Who would do

that? He connected with me. He gave me an opportunity. He's real close to my heart."

In the 41 years since then, Rivera has accomplished much for Prep, for both the Athletics Department and the whole community. Headmaster Peter Bachmann cites a few signature achievements that have had a lasting impact on both athletic and school culture.

After Rivera became AD in 1986, he made the Athletics Department more female friendly, with support from the administration. In addition, he increased the quality of PE and coaching staff. He also was responsible for the increased attention placed on athletics through the Athletic Council on Leadership, which was founded in 2008 with full support from Bachmann.

From Rivera's modest perspective, these accomplishments were about making sure that everyone who wanted to play a sport had a chance. It was also about ensuring that the department reflected the gender balance on campus and that athletics professionals received what they needed to do their jobs well. The idea itself is simple, but it was Rivera's execution that made a difference. He made exceptional hiring choices, understood his personnel and let them do their best work. There's a boldness to the simplicity of his plan, a power in the mutual respect and trust that he



**"The gym will always be a place to listen, and there will always be a door open. They will show the kids that they see them. I saw that in Sean Beattie as a young walk-on coach, and I knew when we were looking for a head of the PE Department that he would be my first call. The same goes for Julie Mejia. From the minute we hired her as softball coach, I could see that she walked my walk, too."**

*Alex Rivera, Outgoing Director of Athletic Initiatives*



fostered. In the last 15 years, the department has been remarkably stable.

Among his great hires are Garrett Ohara '84 in 1999, followed by Sean Beattie, Julie Mejia and Esteban Chavez in 2005. All four were seasoned coaches, and they worked well together. Together, they revitalized the physical education curriculum. In 2009, Beattie became head of the PE department. In the fall of 2019 as Ohara departs (see article page 17), Beattie will become AD and Mejia will succeed him as PE chair. Chavez will remain in the department and continue coaching girls and boys soccer. Ramses Barden '04 and a new PE teacher will join the PE team in the fall; Barden will coach boys basketball.

Russell White joined the Athletics Department in 2016 and will succeed Rivera as the lead mentor for the Athletic Council on Leadership. He describes Alex the same way Alex describes his own early mentors.

"He embraces you in a different kind of way. He always was the check-in guy. And you knew it was genuine. He says, 'I love you,' and you genuinely feel that love. It's so hard

to come by in today's world. I hope to be the same way," White says.

There are other familiar threads to Rivera's story. Everyone is family. Former coach Lisa Burton is his sister, while Glen Beattie, John Ruch and Vatche Hagopian are his brothers. Ohara is his oldest son, while Mejia, Chavez and Sean Beattie are his younger set of kids. Rivera never hesitates to say that all his friends are from Prep. Family, friend, teammate, athlete—he sees no distinction.

"The heart still beats the same," Rivera says.

Sean Beattie has known Rivera since he was five years old, and Rivera first hired him as an assistant volleyball coach when he was a 19-year-old college student.

"Alex treats you with respect. He's tough on you when you need it, and he gives you a hug when you need it. He can do just about anything for you," says Sean Beattie. "He's definitely a second father to me, especially at Prep."



▼ The 1989-1990 boys varsity basketball team was the school's first to make the CIF Finals.



### **The Fiery Competitor with an Enormous Heart**

In the early years, Rivera earned a reputation as a fiery competitor, and also earned a remarkable loyalty from his athletes for doling out toughness and love in equal measure. He managed to unlock in his players the personal potential of each individual—for the good of the team, and for the good of the individual. How? However you can. “Everyone’s different. Find what works,” he says.

Glen Beattie joined the faculty in 1981 and was himself an intense presence. With Rivera, they represent 79 years of Prep coaching, and when Beattie coached football with Rivera, they were a tag team of good-cop, bad-cop, improvising and changing roles as needed. “The kids appreciated the fact that we were fireballs. They needed the kick in the pants, but Alex always knew that it was, finally, about life lessons,” Beattie says.

Jeff Crawford ’86 played basketball for Rivera in middle school and high school. He echoes Beattie’s sentiment. At an event honoring Rivera in April, he said, “Practices were demanding. I’m not going to lie. There was yelling and screaming. He taught us loyalty, dedication and toughness. I am sure that my teammates and I tested your commitment to us, Coach. But you stuck with us. I’ll go to battle for you anytime. You’re my favorite coach that I ever had in life.”

▼ Julie Mejia, Alex Rivera, Sean Beattie, Garrett Ohara ’84 and Esteban Chavez celebrate together.



“There’s no question that Alex could be intimidating as a coach,” says Matt Bogaard ’90, the starting forward on Rivera’s first varsity basketball team to make the CIF Finals. “He can be aggressive. But I see now his level of authenticity. He’s very dedicated. He pushes you to be the best you can be, and you know that he has your back. He is trying to bring the best out of you as an athlete, and, as a result he makes the best out of you as a person.”

Perhaps the deepest tie Rivera has is with Ohara, whom he coached in the Japanese league and later recruited as a Prep student. Ohara came back in 1999 at Rivera’s behest, took over the varsity basketball team and succeeded Rivera as athletic director in 2014. Next winter, one of Ohara’s athletes, Barden, will carry on the basketball legacy, taking over as varsity coach. For Ohara, one special aspect of being back at Prep these last 20 years has been watching Rivera evolve. He saw his daughter, Kate ’21, be coached by Rivera, softer but still vital, 45 years later in the same gym.

“The style was different. It’s a tribute to his growth and patience,” Ohara says. “Back when I played for him, when the game was over, you knew he was going to give it to you, and you knew he would pick you back up. He’d go out of his way to show his love and support in other things he did. He went to everything. He knew your life.”

“Alex has had a huge transition. He was harsh at times but motivating. And his transition over the last 20 years has been incredible,” says Sean Beattie. “He still teaches the skills the way they need to be taught, but he’s become a more loving coach. He was always, but now he shows the love as a coach, too.”

“He has evolved into the most gentle and gracious human developer,” says Peter Bachmann. “And I’ve seen that firsthand because my son (Rob ’03) has spent most of his life with Alex. He was in his basketball camps back when he was in elementary school. When he came to Prep as a student, Alex encouraged him to pursue basketball. He eventually hired Rob for several summers as a counselor for his camps and they remain friends to this day. Even though over the last 15 years Rob has taken to calling many of his former teachers by their first names, Alex is always Coach. And I think he’ll always be Coach to generations of kids.”



## ACL: A Legacy in Life Lessons

Rivera's drive led him to what he says he was born to do, and to the area that has given him his greatest career and personal satisfaction: creating the Athletic Council on Leadership (ACL). He intuited early in his career that what happens on the court or field can be translated and magnified in other settings. He wanted to build that wider platform at Prep. His platform would include all varsity sports and be open to girls and boys, and it would function to stretch athletes' leadership abilities. It wasn't until Bachmann returned from a conference that things started to come together. Former NFL player Joe Ehrmann was the keynote speaker.

"It was the end of summer, and Peter said, 'Read this book, [Ehrmann's] *Season of Life*, and we'll talk about it next week when we get back to school.' And I read it and said, 'This is it. This is what I'm supposed to do,'" Rivera says. "Thank you, Peter Bachmann, for sharing *Seasons of Life* with me. It's the road map for the Athletic Council on Leadership."

"ACL is a center for human development and leadership, and it's a place for community spirit and community support. From Special Olympics camps and work with the Boys & Girls Club to our global connections, we have had lasting impact," Bachmann says.

It's hard to overstate how much of an impact ACL's work in Nicaragua has had on Rivera, and how this impact motivated his students. Prep, through Manuel Nuñez, has had a long-standing relationship with schools there. The first student group to visit went in 2011. In 2013, Rivera joined the trip for the first time with a group of ACL students and was changed by the love he had for the people he met and the needs that he could help fulfill through ACL.

"Our students visited La Mascota Hospital, which is the only children's cancer hospital in Nicaragua. An alum (Naomi Hatanaka '11) had started an organization to help with transportation for families with sick children," Mejia observes. The only nonprofit funding for family transportation to La Mascota comes from Hatanaka's organization and ACL.

When an ACL student came up with the idea of a fundraising 5K, Mejia was initially skeptical. Planning and executing a 5K is no small feat.

"They figured it out and it's been a huge success," she says, adding that although the 5K has raised substantial funds for family transportation to La Mascota, like many facets of ACL, its true value is deeper than dollars and cents.

"It's a way that our students come together, our families come together, our teachers. It represents Alex. Everyone comes together toward one generous moment for people who need it," she says.

Over 11 years, Rivera has created a mini-army of ACL leaders that has gone off to college and continues to use the lessons they've learned to make change in the world. ACL has not just raised the bar for leadership at Prep; it has made an impact in the local community.

The practice of mentoring ACL students requires Rivera's greatest gifts—the ability to listen and reserve judgment, while at the same time encourage others to broaden their own skills. Modeling these behaviors is good not just for students, but for the other adult mentors in the room as well. Students often have ambitious ideas. It's up to the mentors to nurture those ideas and to assist the students as they craft actionable, practical plans. At any given ACL meeting, Rivera and the other adults say far less than the students, who are broken into committees with different emphases: Spirit, Life Lessons, Community Service and Initiatives and Leadership.

▼ Alex Rivera honors the 2018-2019 girls water polo team, the first ever to play in a CIF final.



Alex Kyriakakis '20 will be a captain for Life Lessons next year. She says that she will remember and cherish Coach Rivera's words of wisdom on the topic of communication. "It goes both ways, talking and listening. Listening is the most important quality a leader can have."

Germaine Harvey '20, who will also be a Life Lessons captain, says that Rivera's impact on him has been life changing. When Rivera truly sees who you are, doors open.

"It's hard to say only a few words about Mr. Rivera because he is the main reason I'm at Prep," Harvey shares. "I first met him through an ACL summer event with the Boys & Girls Club. Since then, Mr. Rivera has been nothing less than family. He has constantly supported, protected and loved me with all his heart. He has helped me to grow into the leader I am today, and I do not know where I would be without him."

Harvey says that he'll carry three lessons forward: "Putting effort into everything I do, being accountable and responsible, and always showing respect."

### The Cycle of Leadership

When his retirement plans became public, Plumb, who showed Rivera the ropes so many years earlier, reached out to and thanked him for being a part of the Prep legacy. Plumb sees Rivera as an important link to the Jim Wood

era, and says he was glad to have an opportunity to nurture and mentor Rivera, who in turn has mentored others.

"My legacy, if there is such thing, is that I cared about everyone and I was a good enough example and mentor for our young people," says Rivera. "I have the confidence that this is a good time to go because of what I've seen in the last three years. It's a dynamic group, a beautiful group. They're involved, they care about the kids, they have beautiful, newer, better ideas. So, it's time, and luckily my legacy is their legacy—that we care about our kids."

"Family and team do have a way of blending under Alex's watch," says Ohara. "You care for people. That's the right thing to do. You care for them as family. And you deal with hard times. Alex created a unity. It's established. That's the norm. I think that will live on. I am so grateful to him."

One of Rivera's sisters from another mother is Burton, a PE teacher and coach at Prep from 1982 to 1998. She traveled from Canada to celebrate his retirement in April.

"I am struck by the vast influence he has had on so many of us—athletes, students, colleagues and coaches," she says. "He always took the time to teach his athletes and students not only the fundamentals of sport, but also counseled them to evolve into persons of strong character. Alex's leadership and impact on the Prep campus is immeasurable. The legacy he leaves will be felt for generations to come."

Ever the planner, Rivera's immediate goals are simple. He will spend time with Yolanda, his wife, whom he calls "the person I always want to be with." They'll do some traveling and consider their next move together. But his desire to serve doesn't end with retirement, and his connection to Nicaragua isn't over. He will continue to foster leaders.

With so much talk about what Rivera has given to Prep, Rivera has a simple message to the community about what it has given him. In almost a whisper, he says, "People gave me back love, parents gave me love. The school gave me support and love. Alumni gave me love. I think because of that maybe I did something right."

Indeed you did, Coach. Indeed you did. ■

▼ Former athletes from the 1980s and 1990s, including several from his 1990 basketball team, honored Rivera at a special tribute this spring.



## Garrett Ohara '84 Leaves Behind Legacy of Athletic Excellence, Loyalty and Family

In May, at the spring sports awards banquet, Garrett Ohara '84 received a well-earned standing ovation for his 20 years of service to Flintridge Prep and his five years as athletic director (AD). In his Prep career Ohara has served as a math teacher, PE teacher, basketball coach, middle school AD and AD. In addition to bringing the school its first-ever CIF championship in basketball, he has had a significant role in acculturating a generation of PE and coaching staff. As AD, he highlighted Prep's commitment to safety, a lifelong love of sports as well as a commitment to Prep for Life. Perhaps his most important role at Prep has been as dad to Kate '21.

Ohara's legacy is double the length of his time in the Athletics Department, according to Peter Bachmann. "Garrett has been part of Prep for almost 40 years," Bachmann notes. "I've known him since his first year, when he was my 9th grade history student. I'm personally grateful for his coaching of my son, Rob '03, who was on his first two league championship teams."

"I've spent about 70 percent of my life at Prep, and about 85 percent of my life with Garrett. He's much more than a colleague to me," says Alex Rivera, who first met Ohara when he was nine years old and recruited him as freshman.

Ohara returned to Prep in 1999 to be the head basketball coach, replacing his mentor. According to the *Glendale News-Press*, his overall winning percentage as a coach was .608 in 511 games. The team won 14 league titles from 2002 to 2017.

In 2011, Ohara coached the team to the school's historic CIF



*Ohara '84 addresses media after his 2011 CIF championship win.*

championship. Members of the team include Kenyatta Smith '11, who went on to play for the Harvard Crimson, and Robert Cartwright '14, who went on to play for Stanford and UC Irvine. Both athletes played in NCAA Division I Basketball March Madness tournaments. In addition to the CIF win in 2011, Ohara led the Prep basketball team to the CIF finals in 2004 and 2016.

"I think what sticks out to me most about Coach Ohara is his loyalty," says Cartwright. "He's been there for me every step of the way. Seeing him in the stands at the NCAA tournament in San Jose was truly awesome. I will always be appreciative of how instrumental he has been, not only for my basketball

career, but also in helping shape me to be the man I am now."

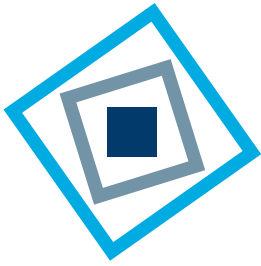
Veteran coach Glen Beattie says, "Garrett is the coach I'd want to be. I would sit in the stands behind him and listen to him in very tense moments, how calm he was. He's organized and caring, but he has a goal, too, just like the rest of us."

Ohara's time as AD was punctuated by a commitment to health and safety, promoting athletes who go on to play sports in college and fostering relationships. In his first year as AD, funds from a Crawford family gift were used to hire Andres Alamillo, the school's first full-time trainer. Ohara also developed an annual celebration of athletes who commit to play sports in college. Each spring, the athletes announce their college choices to a supportive group of family and friends (see article page 29). Signing Day sends a clear message that sports are a vital complement to a rigorous academic program.

Perhaps Ohara's greatest legacy is relationships. His daughter will remain at Prep, and his contacts with alumni will remain strong. His coaching duties will be taken over by Ramses Barden '04, whom he once coached. "Garrett will remain a campus presence as fan, parent, friend and adviser," says Bachmann.

"I feel so fortunate that Alex invested in me all those years ago," Ohara says. "That's why I came back and that's why my daughter's here. It was life changing for me. I'm grateful. I appreciate the people I've made friends with, and the community that Peter talks about—this community, this culture and this sense of caring."





*Phase II: Building for the Future*

# ENRICH INSPIRE IGNITE!

THE CAMPAIGN FOR FLINTRIDGE PREP

## WE'RE RISING TO THE CHALLENGE TOGETHER

For nearly 40 years, Peter Bachmann has dedicated his life to ensuring that Flintridge Prep is both a nationally recognized school and an amazing community. The Bachmann Collaboration Building is the culmination of his vision.

**You can honor Peter's commitment to our community by participating in the Trustee Challenge.**

Our campaign co-chairs will match up to a total of \$1.5 million from alumni and parents. Simply donate to the Annual Fund and make an additional gift to support the building. Your additional gift will be matched, dollar for dollar, in the Trustee Challenge.



**\$500,000**  
*from Alumni*

### ALUMNI CHALLENGE

will be matched by  
**ORSI and JEFF CRAWFORD '86**  
(parents of Jack '20 and C.J.)

**\$500,000**  
*from Parents*

### CURRENT PARENT CHALLENGE

will be matched by  
**KRIS ANNE and MIKE GITLIN**  
(parents of Max '20, Sophie '18 and Wyatt '16)

**\$500,000**  
*from Parents of Alumni*

### PARENTS OF ALUMNI CHALLENGE

will be matched by  
**KIM KENNE and RICH WEBSTER**  
(parents of Abby '17 and Will '14)

Visit [www.campaignforprep.org/challenge](http://www.campaignforprep.org/challenge) for more information and to make your gift today.



## Prep Community Events Build **CAMPAIGN MOMENTUM**



### **Prep Pride Is Driving Force Behind Alumni Challenge**

On a mild April evening, Prep celebrated its most dedicated and consistent alumni donors at the second Bachmann Circle Celebration. The guests represented every generation in the school's history with one thing in common—all are alumni who have turned their Flintridge Prep pride into a tradition of giving back for 10 or more consecutive years.

During the evening's festivities, Headmaster Peter Bachmann introduced trustee Jeff Crawford '86, who announced the \$500,000 Trustee Challenge match for alumni—part of the \$1.5 million overall Challenge match that runs through June 2020.

"Our goal is to complete the building while Peter is still headmaster," Crawford said.

To participate in the Alumni Challenge, alumni are encouraged to make an Annual Fund donation and a separate gift to support the Bachmann Collaboration Building.



### **Celebrating Prep's Culture of Generosity**

Gratitude was the theme at May's Masters Circle party, where honorees Karl and Kathy Swaidan shared why they love Prep.

"We're grateful for the education and the opportunities Prep has provided our daughters (Jacqueline '08 and Catherine '13), we are grateful for the friends we have made over the years and we only have gratitude and respect for the Prep community," Karl said.

The Swaidans received the Masters Circle Award for their extraordinary contributions to Prep, as Karl chaired Prep's Board of Trustees and Kathy was a dedicated volunteer.

The Caltech Athenaeum overflowed with the school's most generous donors, who applauded as Peter Bachmann noted the Collaboration Building's expected completion by the start of school in 2020.

The Masters Circle event celebrates all donors over \$1,500.



### **Benefit Raises Nearly \$400,000 for Collaboration Building**

At an intimate gathering following the Flintridge Flashback Benefit, Peter Bachmann thanked the Benefit Committee, led by co-chairs Christine Lee, Monique Stevens and Sabena Sarma, for hosting the party of the year and raising an impressive amount of money for the Collaboration Building. This is the second time these leaders hosted our benefit.

The co-chairs announced that the \$382,417 raised goes directly toward constructing the three-story building. The co-chairs also sang the praises of the Prep community, from volunteers to underwriters and all the bidders and attendees who came together for such an important institutional need.

# CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2019



“GRADUATES, LOOK AROUND YOU. This is your army. When you find yourself in a deep, dark hole, and at some point in life you will, we will be there beside you because we have been there, too. When you experience great joy—and you will—we will rejoice with you, and when you are unsure of the path that’s next, we will walk beside you, because we love you. None of us can make your decisions for you. This is your one ‘wild and precious life,’ as Mary Oliver, the poet, asked: What will you do with it?”

DEB SPERA  
Parent of Ruth Spera '19







**“THEY’RE ALL IN.** They’re all in intellectually. They’re all in athletically and artistically, as club leaders and community servants. Most of all, they’re all in with each other, and that’s the sweetest all in there is, because it lasts and grows beyond memories of high school.”

**PETER BACHMANN**  
*Headmaster*

**“THESE ARE TRANSFORMATIVE** times, not just for our graduating seniors, but also for the entire Prep community....It’s worth remembering that we all share a common goal—to preserve, and build upon, the strengths and successes of Prep.”

**DAVID CODIGA**  
*Board of Trustees Chair*



**“UNDERLYING THIS SENIOR CLASS** is a foundation of respect and affection; these seniors showed impressive leadership in academics, athletics, the arts and student government—and they did so by respecting each other as a community. This profound respect expressed itself in their question-and-answer sessions during the Identity Capstone Conference, as they engaged with each other’s ideas and supported each other’s intellectual journeys. Their affection showed itself memorably in their closeness at Senior Celebration and on the Senior Trip, as they embraced their precious last days together.”

**SCOTT MYERS**  
*12th Grade Class Dean and English Faculty*





“ [THIS IS] MY CALL to you today, my friends in the marvelous Flintridge Prep Class of 2019. You are a representative sample of the best and the brightest that our generation has to offer. You’re smart, conscientious and kind—a reputation which you’ve cultivated as we’ve grown together within our class and taken on expanded roles on campus. We now find ourselves at a pivotal and definitive crossroads: between childhood and adulthood, between innocence and experience, between high school and the broad vista of the rest of our lives. Simply put, it’s time to leave our playground and go into a world that cries out for more kindness, more new ideas and more strength of character.”

**PETER MUGEMANCURO**  
Benton Memorial Award Recipient, Senior Class President

“ WAY BACK AT THE BEGINNING of senior year, Ms. Campobasso and Mr. Bachmann sat the class down and asked us questions about our legacy, how we wanted to be remembered and what we wanted to leave behind. The top qualities that we came up with were approachable, spirited, respectful, united and confident. Each of those values shows how this class wanted to affect the Prep community. And, it’s indicative of how this class has operated not only this year but their entire Prep experience.”

**LUKE STILES**  
Founders Trophy Recipient

“ I HOPE THAT YOU CHOOSE to carry your kindness with you as you interact with new faces. After all, kindness is something the world could use a little more of right about now. Prep has given us each a model for an open, giving environment and now it is up to us to form our new environments after that model. Through our choices, we can remain the people that Prep has shaped us to be. Choose to be kind. Choose to be patient. Choose to give others the benefit of the doubt.”

**SINCLAIRE LEDAHL**  
Senior Class Speaker



## Awards at Commencement

### SPECIAL AWARDS

*Benton Memorial Award:* Peter Mugemancuro

*Cancer Federation Award:* Caitlin Fong

*Class of 2010 Tom Fry Memorial Award:*

Ben Sacks

*DAR Good Citizenship Award:* Luke Stiles

*Founders Trophy:* Luke Stiles

*Parents Association and Fathers Club Scholarships:*

Madison Manning and Danielle Maxwell

*Scholarship and Service Award:* Melissa Grande and Ryan Huntley

*Senior Athletes of the Year:* AJ Nicassio and Libby Penn

### DEPARTMENT AWARDS

#### English

*Senior Award:* Haley Allen

*NCTE Nominee:* Emma Wang

#### History

*Senior Award:* Sinclair Ledahl

#### Math

*Senior Award:* Emma Wang

*Computer Science Award:* Danny Comer

*Yee Siu King Tom Award:* Catherine Zheng

#### Performing Arts

*Senior Award:* Kyla Kikkawa

*Dance Award:* Kanako Takada

*Drama Award:* Richard Lara

*Vocal Music Award:* Sebastian Evans

*Instrumental Music Award:* Yaya Brown

#### Science

*Senior Award:* Bavan Rajan

#### Visual Arts

*Senior Award:* John Lytle

*RISD Award:* Caroline Wreszin

#### World Language

*Senior Spanish Award:* Melissa Grande

*Senior French Award:* Chloe Chanren

*John W Neupauer Latin Award:* Brent Ellis

### FACULTY AWARDS

*Class of 2019 Award:* Cl Shelton

*Parents Association Teaching Chair:*

Megan Burton

To read more about Commencement weekend and view photos, visit [flintridgeprep.org/news](http://flintridgeprep.org/news).





**“** **WHETHER WE IDENTIFY** as students, athletes, artists, performers, leaders or some combination thereof, we owe an enormous debt of gratitude to the Prep community for helping us become the people we are today.”

**RYAN HUNTLEY**  
*Commissioner General*

**“** **THE COLLEGE PROCESS** is an experience that pushes students to dig deep, requiring them to tap into their strongest sense of selves. The Class of 2019 navigated this process with the utmost respect for one another, for themselves and for their college counselors. This class is unique in the ways in which they view themselves—staying true to who they are and genuinely pursuing the areas that bring them inspiration.”

**GLORIA DÍAZ VENTURA**  
*Director of College Counseling*



# Congratulations, Class of 2023!



## Spring Awards Assembly

### SPECIAL AWARDS

*Amherst Book Prize:* Leon Kuo '21

*Fathers Club Pursuit of Excellence Awards*

*9th Grade:* Veronica Habashy '22

*10th Grade:* Rudy Ruiz '21

*11th Grade:* Lilly Fox '20

*Harvard Prize Book Award:* Maya Khurana '20

*JP Blecksmith '99 Memorial Award:* Ben Grable '20

*Student Leadership Award:* Charlie McCormick '20

### DEPARTMENT AWARDS

#### English

*Brown Book Award:* Tess Robertson-Neel '20

*NCTE Writing Nominee:* Maggie Cole '20

*Sophomore Award:* Georgia Yamamoto '21

#### History

*Dartmouth Book Award:* Violet Bretz '20

*Sophomore Award:* Elaine Cheng '21

#### Math

*Junior Award:* Jason Kreinberg '20

*Sophomore Award:* Mei-Tung Chen '21

#### Performing Arts

*Junior Award:* Barnett Liu '20

*Sophomore Award:* Nick Palmer '21

#### Science

*Junior Award:* Natalie Bax '20

*Sophomore Award:* Ryan Alameddine '21

*STEAM & Service Fair Awards*

*Best of Fair:* Ashwin Sivakumar '22

*Non-Animal*

*1st Place:* Ryan Alameddine '21,

Nolan Costin '21 and

Andrew Zerby '21

*2nd Place:* Advait Kartik '24

*3rd Place:* Tim Zhang '21

*Animal*

*1st Place:* Silvia Ioannou '21

*2nd Place:* Maya Khurana '20

*3rd Place:* Sofia Echavarria '21

#### Visual Arts

*Junior Award:* Lindsay Browne '20

*Sophomore Award:* Sofia Echavarria '21

#### World Languages

*French Award:* Carrie Luk '20

*Spanish Award:* Sylvie Shure '20

*Latin Award:* Kristofer Chang '20

#### FACULTY AWARDS

*Class of 1987 Award:* Alex Rivera

*Detoy Award:* Mark Salzman

*Scott Studenmund '08 Memorial Award:*

Sean Beattie



## Awards at 8th Grade Promotion

### ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Sage Shurman '23

Daniel Choi '23

### OUTSTANDING CITIZENSHIP AWARDS

Evan Guyer '24

Gabi Varga '23

### PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

Sienna Vaughn '24

Gya Rodriguez '23



## Take Note

### Departing Faculty and Staff Embody #PrepforLife



When **Nick Ponticello** (above left) started at Prep over 10 years ago coaching cross country, he wasn't quite sure how his story would unfold. Encouraged by then-cross-country coach Ingrid Herskind to teach math, Ponticello quickly transitioned from the field to the classroom.

While he calls his first year of teaching "the hardest year of my life," he credits his mentors, including Herskind, Lesley Fox, John Romano and Peter Bachmann, with guiding him. His approach to teaching algebra or advanced calculus involves storytelling. "I try to keep [students] engaged by giving them an overarching question to answer, like something's going to happen just around the corner."

His teaching style permeated into his role as STEAM coordinator. Ponticello spearheaded the community block STEAM workshops, took over facilitating the STEAM & Service Fair and introduced 3D printers and laser cutters to Prep. Now as he leaves to become Math Department chair at Sierra Canyon School, Ponticello shares how much Prep impacted his life.

"I got a first-class education, just like the students do, by being a teacher here; I anticipate being part of the Prep family forever."

A true Jill of all trades, **Brooke Harmon '08** (above right) has been a beloved substitute teacher, yearbook adviser, attendance queen and accounting guru. She took on a host of projects in the External Affairs office, including helping in Alumni Relations—all while a student in the Professionals and Managers Program at USC Marshall School of Business. Now, she's off to the corporate world. Harmon will join Bank of America's Private Client Associate Development Summer Associate Program. She is a true example of Prep for Life, stating, "After going to Prep, working here felt like being back at home, and I'm very grateful to be surrounded by friends and family."

**Kelsey Ros** (bottom right) moved to Orange County, starting an internal communications position at Children's Hospital of Orange County. As the assistant director of communications at Prep, Ros "always approached every subject with sensitivity and curiosity," says Director



of Communications Nicole Trevor. "Her writing reflects her inquisitive and playful nature." Web and Marketing Designer Richard Feliciano echoes Trevor, noting that "she brought to our office a calming, even-keeled demeanor and a great sense of humor."

**Alex Rivera** and **Garrett Ohara '84** will always be family. Read their stories on pages 11-17.



## Students Spend Spring Break Researching Arizona Owls

While many students spend their spring breaks recharging from a busy quarter, a group of students traveled to the deserts of southeast Arizona to study owl populations. Working alongside researchers from HawkWatch International, six Prep students immersed themselves into daily life at the Southwestern Research Station, located in the Chiricahua Mountain Range.

This opportunity came through the Earthwatch Institute, the nonprofit organization that connects scientists across the world with students of all ages.

At 5,400 feet above sea level, the students went straight to work practicing their listening skills for owl calls and trekking through the diverse biomes of the Chiricahuas. Natalie Bax '20, Mei-

Tung Chen '21, Mira Kaplan '21, Calvin Katz '20, Ashwin Sivakumar '22 and Tim Yudong Zhang '21 kept daily journals logging their research and discoveries about the owl populations in the region. They learned how to install mist nets to catch owls during nighttime excursions, identify native trees, document the effects of environmental changes and map the areas most densely inhabited by the birds.

"From malaise trap installation to mist net installation, to tree density estimation and GPS navigation, we did so many things in just three days," Zhang observed in his expedition journal about their progress.

This trip is the first of its kind at Prep, merging scientific exploration and immersive studies into one. The inaugural

excursion of Prep's Global Studies Initiative, the Earthwatch expedition is one of four trips that students are taking this year to explore the world. The rest occurred this summer.

Whether Prep students are learning about biodiversity, cultural similarities or languages, the Global Studies trips focus on collaboration and cross-disciplinary education. Ingrid Herskind, the Global Studies coordinator, explains that science is a distinctly collaborative field, encouraging researchers to work together toward common goals.

During their week in Arizona, the students, who range from 9th to 11th grade, took their classroom education into the field, discovering life as biologists and working together on research teams.





Biology teacher Michelle Gee and chemistry teacher Eric Kleinsasser chaperoned the trip. Having partnered with Earthwatch on student trips at her previous school, Gee wanted the students to experience being real-life scientists.

"In a class, we have a set amount of time to follow protocols and find answers, and to look through the microscope at tiny organisms," she explains. "This [trip] was macro-science, and they got to see what it's like for scientists whose lab is everywhere and anywhere in the world."

Gee notes how smoothly everyone discovered their roles within their mini-research team. "They each gravitated toward something that they liked. Ashwin loved doing the callbacks for the owls, Natalie helped install the mist nets every night, Mira and Mei-Tung were excellent data collectors and Tim and Calvin were the jacks of all trades," she shares.

At least one of the students had a sustained interest in birds and climate leading into the trip. Sivakumar did a STEAM & Science Fair project on wetland restoration and avian biodiversity. Upon his return from the Earthwatch Institute, he competed at the 2019 California Science & Engineering Fair, earning first place in the Earth & Environmental Sciences category for his work. He was one of just seven students from the California State Fair to advance to the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair in May 2019.

This research opportunity reveals that scientific research can begin anywhere, whether in the Prep classroom, the wilds of Arizona or anywhere else students can imagine.

"I believe science is one of the best areas where we can combat a lot of global problems, from climate change to energy crises," Herskind says, "I'm excited to see our students thinking collaboratively about our world and experimenting with new ideas."



## GOING GLOBAL

### Students Travel to China, Cuba and France

This summer, the Global Studies program sponsored three trips, each with its own distinct objective. Three different groups of students each traveled to Cuba, China and France, where they learned about art, identity and culture, respectively. Read all about their experiences in the Winter 2020 issue of *PrepTalk*.

## Mark Lim '97 Provides an Engaging FLINT-erview



Mark Lim '97, founder (with wife Hanna '98) of Lollaland, visited campus at the invitation of FLINT (Flintridge Prep Leadership Initiative). During his visit, he talked to students about the rise of the Lollaland brand, entrepreneurship and the leadership lessons he learned while developing their brand and business. Lim reflected on the company's mistakes, which include not reacting quick enough to consumer demand to shop online, deliberating for too long before making strategic deci-

sions and not reaching out for help when he needed it.

"In anything, if you're stuck, no one will ever know until you ask for help," he said.

The Lims, who are middle school sweethearts and have three daughters, found notoriety when they brought their boutique baby cup, Lollacup, to *Shark Tank* in 2012. The couple landed a partnership with Mark Cuban and Robert Herjavec. According to Lim, while the show

put them on the map, the exposure also increased pressure.

"It's hard work. We have to dig deep. There's no easy path, but we move forward because we have a great product," Lim noted. He and his wife are both children of entrepreneurs, so hard work might be in their blood. He credits a friend's father who owned a denim manufacturing company as a role model.

Lim, who played basketball and participated in an a capella group at Prep, reflected on his high school days, and recommended that students do as much exploring as possible. He shared advice straight from the Prep Honor Code:

- Remain authentic to your brand and your story. "Authenticity is close to our hearts. We can make money without selling out because we know who we are and what our story is."
- Listen more and talk less. Lim is admittedly a talker, but this advice from Mark Cuban resonated with him. "When you do talk, it should be effective."
- Operate with a high level of integrity. "It's important to know what you stand for."



### PREP GOLF TOURNAMENT A Long Tradition of Fun for a Great Cause

Hosted by the Fathers Club at the La Cañada Flintridge Country Club, the Prep Golf Tournament is a tradition that honors sportsmanship and supports the school's greatest resource, its teachers. This year's event included a putting contest, a hole-in-one prize from Range Rover of Pasadena and a silent auction. For many, the highlight of the day was a joint wine and bourbon tasting, which brought golfers and non-golfers together in the spirit of celebration for a wonderful cause—the John Plumb '64 endowment for faculty growth. Particular credit goes to the Fathers Club chairs for this event, Todd Walklett and Sheng Jin.



# Signing Day

## Flintridge Prep Celebrates Its College-Bound Athletes



*The Class of 2019 boasts nine athletes who will play college sports (L to R): Haley Allen, Mikaela Celeste, Chloe Chanren, Winston Chen, Emily Jacobs, Caitlin Fong, Thomas Kosakowski, Helen Schaefer and Yasmeen White.*

Each year, the school holds an annual ceremony, known as Signing Day, for family and friends of our student athletes. Hosted by the Athletics Department, the celebration highlights the athletes who have committed to playing sports in college, regardless of whether they're going on to Division I, Division II or Division III institutions. Carrying on the tradition of athletic excellence at Prep, the Class of 2019 boasts nine students who will be playing on college teams.

The nine athletes will play a myriad of sports, including swimming, soccer, volleyball, baseball and cross country. Outgoing Athletic Director Garrett Ohara '84, who started the celebration five years ago, shared that the event "demonstrates our students' lifelong commitment and love for sport, which they'll carry into their college career and beyond. We're thrilled to celebrate the nine seniors and their chosen colleges."

Haley Allen '19 will run cross country at Rice University. Representing the swimming teams, Winston Chen '19 is off to University of Chicago and Emily Jacobs '19 will be on Bowdoin College's squad. One of Amherst College's newest volleyball players is Chloe Chanren '19. Rebels baseball star Thomas Kosakowski '19 is headed to Wisconsin, where he will play at Beloit College.

Four graduating seniors from the girls soccer team will play for universities across the country. Staying here in California, Mikaela Celeste '19 will attend UC San Diego and Helen Schaefer '19 is joining Pepperdine University's team. Yasmeen White '19 is headed to University of Montevallo in Alabama, and Caitlin Fong '19 is moving to the Big Apple to play at New York University.

## BOYS TENNIS CIF CHAMPIONS & LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

This spring, Flintridge Prep unseated the top-seeded teams in multiple sports, including boys tennis, whose spring season was nothing short of historic. Early on, the team secured multiple wins, as well as narrow losses. As the season revved up for Liberty League preliminaries and playoffs, so did the Rebels. In an April 23 match against Chadwick, two doubles teams helped launch the Rebels to a 10-8 victory. Alec Guthrie '22 and Patrick Hastings '20 had a 6-4 victory, and the number one doubles Andrew Megerdichian '21 and Loran Baxter Mercado '22 won all three matches with a 6-0 score. The team went on to place third in the league (12-5) but a victory against Bishop Montgomery during the CIF Division 4 semifinals marked their first-ever entry into the championships. "Although we were 7-5 overall and 4-4 in League at the end of the season, we were just getting started," Coach Roger Hollomand says. "For the first time, the boys made it to the CIF Finals and won!" The championship match was against number one seed Maranatha, a team that had beaten the Rebels earlier in the season. In the end, Prep won the match 10-8 and claimed the championship title—the first in Prep history. The match saw stellar singles and doubles performances, with Gillis Linde '19 winning all three sets, Megerdichian and Derek Tran '20 gaining victories, and William Lanstra '22 and Baxter Mercado defeating two of Maranatha's top doubles teams. "This team exceeded my expectations of them, came together and played their best tennis at the right moment," Hollomand says.

*Co-MVPs:* Andrew Megerdichian '21  
and Loran Baxter Mercado '22  
*Coach's Award:* David Kim '19  
*Most Improved Award:* Alec Guthrie '22



## BOYS VARSITY VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Coach Sean Beattie says it best. "The boys varsity team had one of its best years since I've been coaching." And he's right. Throughout the entire season, the boys squad was all in on the court. The team clinched a 7th consecutive league title, maintaining an 8-0 league record from last year. Their overall record was 25-5. During a mid-season matchup against Providence on March 26, AJ Nicassio '19 clinched a major milestone, earning his 1,000th career kill. In their quarterfinal match, the team dethroned the league's overall number one seed Valley Christian to advance to the semifinals. "It was the first time our volleyball team has ever beaten a top seed," Beattie says. The Rebels ended Valley Christian's winning streak and knocked them out of the playoffs, beating them in straight sets (29-27, 25-21, 25-16). The game saw stunning performances by the whole team, especially seniors. Nicassio earned a match-high 19 kills and 17 digs; Nathan Powell '19 made 14 kills; Luke Stiles '19 rounded out the game with 13 kills; and a kill from Torres Shi '19 helped the team clinch the first game. Kristofer Chang '20 and Jake Woo '22 also contributed. "It was a great, all-around game by the whole team," Beattie emphasizes. Despite the semifinal loss against Windward, the team's heart and strength set them apart, as evidenced by the numerous league awards. Nicassio and Powell took home 1st team All-CIF, with Nicassio also named League MVP. Powell



and Woo were named 1st team All-League, and Stiles and Chang were named 2nd team All-League. "Every player was able to contribute to our success," Beattie says. "It was truly a pleasure to coach them this year."

*MVP:* AJ Nicassio '19  
*Coach's Award:* Nathan Powell '19  
*Rookie of the Year:* Jake Woo '22



## GIRLS VARSITY SOFTBALL

After an early win against Alverno, softball faced setbacks throughout the season. As Coach Julie Mejia notes, "All season long we were one play, [one] hit and even one out away from victories." Despite initial losses, the team rallied, beating Providence twice. At an away game against Providence on April 9, the team turned their focus toward taking back the field, which earned them a 17-4 win. Melissa Grande '19, Libby Penn '19 and Yasmeen White '19 came out swinging. Grande had two hits, four RBIs and four runs; Penn's two-run triple and White's single gave the team an early lead in the first innings. Though Providence fought hard, the Rebels fought harder, with Penn, Emma Stellar '21 and White helping the team to victory. The Rebels went on to beat Providence in a second game and finished 3-9 in the league and 5-11 overall. "We had a team of fighters, and we fought to the very last pitch in every game," Mejia says. "I am proud of all the effort and growth displayed throughout the season." Penn, first baseman and this year's MVP, hit .521 on the year and led the team in every batting statistic, earning her 1st team All-League honors. Grande and Olivia Stevens '20 were named 2nd team All-League.

*MVP:* Libby Penn '19

*Coach's Award:* Melissa Grande '19

*Most Inspirational Award:* Olivia Stevens '20

## TRACK & FIELD

With new and familiar faces on the track & field teams this year, the boys and girls teams were set for victories at the start of the spring season. Coach Scott Jung notes how newcomers and returning athletes "laid the foundation for future years of success." After a strong showing at the Prep League Finals, the boys squad placed third (31 points). A bevy of Rebels from the boys team went on to the CIF preliminaries, including triple qualifier Sebastian Evans '19, Alex Bouquet '20, Carson Hasbrouck '19, Bennett Oakes '21 and Andrew Odom '21. Hasbrouck, Oakes, Evans and Odom of the 4x400 relay team qualified with their third-place league time of 3:47.26. Seniors Haley Allen '19 and Sasha Codiga '19 earned spots at the preliminaries after their performances at the league finals, with Allen's league championship in the 3200 and Codiga's third place in the 1600. Ninth graders Chase Sullivan '22 and Amadi Weser '22 also represented the girls team at CIF after placing third (81) in the league. Sullivan made her debut as a quadruple CIF qualifier, winning the league title in the 400, placing second in shot put, second in the long jump and third in the triple jump. The performances by Evans and Sullivan at prelims launched them into the CIF Section Division 4 finals at El Camino College. Evans qualified in the 800-meter race with a time of 1 minute, 59.45 seconds and placed 8th at CIF Finals, while Sullivan placed 5th in the triple jump with a jump of



34 feet, 9 inches. As Jung emphasizes, the upcoming team is poised to be competitive in the coming years. "We look forward to watching them improve and compete for a league championship," he says.

### Boys Varsity Track & Field

*MVP:* Andrew Odom '21

*Coach's Award:* Alex Bouquet '20

*Most Improved Award:* Jackson Koos Davis '21

### Girls Varsity Track & Field

*MVP:* Chase Sullivan '22

*Coach's Award:* Sasha Codiga '19

*Most Improved Award:* Kate Ohara '21

*Newcomer Award:* Isabelle Townley '22







## GOLF

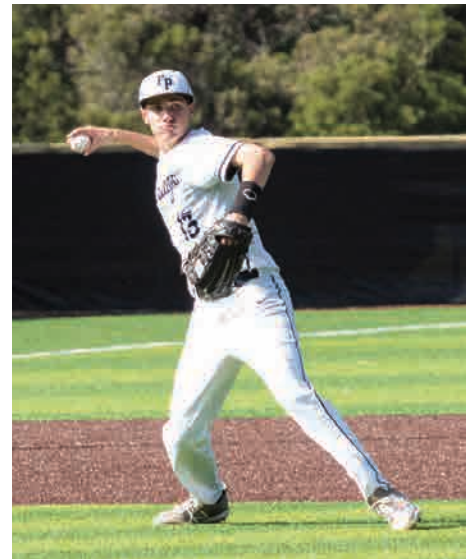
This year was bittersweet for the team, which moved from third place last year to second place in the league, but is also losing its stalwart leader and long-time coach Bob Loughrie, who is retiring. "We made a big improvement over last year. We were third last year, now we're in second. The only thing left is to move one up next year," Loughrie says. Senior Ben Sacks '19 was named the All-League MVP for the fourth year, a rare accomplishment in the sport. Sacks also represented the Prep League at the Divisional Tournament this year. Though Sacks will be sorely missed, there are many young players who joined

the team and are flexing their talents. The team finished with an overall record of 12-4, and they were 6-2 in league. "It was great to have all this young talent this year, and they're all very eager and sure to get better because they love golf. These are the nicest bunch of kids," Loughrie says. While he's sad to be retiring after 32 years of coaching, Loughrie knows the "new coach is going to have a great season next year."

*MVP:* Ben Sacks '19

*Most Improved Award:* Alex Yeh '21

*Best Newcomer Award:* Marcus Chen '22



## BASEBALL

The baseball team finished out the season 9-3 (league) and 16-7 overall, placing second in the league. Ben Grable '20 had a star turn this season and was named 1st team All-CIF. Playing to his strengths as a hitter and pitcher, he helped the Rebels maintain their lead during the Prep League. After solid wins throughout the spring, including a win against Rio Hondo Prep at their third matchup this season on April 26, the team advanced to the Division V playoffs. At the first round of CIF playoffs, the Rebels faced Garden Grove, but played to a home advantage, defeating their opponents 3-2. Starting pitcher Thomas Kosakowski '19 and reliever Spencer Seid '22 kept Garden Grove in check throughout the game. Home runs came courtesy of Germaine Harvey '20, Max Gitlin '20 and Max Rosenfeld '19. In the second round, the team faced off against Xavier Prep, but struggled to gain an advantage in the early innings, losing 2-0. Grable was named league co-MVP, with Kosakowski, Seid and Bradley Marelich '21 named 1st team All-League, and Harvey, Gitlin and Nicholas Gonzalez '22 earning 2nd team All-League. "We had a couple of young players step up sooner this season, as injuries occurred," Coach Guillermo Gonzalez says. "They did a great job. We can build from what we did this year, knowing that we only lost three players to graduation."

*MVP:* Ben Grable '20

*Pitcher of the Year:* Max Gitlin '20

*Rookie of the Year:* Spencer Seid '22



## BOYS SWIMMING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

For the second year in a row, the girls and boys swim teams both won league titles in the same season, with the boys earning their 6th consecutive title. With major individual and relay victories, the boys placed first with 396 points, comfortably defeating other competing teams. Finishing 4-0 in league, the team got a strong boost from senior Winston Chen '19, who came in 1st in the 200-yard individual medley with a time of 1 minute, 38.80 seconds and 1st in the 100 backstroke with a time of 50.78 seconds. The league finals also saw wins from the boys 200 medley relay with Chen, Matt Ng '19, Ryan Huntley '19 and Oliver Brookbanks '19 (1:38.80), and the 400 freestyle relay team of Chen, Will Fosselman '22, Ben Brookbanks '19 and Oliver Brookbanks (3:16.25). After advancing to the CIF preliminaries, the team placed 8th at the CIF finals with 116 points. Chen was named the CIF champion in the 50-yard freestyle, with a time of 21.04 seconds. Chen, who will swim at University of Chicago this fall, also earned 2nd place in the 100 backstroke with a time of 50.62 seconds. Coach Ingrid Herskind notes that Chen is a multi-record holder at Flintridge Prep in the 50 freestyle, 100 backstroke and 400 freestyle relay. Twins Oliver and Ben Brookbanks, who both received team Leadership Awards,

demonstrated "incredible personal growth and leadership success," as Herskind says. "Ben was successful as a CIF 50 and 100-yard qualifier, and both boys showed grit on the relays. They led the team this year as role models, both in and out of the pool."

*MVP:* Winston Chen '19

*Leadership Awards:* Ben Brookbanks '19  
and Oliver Brookbanks '19

## GIRLS SWIMMING LEAGUE CHAMPIONS

Coach Ingrid Herskind had hoped for a historic repeat of the 2018 swimming season, when both the girls and boys teams won the Prep League championships in the same season for the first time. This year, the teams delivered. The girls squad secured a second league championship title, and the boys team also came in first in the league. After last year's league championship title—the first in 15 years—the girls squad led the finals with 332 points. The 200 medley relay team members Charlotte Stipanov '21, Emily Jacobs '19, Makena Walklett '20 and Emily Alameddine '19 gave the Rebels a lead with a CIF-automatic time of 1:50.89, along with individual victories from Devyn Walklett '21, Alameddine, Stipanov and Lucy Friedman '21. Devyn Walklett, who holds Prep's record for the 200-yard individual medley, qualified for CIF with her time in the 200 individual medley and 100 breaststroke. After placing 7th in the

CIF finals last year, the girls team came into CIF strong. Though they placed 10th this year, the girls finals performance will catapult them into next year as a team to beat. Devyn Walklett was a finalist in the 200 individual medley and was also a semi-finalist in relays. "I can't wait to see what she can do in the next two years," Herskind says.

*MVP:* Devyn Walklett '21

*Best Newcomer Award:* Sasha Rolfe '22

*Best Performance Award:* Emeline Tolleson '21

## JV SCOREBOARD

### BOYS JV VOLLEYBALL

5-3 League, 12-8 overall

*MVP:* John Stetson '22

*Most Improved:* Jonah Lessuk '22

*Coaches Award:* Justin Walker '21

### BOYS JV BASEBALL

4-5-1 League

*MVP:* Joshua Beserra '22





### Jazz Standards and 1970s Rock Unite at Jazz Coffeehouse

On May 4, parents and friends filled Miller Theater for the Jazz Coffeehouse, an intimate concert hosted by Prep's jazz band, jazz rock ensemble and senior rock group. Featuring a blend of bebop and hard bop jazz, with a smattering of 1970s rock and contemporary pop, the evening opened with music teacher Dr. Ross Margitza conducting jazz standards. Joining the band on stage, vocal teacher Steve Hill led the Flintridge Vocal Ensemble through spirited renditions of "Moon River" and Bruno Mars' "Count on Me," as well as a medley of "I'm Old Fashioned" and "Fly Me to the Moon." Switching musical gears and genres, the senior rock group took the audience back to the height of the 1970s with songs from the Doors and Led Zeppelin. Rounding out the evening was the Jazz Rock Ensemble, which played a setlist that included songs of Stevie Wonder, Herbie Hancock, Chick Corea and Carlos Santana.

### Spring Music Concert Celebrates 27th Year



In its 27th year, the annual spring concert on April 5 opened with Haydn's "Menuet" from Divertimento, a demanding piece that the 8th Grade String Trio played with aplomb. Dr. Ross Margitza notes that it was one of two challenging pieces the students tackled that evening, including the orchestra's rendition of Mozart's "Symphony No. 25 in G Minor." One exciting feature during the concert was the collaboration between Margitza's instrumental ensemble and Steve Hill's vocal ensemble, who joined together for a cover of Bruno Mars with Albinoni and Giazotto's "Adagio in G Minor." Mixing classical pieces with movie scores and popular songs like Etta James' "At Last," the evening was jam-packed with beautiful instrumental and vocal pairings.

### Dance Concert Journeys to New Beginnings

"See You Soon," the Performing Arts Department's spring dance concert, opened in an airport terminal as two Prep friends say bittersweet goodbyes. Texting each other from their gates, the friends shared mixed emotions of leaving Prep for college. Thrilling dance numbers explored variations on the theme of travel, from moving to a new place, leaving the past behind and embarking on new beginnings. Kyla Kikkawa '19 debuted a solo piece that expressed the fears women face when traveling alone. There was even a hilarious romp with Hawaiian-shirt-clad tourists carrying maps! "Instead of approaching 'travel' from a more generic, surface level, the students really delved into all aspects of the theme and emotions relating to it," dance teacher Molly Mattei shares.





## Chicago Takes Prep by Storm

*Chicago High School Edition* comes with a warning: it's got murder, adultery, domestic abuse, mobster violence and strong language—"adult themes." Prep's production should have carried the additional caution "Hold on to your hat," because this musical blew the audience away.

Spectacular dance numbers, poignant performances and explosive choreography marked *Chicago* as un-missable. Set mostly in the Cook County women's jail during Prohibition, the plot centers on the feud between Velma and Roxie, both accused of murdering men, and the way they manipulate—and are scorned by—the media.

Unscrupulous, devious and diva-like (and we're just talking about their lawyer!), the women's battles to take center stage amid the publicity circus were mesmerizing. Played to the hilt by Kyla Kikkawa '19, Velma is a powerhouse in the jailhouse until the equally manipulative Roxie (double cast as Emmie Oertel '20 and Sinclair Ledahl '19) arrives on the scene. Her husband Amos (Matin Bagheri '21/Jack Elliot '20) loves Roxie despite her behavior, and her lawyer (Jeffrey Pendo '20/Luke Stiles '19) loves her for her unerring ability to draw attention. The entire ensemble—41 students strong—carried out the Busby Berkeley meets Bob Fosse dance numbers with assurance and verve—and there was even a unicycle!



## Arts Celebration Features Student Work

Employing the gorgeous lighting in the new atrium space, the Visual Arts Celebration on May 15 echoed a gallery opening or museum exhibit. AP Studio Art seniors displayed their portfolios, including works of ceramics, photographs and paintings. The RISD Book Award recipient Caroline Wreszin '19 featured her portraits evoking the women's movement. Melissa Manfull's Painting and Drawing students were inspired by Renaissance portraiture techniques; Tim Bradley's Advanced Photography juniors developed photographic interpretations using butterflies; and Biliana Popova's ceramics students incorporated found materials and innovative inlays into their pieces.



# Alumni News

1950

70<sup>th</sup>  
reunion

SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 29, 2020

1959

**GRAHAM SMITH** and Ann (below) celebrated Ann's 75th birthday in Princeville, Kauai, in June 2018.



1955

65<sup>th</sup>  
reunion

SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 29, 2020

1960

60<sup>th</sup>  
reunion

SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 29, 2020

1961

**CHRIS PETERSON, PAUL VAN DEUSEN** and **TONY CHAMBERS** met for lunch in San Diego in April. Their jollity was tempered by the awareness that many of their classmates had already shuffled off.

1965

55<sup>th</sup>  
reunion

SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 29, 2020

1968

**JOHN KUHN BLEIMAIER** recently published an article in the May/June 2019 issue of *Sports Afield* that covered the Metropolitan Museum of Art's exhibit on the history of London firearms.



1969

The Class of 1969 celebrated an epic 50th reunion. Several members of the class got together at the home of **STEVE RUSSELL** in Pasadena on the Friday before the reunion (above and below). The group, which included **CHARLIE ADOLPHE, ALAN STICCO, MICK HOOVER, JIM FAKAS, RICHARD TEACHOUT, MARK GILBERT, BILL MONNING**, honorary graduate Harry Hamlin, **BILL GOODAN** and **CHRIS MARTIN**, reminisced

and laughed about their time at Flintridge Prep. Many members of the class extended the fun by attending the reunion on campus the following day (see page 40).



Senator **BILL MONNING** continues to serve in his final term in the California State Senate. He currently is moving bills in safe, clean drinking water for disadvantaged communities and children's health. He and his wife, Dr. Dana Kent, reside in Carmel, CA.

1970

50<sup>th</sup>  
reunion

SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 29, 2020

1975

45<sup>th</sup>  
reunion

SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 29, 2020

1980

40<sup>th</sup>  
reunion

SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 29, 2020

**HENRY SAVAGE** is pictured (opposite, top left) with his good friend, **DAVE GOULD**, in Savage's backyard in Charleston, SC. Business brought Gould to the Low-country and they had a couple of days catching up and enjoying the fine restaurants in Charleston.



**BACK-TO-SCHOOL DAY** welcomed alumni from the class years of 1949, 1959 and 1964, including (L to R) Ned Sutro '64, Gorton De Mond '64, John Sweeney '64, Bob Nathason '64, Former Coach Tom Bradbury, Graham Smith '59, John Lindsey '64, Marv Garrett '59, Eric Baumgarten '59, Denny Rea '59 and Toby Westbrook '59. Not pictured: John Ridland '49 and Gary Manildi '59.





42 years ago, Savage and Gould met at Prep and they have kept in touch ever since!

1985

**35<sup>th</sup>**  
reunion

**SAVE THE DATE**  
MAY 29, 2020

1989

**CHRIS JOHNSON** shared a photo (below) of a precious Prep object and memory. "Although living on the East Coast prevented me from attending my reunion, I want to pass along a picture of a Prep artifact that I have kept over the years," he says. "Our Junior prom (1988), the one our class organized, had a murder mystery theme to it. Invitations included this letter opener, that was the guise of the suspected (fictional) murder weapon. Well, this object has always seemed to be on my desk wherever I have lived the past 30 years."



1990

**30<sup>th</sup>**  
reunion

**SAVE THE DATE**  
MAY 29, 2020

1995

**25<sup>th</sup>**  
reunion

**SAVE THE DATE**  
MAY 29, 2020

1997

**JACQUELINE EPLEY TEGART**

and her husband, Ted, are excited to announce the birth of their third child, Colin, in March (below). Colin joins big brothers Jameson (6) and Finnegan (2).



1998

**SCOTT POOL** shared updates on the past few years. "In 2013, I served as President of the Pasadena Junior Chamber of Commerce (Jaycees). In 2016, I was hired as a pilot by Delta Air Lines, after 10 years with my previous carrier. I'm currently based in Los Angeles flying the Boeing 757 and 767." Pool married his girlfriend of five years, Cheryl Jordan, on October 8, 2017 (below). "After the wedding, we honeymooned in Africa, visiting South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zimbabwe. The wedding was also attended by my classmate, **KRIS VAN CLEAVE**, who also served as a groomsman. Scott and his wife are expecting their first child in November. "Kris



## Roll Over Your IRA to Flintridge Prep



If you are 70 ½ or older and taking mandatory income distributions from your IRA, you can avoid the income tax generated by these distributions by directing a gift directly from your IRA to Flintridge Prep. You can direct up to \$100,000 per year—it's a great estate planning tool.

**Contact Lakshmi Dastur-Johnson:**  
[ldastur-johnson@flintridgeprep.org](mailto:ldastur-johnson@flintridgeprep.org).

## Class Notes Wanted

Submit Class Notes any time to [alumni@flintridgeprep.org](mailto:alumni@flintridgeprep.org) or by phone, 818.949.5526. Email digital images (JPEG or TIFF, 300 dpi resolution, size 5x7 inches) or send photo prints to Flintridge Prep's Office of Alumni Relations. News and photos may be reprinted in *PrepTalk* and/or our alumni web pages, depending on image quality and space availability.

*PrepTalk* reserves the right to edit Class Notes, primarily for length and style considerations, though also for clarity and redundancy. Class Notes entries are not fact-checked for accuracy, nor should their inclusion in the magazine be considered an endorsement from the school.

Please contact Jacqueline Epley Tegart '97, Co-Director of Alumni Relations, at [alumni@flintridgeprep.org](mailto:alumni@flintridgeprep.org) or 818.949.5526.

and I both attended our 20-year Prep reunion last spring, and it was great seeing everyone after so many years. I currently live in Pasadena and can be reached at [scotttdpool@gmail.com](mailto:scotttdpool@gmail.com)."

## 1999

**JENNIFER BUCHANAN**'s son, Finn Burks Buchanan, was born June 27, 2018.

## 2000

**20<sup>th</sup>  
reunion**

**SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 29, 2020**

## 2002

**AMY THOMAS PICCIOLI** shared that she and her husband welcomed their second son, Gage William Piccioli, on February 8 (below). Their older son, Everett, is "really happy about his new role as big brother!"



## 2003

**EMILY L. STEENWYK** married Josh Kotler on August 11, 2018, in Santa Barbara, CA. Many Prep alumni attended the wedding to celebrate Emily and Josh, including graduates from the classes of 2003, 2005, 2006, 2008 and 2011. Among the attendees (above right) were **GARY AU '06** and **NINA STEENWYK '06**, Patrick and Anne Au, Peter and Molly Bachmann, **ROB BACHMANN '03** and Sarah Turchin, **ALEX BATES '11**, Allan Bates and Cindy Starrett, **ANJALI BERGER '03**, **CHARLOTTE BUTLER '03**, **SETH HORWITZ '03** (not pictured) and Courtney Horwitz, **MATT JOHNSON '03**, **KATE LAWRENCE DE LA MORA '03**, Rose Chan Loui, Warren Loui, Samantha Loui, **NICK LOUI '08**, **RYAN LOUI '11**, **JEN OUYANG '06**, Janice Ohta and



Fred Weiss, **JULIEN RODRIGUEZ '03** and Jen Rodriguez, **JACOB STEENWYK '11**, Mercy and Howard Steenwyk, **CARRIE TING '03**, **NATHAN WALWORTH '05** and Daisy and Stephen Walworth.

**SETH HORWITZ** has been in London for over six years, where he and his wife have a baby boy and three-year-old daughter who keep them busy (below). He would love to meet with any young alumni or students traveling abroad!



## 2004

**JEFF NAECKER** reconnected with his friends and Prep classmates **BEN TEITELBAUM** and **MATT EGGE** at the Spring Reunion in April (below). Naecker



will be going on leave from his faculty position at Wesleyan University, where he is assistant professor of economics. He joined the behavioral sciences team at Google in June.

## 2005

**15<sup>th</sup>  
reunion**

**SAVE THE DATE  
MAY 29, 2020**

**GRAHAM BRADLEY** designed and lettered the recently published cookbook *The Newlywed Table: A Cookbook to Start Your Life Together with 100 Essential Recipes*, written by his wife, Maria Zizka. The cookbook features modern recipes that help new couples make delicious memories in the kitchen.

**RACHAEL MADORE** and her husband Allen Kummer are happy to announce they welcomed a baby girl, Clara Emily Kummer, on September 3, 2018 (below).



**JAMIE TIJERINA** is running for Los Angeles City Council District 14. Tijerina writes that the "decisions that are made at City Hall now will have a lasting impact on our city for decades to come. If elected I could be the first woman, scientist and millennial elected to this seat. To learn more about the campaign, visit [jamieforla2020.com](http://jamieforla2020.com) and follow along on social media @jamieforla2020."

## 2006

**PALOMA HENRIQUES** writes that after graduating from UCSC in Theater Arts, she began working for Greenpeace. Deeply concerned about climate change and its global impact, she participated in Extinction Rebellion in London. The organized protests demand that "government tell the truth about climate change, reach net zero emission by 2025, and create a Citizen's Assembly to oversee the changes." Henriques credits Prep with helping her to learn critically. "I learned a respect for history, for debate, for truth."

## 2008

**BROOKE HARMON** will start her second year in the Professionals and Managers Program at the USC Marshall School of Business. This summer, she is joining Bank of America's Private Client Associate Development Summer Associate Program. Read more about Harmon on page 25.



**TREY KOZACIK**, classmate of **SCOTT STUDENMUND**, visited his grave at Arlington Cemetery this past Memorial Day (below). Kozacik and his college friend, Caldwell Ritter, who knew Studenmund well, visited a few days before Memorial Day to honor their friend, and to “have a drink with Scott.”



2009

10<sup>th</sup>  
reunion

SAVE THE DATE  
December 23, 2019

2011

**JACOB STEENWYK**'s doctoral thesis made a breakthrough discovery that can help further our understanding of cancer growth. Steenwyk's research into *Hanseniaspora* yeast mutations and the yeast's survival over millions of years may provide clues toward defeating cancer. His article “An outlaw yeast thrives with genetic chaos—and could provide clues for understanding cancer growth” was picked up by the *Chicago Tribune* and other science publications. Steenwyk is currently a doctoral student in evolutionary genomics at Vanderbilt University.

**HANNAH WARDE** released a line of modern riding apparel for competitive equestriennes called Levade Clothiers, which can be found in stores in Los Angeles and Orange County and upcoming trunk shows across the country.

## Class of 2011 Alumni Make Mark in Music Industry



If you're ever looking for top competitors on *The Voice* or *American Idol*, look no further than the Class of 2011. **RYAN LOUI** (bottom left) is currently a bassist with Cydeways, a rock and reggae group based in Santa Barbara. On tour with Tunnel Vision across California, Loui says the band hopes to tour nationally after recently signing with LAW Records. “I wouldn't be the musician I am today if it weren't for Prep,” he writes.

**SYDNEY GOLOMBEK**, a member of Capitol Records creative marketing team, is part of the duo the Bops alongside boyfriend Christian Dundee (top left). They co-wrote, produced and mixed an album that debuted on Spotify and quickly landed on top playlists, encouraging them to start recording a second album.

Over on YouTube, **ISABELLA WEISS** is gaining lots of views for her violin and taiko drum cover of the *Game of Thrones* theme song. Each month, Weiss, who works in Global Brand Marketing for Universal Pictures, posts covers of film or television soundtracks that she arranged, and even reimagines characters through traditional Japanese clothing.

*Does your class year have something special happening that you want to share? Send us an email at [alumni@flintridgeprep.org](mailto:alumni@flintridgeprep.org)!*

# SPRING REUNION 2019

Spring Reunion Day brought together the classes ending in 9 and 4, who traveled back to campus to meet up with friends, share memories and make new ones while getting down to music from across the decades. The evening also featured a touching tribute in honor of Alex Rivera's retirement, including speeches from Peter Bachmann and Jeff Crawford '86.

Just a few days later, a small but mighty group of alumni from 1949, 1959 and 1964, including former coach Tom Bradbury, gathered for Back-to-School Day. They visited classes, were welcomed by Peter Bachmann and watched a highlight from the Prep production of *Chicago*.

1969



1979



1984



1989





## SAVE THE DATE

**December 23, 2019**

Alumni Sports Day, GOLD Networking Mixer, Alumni Holiday Party and Reunions for the Classes of 2009 and 2014

**May 29, 2020**

Reunion Day for the Classes of 1950, 1955, 1960, 1965, 1970, 1975, 1980, 1985, 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005

**May 30, 2020**

Celebration in Honor of Peter Bachmann (Location: On Campus)



**2012**

**KIMBERLY OSTILLER**, Global Partnerships Coordinator at LASED, was honored in New York City by Front Office Sports as a member of their Rising 25, Class of 2019. The event recognizes 25 of the best young minds in the sports industry.

**2013**

**LAURIE HAYRAPETIAN** majored in biology at Boston College. In 2017, right after undergraduate school, she got accepted to the George Washington University Medical School MD program. She will be getting her MD degree in 2021.

**2014**

**5th  
reunion**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
December 23, 2019

**ROBERT CARTWRIGHT** graduated from Stanford University and is attending UC Irvine, where he is currently enrolled in UCI's master's program in legal and forensic psychology. He used his final year of college eligibility to play basketball for the Anteaters. He was instrumental in the team's historic first NCAA Tournament victory versus Kansas State. His former coach, Garrett Ohara '84, joined him at the tournament (below).



**2016**

**NANITA BALAGOPAL** (below) was nominated for an outstanding student leadership award at UC Berkeley. She was one of 275 students selected out of 45,000 undergraduate students



## Junior Internship Day Provides Hands-On Opportunities for Students

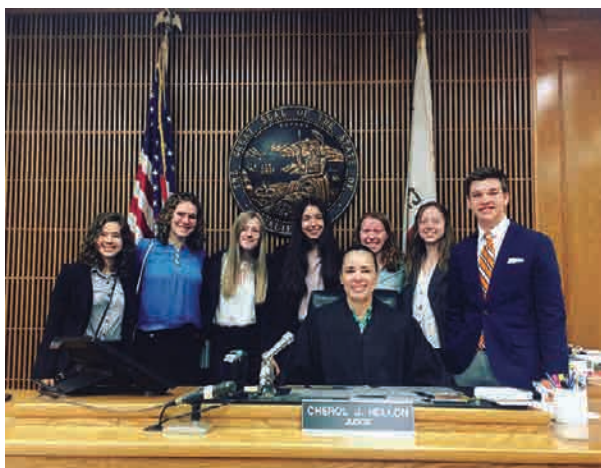
Now in its seventh year, Junior Internship Day allows Prep 11th graders to spend a day in the life of career professionals around the LA area. Each year, students visit the diverse workplaces of the hosts, who include alumni, parents, parents of alumni and friends of Prep. Students are grouped with hosts who match their professional interests. This year, 98 juniors traveled to hospitals, business offices, courtrooms and film sets, assisting their hosts in a variety of projects and learning firsthand about their dream careers.

Colleen Bissner, co-director of alumni relations, shares that many hosts return year after year because of their love for Prep and its students. "Our students say each year how Junior Internship Day impacts their life," Bissner says.

"The students were bright, curious and fully engaged throughout the visit," says host Hon. Cherol Nellon of the Superior Court of Los Angeles and current parent.

Parent and alum Christine Stepanian Armenian '91, a pediatric dentist at Kids Dental Place, echoed Hon. Nellon, noting that her students were "bright and engaging."

*If you live in the LA area and would like to be an internship host, contact Colleen Bissner at [cbissner@flintridgeprep.org](mailto:cbissner@flintridgeprep.org).*



for this nomination. Only five awards were given at the event. Even though she did not win in her category, her family is very happy and proud of her achievements and accomplishments and they thank Prep and the community for giving her a great education and foundation.

**HALEY PURVIS** is a theater arts major at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. She was hired by SLO Rep to stage manage their spring production of *Blithe Spirit*. SLO Rep is San Luis Obispo County's only nonprofit regional theater, presenting a year-round season of professional productions since 1947 (below). Haley carried a full class load while working on the show, which ran for three weeks last May. She is spending the summer abroad in Florence, Italy.



**ELSA MANN** traveled to New York City on a career trek sponsored by USC during her spring break. Mann is majoring in real estate development and met up with **ERIN FONG '11** (below), an associate at PGIM Real Estate, to learn more about what it's like to break into the real estate industry and work in New York.



**2017**  
**JONNY SAMUELS'** short film "Goodbye to Romance" was selected the winner at the University of San Francisco Video Production Film Festival, earning top honors out of 50 film entries.



## COMING SOON

# Athletics Hall of Fame

Headmaster Peter Bachmann joins the Athletics Department in announcing the school's upcoming Athletics Hall of Fame. "It's perfectly in line with our vision of Prep for Life," Bachmann notes. "It's a chance to celebrate excellence across generations."

"Flintridge Prep founder Doane Lowery was fresh from his own background as YMCA director and coach when he founded Flintridge Prep in 1933. He always placed athletics at the essential center of human development in the Flintridge Prep student's life."

The inaugural celebration will take place in December 2020, and the Athletics Department will be seeking nominations of coaches, players, teams and administrators over the next several months. We'll be reaching out with details soon!



## IN MEMORIAM

**DENNIS BRANDON**, who taught science at Flintridge Prep from 1984-2010, passed away May 10, 2019. He was a department mainstay whose humor and expertise made physics come alive for generations of seniors. He also taught chemistry and was an adviser to the Key Club. Holding court from his portable lab cart, Brandon was famous for many things: a 92-mile roundtrip commute; his lunchtime tennis matches (often with Irwin Russo); and his sign, "BIOB"—Blame It On Brandon. Many of his former students are now doctors. Alumni fondly remember his ability to help them when they were struggling, as well as a wry sense of humor that kept them in stitches. At least once, Brandon returned the favor, letting a class out 20 minutes early because they had made him laugh so hard.

**TRAVIS MCDANIEL '98** died April 29, 2019. A volleyball player at Prep, he graduated from Willamette University with a degree in English and biological sciences and worked as an assistant director for Paramount Pictures before joining Alpine Training Services, which created outdoor experiences for clients like Prep's football team. The business expanded to become the ATS Team, designing and providing rigging and stunts for live events and TV shows including *The Amazing Race*, the *Ninja Warrior* series, and *The Biggest Loser*. McDaniel served as Chief Operations Officer, then President of Production, supervising strategic partnerships with over 50 companies in the US and Europe. He designed, coordinated and executive produced challenges and shows on six continents. The ATS Team also partnered with the Department of Defense and created innovative camera systems on McDaniel's watch. In 2018, McDaniel co-founded the Obstacle Sports Team. He is survived by his parents Arthur and Kathleen and brother Justin '96.

**BARCLAY NOBLE '50** passed away October 26, 2018. He was the first Prep alumnus hired to teach math, starting at the school in 1968 and working through 1980. A swimmer throughout his four years of high school, he specialized in the 50- and 100-yard freestyle and reliably anchored one leg of Prep's relay teams. Noble attended Pomona College, USC and Fuller Theological Seminary, and taught mathematics for 41 years at the high school and community college levels. He was a member of the Bachmann Circle, and spent most of his extra time serving his church as a teacher, administrator and member of a team that built houses in Mexico. He is survived by his sister, Nancy Noble; children Dave '79 (Judy), Paul (Sarah), Rebecca Zdravecky (George) and seven grandchildren.

**RALPH PHILBRICK '51** died July 10, 2017. During his years at Prep he spent weekends and summers on his family's avocado ranch in Fallbrook, which informed his lifelong love of nature and the California landscape. After graduating from Pomona College, he went to UCLA for his master's degree, then Cornell, where he received his PhD in botany. In 1964, he began teaching at UCSB and working at the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden as a taxonomist. His interests in the flora of the California Channel Islands led him to author botanical publications, establish the first California Islands publications and launch a new Island section at the Botanic Garden. In 1973, Ralph became director of the Botanic Garden, holding that position until 1987. He also served as a planning commissioner for Santa Barbara County from 1981-1987, and was a biological consultant as well as an outdoor enthusiast, cyclist, author and avid runner. He is survived by his brother, Kenneth; former wife, Jane; children Lauren Lester, Winston Philbrick and Edward Philbrick; and five granddaughters.

**DONALD M. SMALL '50 MD** died January 25, 2019. A swimmer at Prep, he was a surfer and a lifeguard at San Clemente. He graduated from Occidental College and was a Marshall Scholar at Oxford University before earning his MD at UCLA Medical School. After a fellowship at the Institut Pasteur in Paris, he had a 57-year career at Boston University School of Medicine, founding the BUSM Biophysics Institute that evolved into the Department of Biophysics; he served as its chair from 1988-2000, moving into the role of Chair of Physiology and Biophysics from 2000-2006. His research interest was in the physical biochemistry of bile, lipoproteins and atherosclerotic lesions; he co-authored more than 300 publications. His research led to important breakthroughs in the non-surgical treatment of gallstones, and deeper understanding of the role of lipids in heart disease. His final paper appeared in the May 2019 *Journal of Lipid Research*. An accomplished outdoorsman, he was also a gastronome and wine enthusiast. He created a technique that enables saturated fats and cholesterol to be removed from meat, earning a patent for BU. Survivors include his sons Geoffrey, Philip and Samuel; four grandchildren; sisters Jane Small, Mews Small and Emilie Small; a niece; and his ex-wife Kathryn (Douglas) Dame.

# RISE TO THE CHALLENGE



**\$500,000**  
*from Alumni*

**\$500,000**  
*from Parents*

**\$500,000**  
*from Parents  
of Alumni*

## DOUBLE YOUR GIFT TURN \$1.5M INTO \$3M

The Bachmann Collaboration Building will impact Prep students for generations to come. Three trustee families have come together to generate \$1.5M in matched gifts through June 30, 2020.

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Orsi & Jeff Crawford '86 (Alumni Challenge)  
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## **Can we get your number?**

Are your parents still getting your mail? Then it's time to update Prep's alumni database with your most current information.

Please contact us at  
[alumni@flintridgeprep.org](mailto:alumni@flintridgeprep.org)

with your email address, phone number and mailing address.  
Let's stay in touch!



LOWERY LEGACY SOCIETY

## Plan your gift and perpetuate the mission of Flintridge Prep

Named for Flintridge Preparatory School's founder and first headmaster Doane Lowery, the Lowery Legacy Society recognizes individuals who provide for Flintridge Prep in their estate plans or through other deferred giving arrangements such as charitable remainder trusts, life insurance policies, retirement plan assets and real estate.

A deferred gift through your estate is a simple way to make a positive impact on Flintridge Preparatory School. Larger deferred gifts may establish endowment funds, creating lasting impact and a legacy honoring what Flintridge means to you. By providing for Prep in your estate plans, you will enhance the lives of future students.

For more information about bequests, charitable trust arrangements, life insurance, gift annuities and retained life estate gifts, contact Lakshmi Dastur-Johnson, Director of External Affairs, at 818.949.5524 or [ldastur-johnson@flintridgeprep.org](mailto:ldastur-johnson@flintridgeprep.org).



*PrepTalk* is published for the alumni, friends, current parents and parents of alumni and staff of Flintridge Preparatory School.

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Flintridge Preparatory School seeks to nurture in its students the knowledge, critical skills, community values and creativity essential for an engaged, balanced and responsible life.

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