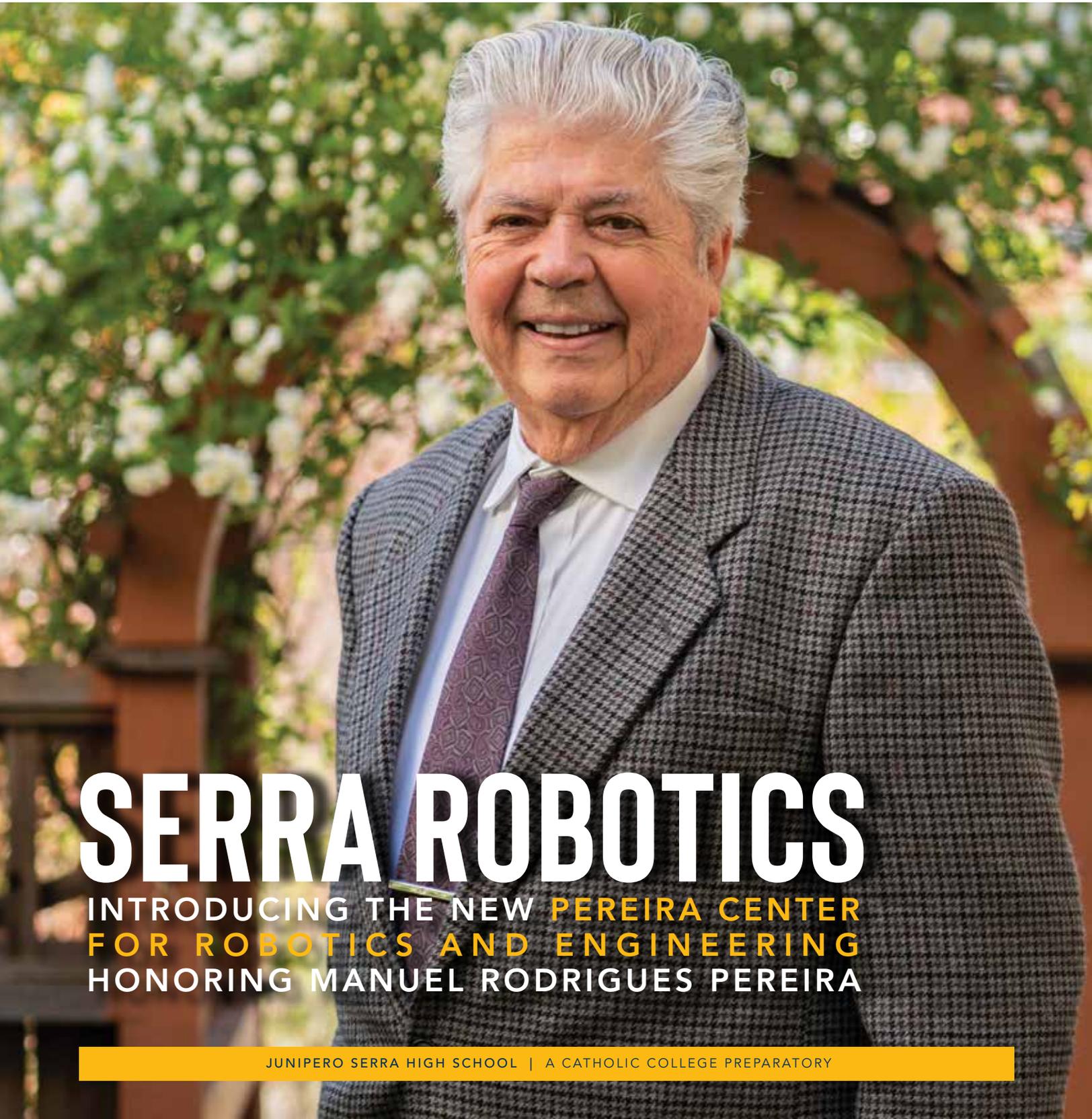




# TRADITIONS

A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY OF JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL | FALL/WINTER 2021



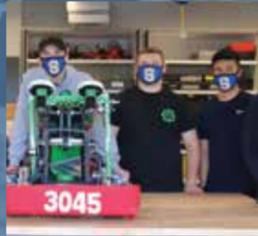
## SERRA ROBOTICS

INTRODUCING THE NEW PEREIRA CENTER  
FOR ROBOTICS AND ENGINEERING  
HONORING MANUEL RODRIGUES PEREIRA

JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL | A CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY

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## TRADITIONS

FALL|WINTER 2020

A publication for the alumni, parents and friends of Serra High School, *Traditions* is published by:

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Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends of Serra,

As we prepared this edition of *Traditions*, I was awestruck by the common theme woven throughout each article. No matter the topic, each submission carried a common thread of resilience. Resilient people are mindful. They are adaptable, optimistic and self-aware. Resilient people are able to overcome adversity and recover quickly from difficulty.

The Serra community has shown its capacity to do all of that and more. I believe it is because our community consists of individuals capable of evaluating a situation—and modifying, fine-tuning, or completely shifting in a new direction with a clearer vision.

I remember a drawing class I took as an undergraduate student at Cal Poly. Our professor taught us that effective drawing is less a technical skill, than the art of skillful seeing. In other words, if you could see correctly, you could draw. To help us truly see correctly, the professor took a simple familiar object and turned it upside down. In the very first exercise, he told us to draw a tricycle. He placed it on the table. He turned it upside down. This exercise forced us to see angles, relationships, forms and shapes in a perspective that we had never seen before. When we were finished, he asked us to turn our drawings right side up. The collective laughter of my classmates told us that we had a long way to go, but the lesson stuck.

See things with new eyes. Our world has been turned upside down, and we are forced to see the world and our place in a manner possibly not seen before. The season of Jesus' resurrection offers us the opportunity to "see" the world through the lens of faith and love. As I use this lens to reflect on the year, what do I see?

**Student resilience.** This year has been undoubtedly difficult for our students and they have responded with a resilience and grit that reflects the community supporting them. Students have shown and developed tremendous resilience and grit to face the world—and they have not given up.

**Unparalleled professionalism.** Our faculty and staff have shown a total focus on what is best for our students. I sit in awe of my many colleagues—teachers, counselors and administrators, coaches, campus ministers—who worked double time, responded with creativity, and increased their efforts with a singular focus on ensuring that our students receive an outstanding education. Their witness to the mission has inspired me. As one teacher said, "We love the students, and that is what motivates us."

**Unwavering support.** Our treasured alumni, board members, parents, parent ambassadors and donors have all gone above and beyond in support of the students. We are overwhelmed with gratitude for our community, which has supported students with financial needs, reached out to applicants to reiterate Serra's mission, volunteered to help our community and worked overtime to help define a strategic plan for the future.

Each member of this community brought to life Serra's mission. As we look forward, I am emboldened by the words of Pope Francis who shared the following with educators:

*"May we be sustained by the conviction that education bears within itself a seed of hope: the hope of peace and justice; the hope of beauty and goodness; the hope of social harmony. We must move forward, all of us together, each as we are, but always looking ahead to the building of a civilization of harmony and unity, in which there will be no room for the terrible pandemic of the throw-away culture." - Pope Francis*

Serra is a sign of hope, and we are moving forward boldly. In just a few short weeks, we will convene at our strategic planning retreat to define the goals that will lead Serra forward for the next five years. We have submitted building plans to the city of San Mateo for summer construction projects, and we are already planning our fall schedule to ensure all of our students are back in the classroom. We are resilient and we are moving forward.

Sincerely,

Barry Thornton, Ed.D.  
President



*Siempre Adelante  
Always Forward*



“TO ME, SERRA IS MUCH MORE THAN A HIGH SCHOOL—IT’S A SECOND HOME, A PLACE TO DEVELOP NOT ONLY AS A STUDENT BUT ALSO AS A PERSON, AS A PROFESSIONAL.”  
—RICHARD ANDRADE



**Starting a new job** in a new place always brings a mix of excitement and anxiety, but starting a new job in a new school during a worldwide pandemic presents some very unique challenges. These 14 people accepted the challenge and rose to the occasion at Serra this school year.

**Karla Andrade Galvan**  
Spanish Teacher



Spanish teacher Karla Andrade Galvan brings to Serra a wealth of experience teaching Spanish language and Latin cultures at the high school and college levels. She employs a variety of current, innovative teaching strategies to motivate her Spanish I and Spanish II students and encourage their learning.

“These include work stations that help encourage work in pairs and small groups,” Karla said. “They learn commitment, sharing and collaboration that will be attributed to their future professions.”

Karla’s students also love to hear stories about her childhood in Mexico. One story she has shared with them is the fable of the chancla. “The chancla is a dynamic tool in Latin American culture that moms and grandmothers use to control the kids,” she explained.

Karla holds a master’s degree in Spanish from San Jose State University.

She describes Serra as a community that fosters student development spiritually, academically and personally. “This approach,” she said, “helps young men become critical thinkers who are prepared for college and career.”

Karla and her husband, Jose Luis, have two children, Frida Alejandra and Jose Luis, as well as a dog named Carnalito, which means “little bro” in English.

**Richard Andrade**  
Math Teacher  
Junior Varsity Soccer Coach



Inspired by his older son’s scholastic pursuits, Richard Andrade retired from a 29-year corporate career to go back to school. In 2016, he graduated from University of Phoenix with a bachelor of science degree in business finance—and he didn’t stop there. He went on to pursue a master’s degree in kinesiology, which he will complete this summer. Although it was the opportunity to coach soccer that originally brought Richard to Serra, his extensive finance background experience tutoring math

and science at the college level expanded his role to include substitute teacher for the math department.

“I must say,” Richard mused, “the morning hairstyles on Zoom are entertaining, but it’s the warm smiles I really look forward to, he added.”

“To me, Serra is much more than a high school,” Richard said. “It’s a second home, a place to develop not only as a student but also as a person, as a professional.”

He went on to share that his dream for next year is to see his students on campus, in classes, and on the soccer field.

“It is a warmth in the heart, being blessed to witness their lives at this stage,” Richard said.

Married for 36 years, Richard and his wife Suzanne have two adult sons, Alex and Eric, who share their love of soccer and devotion to family.

**Danny Arias**  
Counselor



Before donning Padre blue, Serra’s newest counselor, Danny Arias, provided support to local high school students at Riordan and Mitty, as well as in private practice at the Center for Developing Minds.

“It has been a very positive experience so far at Serra,” he said. “The counseling team and administration have been very supportive; the communication and collaboration has been great. The students are fantastic guys—welcoming, engaging and bright.”

Coaching basketball also is a passion of Danny’s, and he’s hoping to join the Serra coaching ranks next school year. He brings coaching experience at the high school and college levels to his game.

Danny has been very impressed by the school’s handling of the challenges presented by the pandemic.

“Communication, collaboration and compromises are such an important part of leadership, and it’s encouraging to see how this extremely difficult situation has been handled at Serra,” Danny said.

Danny earned his master’s degree in counselor education and his pupil personnel services credential at San Jose State University. He is a self-professed family man who loves basketball, traveling and staying active.

**Frank Bruno**  
Campus Ministry Retreat  
Social Media Coordinator



Upon accepting his position as a retreat and social media coordinator on Serra’s Campus Ministry team, Frank Bruno moved to California from Philadelphia, where he worked as a campus ministry associate at St. Joseph’s University.

“The community here at Serra feels special,” Frank observed. “I am grateful to have gotten to know my colleagues in Campus Ministry, working alongside them, and I have enjoyed connecting with the students.”

Although Frank is looking forward to having more students back on campus and more opportunities to interact, engage, and minister with the Padres, he has already seen their integrity in action. “Just recently, a student came up to me and turned in \$20 he found outside that he believed one of his peers may have lost,” Frank said. “He could have easily put the money in his pocket and gone about his day, but he chose to do the right thing. His honesty spoke volumes to me.”

Frank attended Assumption University in Massachusetts, graduating with a bachelor of arts degree in writing and mass communications/sports management. During quarantine, he picked up longboarding—a new favorite hobby—and is challenging himself to learn guitar.

**Ryan Cuddy '14**  
Freshman Baseball  
Assistant Coach |  
Campus Supervision Team



Although Ryan loved his years playing Padre baseball, he always believed his future in the sport would find him in the coach’s box. “Experiencing the game through the eyes of a coach is a perspective I really love,” Ryan said.

“Being around the freshmen players and helping them develop is truly gratifying. I especially love to see the kids who do not make the team freshman year work hard and make the team in their sophomore year. That’s the spirit of siempre adelante!”

Ryan, who has completed his AA degree in health and physical education and is a certified EMT, has worked as a coach and private instructor for two San Mateo-based baseball academies over the past four years.

In addition to his coaching duties, Ryan has been providing supervision around campus during the school day. "Serra is a close community; I realized that when I was a student here," Ryan noted. "But now, returning to the campus, I see even more clearly how strong the brotherhood is."

On weekends, Ryan likes to trade his mitt and bat for golf clubs or hiking boots.

## Garrett Fetisoff '19

Freshman Water Polo Coach

Freshman water polo coach Garrett Fetisoff sees Serra High School as "a place of nurturing growth and development for young men—a special process which is not fully understood until you graduate."



Garrett speaks from personal experience, having graduated from Serra in 2019 before heading to California State University, Chico, where he is currently studying computer science.

Garrett played water polo all four years as a Padre and earned MVP status on junior varsity his sophomore year. Garrett is excited to be back poolside at Serra.

**"I'm looking forward to applying in games what we are learning in the pool," he said. "I think we have a competitive team, and I'm optimistic about our future."**

Garrett is also hopeful that a water polo summer team will be established in the future. He recalled, "Our summer team, which was all Serra guys, even made it to the Junior Olympics."

When not studying or coaching, Garrett is working toward earning his pilot's license and leading a student airplane build at San Carlos Airport. He also enjoys surfing, dirt biking and working on his Jeep.

## Anthony Hoyt '14

English Teacher

In the senior polls for Serra's Class of 2014, Anthony Hoyt was voted "Most Likely to Teach at Serra" by his Padre brothers. Six years and two degrees later—a bachelor of



arts in English and history from Santa Clara University and a master of science in secondary education from St. Joseph's University—Anthony is back!

"I love Serra," Anthony said. "I have really enjoyed working with my former teachers/mentors and seeing the Serra brotherhood continue to grow and prosper in my classes."

Reflecting on his experience at St. Joseph's University, Anthony said, "Having the opportunity to not only study, but work in Philadelphia allowed me to gain a better understanding of myself and my role in education."

Anthony is already having an impact on his students, making meaningful connections despite the challenges of teaching during a pandemic.

**"Just the other day, one of my students told me that reading our newest novel in class has inspired him to become a filmmaker and adapt the book into a film," Anthony said. "Seeing his excitement, and knowing I helped play a role in this choice of his, made every struggle, every challenge from the school year worth it."**

## Daniela Labrador

Spanish Teacher

Daniela taught for six years in a Catholic school in Venezuela before relocating to the Bay Area. Before joining the faculty at Serra, she worked for IES Language Foundation that assigned her to teach Spanish at neighboring St. Gregory School, where she "got to know the wonderful community of San Mateo."

Daniela's first-year impressions of Serra are nothing but positive. "All the students are respectful and participatory, and my colleagues are truly amazing, she said. "I feel blessed for the help and support I feel from the entire Serra community."

Daniela, whose language and literature teacher credential was earned at a specialized university for teachers (UPEL) in Venezuela, loves to keep her students engaged and moving. **"We often do dances in my Spanish classes, and we really have a lot of fun," she said. "It is a way to move, get out of the routines, listen to Hispanic music and see the different rhythms and cultures of Spanish-speaking countries."**

Like many of us, Daniela looks forward to next school year, hoping "everything returns to normal and we can all be on campus without fear of Coronavirus."



## Cyrus Morrison '16

Assistant Head Swimming Coach

Serving his first year as an assistant head swimming coach, Serra alumus Cyrus Morrison has been a competitive swimmer for more than 12 years—including four years as a varsity swimmer at Serra, medaling at CCS championships each season. Cyrus went on to swim at Cornell University, where he was a two-time Ivy League championship team member and earned his place on the school's top, all-time list for 100 and 200 freestyle and the 200- and 400-freestyle relays. He earned his bachelor of science degree in biology and society in 2020 at Cornell and is currently a graduate student studying public health at George Washington University.

Cyrus is looking forward to having a full swim season next year without restrictions, but he has already seen the passion Padre swimmers bring to their sport.

**"On the first day of optional preseason training offered when restrictions were lifted, we had seven swimmers show up, eager to get back into the water and train even though it was not certain if there would be a swim season at all," Cyrus said. "I am proud of their dedication and passion for the sport."**

Cyrus also is happy to see that "the brotherhood is still strong at Serra."

## Grace Palanjian

English Teacher

After teaching high school English in public school for 12 years, Grace Palanjian made the move to Catholic education. She recently taught English Language Arts at St. Matthew Catholic in San Mateo for two years. However, when the opportunity to teach at Serra arose, she jumped at the chance having realized how much she missed education at the secondary level.

"I truly enjoy teaching at Serra," she said. "The students are so genuine and motivated to learn."



Grace also found all the teachers and staff to be welcoming and supportive. **"It is clear," Grace noted, "that parents, staff and teachers all work together to ensure that students feel a sense of belonging, comfort and a positive working environment to achieve success."**

Grace, who also is involved in the French Club, looks forward to experiencing Serra "in full swing, once we get out of the danger zone of the pandemic."

Grace earned a bachelor of arts degree in English from the University of California, Davis, and her single subject teaching credential from San Francisco State University.

Grace's two-year-old Maltese puppy, Theo, is an honorary member of her sophomore and junior English classes, having been introduced to the Serra boys during community-building activities.

"As a relatively new dog owner, I've really appreciated the advice my students have shared on what treats Theo might enjoy and what toys might end up his favorites," she said.

## Arthur Rios

Business Office, Financial Aid Manager

With 16 years of experience in higher education in both admissions and financial aid departments, Arthur Rios brings a wealth of knowledge to his new position in Serra's business office. Not only does Arthur manage the school's tuition assistance and scholarship programs, but he also handles accounts receivable. Equally as important, Arthur is on the front lines helping families understand how they can afford a Serra education.

**"Although most of my relationships have, by necessity, been built through email, video meetings and phone calls, my impressions of the Serra community have been very positive," Arthur said. He added, "I am looking forward to meeting the students and families who have made Serra's reputation great. Most important to me is for these young men to have some normalcy back in their lives."**

Arthur and his wife, Rhoda, are the parents of two girls, 7-year-old Andie and 14-year-old Sadie. He stays active outside of school with softball, golf, and running in addition to enjoying time spent with his family.



## Andrew Silva

Director of Aquatics  
Academic Resource Staff



Director of Aquatics Andrew Silva has a unique perspective on coaching aquatics, having worked at the high school, NCAA Division I and international levels. He also is a National Team Coach with USA Water Polo. "This gives me a chance to coach and travel with some of the best players and coaches in our country," he said. "I'm constantly learning from them, and I'm excited to bring what I learn back to Serra and help prepare our student-athletes to perform at their absolute best."

During this pandemic year, Andrew was most excited about laying the foundation for Serra teams and establishing a culture that will stay with the aquatics program for many years to come.

"We are going to build something very special, and it all starts with the culture and expectations we establish this year," he said.

As director of aquatics, Andrew is also involved in the management and operation of Serra's aquatics facilities. "I've enjoyed preparing the pool so our athletes have a fantastic facility to practice and compete in," he shared. Away from the pool deck, Andrew has been working with students in the Academic Resource Center (ARC).

**"The ARC students have been incredibly impressive to work with," he said. "Each of them has shown me his sincere dedication to taking advantage of the ARC resources to achieve his academic goals."**

Andrew holds a bachelor of arts degree in political science and a master of science degree in kinesiology from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo.

## Megan Thaler

Science Teacher



Megan Thaler's background in environmental education and marine biology have helped her to develop the passion and skills she brings to her biology and chemistry classes at Serra. In addition to her formal education—a bachelor of arts in biology from Wesleyan University and a master of science from Southern Oregon University—Megan has worked at the Houston

Zoo and at marine science centers in the Florida Keys. Her love of science also has taken her to Australia and New Zealand for work and travel.

Before joining the teaching faculty at Serra, Megan taught at public and private high schools in Virginia, Texas and the Bay Area. **"Everyone at Serra has been very friendly and welcoming during this difficult year, especially my colleague and mentor Dr. Tara Mann," she said.** What's Megan looking forward to? "Hands-on activities," she announced, "and getting to know my students face-to-face. Maybe without masks? We can hope!"

Megan and husband James have a busy household that includes their 7-year-old daughter, 13-year-old son, a Maltipoo puppy, a black Halloween cat, and a snake named Coolio.

## Karen Zavala

Spanish Teacher



Karen Zavala was first introduced to the Serra community a couple of years back when she signed on to teach in our summer school program. This year, she jumped in full time to guide Spanish learners at the highest levels, including Spanish 7-8, AP, Spanish Honors 3 and Spanish 3.

**"Serra is a great community that believes in developing young men to become leaders and well-rounded individuals who are set to do great things for their community,"** Karen said. Moreover, she has come to know that "Serra believes we are all conduits in fulfilling our mission here on earth and to follow our moral compass to make this world a better place while serving others."

Karen's deep experience in education and commitment to youth advocacy includes more than 10 years working in higher education as an adjunct lecturer before crossing over to teach high school about 12 years ago. She also served as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) for three years in support of foster youth. In addition to being a Giants fan and an avid traveler, Karen enjoys cooking up her "killer Baja fish tacos" and listening to her favorite band, Sublime.

# THERE'S A NEW DEAN IN TOWN

**R**ay Baldonado '07 has been named dean of students, a position he refers to as his dream job. Just a few months in his position, following a brief stint as interim dean of students, Baldonado said things are going very smoothly in his department.

"It has been amazing! It's my dream job—it's everything I have dreamed of, and then a little more work," he quipped.

Being the dean of his alma mater is something that Baldonado holds dear. A graduate of Serra in 2007, Baldonado reflected on his experiences at Serra and said he remembers the mentors in his coaches and teachers, and the positive impact they had on him. He said he hopes to pay that aspect forward by being an inspiration to the students he works with at Serra.

"When you think of the dean, you think of a disciplinarian. But discipline is not something that happens to you, it is something that happens for you," he said. "It is something that helps students in the long run, as it teaches them to be accountable for their actions and behavior."

While the job has been challenging with all the protocols in place due to the COVID environment, Baldonado said these past few months with seeing restrictions ease up with regard to sports and more in-person instruction for students have been a blessing.

"Having the boys back on campus has been awesome. We work at schools because we get to help kids and we like actually being with kids," he said. "It's tough when they're not here—it is so great to see these boys back on campus."

After graduating from Serra, Baldonado spent his career working in various capacities at Serra. He has held many positions, including substitute teacher, athletics coach, assistant dean of students and assistant athletics director. Since July, Baldonado has been the interim dean of students.

Baldonado's passion for Serra is underscored by a commitment to its students and the safety of its campus. He demonstrated throughout his 12-year career at Serra that he is committed to supporting students and recognizes the intersecting identities that influence and impact the Padre experience. Baldonado has a deep understanding of Serra's diverse campus and an intense respect for its students.



"I am so fortunate to have this role and look forward to being able to give back to the students in this capacity," Baldonado said. "I am committed to maintaining a safe and secure campus so the students have a good daily experience."

According to Serra Principal Charlie McGrath, Serra benefits greatly by Baldonado's presence.

**"Since becoming principal, I have experienced firsthand Ray's work ethic, professionalism, attention to detail and love for Serra," he said. "I have every confidence that he will move the Office of Dean of Students in the right direction for the next generation of Padres to build men who are respectful, inclusive, compassionate men of integrity."**

Baldonado grew up in San Mateo and attended St. Gregory Catholic School prior to his high school years at Serra. He graduated from Notre Dame de Namur in Belmont with a degree in liberal studies and is currently studying educational administration through the American of College Education. Baldonado is married to Caroline, and they have a son, Andre, 3, a future Padre. An avid sports fan, Baldonado enjoys watching the Padres compete. Baldonado himself played football and wrestled for Serra and during his senior year, he threw shot put. He is also currently the vice president of the Serra alumni board.



This year's event was one of the most successful in Serra history, highlighting the school's amazing families and its philanthropic focus on its steadfast community.

Its theme, "Keeping the Dream Alive," was carried through a 45-minute video presentation hosted by Fadelli, who brought viewers to various iconic spots on Serra's campus with more than seven sideline videos that included presentations from President Barry Thornton and Principal Charlie McGrath.

Senior Pablo Ossio gave a video presentation of a day in the life of a Padre, and seniors Aditva Pathak and Samate Manuofetoo, along with junior Ryan Mahe, performed a beautiful thank you song that had viewers in tears.

The Boger brothers (Holden '18 and Noah '15) shared their childhood dreams of becoming a Padre. Their

parents, Rockne and Deany, expressed how important it was for them to be part of a strong community of faith. They wanted a program for their sons that was aligned with their family values—a program that would help their sons grow into young men who were compassionate, responsible and capable of giving back and contributing to society. They found what they were looking at Serra; however, they knew that without financial assistance, their sons would not be able to attend.

Raising a total of \$650,000, this year's Fund a Dream was one of most successful efforts to date. A huge thank you to all of the generous contributors to Fund a Dream, We are truly grateful.

"To know that the money that we raised is going to help so many young and bright Padres now and in the future, makes it that much more meaningful," Fadelli said.



# 2021 FUND A DREAM SCHOLARSHIP BENEFIT

*Keeping the dream alive*

Serra's 17th annual Fund a Dream in February had a different tone this year. While there was just as much support and energy behind this benevolent effort, the story Serra told was reflective of a year of struggle and the search for light amid the dark.

With an increased need connected to the financial and occupational impacts of the pandemic, the Serra Administration made a declaration to support all struggling Padre families—a decision made months before the Fund a Dream event was planned.

Each year since 2005, Serra's Fund a Dream Scholarship Benefit has helped to raise the additional funds necessary to ensure that all qualified applicants who dream of becoming a Serra Padre are afforded that opportunity. Since its inception, Fund a Dream has raised more than \$5 million. Every cent raised goes directly to tuition assistance.

Knowing the 2021 event would have to be virtual given county rules for social gatherings, Serra highlighted the need through the stories of those struggling. With words from the recipients themselves, Serra painted a picture that resonated in the hearts of supporters. The community heard from the single mom of four struggling to make ends meet, and the Padre family whose father was furloughed, ending his 17-year career.

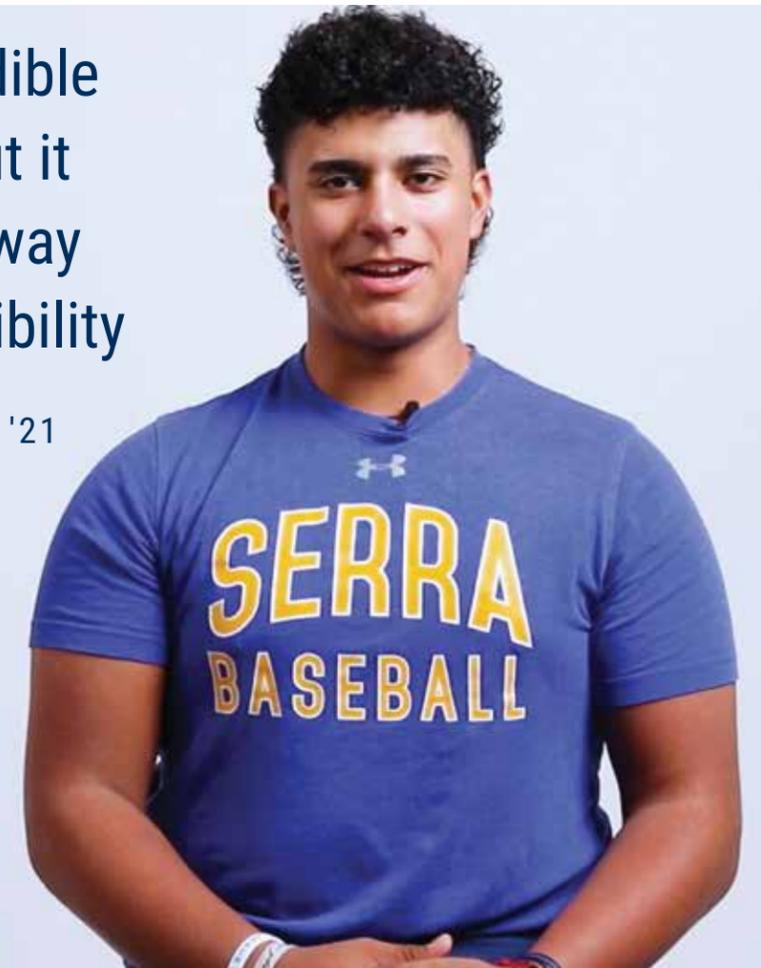
These Padre families, chock full of pride and love for Serra, came to the school for support, and due to the generous Serra community, was granted their wish.

"I am so moved that every year, so many generous supporters turn out to offer the amazing Padre experience to so many qualified, bright young Padres," said Serra Chief Advancement Officer Michael Fadelli '88.



"We have an incredible culture at Serra, but it will only stay that way if we take responsibility for it."

-Pablo Ossio '21





**"WE ARE SO PROUD OF THE SUCCESS OF OUR STUDENTS WHO ARE BEING ACCEPTED AND CHOOSING AMONG SOME OF THE FINEST COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN THE COUNTRY."  
—BARRY THORNTON, ED.D.**



## CATCHING UP WITH PRINCIPAL CHARLIE MCGRATH

Serra Principal Charlie McGrath had been on the job for just nine months when word of a global pandemic made its way to Serra High School—forcing its shutdown from March 6, 2020 through November 9, 2020. It was an unimaginable and unpredictable moment in Serra's history, but one that would become one of its most heroic moments. Serra leadership, faculty and staff sprang into action to educate Serra's 800-plus Padres, while being understandably preoccupied by ever-changing health and safety protocols.

With a fine-tuned schedule that changed to adapt to changing county health protocols, Serra was able to do what few schools could, which was to bring its boys back on campus safely while simultaneously mastering the new art of hybrid teaching.

We caught up with McGrath to ask him a few questions about his experience as the school's leader during such a challenging time.

**Q: How are things going this semester at Serra?**

A: Who would have thought that 10 months and more than a year into the COVID-19 worldwide pandemic we would be as successful as we are here at Serra. None of this has been easy. The consolation is a three-fold approach—as a team, as a school and as a community. Everybody has put such a good faith effort into supporting the mission and vision of Serra and saying how are we going to make things work for our boys at this moment in our history? We are in a really good spot academically—our seniors are being accepted into the most prestigious colleges in the country, as you would expect. Our freshman incoming class is very strong. We take things day by day in terms of daily operations, but we're also planning for the future. We are ready for anything that comes at us. We pivot quickly, we communicate, we listen, we incorporate and we evaluate.

**Q: How has the change from distance learning to hybrid classes been for the students?**

A: I think the biggest challenge has been in the loss of interpersonal relationships. The relationship sets the foundation for expectations. Our educational model is based on the interactiveness with our students in the classroom, with our teachers and the community. Our teachers know their students. From day one, they are constantly building on those relationships and getting to know their students. To take that regular assumed contact and have to blend that into a virtual world is very difficult.

**Q: What is the biggest challenge the faculty had to overcome in teaching in a hybrid environment with students at home and in-person?**

The dedication of our teachers was incredible. Their main concern was to ensure there was no instructional loss. We talked a lot about academic rigor, and we considered what the long haul for distance, hybrid and blended learning was like. We wondered, How can the teachers, who are so focused on their profession, regardless of subject matter, create the same learning environment for their students? For example, the intensity the students bring to the teachers in asking questions, that dialogue in learning? The primary knowledge and how you build on that and how the boys think, challenge, assess, give feedback and to do that in the non-interpersonal environment was one of our biggest challenges. But we have turned these challenges into opportunities. So, when we identify a gap or something that we have to modify, everybody's on board with it.

**Q: How did Serra's strong community help maintain strength and connection when the world went into lockdown?**

A: For the past 10 years, we have invested in people, our infrastructure and professional expectations. So once this happened, and although it caught us off guard, it didn't stop us. The teachers were worried about several things—instructional loss, mental health and wellness and educational preparedness for the boys. Not being with the boys every day and not having day-to-day contact was part of that loss because we moved into a lockdown. So the concern was multi-faceted because of the norm that has been established here at Serra. That norm is the organic nature of a community that we have invested in for so long—and it got tested. But what that testing showed us is that because our foundation is so strong, we were able to respond a lot faster than we even thought we could.

**Q: Overall, how do you perceive the Serra students are doing?**

A: Holistically, as a school population, the boys are doing okay. I think there were segments of our population—where the freshmen were struggling because they didn't have the time to establish themselves as a class. The seniors didn't have their ceremonial events like prom, graduation, sports and productions, so there was a real mourning of the loss of Serra High School as a physical location where 800 families brought their boys to school every day. Those boys reshuffled through classes and activities throughout the day. We lost that and the responses to that manifested themselves in certain ways. It also highlighted where we needed to reinforce some of our programming and we needed a new way to keep up the dialogue and the conversation. Outside of academics, our student support services such as counseling and Campus Ministry really found ways to reach the boys. Here we are in the spring of 2021, and I believe we have found a great balance. We have been able to establish the culture and climate of our school.

**Q: What does next fall look like for students at Serra?**

A: We put a lot of thought into our winter schedule, which has the boys back on campus every other week for a five-day school week. They are in school from 8:15 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. daily. We did this because we needed to set the foundation for going back to normal academically with a five-day school week. While we cannot predict what will happen with regard to the pandemic, we hope that with vaccinations happening and with lower COVID rates in our country we will see a normal school year begin in the fall.

**Q: What are you most proud of?**

A: I am so proud of Serra. We could not have done what we have been able to accomplish—especially this year—without the support and dedication of the Serra community. Our benefactors, alumni, teachers, faculty, staff, students and families have all played an integral part of what has happened here at Serra. I am most proud of the ability of our community to step up in a moment in the school's history that we couldn't plan for—there is no graduate course for this and there is no playbook. I am most proud of everybody who currently or historically has played an active role in ensuring the success of Serra High School.



## NEW LAB, NEW MOTIVATION FOR SERRA'S ROBOTICS CLUB

There's a slogan posted on a sports banner on the wall leading to Serra's Freitas Field that reads, *Legends are made here*. But many might not know that robots are made here, too.

A little farther down that famed corridor sits the brand new, state-of-the-art Pereira Center for Robotics and Engineering—the spot where robots are made by a team of talented Serra Robotics Club members.

Robotics integrates computer science and engineering, involving design, construction, operation, and the use of robots. It develops machines that can substitute for humans and replicate human actions. Robots can be used in many situations and for many purposes, but today many are used in dangerous environments such as firefighting, nuclear clean-up and pipeline inspections.

Serra Robotics Team members returned to on-campus design and construction in late March,

although the new robotics and engineering center was completed in October 2020, following a five-month renovation that occurred during a pandemic. In-person meetings weren't allowed on campus until Serra received clearance from the San Mateo County Health Department, due to COVID restrictions.

A popular club on campus, the Robotics Team consists of roughly 20 to 30 students each year, with skills that range from business, computer programming, structural and electrical engineering and skills for cutting, drilling, squaring and aligning things in perfect dimension, according to Lee Torno, Robotics Club moderator and father of two Serra graduates.

**"It is amazing the skills these kids have—they come in and begin their work here, hone their skills and gain tremendous confidence," Torno said. "These kids come in as the shyest kids and leave as the most confident and gregarious performers."**

Torno, who has worked with the club since 2014, said he is more like a coach than a moderator. Robotics is very similar to an athletics team, he said, with everyone having a specific role and a responsibility to perform their best to compete. It is a team mentality all the way.

Serra's Robotics Team is in competition between January and April, with the game delivered in the form of a 300-page rule book explaining the tasks. The team quickly gets to work, building strategy.

"We have to decide what we are going to do," Torno said. "Do we want to shoot a ball? Is that priority one to build a ball shooter? We then consider option two—do we want to climb? Or, option three—do we want to have a spinning wheel that stops at a specific color?"

Initial brainstorming and strategy sessions include the estimation of engineering time, programming, design, structural team needs, what type of wheels to use and the planning schedule.

"We work within a framework," Torno added. "By the first week, we hope to have it all planned out. The next five weeks, we meet six days a week for four hours a day to build and test. By the end of six weeks, we hope the bot will be completing options one and two."

Team members stay busy during that time, as they build a second identical bot to use for rummaging parts and also to attempt to build and improve the original.

The club is working on an innovative design challenge, which is to build a robot prototype that is capable of sanitizing classrooms. Another challenge is to save a melting power plant. Last year's theme was *Star Wars*.

At robotics competitions, teams of students design and build robots that can compete against opponents in a series of specific challenges. These competitions are very high-stress, Torno said, with each team member responsible for their part. Torno added that the competitions involve two full days of practice and play—between 14-18 matches—and then teams are ranked. The top eight go "on the carpet" and get to pick two other teams not on the carpet to join them in a snake-style draft.

"There's a collaboration aspect—some teams have other strengths that you need to beat another team," Torno said. "One team you were battling could be the one that chooses to take you with them to nationals to win with them."

## A FAMILY LEGACY PEREIRA CENTER FOR ROBOTICS AND ENGINEERING

Whether her dad was sliding under a car to change its oil, tending to his enormous vegetable garden or building the Belmont home he still lives in today, Serra parent and Board of Regents Member Tammy Kiely said her father has always been known as Mr. Fix It.



So, it's fitting that Manuel Rodrigues Pereira would be honored as the namesake of Serra's new robotics lab, the Pereira Center for Robotics and Engineering.

Pereira worked tirelessly to put himself through college following two years in the U.S. Army. It was Pereira's dream to become an engineer and once it was achieved, he spent much of his life fostering a passion and appreciation for education and technology in his children and grandchildren.

With a keen focus on Catholic education and engineering, Pereira and his wife put their three sons—Lucas Pereira '91, Patrick Pereira '96 and Michael Pereira '01—through Serra, and their daughter, Tammy Kiely '89 through Notre Dame. He is also the grandfather of junior Noah Kiely '22.

**"Serra has been a huge part of our family for a long time," Kiely said. "This legacy is exactly the kind of thing that my dad would want to do, given his focus on engineering and education."**

Growing up, Kiely recalls countless hours of her dad and brothers working on projects in their Belmont garage. "It is not surprising that all three are engineers in different disciplines," she noted.

Kiely added that she is thrilled that her dad's curiosity about how things work will be commemorated in the robotics and engineering center at Serra.

"He is such a great role model for our family because of his dedication to hard work and being productive members of society," Kiely said. "We are honored that his name will appear on the building."

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While the team members had to do most of their strategy sessions on Zoom, Torno said he is excited to have the team back on campus and in the new space, noting that the lab will allow students to work in a creative space and house large power tools needed to create the bots.

New features inside the lab include roll-up industrial glass doors, wireless technology, movable tables that make construction of anything possible, new power tool equipment, marker boards for brainstorming, and overhead electrical outlets and dual work spaces that allow for simultaneous design and application, construction and testing. Serra also plans to invest in new software and computers to accommodate the needs of the Robotics Team's computer engineering and design components.

Serra junior Addison Bauer joined the Robotics Team last year. He said he was attracted to the program because he wanted to learn about new technology.

**"I love the idea of building things as a whole," Bauer said. "I have learned a lot including 3D modeling, which is relevant to the field of aerospace engineering, which I hope to study in college."**

What was once a storage area is now a full-functioning robotics and engineering center, something the school has had on its priority list for some time, according to President Barry Thornton, Ed.D.

"We've been excited about the development of robotics for years," Thornton said. "As student engagement increased, we realized we needed to provide a space for students now and moving forward."

Connor Bernard '18, now a sophomore studying computer science at U.C. Berkeley, was the business lead for the Robotics Team during his high school days at Serra.

"When I first came to Serra, I knew I was passionate about computer science, but I had no idea that I would learn so much about electronics and hardware," he said. "The Robotics Team seriously broadened my abilities and opened my eyes to different realms."

The Pereira Center for Robotics and Engineering is named after Manuel Rodrigues Pereira, the father of Lucas Pereira '91, Patrick Pereira '96, Michael Pereira '01 and Tammy Kiely, a current Serra Board of Regents member. He is also the beloved grandfather of Noah Kiely '22. (See sidebar on previous page.)

According to Thornton, the excitement around the lab and a fresh on-campus building experience make robotics a big allure to new students . . . with endless possibilities.

"The Robotics Team experience provides students with collaboration, problem solving, professionalism, competition and creates a high level response to all of it," Thornton added. "It teaches high-level critical thinking and provides our students with the motivation to succeed."



# SERRA SENIORS RECEIVE EARLY COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES



**S**erra seniors received early acceptances to some of the finest colleges in the country, regardless of a college admissions cycle marked by unusual circumstances.

"We are excited and proud of our seniors as we celebrate early decision and early action acceptances to colleges that our seniors have identified as a good fit for themselves," said Serra Director of Counseling Jane Zoucha. "Throughout this challenging year, our seniors have proven to be strong, resilient and flexible, all the while, maintaining a positive spirit, during some pretty challenging times."

Serra seniors are committed to attend Columbia University, Duke University, Vassar College, New York University, Macalester College, Northeastern University, Santa Clara University, and Texas Christian University.

Other acceptances by the Class of 2021 being considered are: Georgetown University, University of Chicago, University of Notre Dame, Villanova University, Chapman University, Seattle University, Case Western University, St. Mary's College of California, Seton Hall University, University of Portland, University of Denver, University of Oregon, Oregon State, University of Arizona, Pennsylvania State University, Colorado State University, Bard College, Baylor University, Clark University, Creighton University, Fordham University, Gonzaga University, Indiana University, Loyola Marymount University, Miami University, Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Purdue University, Puget Sound University, University of San Francisco, Washington State University, University of Wisconsin and Xavier University.

According to Serra President Barry Thornton, Ed.D., students in the Class of 2021 have shown incredible promise and success.

**"We are so proud of the success of our students who are being accepted and choosing among some of the finest colleges and universities in the country," Thornton said. "What makes this more impressive is that these students are in collaboration with teachers and counselors who have been pursuing academic and educational excellence in the context of a pandemic, which is challenging to all of us, and speaks to the teachers' performance and grit to work at this level and maintain the momentum."**

College preparation at Serra begins freshman year and carries through to college acceptances as a senior, according to Zoucha.

"Our goal for each Serra Padre is to find a college where a good fit leads to positive end results—where students will thrive, graduate on time and generally have a much more positive experience because they'll be happy where they landed," she said.

Additional admissions results from the University of California system and other colleges and universities will be announced.

*congratulations  
Padres!*



**"AT SERRA, WE STRIVE TO BE THE BEST AND THAT COMMITMENT TO EXCELLENCE IS WHAT GIVES THE STUDENT ATHLETES THE BEST POSSIBLE PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE ATHLETICS."**  
 —MATT FADELLI '21



# Five Serra Student-Athletes Commit on National Signing Day

Playing a sport at the college level requires skill, dedication and a passion for the game. We caught up with these talented Padres to ask a few questions about their experiences.

*Sempre Adelante*



trust each other in order to succeed.

**Q: What is the best part about competing?**

A: That feeling after a great win.

**Q: What is your favorite sports quote?**

A: When someone asked Tom Brady what his favorite ring was, he said, "the next one."

**Q: How has Serra Athletics prepared you for a future sporting career in college?**

A: Serra has given me the proper preparation and competition I needed in order to play Power 5 football.

**Q: Recall your favorite sporting memory during your time playing at Serra.**

A: Winning the Norcal Championship was a super surreal feeling—especially winning it in the pouring rain was something else.

**Q: Who has been your biggest influence during your journey at Serra and to signing collegiately?**

A: My biggest influences have been my dad and all my coaches, especially Coach Bell and Coach Walsh.

Christian Pedersen stands 6-foot-5 and weighs 230 pounds, and is nationally ranked as the No. 38 tight end. With a total of 24 scholarship offers, Pedersen picked University of Louisville on July 19, over Virginia and San Diego State University.

**Q: What is the main reason you like being part of a team sport?**

A: I love the feeling of being in a community with a common goal in mind. I love the competitive feeling it gives you every time you play. It's a game of trust and everyone has to



Sio Helu will attend New Mexico State and play football for the Aggies. Helu is a 6-foot-3, 315-pound defensive tackle who had offers from Air Force, Army, Dartmouth and Idaho, before choosing New Mexico State.

**Q: What is the main reason you like being part of a team sport?**

A: You really get the full experience of Serra by being a part of any of our sports programs, the brotherhood is really experienced through the support the community gives

you as an athlete and as a team. I love the feeling of hundreds of people who want you to succeed cheering you on—it's the best feeling!

**Q: What is the best part about competing?**

A: I love the cheering crowds of people who truly care about you. I love the boost of energy you get from not wanting to let them down.

**Q: What is your favorite sports quote?**

A: Effort is between you, and you, and nobody else. So that team that thinks it's ready to see you, they think what they've seen on film, they ain't saw what film shows, because every day is a new day. Every moment is a new moment. So now you've got to go out and show them that I'm a different creature now, than I was five minutes ago."  
 - Ray Lewis

**Q: Who do you wish was watching you perform at every game?**

A: My entire family.

**Q: How has Serra Athletics prepared you for a future sporting career in college?**

A: The continuous support I've received throughout my athletic career at Serra has really pushed me to do my best for my brothers around me. The emphasis on taking care of your body to prevent injury has really helped me develop into the athlete I am today and that's thanks to our strength and conditioning staff. The advanced

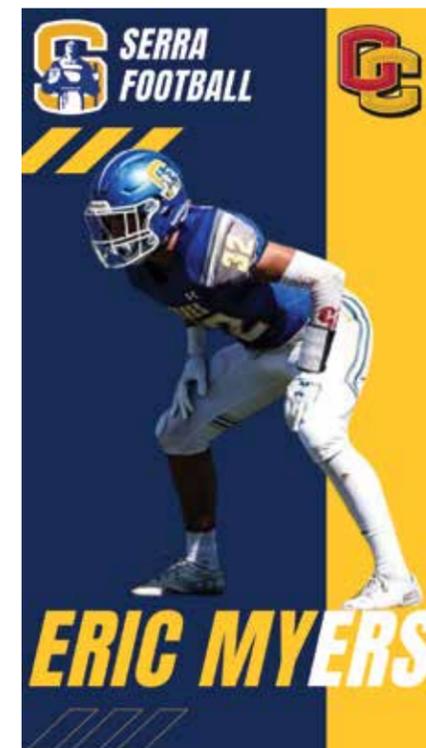
techniques and opportunities granted to me by my coaching staff to be successful helped display my athletic ability to coaches at the next level and that's something unique only to Serra. Finally, the patience the coaching staff has shown me throughout my time at Serra has really kept me striving to be better and work harder because of their supportive nature.

**Q: Recall your favorite sporting memory during your time playing at Serra.**

A: My favorite memory is beating Valley Christian twice and holding them to a no-score game twice as a part of the 2019 Serra football team. This memory will forever be my greatest high school athletic achievement because people everywhere counted us out after the lackluster year we had in 2018. Blowing out the supposed "best" team in the WCAL twice sent the message that we were the real deal.

**Q: Who has been your biggest influence during your journey at Serra and to signing collegiately?**

A: Coaches Patrick Walsh and Nick Walsh have been the biggest influences on me during my whole Serra career. No matter what struggles I was going through, I could always count on them to keep my head in the right place and make sure that I had all the tools I needed to succeed. I am the person and the athlete I am today because I have always known that these two mentors of mine loved and cared about me.



Myers is a 6-foot-1, 195-pound linebacker who is committed to Division III Oberlin College in Ohio. Myers is a three-year varsity player who is also a forward on the Serra basketball team.

**Q: What are the main reasons you like being part of a team sport?**

A: I love building close friendships with teammates who I will be friends with for the rest of my life. I am constantly learning new things every day from my teammates and coaches. Playing a team sport helps build my leadership and communication skills, which will be valuable for me later in life.

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**Q: What is the best part about competing?**

A: For me, the best part about competing is having your mind focused on one thing and one thing only—winning. During competition, whatever is going on around you in your life is blocked out. During a play, all I can hear is my teammates communicating and my mind thinks about nothing but the competition taking place, helping me escape from everything else going on.

**Q: What is your favorite sports quote?**

A: “Don’t tell me the sky’s the limit when there are footprints on the moon.” - Paul George

**Q: Who do you wish was watching you perform at every game?**

A: All of my grandparents.

**Q: How has Serra Athletics prepared you for a future sporting career in college?**

A: Serra Athletics has prepared me for a future sporting career in college through instilling an extremely hard work ethic in me. I have been taught how important the mental side of football is, whether that be learning an extremely complex defense and offense or learning the best ways to watch film. In addition, it has taught me the best ways to train for football specifically in the weight room and on the field.

**Q: Recall your favorite sporting memory during your time playing at Serra.**

A: My favorite memory playing at Serra was playing against Menlo-Atherton in Levi’s Stadium. Being on the field and competing in an NFL stadium that I have watched countless games in was truly surreal, and a memory that I will never forget. This game was one of those memories that I will talk to my kids about when I am older.

**Q: Who has been your biggest influence during your journey at Serra and to signing collegiately?**

A: My biggest influence during my time at Serra has been our linebacker coach, Coach Jeff Thomas. He has either taught me valuable life lessons or all about the linebacker position. He has helped to shape me into the player that I have become today. Coach Thomas influenced me into dedicating myself to play at the next level because knowing that I would be coached by someone who played at a Power 5 school and made me realize I would learn all the tools to be able to play in college.



Matt Fadelli stands 5-foot-11 and weighs 200 pounds. He is one of the top long snappers in the country, according to 24-7 Sports. Fadelli chose NAIA Southern Oregon over other schools including Southwest Minnesota State, Stetson and Pacific University.

**Q: What is the reason why you like being part of a team sport?**

A: The reason I enjoy team sports are the bonds they creates especially at Serra. Going into freshman year I didn’t know many other kids; but because of football, I had 70 new friends before the school year even started. The brotherhood that team sports creates at Serra is unmatched and is the factor that separates us from every other school in the country. When being on a team at Serra, you don’t just have teammates, you have brothers.

**Q: What is the best part about competing?**

A: The best part of competing at Serra is the legacy that is being upheld no matter the sport. The tradition of excellence at Serra is what drives us to be great and what motivates the players to be the best on the field and in the classroom as well.

**Q: What is your favorite sports quote?**

A: “Every rep, you’re trying to be one-for-one.” - Brian Jennings. This quote is very important to me because it is my mindset while I am on the field. Every rep I want to be the best I can be and out work everyone. It is the motivation that has driven me to be the best and will continue to drive me in college and beyond in life.

**Q: Who do you wish was watching you perform at every game?**

A: The person I wish that is always watching is my dad. He is my coach and he is always there for me when I need him. He is always honest with me and gives me feedback no matter good or bad and helps me work through any issue or problem I have.

**Q: How has Serra Athletics prepared you for a future sporting career in college?**

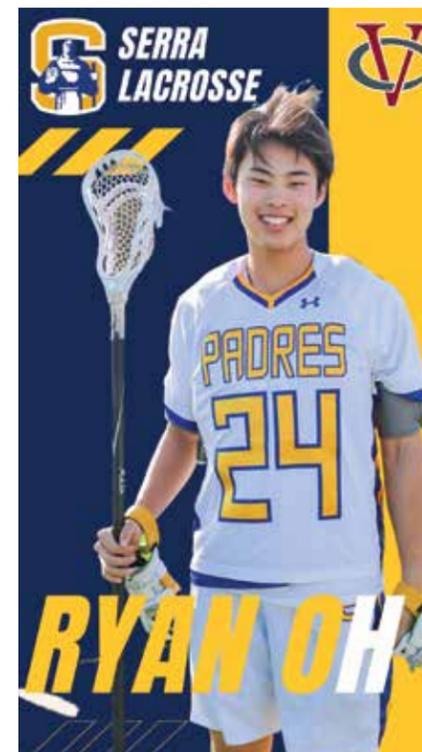
A: Serra athletics has prepared me for the college level in many ways—the coaches and the styles of play that we learn and practice; the interactions with other players, coaches and schools. The strength and conditioning aspect is another major factor with the weightlifting, running, and conditioning that we do—it is just like the atmosphere of a college. At Serra, we strive to be our best and that commitment to excellence is what gives the student-athletes the best possible preparation for college athletics.

**Q: Recall your favorite sporting memory during your time playing at Serra.**

A: My favorite sporting memory at Serra is winning the NorCal Championship in the pouring rain at home in front of our fans. We had never played a playoff game at home, so the experience of getting to win the NorCal title in front of all the fans made it such a special experience. The other factor was the weather that day which was completely crazy. It was sunny for one moment then pouring rain and windy the next. By the end of the game, the field was soaked. I will never forget as our entire team slid on the wet turf after winning the NorCal title.

**Q: Who has been your biggest influence during your journey at Serra and to signing collegiately?**

A: The biggest influence during my journey at Serra would be my father. He started working at Serra after my freshman year and that really enhanced my experience. Having a very long family legacy and history at Serra also positively affected me. It pushed me to continue the legacy my family has made at Serra, but I also created my own by signing to play college football. Without my family, my brothers and the entire Serra community, none of this would be possible.



Ryan Oh is a 6-foot-2, 190-pound defenseman, who was a captain of the varsity lacrosse team in his sophomore and junior years. He committed to Division III Vassar College.

**Q: What are three reasons why you like being part of a team sport?**

A: The three reasons why I like being part of a team sport are the friendships and bonds I have created; the memories I made with my teammates; and the struggles we have to achieve a common goal.

**Q: What is the best part about competing?**

A: The best part about competing would definitely be all the victories. Not just the big wins such as beating a rival team, but also the little wins like executing something I practiced and worked for.

**Q:What is your favorite sports quote?**

A: “If you are afraid of failure you don’t deserve to be successful” - Charles Barkley

**Q: Who do you wish was watching you perform at every game?**

A: My parents came to watch me play at most of my lacrosse games, so really I had the people watching me that I would wish for.

**Q: How has Serra Athletics prepared you for a future sporting career in college?**

A: Serra Athletics has set such a high standard for student-athletes that it motivated me to become the best I can be. Being surrounded by amazing athletes all through high school has ingrained a hard work ethic and determination in me that I would not have found in another school. Also, all of the Serra coaches have pushed me athletically and mentally, teaching me how to become a better athlete and young man.

**Q: Recall your favorite sporting memory during your time playing at Serra.**

A: My favorite memory during my time playing at Serra would definitely be my first varsity game. Even though I played a different position than I do now, I clearly remember the excitement and anxiety that I had when I stepped on the field. The adrenaline when I was playing and overall energy made me want to continue to play lacrosse for as long as I could.

**Q: Who has been your biggest influence during your journey at Serra and to signing collegiately?**

A: The biggest influence during my journey at Serra and signing collegiately would be a senior lacrosse player when I was a freshman named Elliot Adams. As a freshman, I respected and admired how hard he played on the field in addition to him signing to play in college. I saw him as a team leader, a teammate, and what a Serra lacrosse player should act like. Even though I started my recruiting process pretty late, I used the time before to train and work on skills that came along with learning a new position, eventually leading to my signing.



## SERRA ATHLETICS DEPARTMENT WITH THE WIN FOR ATHLETIC-CONDITIONING PLANS

Serra Athletics Director Justin Ferdinand was gearing up for a busy spring athletics season in March 2020 when he received the directives to cancel all sporting events until further notice. It was a wait-and-see couple of weeks before it was confirmed that schools, businesses and youth sports would be shut down indefinitely due to what was then referred to as the Coronavirus.

The fields were closed. Gyms, pools and weight rooms were locked. A month before, a bustling, packed sports complex was scheduled to host eight spring teams competing in numerous events. It had become a modern-day ghost town.

Once the shock wore off and the reality set in, Ferdinand said he and his athletics team immediately turned their attention to the student-athletes who were locked at home resuming classes online.

“We initially came together to discuss how we could keep our athletes engaged in our programs and what we could do virtually to keep them healthy, as we knew they were all experiencing Zoom fatigue,” Ferdinand said. “We did a few online exercise programs, but they weren’t very well attended, so we knew that we needed to bring the boys back in person to exercise.”

Working like a team of its own, the athletics department—consisting of Ferdinand, Assistant Athletics Director Darius Bell, Head Athletics Trainer Duke Meek and strength and conditioning coaches

Brian Carson and Brian Wilbur—got to work to determine how to help their student-athletes, who were feeling isolated, sluggish and lonely.



According to Meek, the team was immediately tasked with finding an avenue for the boys to remain connected.

“Besides the physical aspects of it, their mental health was paramount,” Meek said. “The main reason we needed to get the boys back on the field was so that they could socialize. At Serra, being part of a team is a big deal for us. We care about these boys, and we knew we had to do everything we could to help them during this unpredictable time.”

Between the months of March and May, the athletics department gathered information from the California Department of Disease Control and Prevention, the California Department of Health, and the San Mateo County Health Office to obtain information on what in-person training would be acceptable given the health and safety parameters put in place to reduce the spread of the virus.

“We had varying levels of bureaucracy regarding what was going to be allowed—we gathered a ton of data and had many conversations with other athletic departments and spoke at length with the Serra administration about what might be allowed,” Ferdinand said. “We were entering into a situation that no one had ever seen before.”

Using maps, timelines, location sections, egress plans and strict health protocols, the athletics team created a plan to host 17 cohorts of 12 athletes on campus four days per week, beginning in June. Serra was one of the first schools in the region to bring students back on campus for athletics conditioning, a program that ran

throughout the summer with more than 200 student-athletes participating.

Each athletics-conditioning session lasted no more than 80 minutes, and it consisted of only athletics-conditioning, not season preparation. Students had to wear masks and socially distance. There was no exchanging of equipment—not even a football.

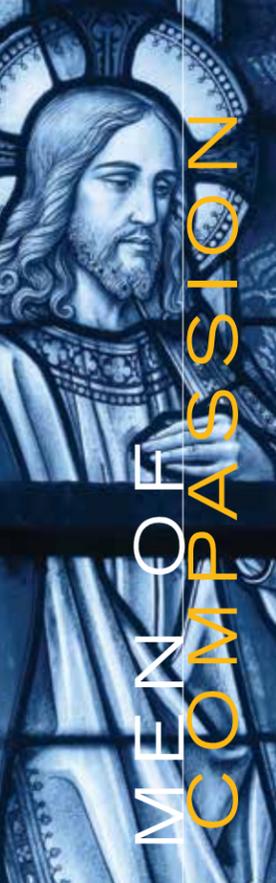
“It was a huge effort on behalf of the entire athletics department, including the various coaches, who jumped at the opportunity to help in whatever way to bring our student-athletes back,” Ferdinand said.

During the summer, coaches conducted manual check-ins to ensure all health and safety protocols were being followed. As the program became more sophisticated with more student-athletes being added to the conditioning cohorts, so did the technology. Meek spoke to a former colleague, Dr. Anthony Luke, a primary care sports medicine physician who suggested adding a health pre-screening app that allowed students to do online health checks before coming to campus. This reduced check-in times by up to 30 minutes. The app, called SportzPeak, continues to be used by Serra athletes.

Looking back, Ferdinand said he is proud of how his team of athletics professionals adapted to its limitations and maintained focus on the most important thing—the health and well-being of Serra’s student-athletes.

“I feel like this has been beneficial to our whole program for a number of reasons,” he added. “Our athletes are more conditioned now than ever. It has kept them engaged in the school and socially engaged with their teammates and classmates. The most important piece is that without this as an outlet, their ability to socially interact with their peers would have been nonexistent.”





# Father Michael Liliedahl

## Reflects on Life at Serra During the Pandemic

It has been one crazy year for Father Michael Liliedahl. Named Serra's new chaplain in February 2020, Liliedahl was only on the job one month before the world shut down.

Asked how his year has been, he quipped, "Does crazy sum it up? Pivot, re-adjust, re-plan, then pivot again," he said. But he wouldn't have it any other way.

Liliedahl was assigned to Serra half-time by the San Francisco Archdiocese, while he continues to serve St. Catherine's parish in Burlingame, where he has been the associate pastor since 2019.

While this year has been anything but normal, Liliedahl said he has witnessed the incredible brotherhood that exists in person and online at Serra.

"Without a doubt, what makes Serra so special is the brotherhood—it isn't just a slogan and something people talk about—it is truly lived," Liliedahl noted. "It doesn't just extend to current students among friend groups, but to alumni, families, faculty and staff."

Having worked at three other Catholic high schools, he added, "I haven't seen anything close to what Serra has to offer in terms of a community that really is a brotherhood."

Being a chaplain during the pandemic certainly has had its challenges. Liliedahl said his greatest challenge is that most of what a chaplain does at a high school is centered around sacraments, which must be done in person and not virtually.

"Trying to figure out ways to make the sacraments available to the guys during this time has been the biggest challenge," he said.

Liliedahl has shared his creativity with the Serra community. He has created a way to provide the sacrament of reconciliation while maintaining distancing and privacy for the boys. He has also worked with Campus Ministry to organize virtual and in-person retreats while maintaining protocols to keep everyone safe.

"Father Liliedahl understands the importance of presence and has a lot

of experience teaching in Catholic high schools," said Campus Ministry Director Billy Byrnes. "He has a young energy and a desire to get to know the boys, so we are thrilled he is here."

Liliedahl said he also values his time in the classroom, where he teaches juniors.

"The chances I have had to jump into things and contribute have been incredible," he said. "Having a chance to see the guys in class—be it in person or virtual—has been a highlight."

A native of Juneau, Alaska, Liliedahl, 40, is a long way from home. He grew up in a family of five, the oldest of three children. His mom was a teacher and his father was a pilot of water planes in his hometown. Liliedahl joined the seminary in Juneau, and later transferred to study at Gonzaga in Spokane, Washington in 2001. Once on the mainland, Liliedahl said he began to see how different life was in his hometown.

"Everything is different in Alaska, but you don't see how different it is until you live life outside of Alaska," he said.

After finishing his undergraduate degree in religion at Gonzaga in 2005, Liliedahl went on to earn a master's in education at Providence College. He then joined St. Patrick's Seminary and University in Menlo Park, where he earned his master's of arts in theology. While in school, Liliedahl taught and coached in several capacities, with a major focus on all-gender, faith-based education.

When he's not serving the community, Liliedahl enjoys traveling and watching anything sports related. He is a fan of teams that dot the globe, and said he has a tendency to set an alarm in the middle of the night to watch his favorite German soccer team.

While he has yet to experience a "normal" school year, Liliedahl said he is thrilled to be at Serra.

"I'm just excited for the guys," he added. "Hopefully, the pandemic will subside so that sports and other extracurricular activities can get started again."



"Without a doubt, what makes Serra so special is the brotherhood—it isn't just a slogan and something people talk about—it is truly lived. And, it doesn't just extend to current students among friend groups, but to alumni, families, faculty and staff."

—Father Michael Liliedahl

"WHILE THIS YEAR HAS BEEN ANYTHING BUT NORMAL, I HAVE WITNESSED THE INCREDIBLE BROTHERHOOD THAT EXISTS AT SERRA."

—FATHER MICHAEL LILIEDAHL



# Three Decades of Heart and Soul

## Father Joe Retires after 30 years



It was 1991 and the world was paying \$5 at the box office to see the No.1 movie *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*. Bryan Adams' *Everything I Do* was playing on cassettes in most cars. Lines from the *Simpsons*, *The Fresh Prince of Bel Air* and *Home Alone* were recited on school playgrounds. George Bush was president and the Gulf War was heating up with the beginning of Operation Desert Storm and air strikes against Iraq. The Hubble Telescope was launched, and it was the final year for the U.S.S.R.

It was also in 1991 on April 13 that Father Joseph Bradley '73 was ordained a Catholic priest at St. Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco.

At 35 years old, armed with an arsenal of personal experience battling and overcoming addiction and a sublime perspective on the phenomenon of second chances, Fr. Joe began a spiritual ministry that spanned three decades. Exactly 30 years to the day, on April 13, 2021, he hung up his habits to begin a slower pace of life, while continuing to perform the sacraments and serve as Serra's beloved football chaplain.

"Priesthood has been the great blessing of my life," Fr. Joe said.

"The thing that I love most when you're in a community at Serra is how you can impact someone's life without even knowing it."

During his 30 years as a priest, Fr. Joe has served much of his time at Serra, his alma mater. His brother, John Bradley is an alumnus of the Class of '82. His nephews, Kevin Gates '09 and J.T. Bradley '14, are also Serra Padres.

Fr. Joe has been a Serra teacher, campus ministry chaplain, football chaplain and school president. He also received the 2004 Junípero Serra Award. Over the years, he has enjoyed being a member of the Serra Campus Ministry Team, leading Kairos retreats and being an advocate for social justice issues. His kind, compassionate nature makes him approachable, even during difficult situations. He is known for doing his best to meet people where they are, without judgment.

"Fr. Joe epitomizes pastoral care and support for our Padres," said Director of Campus Ministry Billy Byrnes. "Whenever an alumnus comes back to campus or calls the office, they all want to connect with Fr. Joe. They want him to baptize their children or preside at their weddings. They

remember reading his book and being touched by his honesty and faith. They remember his visits to Tom Monaghan's theology classes, where he spoke to them about his struggles and how he overcame his personal challenges. They remember praying with him during football Chapel, and they remember him on the sidelines cheering them on. They remember him saying Mass at Kairos and inviting them around the altar. They remember him presiding at a family member's funeral. Fr. Joe has a unique way of understanding the needs of each student and relating to our Padres in a way unlike most men of the cloth. He's real, and that is why they love him."

**"Fr. Joe is such a treasure for the Serra community," agreed Serra Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fadelli '88. "The impact that he has had on graduates, as well as current students, is profound. As a graduate and the parent of a current senior, the guidance that he has shared with my son and me will have a lasting effect—I am forever grateful. I'm excited for my youngest son who is part of the Class of 2025, to experience the gift of Fr. Joe over the next four years."**

### A Gift to the Serra community

The author of *The Four Gifts*, Fr. Joe's honest, yet thought-provoking memoir expresses his gratitude for his journey from addiction to priesthood, with the blessing of four gifts—faith, sobriety, a new heart, and a fulfilling ministry. His story is a solid one that has resonated with many young men at Serra. In fact, he continues to speak to sophomores about the book and his personal spiritual journey as a young man.

In a soft but powerful voice, Fr. Joe talks candidly about the fact that his behavior as a young man could have easily led to an early death. If past usage of beer, marijuana, and cocaine didn't do the trick, then certainly heart failure should have. Instead, by the grace of God, he is alive, clean, sober, and for the past three decades has been a functioning Catholic priest with another man's heart beating in his chest. But it came at a huge cost.

When Fr. Joe was in his late teens, his father passed away suddenly. The loss was devastating and Fr. Joe's emotional desolation found escapist bliss in a beer bottle and cocaine vial, and he pledged irrevocable devotion to both. The slide into the abyss was painful, and Fr. Joe finally sought help because there was nowhere else to go—which led him to serve others as a Catholic priest. The day of Fr. Joe's ordination, an old friend came to the Mass and announced for all to hear, "Well, now I can say I've seen a miracle."

Fr. Joe functioned for 15 years as a sober priest before his heart gave out from the same heart disease that killed his father. But another miracle came his way, and he was blessed with a new heart—a gracious gift from a family during the most painful moment of their lives.

"Gratitude inspired this book," Fr. Joe said. "I owe it to people who rescued me from alcohol and drugs, and I owe it to my heart donor for giving me yet another chance at life."

Now a stage play, *The Four Gifts* will hopefully appear on stage in

2021 at the Hillbarn Theatre in Foster City, following a delay caused by the pandemic. Producer Dan Demers '01 is the Hillbarn's executive artistic director.

Over the years, Fr. Joe has made a significant impact at many Bay Area parishes, including St. Catherine of Siena, St. Charles, St. Gregory, St. Bartholomew, St. Mark and his current parish, St. Paul in San Francisco. In addition, he has done extensive restorative justice work with victims and families of violent crimes, as well as with people who are recovering from addiction and substance abuse.

Now that he has retired, Fr. Joe will still be able to say Mass at St. Paul's, as well as Masses for the Missionaries of Charity Sisters, who live next door to the rectory. In addition, he will continue to perform all sacraments and remain Serra's football chaplain, a position so dear to his heart.

### Going to Chapel

"One of my favorite things about priesthood is Chapel," Fr. Joe said. "The main goal of football Chapel is that if we can get boys at this age to be comfortable in church, to be a leader by example here—then they can take it wherever they go. Football Chapel has little to do with scoring touchdowns—it has much more to do with the kind of man you are becoming. It has been a privilege to share it with Coach Walsh, all the coaches and the boys themselves.

"We teach each other in Chapel and learn to respect each guy's story," he added. "We accept that Chapel is more than winning games—it's about humble respect for each other and our opponents. To me, a Padre is a person who is humble before the Lord and respectfully seeks to share Jesus' unselfish love and justice with the greater community, especially those most in need. We deeply and carefully consider the words of Mother Teresa, as we find our path in this world: 'God did not create us to be successful, but to be faithful.'"

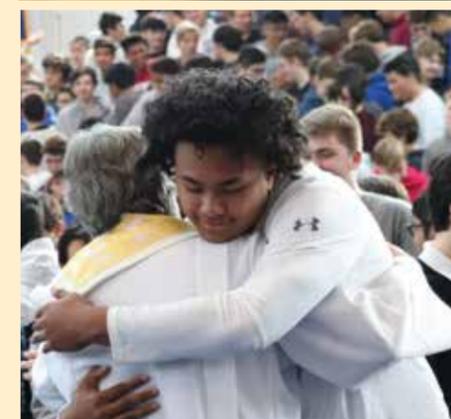
Head Football Coach Patrick Walsh noted that while all football teams have coordinators—offensive

coordinators, defensive coordinators and special teams coordinators—Serra also has an extra special coordinator.

**"At Serra, we have a spiritual coordinator, and his name is Fr. Joe," Walsh explained. "For 20 years, Fr. Joe has led our Chapel services for the Padre football team. While I appreciate all of our coordinators—past and present—no one is more appreciated, respected or important than Fr. Joe. He is a living angel, a gift to all of us who have had the privilege of being around him. There is no human being on this planet who exhibits more humility on a daily basis than Joe."**

For two decades, Padres have listened to Fr. Joe's spiritual wisdom, which has had a profound influence on student-athletes and coaches.

"As a community, we believe that divine intervention saved Fr. Joe—his near death experience and subsequent heart transplant has literally delivered a living angel to our doorstep at Serra," Walsh said. "All of us are better men because of this precious gift. Fr. Joe is Serra football—and this is what makes us the most unique and blessed football program in the country."



# Ashanti Branch

## The Metaphorical Masks We Wear

**“If you can't show your feelings because you're considered weak, then you're following someone else's rules for you. Is that weak?”**

**—Ashanti Branch**

A mask can be used for performance or entertainment, or for protection for hunting, sports or war. A mask can protect more than the face alone, and if you ask Ashanti Branch, a mask can be invisible yet desired to combat the fear of being vulnerable or misunderstood. This metaphorical mask cripples many from finding their true selves.

Branch is the founder and executive director of The Ever Forward Club, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping African American and Latino males achieve their potential. For decades, Branch has focused his attention on creating an environment where young men can find the space to see themselves as human beings with human emotions.

“So often, these boys are trained to hide behind the image of a man who is strong because he does not let emotions take over,” Branch said. “Expressing those emotions helps us to peel back the layers to find out who we really are—we are enough. We are important and we are valuable.”

Throughout the year, Serra students have listened to talks with Branch as part of the Mission and Brotherhood’s platform of inclusion. Themes discussed have included emotional disconnection, confined masculinity, judgment and confidence.

Many of the discussions stem from a project spearheaded by the Los Angeles High School for Recording Arts, titled “1,000 Masks.” Students from all over the world created personal masks. When these masks were showcased, an incredible connection formed between many of the students who hid the same emotions. Some of the seemingly put-together and confident students were also feeling frazzled and unsure.

Students and faculty at Serra participated in this hands-on workshop to create their individual masks. By dividing a paper in two, students drew one picture and added six words. On the left, Branch asked each Padre to add qualities and characteristics of the student that he proudly lets the world see. On the right, students were directed to add qualities that they feel the need to hide.

So, what happens when happiness, confidence, pride, funny and hopeful meet sad, anxious, overwhelmed, angry and uncomfortable? According to Branch, the mask of emotional disconnection is something that men have historically honed. Well-known phrases such as, “Be a man,” or “Suck it up,” create a male composite that lacks vulnerability and open discussions surrounding how a man is feeling. He added that there is a male perception that you’re weak when you show emotion.

“If you can’t show feelings because you’re considered weak, then you’re following someone else’s rules for you. Is that weak?” Branch questioned.

One of his favorite borrowed phrases is, “When we repress our emotions, they pile up like a debt that will come due.” Fearing judgment, many men choose to mask their emotions, which leads to problems later in life. Branch noted that a lack of expression can potentially lead to an inability to express emotions in a healthy manner, sometimes

leading men to turn to substance abuse or explode in anger.

Branch said to combat this possibility, men should find a circle of friends to discuss their feelings. He asked the students to consider this: “Is this the man I want to be?”

“Through emotional expression comes self-esteem and a healthy mental state—something everyone needs these days,” Branch said.

Serra junior Kyle Nash was inspired by Branch. “I think that the most valuable takeaway from Mr. Branch was something that he said in his first workshop: “Don’t compare your struggle to someone else’s. “While we should always be thankful for the privileges and benefits we are given in life, we should not try to undermine our own trauma and struggles with someone else’s by deeming theirs as worse. Mr. Branch helped me learn that by invalidating our own trauma, and trying to pretend that because it’s better than someone else’s that we just further damage ourselves and stifle any progress we’ve made to grow from that trauma.”

“I think that Mr. Branch’s presence enhanced our current curriculum by allowing us to discuss more difficult topics, while still maintaining a sensitive approach toward these topics,” Nash said. “Especially in classes such as history and English, where we often meet these uncomfortable conversations.”

According to Serra President Barry Thornton, Ed.D., the addition of Branch’s work to the Serra curriculum has helped students to grow in self-awareness, acceptance and confidence.

“His partnership with our Mission and Brotherhood Program is a perfect match that helps our Padres to develop these leadership skills in the context of faith, and thus be powerful leaders for the good in our society,” Thornton said. “Ashanti's work with our faculty has been similarly inspiring, and it has helped the Serra community be more effective mentors to our young men.”

Branch will continue to lead discussions with Serra students next year.



# PADRES IN MEDICINE

Meet three Serra alumni pursuing their passions for science and service through careers in medicine. One is a medical student at Tufts University in Boston looking forward to a career in surgery. Another is a radiology resident who often works long into the night at Mayo Clinic Arizona. And another is a practicing nephrologist in Berkeley, California.



**The Med Student  
Nick Toomey '13**

Tufts University School of Medicine '22, University of Chicago '17

**The Practicing Physician  
Mike Ajuria '03**

Nephrologist at East Bay Nephrology Medical Group, former Stanford Hospital fellow, former chief resident (internal medicine) at Alameda County Medical Center, St. George's University School of Medicine '14, UC San Diego '07



**The Resident  
Ken Zurcher '08**

Diagnostic radiology resident at Mayo Clinic Arizona, University of Arizona College of Medicine, Phoenix '17 (2018 Surgical Intern of the Year), UCLA '12



**Tell us about your journey. What interests you about being a physician?**

**Toomey:** I was interested in healthcare in high school. Interacting with people and helping them really appealed to me. I was able to meet Dr. Paul Hughes, an orthopedic surgeon in San Mateo, due to sports injuries. He was an inspiration to me and allowed me to shadow him for a day during high school.

I studied biological sciences with a specialization in endocrinology at the University of Chicago. I was able to assist in research during undergrad at University of Chicago Hospitals. After college, I worked in a dermatology office in Boston, which got me interested in surgery. I interviewed with Tufts that year and loved the interview experience. I still have the voicemail saved on my phone from the dean telling me that I was accepted.

I'm deciding between general surgery or pursuing an ear, nose and throat specialty.

**Ajuria:** I've wanted to be a doctor since I was 3, and I've always had a passion for science. The science classes at Serra, especially the courses taught by Mr. McCarthy

and Ms. Lee (nee Leung), reinforced that direction and passion. I worked in biotech (diagnostics) and completed a postbaccalaureate program at UC Berkeley after undergrad at UC San Diego. From there, I received my medical training at St. George's University, with clinical rotations in

New York. I became chief resident at Highland Hospital, Alameda County Medical Center in 2017 and completed a nephrology fellowship at Stanford Hospital last June. I currently work for East Bay Nephrology Medical Group in Berkeley.

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**“FOR ME, SERRA HELPED TO FOSTER A SENSE OF SERVICE TO OTHERS AND MY COMMUNITY. I WANTED TO BECOME A DOCTOR, AND ALSO CONTINUE VOLUNTEERING ALONG THE WAY.”**

**—KEN ZURCHER '08**

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**Zurcher:** For me, Serra helped to foster a sense of service to others and my community. I wanted to become a doctor, and also continue volunteering along the way. At UCLA, I volunteered in hospitals, went abroad to Honduras several times to assist with medical and public health brigades and, in med school, I volunteered in multiple free clinics and health events.

After graduating from University of Arizona College of Medicine, I completed a general surgery internship and then entered into a four-year radiology residency program at Mayo Clinic Arizona. Following residency, I will be pursuing a fellowship in interventional radiology, which involves performing image-guided procedures such as vascular stenting or cancer treatments.

My evening shifts as a diagnostic radiologist are 9 p.m. to 7 a.m., and I am charged with knowing what can go wrong with every organ in the body. I hope that the public knows that whenever they undergo medical imaging, their scans are read by a highly trained professional.

**How has COVID-19 affected your work or training?**

**Ajuria:** I specialize in nephrology (treating diseases of the kidney), and I treat a lot of patients who require dialysis. Those patients have been hit hard by COVID—about half that I see have it. They have high exposure to the virus, having to go in for treatment three to four times per week. The pandemic also unfortunately derailed my research when I was completing my fellowship at Stanford.

**Toomey:** The pandemic hit during my second year of med school, when we were in the midst of dedicated study time for board exams. It changed all of our interactions with patients, requiring personal protective equipment at all times. We also had to adjust our academic schedule, but my classmates and I will still graduate on time.

**Zurcher:** It's changed life as I know it in my daily experience in the hospital. Mayo is far past capacity. I see about 80 to 100 exams per night, many of which are CT scans and chest x-rays that show the effects of COVID.

**Favorite Serra memories?**

**Toomey:** Winning the WCAL championship in baseball my junior and senior years. Playing baseball at Serra showed me the value of teamwork, which is critical in the medical field. I'm grateful to my teammates and coaches. I also enjoyed my campus ministry immersion trip to Watsonville, which was a great education outside of the classroom.

**Ajuria:** Winning the CCS track championship in my senior year and going to the state championships two years in a row. As I mentioned, I also loved my science classes and science teachers at Serra.

**Zurcher:** My activities as photography editor—going to plays, sporting events, being able to see my fellow classmates perform what they were passionate about and document it with photos—as well as sports. I was on the crew team and track and field at Serra and loved it. I continued this love of sports on the UCLA club powerlifting team for four years and in local powerlifting competitions throughout medical school.

**What is the most important thing that you learned at Serra?**

**Toomey:** How to work as a team and the importance of empathy. My interest in medicine was kindled there, as well as a dedication to service. I like the idea of both practicing and teaching, and I can definitely see myself in academic medicine. I had excellent role models at Serra.

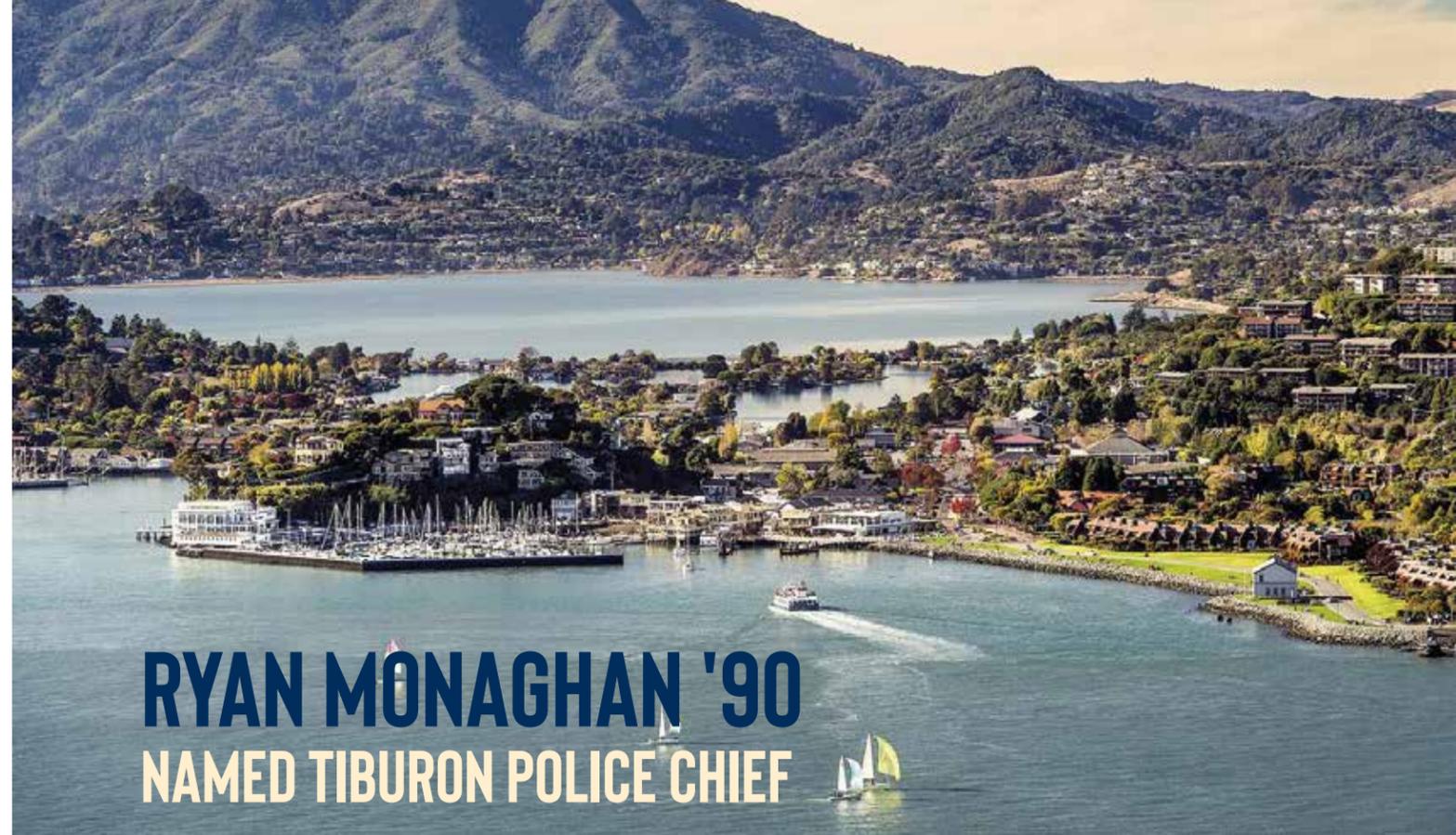
**Ajuria:** I learned a lot from Serra's science faculty. I'm grateful for their guidance and the knowledge they shared. I also learned a lot from athletics and being part of a championship track and field team. It took a strong work ethic and a lot of teamwork to get to that point.

**Zurcher:** At Serra, English was one of my favorite subjects. I loved reading and writing, and I remember my classes with Mr. Stapleton, Mr. Ferrando and Mr. Sullivan very fondly. I first thought of pursuing medicine while reading R. Selzer's *The Knife* in Mr. Stapleton's class. I've recently rekindled my love of writing in an academic way. I have now written a handful of scientific articles—prospective, retrospective trials, case reports and review articles. I'm happy that I am now able to use the love I had for writing back then in a different, but still fun way, now. I hope to continue in academic medicine, where I can continue to write scientific articles and teach others. I think I'm at about 10 publications now.

The teachers and mentors I had at Serra taught me a sense of responsibility, to myself and my goals, and also to my community. Those traits have been necessary every step of the way through my training.



Pictured (top:) Mike Ajuria '03 with his wife, Mafe', and daughter, Valentina; (bottom:) Nick Toomey '13; (r:) Ken Zurcher '08



After nearly 27 years rising through the ranks with the San Mateo Police Department, Ryan Monaghan '90 has made the decision to cross the Bay to become the new police chief of the beautiful town of Tiburon.

Monaghan will oversee operations of the Tiburon Police Department, which includes the Police Services Division—patrol, investigations, training, parking enforcement, crime prevention and the Emergency Operations Center. He will oversee 12 sworn personnel, four civilian personnel and four volunteer and reserve officers. A much smaller department than San Mateo, Monaghan said he hopes to utilize his resources and seek opportunities for growth. He also will maintain a safe downtown corridor that supports its robust business community.

"We have a lot of tourists who come by ferry to see Tiburon—it's a very charming town," Monaghan said. "I want to keep the environment safe for those who want to come and enjoy themselves and not worry about crime."

He will also focus on ensuring that property crimes are under control—an issue plaguing all agencies these



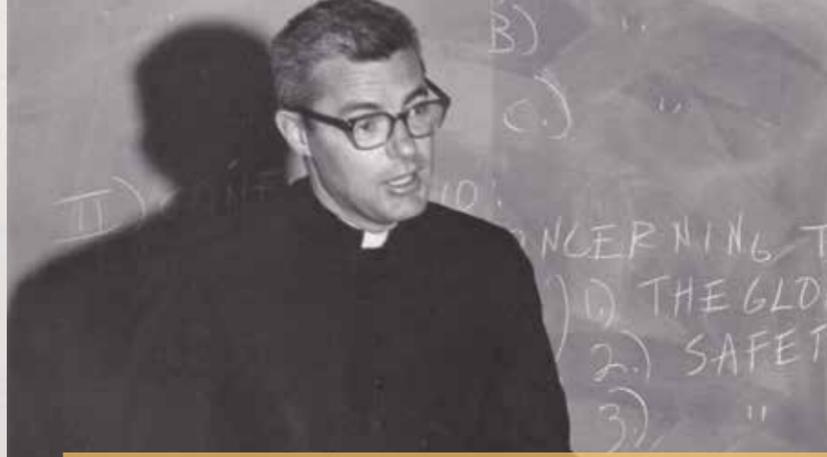
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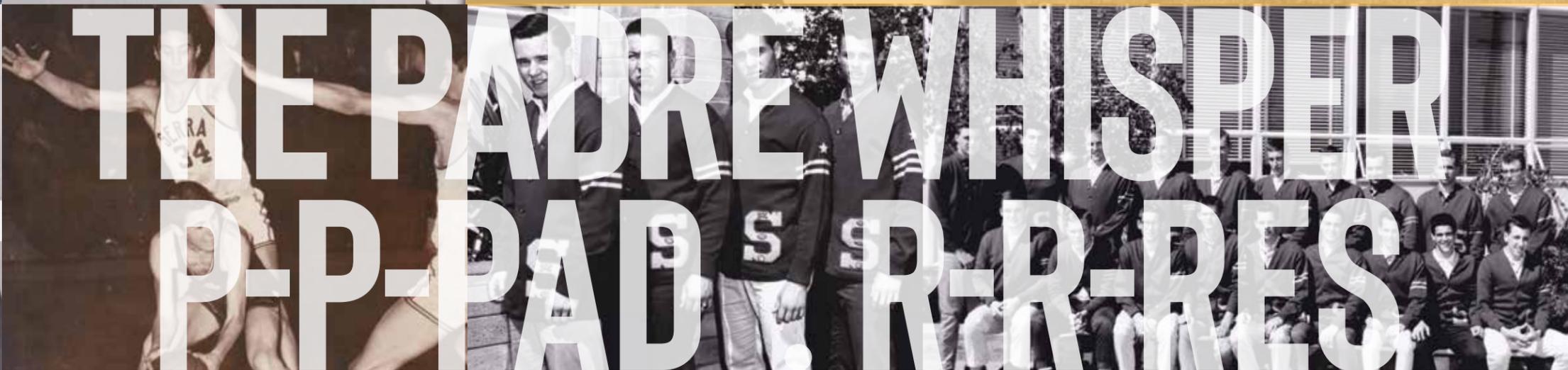
The Rally Committee began this year with a definite purpose in mind - to win the coveted Sportsmanship Trophy which Serra had never won previously. With the inspiration of head cheerleader Chas Betz and the fine efforts of Larry Frost, the Serra spirit reached new peaks at each game. Those in the stands could be proud of the spirit they displayed.

Then came the memorable day of the annual Squashing of Prunes on which as Serra solemnly Squashed the Prunes; a plane hovering over San Jose dropped 2000 leaflets over the Prune Campus, reading "Serra Rules - Squash the Prunes." Just a small project of a few seniors, financed by the Rally Committee. Other activities of the committee are to maintain order at games through the order committee, make posters, provide refreshments at games, and collect money at the gate. The Rally Committee is to be congratulated on their service to the school and their part in winning the Sportsmanship Trophy for 1963.

## IT ALL BEGAN WITH THE CLASS OF '64



AFTER HEARING RIORDAN'S WHISPER CHEER, MIKE SCOTT '64 DECIDED THAT IF THE CRUSADERS HAD A CATCHY CHEER, SO MUST THE PADRES. AND SO IT BEGAN. SCOTT CAME UP WITH THE PADRE WHISPER—A CHEER THAT HAS STOOD THE TEST OF TIME FOR ALMOST 60 YEARS.



## P-P-PAD. . . R-R-RES. . . PAD. . . RES . . . PADRES! PADRES! YEAHHHHH PADRES!

It's a chant that has united Padres for generations. It's a rally expectation, whether the Padres win or lose. Today's Padres are just as excited to chant the Padre Whisper as our Padre alumni have been throughout the decades. But how did it all begin?

Mike Scott '64 was a Serra cheerleader during his junior and senior years. After hearing Riordan's whisper cheer, he decided that if the Crusaders had a catchy cheer, so must the Padres. And so it began. Scott came up with the Padre Whisper—a cheer that has stood the test of time for almost 60 years.

That's not all that's impressive about the Class of '64—it won the California Athletic League's Sportsmanship

Trophy for school spirit, despite not winning too many games.

"We had a very unique class," said Scott, who grew up in Daly City and attended Holy Angels Elementary School. "The Class of '64 was very connected, and we had so much school spirit. We were horrific in sports, so to win that CAL Sportsmanship Trophy was really something. It was the first time that Serra had ever won that award."

Scott once "borrowed" the family pet rabbits from his brother (Bob '65), who was not too happy when Mike dyed them purple to taunt the Crusaders. Judy and Ginger survived and didn't seem to mind the purple ribbons around their necks. Scott's other brothers, Tom '69 and Steve '72, couldn't wait to be Padres after watching such school spirit on the field.

"The Crusaders got their name because of a cartoon character back then—Crusader Rabbit," Scott

explained. "They taunted us during that game, but we had the purple rabbits. It was all in good fun."

The Crusaders weren't the Padres' only rival. Scott remembers another couple of highlights pertaining to their rivalry with Bellarmine—such the traditional "Squash the Prunes" rallies and when a mystery student from the Class of '64 hung a "Beat the Bells" sign from the Eiffel Tower in Paris during the summer of 1963. Or, how about the time when the Class of '64 hired a pilot to drop 2,000 leaflets over the Bellarmine campus that said, "Serra rules—squash the Prunes." (Imagine that happening today!)

"We had a lot going on in high school—we had tough times in the '60s," Scott remembered. "We had Vietnam, the free speech movement, the anti-war movement and a new culture of flower children and mass drug use. There were a couple of guys in our class who didn't come back from Vietnam. We related

to each other and had a closeness because we came from similar Catholic backgrounds. I didn't make the teams I tried out for, but it was fun to be a cheerleader. It was also an excellent way to meet girls."

### Padre Tradition: A Family Affair

After Serra, Scott attended San Francisco State and later became a Daly City Police Officer. He and his wife, Alma, have four children and 10 grandchildren. Scott's three daughters, Jennifer '91, Dianna '92 and Laura '94, graduated from Mercy High School, Burlingame. Alma's son, Mark (Cunanan) Scott-Delon, graduated from Serra in 2005.

Mike's younger brothers, Tom and Steve, followed in their older brothers' footsteps at Serra. Tom later became a member of the Serra Hall of Fame, and Steve played football for the Naval Academy and became a jet fighter pilot. Sadly, he was killed in

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a tragic plane accident when he was only 26. In his honor, the football player who shows the most inspiration each season receives the Stephen D. Scott Most Inspirational Football Player Award.

Scott said the values of community service and giving back to others were ingrained at Serra. He spent his life climbing the police ranks to captain before his retirement in 2003. Along the way, he found time to teach at the police academy and volunteer with the Daly City Sister City Committee, the Daly City Host Lions Club and the Police Activities League.

**“During my high school years at Serra, we were taught to give back to our community,” Scott noted. “I had tremendous admiration for my history teacher, Michael McGinley. He was my role model, and he had a terrific sense of humor. In fact, I was going to be a school teacher until Vietnam happened and I went into the reserves.”**

### Lifetime bonds

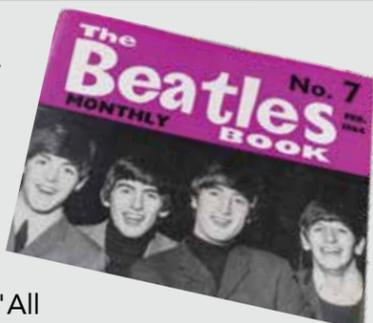
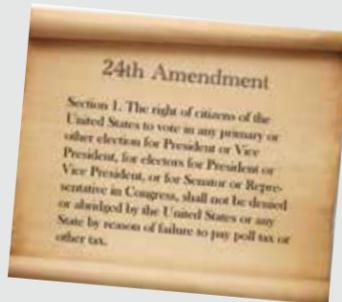
Members of the Class of '64 have reunited every year in December since they graduated. They have stood by each other during life's challenges and celebrations. The luncheon was run for many years by Larry Scigliano and Brian Woodell until Scott took over the planning a few years ago. Due to COVID, the last Christmas luncheon was held on December 6, 2019. Serra Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fadelli '88 and Alumni Director Bob Greene '85 were in attendance.

“This is really a tight knit group,” Greene said. “Their class gets together on the first Friday of December every year. I was fortunate to attend their last lunch in 2019. The turnout was amazing. They had about 50 alumni from their class, plus two of their teachers, David Stronck '49 and Jim Monahan. I was so honored to be invited and attend the luncheon, and I hope to attend many more because the Class of '64 class is a very special class.”

Fadelli earned the Stephen D. Scott award in 1987. He remembered the first time his son, Matthew, heard the Padre Whisper at a Serra basketball game when he was a seventh-grader. Matthew currently is a senior in the Class of 2021.

**“Matthew will never forget the Serra cheering section— starting out with the low ‘P, P, PAD’ and then erupting into the ‘PADRES! PADRES! PADRES!’ at the end,” Fadelli noted. “At that moment, he knew for sure that he wanted to be a Padre so he could one day participate in the timeless Padre Whisper.”**

# A look back to 1964

- The Beatles took the world and America by storm, holding the top five positions in the Billboard Top 40. Popular singles included number one hits, "I want to hold your hand" and "All my Loving." 
- Other British rock groups also found success, including The Rolling Stones and The Animals. Together, with the American talent of The Supremes and Bob Dylan, many say this was one of the greatest years for music in the last century.
- Race riots take place in major U.S. cities.
- The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was signed into law. 
- The 24th Amendment to the Constitution of the U.S. was ratified.
- Cassius Clay won the boxing world heavyweight championship fight against Sonny Liston.
- The U.S. Surgeon General reported that smoking might lead to lung cancer.
- Lyndon B. Johnson became the 36th President, following the assassination of President John F. Kennedy on November 22, 1963.
- U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War was formally established on August 5, 1964.

### Economy

- Yearly inflation rate: 1.28%
- Average cost of a new house: \$13,050
- Average income per year: \$6,000
- Gas per gallon: 30 cents
- Average cost of a new car: \$3,500
- Loaf of bread: 21 cents
- United States postage stamp: 5 cents
- Average monthly rent: \$115
- Ticket to the movies: \$1.25

Ryan Monaghan '90 - continued from page 33

days. Monaghan's decision to leave his hometown of San Mateo has been bittersweet, but the allure of a new opportunity is very exciting.

“I have been a lieutenant for the past seven years,” he added. “Once you get to this level in the police department, there's only so much room at the top. Your next move has a lot to do with timing and circumstances.”

Good timing has been a theme throughout Monaghan's career. After graduating from Serra in 1990, he secured a seasonal job with the city of San Mateo, serving as a lifeguard with the Harbor Patrol. He later became a volunteer police cadet before being hired as a police officer in 1994. Monaghan was promoted to sergeant in 2006 and lieutenant in 2014.

As a lieutenant in San Mateo, Monaghan prioritized community policing strategies and oversaw successful initiatives to improve field officer training and enhance community outreach efforts with local youth. He has served in a variety of assignments, including Traffic Unit, Detective Bureau, Neighborhood Response Team, Special Weapons and Tactics (S.W.A.T.), Honor Guard Unit, and was one of the original team members of the San Mateo County Terrorism Counter Assault Team (T-CAT), and the first terrorism liaison officer for the San Mateo Police Department.

While assigned to the Investigations Bureau as a sergeant and later as a lieutenant, Monaghan formed a team of detectives with specialized training to conduct follow-up investigations and outreach efforts for domestic violence incidents. He also served as a subject matter expert in a 2014 San Mateo County initiative to evaluate and enhance law enforcement's role in San Mateo County's multi-disciplinary response to domestic violence. Monaghan was part of a multi-disciplinary team that implemented and conducted numerous training related domestic violence for San Mateo County law enforcement, public and private agencies. He was the recipient of the 2017 San Mateo County of Board of Supervisors Barbara Hammerman Award for his domestic violence response efforts.

Throughout his lengthy law enforcement career, Monaghan has attributed much of his desire to work in public service to the emphasis on community service at Serra.

**“I remember how much community service mattered at Serra,” Monaghan said. “The concept of giving back to**

**the community was ingrained in us—we were taught that it was not just about us at Serra, but the community surrounding Serra. Being involved in community service really showed me its value, and it also made me realize how much I liked it.”**



Monaghan shared that he draws on his experience at Serra daily. He learned the importance of writing, reading and communication skills when he was a high school student, and he sees those attributes in the many Padres he works with in the local fire and police departments.

“We've got a lot of Padres here, and they all have great communication skills,” he said.

Monaghan added that Serra's supportive faculty helped him to develop a love of learning that helped him through his post graduate work.

“I was not an easy learner—I needed to focus,” he recounted. “I was able to make it through the rigorous coursework at Serra because of the care that the faculty and staff showed for their students. It was those relationships and the foundational education that helped me with my academic successes. I really don't know if I would have been able to go on to college and earn my master's if it weren't for Serra.”

Monaghan obtained a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice management from Union Institute & University, as well as a master's degree in security studies, homeland security and defense from the Naval Postgraduate School.

A mentor to college students, Monaghan serves on the adjunct faculty of the San Mateo Community College District, where he teaches in the Administration of Justice Program. He also is a mentor for the San Mateo Police Activities League and the San Mateo Public Sector Supervisory Academy.

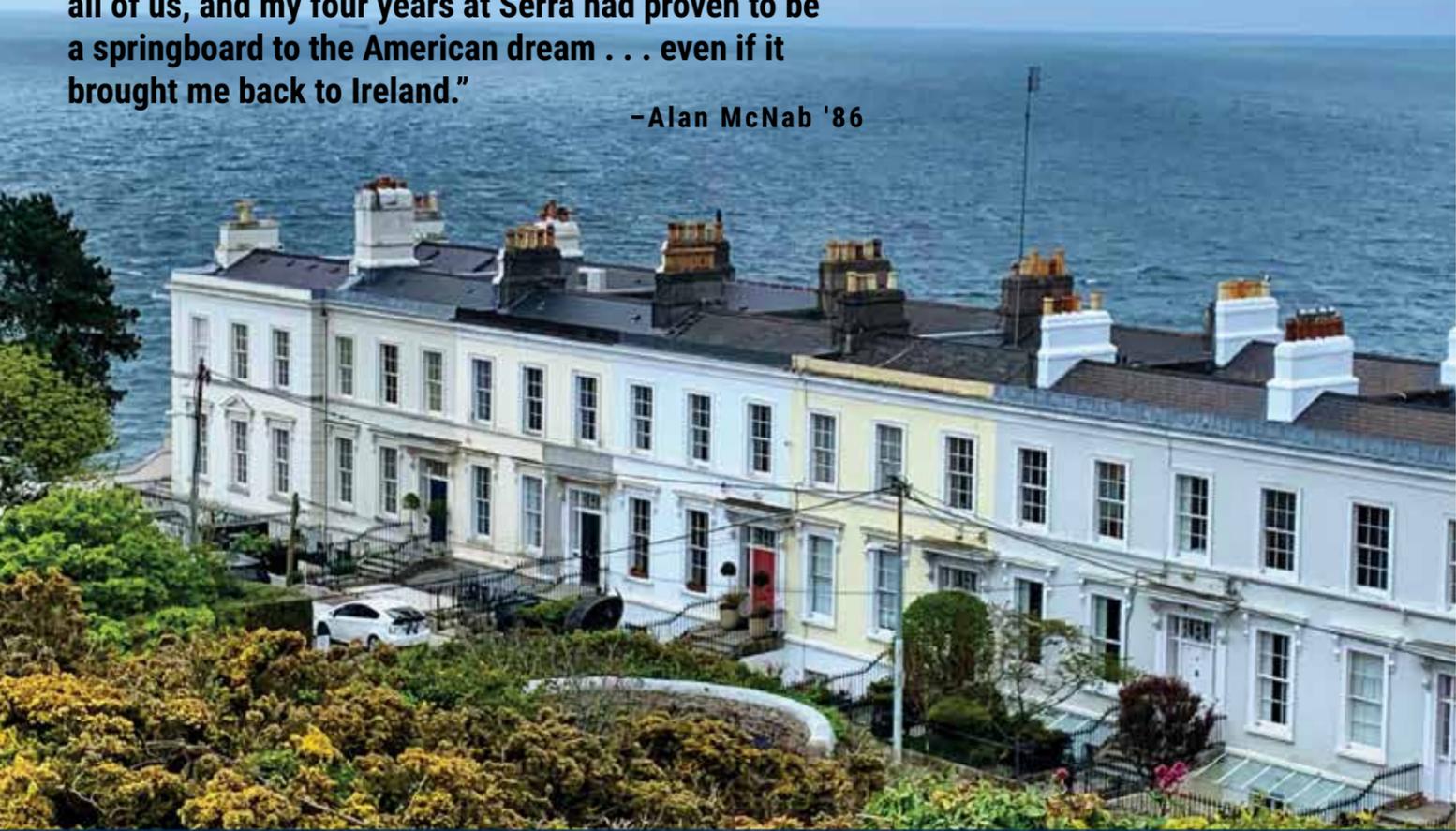
Monaghan lives in Belmont with his wife and 6-year-old daughter. Although he will soon commute 25 miles to Tiburon for work, he will remain on the Peninsula for now.

# Where the Streets Have No Name

Alan McNab '86 Lives the "Life of Riley"

**"My mom and dad left Ireland to find a better life for all of us, and my four years at Serra had proven to be a springboard to the American dream . . . even if it brought me back to Ireland."**

**-Alan McNab '86**



In the picturesque seaside town of Dalkey, Ireland, Alan McNab can be spotted roaming the sandy Killiney beach with his wife and lively little girls. Anna (8), Lizzie (6) and Evelyn (3) enjoy swimming and sailing in Dublin Bay. Jennifer, his wife, is a public health doctor.

So how did this all happen?

"I thought I'd live the rest of my life in the U.S., but I came back to Dublin for an 18-month project in 2010 and fell in love with an amazing woman," Alan said. "We found a home in Dalkey that reminds me of the beautiful Eichler houses, where many of my friends lived in the San Mateo Highlands, so I feel we have a little slice of San Mateo in Dublin."

The girls attend Loreto Abbey. Behind the abbey is Dalkey Island, where the British built one of many Martello Towers to defend against Napoleon, who never actually made it there. To the right is a smaller island with a beacon called the Muglands. A not-so-fun fact:

"They used to hang people there to warn away smugglers," Alan said. "Dalkey was founded by the Vikings and the town was an active port during the Middle Ages."

Just south of Dalkey is another Martello Tower in Sandycove, where the legendary Irish writer James Joyce began the first chapter of his novel, *Ulysses*.

## COVID Hits Hard

The McNabs were enjoying life in a storybook town—and then the COVID pandemic hit. Dalkey was not immune, and it wasn't the first time.

"Dalkey is not a stranger to pandemics," Alan noted. "It was one of the ports that the plague entered Ireland during the 14th century. Like most places around the world, COVID has gripped Ireland for the last 12 months. We have been in and out of lockdown, with varying degrees of freedom. In December and January, the contagion spiked very aggressively. We are gradually returning students to school, but we are still in lockdown. The pubs and restaurants have been closed since Christmas, which is one of the corners of Irish social life and quite sad."

The McNabs have been working hard to help others through the pandemic. Alan and his colleagues founded Kaptea during the first lockdown in spring, 2020.

"Kaptea is a software development team with deep domain expertise in customer experience, application integration and data analytics," Alan explained. "As a Twilio consulting partner, we've developed solutions for Covid-19 contact tracing. We work with healthcare services and businesses that want to deploy Twilio to communicate with their customers using text, email or build a contact center."

The company's first customer was the Irish Health Service Executive (HSE).

"We provide all the (SMS and email) messaging on COVID-19 testing results for patients and provide active reminders for those who have been in close contact of patients who have tested positive, reminding them to stay isolated for 14 days," Alan said.

Founding a brand new company during the pandemic has had its challenges.

"While we know each other very well, the Kaptea team hasn't actually met in person since launching the company," Alan said. "Despite attempting to meet for a pint, it's always been postponed due to COVID. I suppose we are too close to the numbers to take any chances."

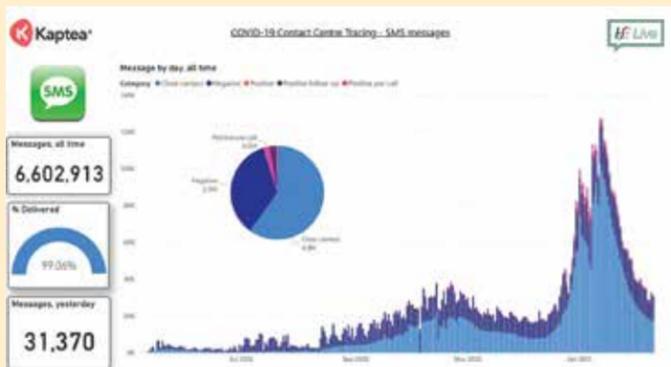
Jennifer has been extremely busy with contact tracing. "Contract tracing is one important response to limiting the spread and impact of infectious disease, and it's really important during the period before we have vaccinations for a disease," she explained. "A year ago, I brought a proposal to the Irish Health Service's national director for quality improvement on how to implement a national contact tracing program."

Within a week, Jennifer and her team had set up the program, working with cadets from the Irish Armed Forces and using an IT system based on Jennifer's specifications. Ireland is one of very few western countries that had a contact tracing program.



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“So far, we have traced more than 99 percent of all cases of COVID since the start of the pandemic,” Jennifer noted. “We have a program that was able to cope, even when the rate of infections in Ireland was the highest in the world. I am immensely proud to be part of the Irish public health system, which has responded so effectively to COVID-19.”



Jennifer added that she has never worked harder during her 20 years as a doctor.

“I have worked with amazing people who have risen to the challenge and have achieved the unachievable,” she said. “I think the end is definitely in sight. We are rolling out our vaccination program in Ireland, focusing on the people who most need it.”

According to Jennifer, she couldn’t have worked around the clock without Alan’s commitment to their family.

“I couldn’t have done what I have done without the amazing support of Alan, who stepped up to look after our children 16 hours a day while I was at work during those early days,” she said. “Today, we have immunized every nursing home resident and staff member, as well as all front-line healthcare workers. Infection rates have plummeted in these groups. It will be another four to six months before we have our whole adult population vaccinated, but that will bring a return to a new normal, which I am eagerly awaiting.”

### Strong Serra Roots

Alan’s high school friends met him when he had just moved from an Irish boarding school to sunny California. He was known for his easy-going nature, sharp wit and gift for telling interesting stories. Alan was also a music buff, but didn’t discover the band U2 until he arrived at Serra.

“Freshman year, my best friend, Paul Murtagh ‘86 gave me a gift of the album *U2 Under a Blood Red Sky*,” Alan recounted. “I’d never heard of U2, but when I heard Bono’s heavy Dublin accent introduce *Sunday Bloody Sunday*, I felt at home in America.”

Ironically, two of the band’s most famous members live close to Alan and Jennifer. “Bono and The Edge live five minutes around the corner,” Alan said. “I’ve seen them many times, but while everyone is looking out the corner of their eye at them, you don’t bother them. It’s an Irish

thing to give them their privacy—even if it kills you!”

Alan still keeps in touch with many of his high school friends from Serra and Notre Dame.

“I have great memories of my time at Serra,” Alan said. “It was my sixth school in five years. We had left Ireland in 1975 and moved to Tehran for my dad’s job. After two years in Iran, we moved back to Ireland for six months, then to England for two years, and then I spent two years in boarding school in Ireland. So, while I was used to change, it was quite a transition to arrive at a U.S. high school in 1982. The popular movie at the time was *Fast Times at Ridgemont High*, and everyone was wearing Ozzy Osbourne, Journey or Def Leppard T-shirts!

It didn’t take Alan long to settle into San Mateo. “I immediately recognized that Americans love Irish people, so I found it was easy to make friends,” he remembered. “Without even knowing the different positions on the team, I tried out for freshman football, which was a weeklong endurance test that continued over the weekend. I didn’t make it, but I made a lot of friends and later joined the cross-country, tennis, and rugby teams.”

Alan said the values he learned at Serra have remained with him all his life.

“The values that I took from my experience at Serra were true for sports, as well as academics,” he said. “My teachers took an interest in me, encouraged me, and I learned that hard work worked. There was a great competitive spirit at Serra—the rallies before games were amazing and reminded me of boarding school rugby, where you had to have spirit and support your team. **Another value I learned at Serra was about balance—school wasn’t everything, getting involved in your community, church, sports, and other clubs mattered just as much as the academics.**”

Alan credits Serra with preparing him well for his college days at Santa Clara University. His sister, Catherine, also graduated from his alma mater.

“I don’t think I’ll ever forget the day my college acceptance letters arrived,” he said. “I used to pick up my dad from his office in San Carlos and drive him home. The day my acceptance letter arrived from Santa Clara University, I handed it to him, and he was over the moon with pride and joy. This was a milestone that grounded all the hard work and change we’d been through as a family. My mom and dad had left Ireland to find a better life for all of us, and my four years at Serra had proven to be a springboard to the American dream . . . even if it brought me back to Ireland.”



# Community

## THIRD ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING THANKSGIVEDAY

Our third annual ThanksGIVEday was wildly successful, with an overall sum of \$240,000 raised in the 24-hour effort—a testament to the incredible heights a dedicated group of supporters can soar.

When students returned to school on November 9 in Serra’s hybrid model, it was just 10 days prior to the annual ThanksGIVEday effort. While the Serra Advancement Team could not predict how the philanthropic event would go in a virtual arena, team members were amazed by the generosity of our community. The typical in-person hype, camaraderie and togetherness had to be replaced with email and video appeals, as well as a letter campaign that highlighted our ThanksGIVEday theme, Driving Innovation.

“This is our fall annual appeal and to see our alumni, alumni parents and friends of Serra come together over this 24-hour period to help us raise the necessary funds for these types of improvements shows what a powerful community of supporters we have at Serra,” said Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fadelli ‘88.

Leading up to November 19, Serra told its story of how, in a distance learning and hybrid environment,

it had to work hard to maintain a rigorous, transformative virtual experience for its students. Blending all of Serra’s virtues and presenting them on a screen was a challenge. Serra’s team of talented educators was able to achieve this and made a swift and successful transition to teaching online.

Already in the throes technology upgrades scheduled to take 18-24 months to complete, the ThanksGIVEday boost in fundraising helped to fastrack the upgrades to accommodate the technological needs that a present-day pandemic brings.

Serra had already added new Apple products, including new MacBook Airs, Apple TVs and iPads, as a standard for every teacher, but the school needed to continue to build out this technology program for teachers and upgrade the classrooms.

Even though the effort was virtual, Serra’s alumni came out as a united force, challenging each other to beat the other.

“It was great to see the class challenges, decade challenges and individual challenges being met during our 24-hour day of giving,” Fadelli said. “It showcases the pride that our contributors have for Serra High School and its success now and in the future.”



1948

JIM FLANAGAN received a lifetime achievement recognition from Marquis Who's Who. Jim's current website/author's platform is AvoidingConflicts.com.



1951

ALLAN HAMMER and his wife, Deanna, are enjoying a peaceful life in beautiful Grants Pass, Oregon. Deanna is painting and Allan continues to stay active in the church by hosting weekly Bible study and men's group.

1962

AL BEDROSIAN and his wife, Lydia, are living in a newly built custom home in the Auburn Valley, after losing everything in the Paradise Camp Fire.

MARK MARISKA, Lt. Colonel, U.S. Army (ret), has been selected as a 2021 Inductee in the Army Infantry OCS Hall of Fame and was also featured in the book "Voices from Russia" by John Harrison (2020).



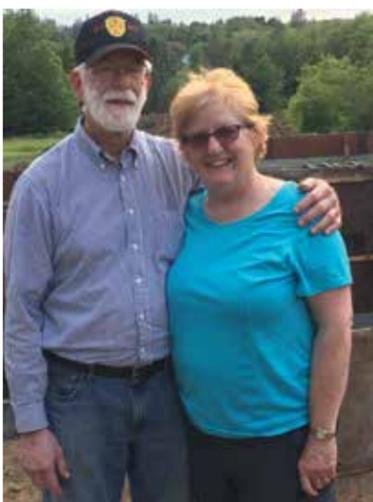
RAY VIGIL is retired and spending his time hiking, snow skiing and playing golf.



1963

CHARLES WATERS and his wife, Susan, are retired and Zooming with their four children, sons-in-law, 14 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

HARRY LARSEN retired from The Boeing Company after 39 years of service. Harry served one tour in Vietnam in 1969-70 as a Marine Corps field artilleryman. He and his wife, Susan, will soon celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary and have raised five children in the Seattle area. Three of their five children are married. Their youngest son was married on their 10-acre property in Mossyrock, Washington. Two of their grandchildren live in Pennsylvania (Helen, two years old and Moses, two months old), and one lives in Washington State (Phoebe, 10 months old). Harry and Susan built a new home three years ago and a new workshop for Harry last year.



1964

TERRY GREINER was inducted into Seattle University's sports Hall of Fame for his exceptional career on the SU 1967 soccer team. Terry is now retired as a civil engineer and lives with his wife in Belmont.

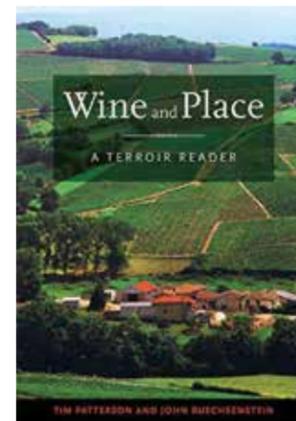


1965

KEVIN BELTON retired from Justin-Siena High School in Napa, but continues to work early every day as a legal and medical interpreter with Hanna Interpreting. Kevin teaches Spanish classes at Trinity Prep and covers classes on-site at Vintage High School for teachers who are teaching remotely. Kevin and his wife Margarita are grateful for their eight children and seven grandchildren. Kevin looks forward to a day when he and his wife can travel again.

1967

JOHN BUECHSENSTEIN has transitioned from his 40-year career as a hands-on winemaker to teaching at UC Davis continuing and professional education. In-person wine tasting seminars are temporarily on hold but "distance learning" wine-making classes continue. During recent years, John wrote a book with a coauthor on the fascinating wine topic of terroir which was published by UC Press in 2018. The book continues to be popular and is often used as a textbook in university wine courses. Have a look at *Wine and Place: A Terroir Reader*.



1969

BILL BARRETT retired January 1, after 51 years in radio. Bill said his broadcast 'bucket list' was filled when he and his morning show partners were inducted into The Country Radio Hall of Fame, in Nashville, Tennessee. Bill encourages any young Padres interested in a radio broadcasting career to feel free to get in touch.



1970

CHRISTOPHER COLLOPY is proud to announce that his oldest son, Tristan, and his wife, Michelle, had their first beloved granddaughter, Evalyn Rosemary Collopy. Chris was also appointed vice chairman of the Riverside County Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Commission for a four-year term.



1973

ROCKY CAPELLA, best known as an award winning stunt action coordinator, has been directing films and was awarded the best director award for his feature film, *The Guitar Man*, at the Canadian Diversity Film Festival in Toronto. This was the 17th award in the 17 U.S. and International Film festivals, including 10 best feature film awards and two screenwriting awards. *Guitar Man* will be released to the public in 2021.

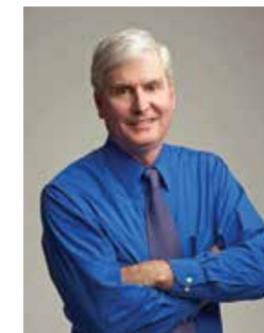


JOHN NORCROSS is a Realtor in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. He stated that he works closely with buyers in the hottest real estate market in the USA and wants to let Padres know that if they are coming his way to give him a call.



1976

JAMES MALLEY was elected to the National Academy of Engineering, the highest recognition in the U.S. for the engineering profession, for his contributions to advancements in seismic design. Jim has spent his 38-year career at Degenkolb Engineers, a West Coast structural and earthquake engineering firm where he is a senior principal and the group director. Since the 1994 Northridge Earthquake, Jim has led the efforts to improve the seismic performance of steel buildings, chairing the American Institute of Steel Construction Committee on Seismic Design from 1995-2015. Since 2016, he has chaired the AISC Committee on Specifications, which is responsible for developing all the standards governing the design of steel structures in the U.S. Jim lives in Moraga with his wife, Jill, and has two grown sons.



1977

WILLIAM AHERN retired from the San Francisco Police Department after a grand total of 45 years in law enforcement. He is now working full time as a psychologist in the Bay Area with an office in Novato. William also has been lecturing at the Wright Institute in Berkeley and with the California Narcotics Officers Association. He continues to volunteer as a therapist with the West Coast Post-trauma Retreat in Angwin, CA.

### 1978

VINCENT (VJ) FOSTER is an actor living in Los Angeles. In August, he flew to Montana to work on *Yellowstone*, a Kevin Costner television series that will air in season four later this year. During his off hours, he explored the Missoula area along the Clark Fork River and found a beautiful natural hot spring on one of his hikes. In October, VJ rode his vintage Harley Road King to Kings Canyon and Sequoia National Parks for a few days of beautiful riding in the southern Sierra.



### 1982

WALTER JOHN BANKOVITCH has been working at home for Agilent Technologies, Inc. since March 9, 2020. Since July 2020, Walter and his wife, Jocelyn, have been producing and performing outdoor porch concerts in front of their house in Berkeley.



### 1983

JOHN KOHNKE took a new position at Honda Packaging Solutions, as senior vice president of business development for North America. John specializes in providing international packaging and supply chain solutions to the consumer electronics, medical device and consumer packaged goods industries. John lives in San Mateo with his wife, Rose, and their son, Carl.

### 1984

BOB FITZGERALD, the voice of the Golden State Warriors, was also the voice of the Serra High School Fathers' Club meeting on September 22, 2020. Bob told Serra dads about his adventures announcing games inside the 2020 NBA Bubble in Orlando.



### 1986

BOB DICKSON completed his doctorate (Ed.D) in organizational change and leadership from the University of Southern California.



RAY LOOZE was recently named 2020 Swim Coach of the Year in the annual Swammy Awards, an honor bestowed by the American-based swimming news website SwimSwam. Looze, who is the head men's and women's swimming coach at Indiana University, is credited with his competitive coaching as well as his dedication to his team.



### 1989

DAVID deBERNARDI published a book on his youth soccer journey as a father and coach. The book is called, *Through Ball*, and can be found on Amazon.



### 1998

ROBERT UY was selected as a 2021 Super Lawyer and was previously chosen as a Super Lawyer Rising Star from 2014 to 2020. Robert is an immigration and family law attorney. Robert was previously president of the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California, a former regional governor for the National Filipino American Lawyers Association and a former board member of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area. Robert was elected chair of the South San Francisco Parks and Recreation Commission and is completing his term as president of the Lowen Soccer Club. He credits his experience at Serra for teaching him the need for service in the community and he continues to serve the community as a proud Padre.



### 2002

ERIK NIELSEN and his wife, Nicole, welcomed their second child, Kamryn Ray Nielsen, on December 29, 2020.



### 2006

ADAM MARKOVICH was married to his bride Brienne Dineen on March 13 on the Caribbean islands of Turks and Caicos. Padre classmate Jeremy Pickett served as Adam's best man. After graduating from Arizona State University in 2010, Adam has spent his entire career with Citigroup as a director of corporate bond trading in New York City. His wife, Brienne, is a graduate of Florida State University and is a director of sales for a global fashion merchandiser. The couple reside in Manhattan.



### 2007

KYLE WINNINGHAM'S son, Charles, is sporting a *Future Serra Padre* T-shirt. If Charles is truly a future Serra Padre, he will be a member of Serra's Class of 2036!



STERLING SULLIVAN married his bride, Kristen, in January of 2019 at the Stanford Memorial Church with a reception following at the Stanford Faculty Club. The couple welcomed their first child, Logan, on October 7, 2020 and live in Redwood City. Photo below is Sterling with his Class of 2007 Padre groomsmen from (l-r): Jon Hayward, Sterling Sullivan, Michael Dougherty and AJ Diggins.



### 2009

BENNY ROBBINS is a 1st Lieutenant, serving as Judge Advocate in the U.S. Marine Corps. He graduated with a degree in political science from San Francisco State University and a Juris Doctor from the University of Idaho, College of Law. Upon completion of Marine Corps Officer Candidate School, Benny was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in August, 2017. He graduated from The Basic School at Marine Corps Base Quantico in November, 2019 and Naval Justice School at Naval Station Newport in April, 2020. Benny is currently stationed at Marine Corps Air Station Miramar working as a Defense Counsel in the Legal Services Support Team. Pictured below are proud Padre alumni parents Bob and Pam Robbins. Pam was a dedicated Serra employee from 2000-2014.



### 2010

JUSTIN MULLADY married Dr. Sandeepa Sriram on November 27, 2020. Sandeepa is a graduate of St. Francis High School.



### 2012

PAUL JIMENEZ is opening a new Blue Bottle Coffee location on B Street in downtown San Mateo. Paul has been with the company for three years and is very happy to be opening a new cafe in his hometown. Paul welcomes all Padres to come for coffee and delicious waffles.



## 2014

NICHOLAS SY was an editorial intern in the credits of the new Disney and Pixar's movie, *Soul*. Nicholas shared that interning on this film was a huge highlight for him, not just for the project itself, but also for working with the talented, awe-inspiring people behind the film.



LOGAN WOLF has been assisting high school and college athletics in the Bay Area and East Coast states with a company called eTeamSponsor. Logan has helped raise more than \$300,000 at Serra for athletics and the music department. In the past two months, he has helped football raise nearly \$50,000.



## 2015

CALVIN HALL has started a new career in real estate with Intero in Cupertino. He is more than happy to help any Padres in the area with their real estate needs.

KENNY MALUNAY is the wellness coordinator for a teaching partnership/organization called PEP, where he taught Filipinx history and identity to kindergartners and at the middle school level. Kenny works for an after-school program in South San Francisco and is applying to graduate school.



ISAIAH SALINDA, pro golfer, set the new course record at the California Golf Club on September 19, 2020. Isaiah shot a 60, breaking the previous course record of 61. Isaiah won the coveted blanket award in golf at Serra four years in a row, before earning a scholarship to Stanford University, where he continued to play golf. Isaiah turned pro in 2019 after playing in the Walker Cup.

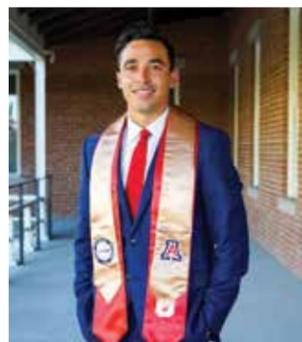


## 2016

TALON GALVEZ-BENNETT and RORY DOOLIN '79 worked together for the La Honda Brigade. Talon reached out to teacher Chris Lowenstein and said, "The Padre community is strong and still working together to keep our community safe." Thank you to Talon and Rory for their brave efforts to battle these devastating wildfires.



NATHAN WALSH graduated from the University of Arizona in May, 2020 and has started his career as a financial professional with New York Life in Los Angeles.



## 2017

PATRICK CALLAGY will be graduating with honors from Oregon State University with a major in Biology (pre-vet) and a minor in chemistry. He has been accepted into the Carlson College of Veterinary Medicine at Oregon State and will be attending that program to become a veterinarian.



## 2018

JOSEPH ROCHA worked the Santa Clara Lightning Complex Fire with the Cal Fire Sonoma-Lake Unit in August 2020.



ALEC CULLEN, a junior at University of California, Santa Barbara, won the 200 breaststroke at the Mountain Pacific Sports Federation Swimming and Diving Championships in record time. Alec broke his own MPSF and UCSB record with a 1.55.41, beating his previous record of 1.55.72. He also placed third in the 100 Breaststroke with a time of 53.59. Both of Alec's times were NCAA "B" standard times.



## 2019

BROOKS TANER, a student at the University of Arizona, took sixth in the 200 Butterfly with a time of 1.42.09 and eighth in the 100 Butterfly with a time of 47.10 at the Pac 10 championship. Both of Brook's times were NCAA "B" standard times. He also competed in the NCAA Division I Swimming and Diving Championship in Greensboro, NC last March.



RAYMOND ZHANG is an undergraduate at Berkeley studying biology. He was just selected for the 2021 Summer Student Research Program, an internship sponsored by the National Institutes of Health grant entitled: STIMULUS: Science & Technology Immersion for Underrepresented Learners in the U.S.

## 2020

DYLAN MACIAS has completed his Eagle Scout project benefitting the city of Pacifica. He passed his board of review on September 23, earning him the national award of Eagle Scout. Dylan moved from his home in Pacifica to San Francisco and is enrolled at San Francisco City College, where he is pursuing a degree in Fire Science Technology. Dylan is also working full time for UA Local 467 and doing a great job balancing work and academics.



BRANDO SAVARESE is a freshman finance major at LMU. He continues to keep in touch with his Padre classmates and is focusing on his physical health—lifting weights several times per week and swimming laps to keep up his Serra water polo stamina. Photo below features Brando and his two best friends on a graduation trip to Donner Lake near Tahoe. Pictured (l-r): Ryan Bruins '20, Brando '20 and Kellen Perks.





**Belton Brothers**  
Kevin Belton '65 shared a couple fun brotherhood photos with us for *Traditions*. The top photo on the right is Kevin and his 1965 Padre classmate, Ken Norton, at the Serra Reunion football game in 2020. The bottom photo on the right is what Kevin referred to as the *Belton Badboys*, featuring himself and his two brothers rockin' out. Pictured from (l-r): Terry '60, Barry (RIP) '63 and Kevin '65.



**H**enry James '18 was published in the *Georgetown Pro Vita Mundi Academic Magazine* for his article titled, *20th Century Founding Father, Daniel Patrick Moynihan's Solutions to Urban Poverty*. A junior at George town studying history and philosophy, James has spent countless hours researching

and preparing to write his thesis on Pat Moynihan, an American politician, sociologist, and diplomat. Moynihan was a member of the Democratic Party who represented New York in the United States Senate and served as an adviser to Republican U.S. President Richard Nixon.

James' article focuses on Moynihan's controversial Moynihan Report, a 1965 report on black poverty in the United States, which was supposed to be a private memorandum to President Nixon that was leaked to the public. Many scholars have scrutinized the report for its controversial content, but James' article focused simply on the solutions offered in the report, highlighting Moynihan's life-long fascination with ameliorating urban poverty by improving family structure.

James is particularly interested in the history of political movements, focusing on the role of race and class in forming political ideology. On campus, he is co-president of the student organization *Georgetown Ballers*, a mentorship program which brings Hoyas and incarcerated youth together through a shared love of basketball. Henry is also participating in a university-sponsored research fellowship focusing on education and social justice for formerly incarcerated individuals.

During his free time, Henry enjoys reading, playing basketball, and continuing to work on his eventual senior thesis on Pat Moynihan.

## JOIN OUR PADRE ALUMNI NETWORK

Reconnect with Serra through our new alumni network. We've built this platform with features including a complete alumni directory, job boards, invitation-only events, career mentoring, photo galleries and exclusive content from our school. Alumni connections could change your career! Take a look at our alumni map to see if any Padres live in your city or a city you plan to visit.

**Are you a Padre? Sign up for an account today!**

[alumni.serrahs.com](http://alumni.serrahs.com)



Alumni Director Bob Greene '85 | [bgreene@serrahs.com](mailto:bgreene@serrahs.com)  
Creative Director Michelle Wilkinson | [mwilkinson@serrahs.com](mailto:mwilkinson@serrahs.com)

## Making NFL History . . . again

**T**om Brady '95 won his seventh Super Bowl and his fifth Super MVP award on February 7 in Tampa.

The victory gave Brady more Super Bowl wins than any franchise in NFL history. The Patriots and Steelers each have six championships and the 49ers and Cowboys have earned five.

Brady is the only quarterback to win Super Bowls in three separate decades and his 581 touchdown passes are an NFL record. The 2020 season was his 21st in the NFL.

While at Serra, the San Mateo native passed for 3,514 yards and 33 touchdowns in two varsity seasons. He remains in the top five of 10 categories of Serra's passing records.

Since graduating, Brady has made numerous trips back to West 20th Avenue. He and his father, the



Photo Credit: Getty Images, Kevin Cox

original Tom Brady, have headlined Serra's annual Fund a Dream scholarship gala (in 2012 and 2019, respectively), and the Brady family continues its support for Serra.

## Padres from the Class of 2016 Will Serve and Protect Bay Area Communities

2016 classmates Ryan Callagy and Angelo Bortolin graduated from the South Bay Regional Public Safety Training Academy in March.

Callagy and Bortolin attended St. Gregory's Catholic School and Serra together before attending the academy. They both were in the academy's cohort No. 159.



Ryan will begin his career as a police officer with the San Mateo Police Department. His badge was pinned by his father, San Mateo County Manager and retired SMPD Deputy Chief, Mike Callagy '80.

According to the San Mateo Police

Department, "We are proud the Callagy tradition of policing will continue in our agency and look forward to great things ahead."

Angelo has been hired as a police officer with the South San Francisco Police Department.

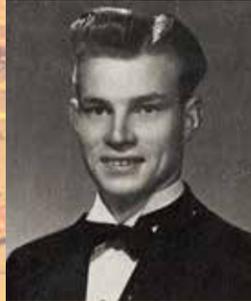


# In Memoriam

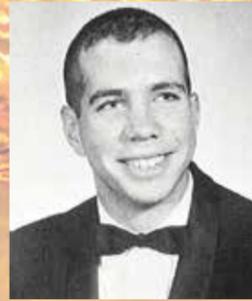
ALWAYS PADRES. ALWAYS BROTHERS.

# In Memoriam

ALWAYS PADRES. ALWAYS BROTHERS.



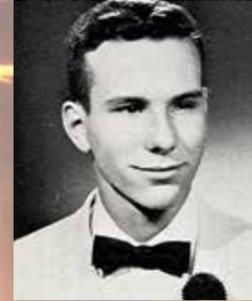
ROBERT ALIAMUS '53  
January 3, 2020



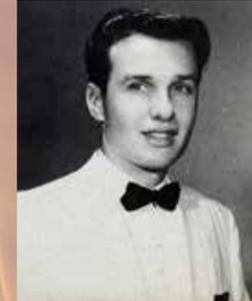
RODERICK AVERY '64  
January 20, 2019



JOHN BARBAGELATA '70  
June 29, 2020



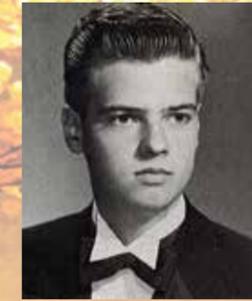
PAUL CONSTANTINO '62  
December 27, 2020



JOSEPH S. DAVIS '56  
January 26, 2021



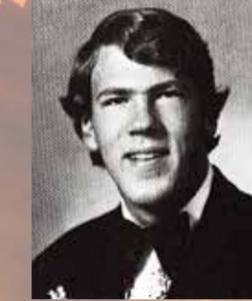
RICHARD NEDWICK '80  
November 9, 2020



JAMES RAYMOND O'BRIEN '54  
December 6, 2018



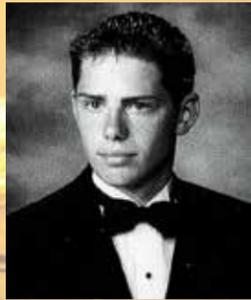
LAWRENCE "LARRY" RYAN '72  
September 13, 2020



TIMOTHY SCOTT '77  
September 5, 2020



ROBERT J. SMITH '52  
February 2, 2020



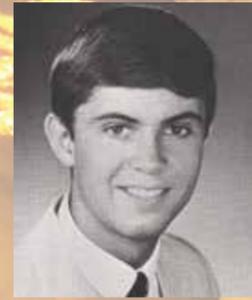
ANDREW ELY '02  
June 4, 2020



NICHOLAS "SONNY" HALOSKI '55  
January 21, 2021



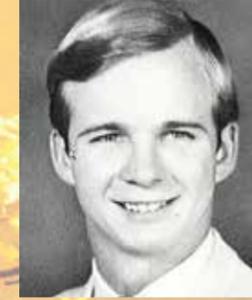
GARY HUGHES '59  
September 19, 2020



RICHARD JUSTICE '69  
January 30, 2021



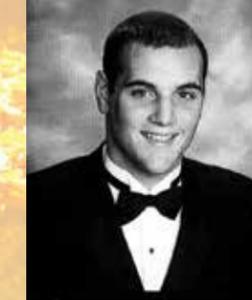
JAMES C. KELSO '52  
October 4, 2020



CHARLES STANCIL '68  
September 27, 2020



RALPH P. STINSON '63  
March 2, 2020



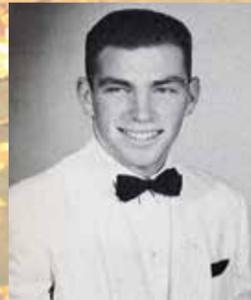
CHAD THODOS '13  
November 7, 2020



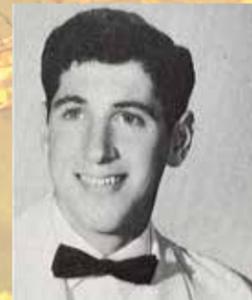
DOUGLAS TOZZINI '61  
February 22, 2021



SILVANO VIAL '67  
March 1, 2021



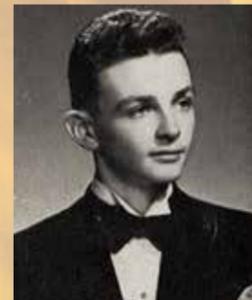
WILLIAM B. KILLILEA '56  
September 22, 2019



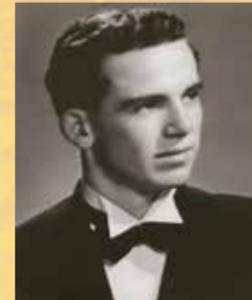
GERALD "JERRY" LINHARES '59  
January 4, 2021



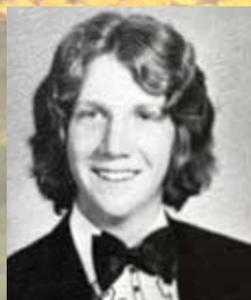
EUGENE LYNCH '55  
February 4, 2021



WILLIAM MADDEN '53  
March 12, 2020



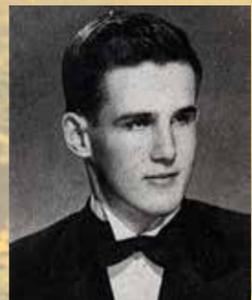
MONSIGNOR MAURICE  
"MICKEY" MCCORMICK '51  
January 29, 2021



JOHN MCGEE '75  
February 17, 2021



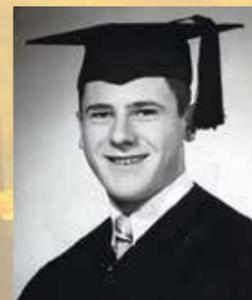
THOMAS J. MELLOTT III '60  
March 2, 2021



FRANK MONAGHAN '54  
February, 2021



DANIEL M. MURPHY '64  
August 26, 2019



GEORGE MUTTO '47  
September 2, 2020

## FRIENDS OF SERRA

BILL ARTHUR  
FEBRUARY 1, 2021

LAURA CALDWELL LANTHIER  
FEBRUARY 15, 2021

HIBERNIA ANN SWAIN  
THORNTON  
APRIL 14, 2021

KATHRYN BAKER  
JANUARY 7, 2021

NORMA MIFSUD  
MAY 12, 2020

SIDNEY TODRES  
JANUARY 21, 2021

BARBARA BERGAMASCHI  
JANUARY 10, 2021

NEIL MULLER  
DECEMBER 12, 2020

WARREN VOGEL  
DECEMBER 29, 2020

MARY BESSE  
MARCH 21, 2021

CHARLES PENNER  
MARCH 4, 2021

JERRY WILKINSON  
MARCH 29, 2021

CLAIRE CULLEN EARLEY  
MARCH 28, 2021

BARRY PETERSON  
MARCH 21, 2021

ANTHONY HANNON  
DECEMBER 18, 2020

RAPHAEL RIVIECCIO  
DECEMBER 8, 2020





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# UPCOMING EVENTS



**2021**  
*class of*  
Graduation  
Saturday, May 29, 2021

**MAY 2021**  
WED. 12 END OF YEAR SCHOOL MASS  
SAT. 29 CLASS OF 2021 COMMENCEMENT

**JUNE 2021**  
MON. 14 SUMMER AT SERRA (IN-PERSON SESSIONS BEGIN)

**AUGUST 2021**  
MON. 16 FIRST DAY OF CLASS  
2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR



**SUMMER AT SERRA!**  
[www.serrahs.com/summer](http://www.serrahs.com/summer)

- CHILDREN'S SPORTS & RECREATION CAMP
- SERRA SWIM SCHOOL
- PRE-HIGH AND HIGH SCHOOL ACADEMICS
- PENINSULA WRESTLING CLINICS
- SERRA PADRE ROWING CAMP

## ALUMNI EVENTS

We are eager for a time when we can join each other again in person to celebrate the Padre brotherhood!

For up-to-date news and events, visit:  
[alumni.serrahs.com](http://alumni.serrahs.com)



*Siempre Adelante  
Always Forward*

**QUESTIONS?**  
Contact Special Events Coordinator Theresa Stoye  
650.573.9935 | [tstoye@serrahs.com](mailto:tstoye@serrahs.com)  
or visit Serra's website at [www.serrahs.com](http://www.serrahs.com)