

FOR ALUMNI AND FRIENDS OF ARCHBISHOP RIORDAN HIGH SCHOOL

WINTER 2022

# FUTURE

magazine







# GRADUATION

## Looked a Little Different

Cheers to the Class of 2021!

Despite a tumultuous year, Riordan was able to experiment with new traditions, including hosting graduation on Mayer Family Field at the Carl Gellert and Celia Berta Gellert Athletic Complex.

The ceremony on June 5, 2021 also marked another important milestone. Pictured left, this group of young women were the first to graduate from Archbishop Riordan High School.

We are proud of all of our graduates who matriculated to some fantastic colleges and universities across the country and showed resilience during challenging years. Read more about them at [www.riordanhs.org/classof2021](http://www.riordanhs.org/classof2021)





# FUTURE

magazine

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## INTERIM PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

# Rhythm is Everything

The great martial artist, Bruce Lee, once said, "The best fighter is someone who can adapt." Well, I consider Archbishop Riordan High School to be one hell of a fighter. And I think it's appropriate to use the words of one of the world's most famous pugilists because we've had to fight hard to arrive at the place of strength we find ourselves today.

The Marianist philosophy of adaptation and change has guided Riordan since the beginning. From the Resource Specialist Program to the Boarding Program to the House System, to the Engineering and Biomedical Sciences Programs, our community has been in a constant state of change, which culminated in the 2019-2020 school year with the decision to go coed.

When I arrived at Riordan five years ago, I kept hearing that our school was "a hidden gem." And I agreed with that classification. We had passionate teachers and counselors. We had a loyal and professional Board of Trustees and dedicated alumni community. We were diverse and inclusive and offered programming to match. It made perfect sense to refer to us as a gem, but not a hidden one.

Our alums knew who we were. Our parents saw the results of our dedication to educating in the family spirit. And our students and faculty understood the quality of our product. But, still, our enrollment numbers were not where they should have been. Demographics in the city and nationally were changing, and Riordan was going to be affected by these changes.

After the coed transition, though, a funny thing happened. People were curious about what we were doing. Once they toured the school and met our teachers, coaches, and families, they wanted to be a part of our unique community. Last year, we welcomed our largest class since 1981, and this admissions season we have 50% more applicants than last year. It was as if students from all over were just waiting for another option—a place that felt like home.

I'll finish up with a quote from another great fighter, Sugar Ray Robinson, who said, "Rhythm is everything." Well, I think Riordan has found its rhythm. It took a lot of hard work from people who were committed to the school long before I arrived. It also took creativity, courage, and luck. None of it could have happened without the dedication and generosity of our community. And, of course, God had something to do with it too. I'm confident he has been rooting for us all along.

God Bless and Go Crusaders!

Mr. Timothy A. Reardon  
Interim President

P.S. A huge congratulations to my colleague and friend Dr. Andrew Currier who assumed the role of Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Oakland in July. We are grateful for the many things that he did to advance the Riordan community! Read more about Dr. Currier's legacy and the presidential search on pages 31 and 62.

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**Mission Statement**

The mission of *Future Magazine* is to provide school and alumni news to alumni, donors, and friends of Archbishop Riordan High School.

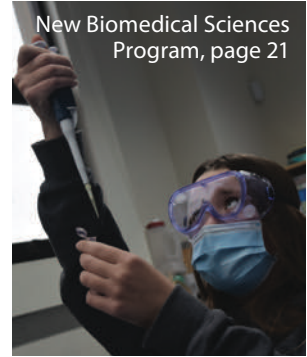
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Changes of address, email, phone number, or other contact information can be made by emailing [kriener@riordanhhs.org](mailto:kriener@riordanhhs.org).

Mindful of its mission to be witnesses to the love of Christ for all, Archbishop Riordan High School admits students of any race, color, and national or ethnic origin in the administration of our educational policies, scholarship and financial aid programs, athletic or other school administered programs.

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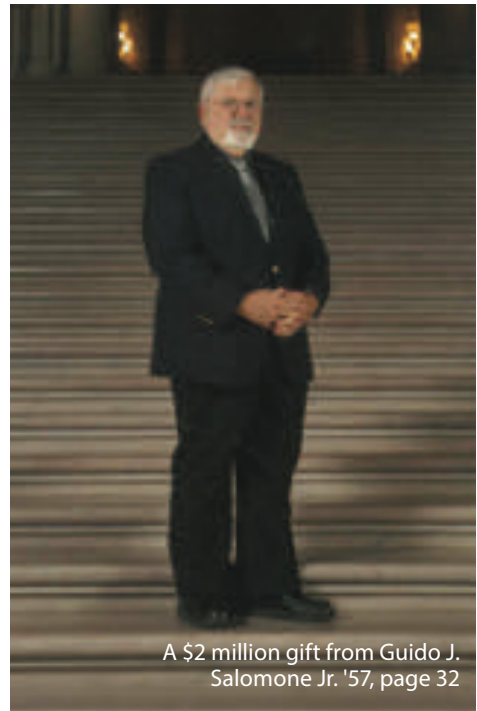
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# COED TRANSITION

So much has changed in the past two years at Riordan. We closed school on March 9, 2020 because of the pandemic, endured a year of hybrid learning, and reopened as a fully coeducational institution in fall 2021.

Our Marianist call to educate for adaptation and change has never been stronger. With close to 1,000 students on campus, this means adjusting in realtime to small things, such as adding a second lunch period, to thinking about the future with our comprehensive strategic planning process that will guide major school initiatives in the coming years (read more on page 20).

As of this fall, just under 35% of our student body is made up of young women. We are committed to continuing to build a school culture that is welcoming, diverse, and a place where students can find their passions and thrive.

Riordan is a school built for the future!

**“As one of the new female students, I have felt very welcomed into the Riordan family.”**

**-Abby Donovan '22**





# IN THE CLASSROOM

Exciting things are happening on the academic front. Riordan's Engineering Program, a leader of its kind, continues to teach students an exciting approach to thinking and building (and, in the words of one student, "destroying!")

This fall, the school also launched a new Biomedical Sciences Program. With the goal to expand science offerings, the program was in the works pre-pandemic, but now more than ever the world needs innovative and empathetic thinkers. Read more about this program on page 21.

The Lyceum is another unique offering for students in the St. Francis Scholars program. This honors philosophy course cultivates a sense of wonder and a pursuit of truth, beauty, and goodness in the context of the Catholic intellectual tradition.

It is great to see our classrooms full of life and learning.

**"We've been doing a lot in my AP Bio class connecting bio to COVID vaccines. I'm really excited for what is next."**

**-Pebble Ekhaus '23**







# STUDENT LIFE

The student and adult leaders of Riordan's House System kept recreation (and fun) going during the pandemic, and haven't missed a beat since. This fall, they ramped up competitions, added an awesome outdoor dance, and continued traditions such as the Frosh Olympics.

This year, the student body elected two talented individuals, Cole Anderson and Christine Zhu, as co-Student Body Presidents. Christine is also the first-ever elected female student body president, and the first international student to hold the role in the school's history. Both are tremendous leaders of our school.

The Riordan community (and San Francisco for that matter) sorely missed the sounds of the City's best music group, the Marching Band. Now back to their regular performance schedule, including the Italian Heritage Parade, home games, and competitions, this is literally music to everyone's ears.

And after three (highly successful) Zoom performances, our actors are back on the Lindland Stage for live performances.

**"Being able to help the school and communicating with so many excellent student leaders are such good opportunities."**

**-Christine Zhu '22**





# CAMPUS Improvements

A 70+-year-old campus needs care and investment. Under the direction of our facilities team, both major and minor upgrades have taken place in the past year.

Central to this are nine renovated classrooms with new flooring, paint, furniture, and technology that provide a better place for learning and teaching.

While the iconic hallways haven't changed, new paint, door frames, and directional signage make a warmer environment for students and visitors. Additionally, a new kitchen was installed in the Boarding Program as a space to share meals and build community.

We also updated meeting rooms to create more collaborative spaces, with new audio visual projectors and updated furniture.

If you haven't been by campus, we invite you to come for a visit!

**“I love being back on campus with peers and being able to connect and build relationships with teachers.”**

**-Areeshah Farooq '23**





# FAITH FORMATION

Once again, we were thrilled to be able to gather as a school community for Mass. To comply with safety parameters as a result of tremendous school growth, we relied on innovative thinking from several departments to broadcast our Mass simultaneously in both the theatre and gym. While it wasn't our first choice, we made it work successfully.

This year also marked the return to in-person retreats, a centerpiece of the Riordan experience. While Zoom served a useful purpose during the pandemic, it was phenomenal for our students to be in nature and reflect on relationships with their family, friends, and God. Approaching 40 years in operation, read more about the legend of Kairos on page 28, Riordan's signature retreat for seniors.

The LIFE Team continues to offer fun, faith-building opportunities for all during the school day.

**“One of the experiences I've enjoyed the most is attending Kairos and leading the junior retreat.”**

**-Zailea Flores '22**





# ATHLETICS

Our athletes, coaches, and fans were thrilled to be back to regular competition this fall. There were a season of firsts, including the first girls tennis and golf teams to represent Riordan, and our volleyball team played their first full season indoors on Kevin Restani Court.

On the trails, both the boys and girls cross country teams advanced to CCS competition and ran for the State Championship. This includes Daphne Batmale '25, who earned second-team all league WCAL honors, and was also the first female athlete to represent Riordan in CCS and state competitions.

Football played the first full season on our renovated home field, and brought home key victories over Mitty and Sacred Heart Cathedral. The Stanfel Cup is now back at Riordan!

In its first few seasons on the water, Club Sailing is taking the high school sailing world by storm, with top finishes in NorCal regattas and placing ahead of other city schools.

**“A highlight of this year is cross country. I've never done the sport before. I ended up loving running with my friends and the coaches are fantastic.”**

**-Daphne Batmale '25**







# BOARDING Program

Currently, Riordan hosts young men and women from literally all over the world, including Brazil, Chile, China, Denmark, France, Hong Kong, Ireland, Japan, Montenegro, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Turkey, Ukraine, the US, and Vietnam.

These students continue to enjoy regular high school life at Riordan and explore all that San Francisco has to offer. With a supportive residential life staff, they build a unique international community on the upper floors of Riordan's school building, the former residence of the Marianists.

Over the summer, the dorm underwent upgrades including a renovated kitchen and recreation space for students to enjoy meals and have social time.

**“I crossed the ocean to come here. But Riordan really is my home.”**

**-Nayra Jimenez '23 from Málaga, Spain**





# Riordan Launches Strategic Planning Process

*How does an institution advance its mission in the context of internal strengths and external opportunities?*

There is no simple answer, but laying the strategic groundwork is essential. A strategic planning process develops a shared vision, and a common path among stakeholders to create a blueprint for how to achieve that vision.

### What is happening?

Currently, Archbishop Riordan High School is asking the essential questions of how to run a Catholic high school that best serves the needs of our students and families here in the San Francisco Bay Area. Riordan's strategic plan will guide our work in light of the current renaissance we are experiencing as a coed school.

### Who's involved?

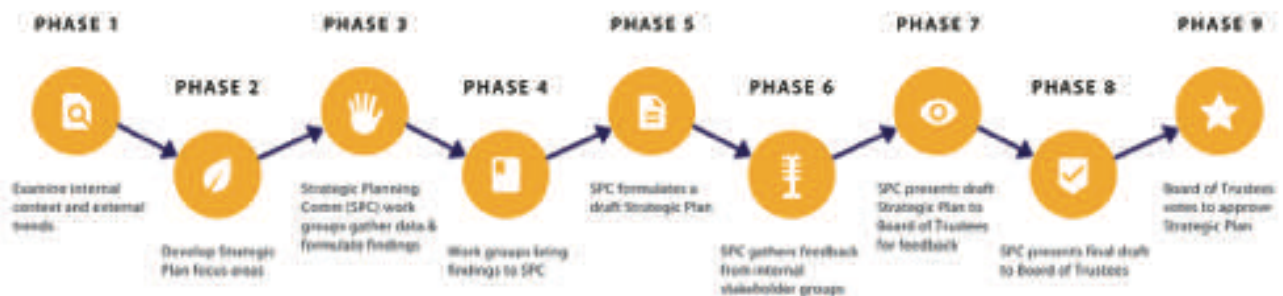
This process is guided by the Board of Trustees' Strategic Planning Committee in collaboration with the school President, staff, as well as contributions from workgroups that represent key areas of the school. Workgroups will review existing and gather additional data, synthesize research through discussion, and build consensus.

To ensure all voices are heard, parents and alumni provided feedback via survey, with additional data collected from students, faculty and other stakeholders.

### What are the next steps?

The goal is to present a draft of the Strategic Plan to the Board of Trustees for input in May, followed by a presentation of the plan next fall to the entire Riordan community. From there, the school will formulate an operation plan for execution, with built-in monitors and benchmarks.

*For more information about the Strategic Planning Process, contact Director of Development Mr. Simon Chiu, [schiu@riordanhs.org](mailto:schiu@riordanhs.org).*



# New Program Introduces Biomedical Sciences

By Elijah Calip '22, republished with permission from *The Crusader*

In a time when a pandemic has ravaged every community on the planet, the need for biomedical science has never been more important.

The field of biomedical science bridges the fields of biology and medicine in order to discover or deepen knowledge about the human body or to discover new technologies to improve the current systems in place within the medical field.

Archbishop Riordan High School has recognized the importance of such a field stating that, "A myriad of medical mysteries face today's scientific community, and now more than ever the world needs innovative and proactive thinkers to create a better tomorrow."

Beginning in the fall of 2021, Riordan now includes the Biomedical Science Program alongside the Engineering Program. This new addition hopes to allow prospective students to engage in the disciplines that biomedical scientists use to discover new ways to tackle the biological and medical issues that humans face to this day.

Students interested in the Biomedical Science Program will follow a curriculum based on Project Lead the Way. The company is dedicated to enhancing classroom experiences through engaging students in certain fields and disciplines.

In the field of Biomedical Science, Project Lead the Way stated, "By immersing students in activities like practicing suturing and

constructing body structures from clay, PLTW Biomedical Science empowers students to build knowledge and skills in biomedical science, as well as in-demand, transportable skills like problem solving, critical and creative thinking, communication, and collaboration."

The curriculum will be focused on four disciplines ranging from Principles of Biomedical Science, Human Body Systems, Medical Interventions, and Biomedical Innovation.



Photo by Noah David '22.

Isabella (Ella) Torrea '25 said, "I wanted to discover more career paths because I am interested in being a pharmacist right now."

Instructor Carol Pineda said, "I'm excited Riordan is offering a class where students can step into the role of forensic investigator, medical surgeon, nurse, microbiologist, geneticist, biomedical

engineer and more! It's the application of science integrated into a project based learning course."

Riordan plans to engage students in these disciplines through the following courses: Biology Honors, AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Physics, Principles of Biomedical Science, Human Body Systems, Innovations in BioMed, and a Senior Year Capstone Project, which will combine all the knowledge the students have gained. [When students graduate they will have taken between six or seven science courses.]

The Biomedical Sciences Program is open to students applying for the 2022 - 2023 school year. For more information and to watch a video about the program, visit [www.riordanhhs.org](http://www.riordanhhs.org).



# KAIROS: God's Time at Riordan

BY STEVEN RISSOTTO '20



Viciously flipping through past high school yearbooks is a trip down nostalgia lane.

There is a seemingly endless plethora of candid shots of all the activities that ever took place on campus. Toward the end, there's the superlative section; some classmates fulfill their projected roles more than others. Somewhere around the senior portraits are explanations by the graduating class on what their favorite moment was during the course of their four years. Usually, you'll see students sharing the hype around how enjoyable prom was, or the buzz around the game-winning touchdown pass against a top rival.

At Archbishop Riordan High School, there's no question that the most popular memory among students just so happens to be the Kairos retreat, a school staple for almost 40 years.

As Crusaders have come and gone through the years, traditional values have never left the tall, brick arches of Riordan, and much of the faith, inspiration, and family atmosphere has been built on what is known as "the best-kept secret" on campus. Three times a year, students can embark on a week-long trip involving group discussions, reflections, and sharing openly with fellow classmates.

What's so unique about it? Students unplug from the outside world, leaving them room to maximize relationships with each other. There are talks from alumni and staff leaders, who share stories and life experiences that often open eyes, ears, and hearts. And yes, there are plenty of surprises.

"When I get together with friends, Kairos is what we speak about the most," said **Michael Vezzali-Pascual**, a 1988 alumnus and current English teacher at Riordan. "Nobody talks about their prom and how cool it was."

Campus Ministry runs the program, emphasizing values and ideals, a strong relationship with God and family, and preparing for the future after high school. It's often an emotional experience for the students and faculty, but powerful and rewarding because of the open nature of the retreat. For staff and alumni who help lead, it's a chance to return to their purple and gold roots and help lead the next generation of Crusaders.

**Everyone has a story and experience. When you come into a place of trust where people care for you, it becomes a transformative experience.**

The first Kairos occurred nearly four decades ago in March 1983 at a formation center in the North Bay. The first was a booming success and was an ideal match for Riordan to keep pursuing annually, as Marinast traditions correlated in a dynamic way. Riordan adopted the idea from Chaminade College Preparatory, a Marianist school in Los Angeles, and attended the debut retreat with them.

Otilie Valverde was in the midst of her first few years teaching math at Riordan and was still getting used to the transition after years of teaching at a public school. It was at the very first Kairos where she realized Riordan's impact on students.



*continued on next page*



“The very first one was where I really found the Riordan community,” Valverde said. “Everyone feels like they’re alone in their journey, but it’s a shared journey and everyone feels it. Through the four days, you almost get to look at your life from the beginning to end.”

Fast forward to the current times where Valverde is still a math instructor at Riordan. She even has a red binder filled with roughly 20 years of Kairos documents, a prized possession she considers near and dear to her heart. Every once in a while, she’ll flip the pages one by one and put faces to names. To most of them she adds a story or two and explains where they are now. She can even share a giggle about the time tackle football was outlawed because of one too many hospital trips.

Kairos brings a different experience to each individual. Even though rain took over most of the retreat in Fall 1987, the group of seniors emerged closer to one another. Vezzali-Pascual—who at the time was on the verge of getting expelled due to behavior issues—walked through the doors of the Fireside Room of Redwood Alliance in Occidental in hopes for a change. The first thing he noticed was a banner hanging from the podium reading, “all in life is an alleluia.”

“And I took a photo of that because I thought it captured so much for me and what I was experiencing on that retreat and in my senior year,” Vezzali-Pascual said. “Kairos certainly just amplified all that by a million times.”

Now as a long-time teacher at the school, Vezzali-Pascual has racked up almost 40 trips to Kairos, a statistic he lost track of as the years have flown by. As he takes his position as a regular retreat leader, he can’t help to notice the similarities between the activities at Kairos and old-fashioned Christian rituals when it comes to sharing different stories with each other.

“This format is as old as dirt,” Vezzali-Pascual laughed. “But it works and it works as a leader on a whole different level because you get to see people blossoming and transforming.”

Riordan’s esteemed Campus Ministry team of **Alex Datoc ‘87** and **Leo Magnaye ‘05** usually take charge of planning all retreats. That duty took a bumpy turn in 2020. As the COVID-19 pandemic zig-zagged through the country, Kairos had to take a different approach for the Spring of 2021. In a strategically sound way, Kairos was conducted on Zoom. Even with atypical circumstances, the event tallied up rave reviews from the seniors in attendance. The roadblock didn’t stop the magic from pouring out. It also marked the first time that young women attended the retreat.

“Everyone has a story and experience you don’t know about,” Datoc said. “When you come into a place of trust where people care for you, it becomes a transformative experience.”

It’s not a strange sight to see recruitments happening in the hallways either. Valverde and Vezzali-Pascual are only a few names that use their sway to try and get students signed up for any of the three





retreats throughout the year. From their own eyes, they've seen change and a certain powerful aspect that comes with the experience.

"I was struggling through some things and it was Ottilie Valverde who called my mother and said she thought that I should go to Kairos," said current **Dean of Students Juan Zumbado '98**. "I protested, and went reluctantly, but it changed my life as it gave me a new introduction to Christ. I love Mrs. Valverde for what she did for me." Zumbado has since gone on to lead several retreats, which allows him to get to know students in a different way than in his role as dean.

**Rommel Conclara '03** returned to lead Kairos ten years after he graduated. As a student, Conclara had a certain preconception of how everything would go before attending. He heard about the emotional moments and the intense nature of the discussions that occur. The reputation had some clear unknown components, but having fun was also emphasized in the package.

It's almost been 20 years since Conclara went on Kairos and he's still close to 15 friends who tagged along with him. They are brought together frequently for weddings, including Conclara's own.

"Kairos was definitely one of those things that bonded us for a lifetime," Conclara said. "This retreat helps solidify that. We were all part of something special that's going to last a lifetime and this is what I think separates those experiences from any other high school in my opinion."

As the long story of Kairos flips to a different page, a new storyline involving female students attending the retreat for the first time has gained attention. Fall 2021 marks the first Riordan coed retreat, a transformational move after embracing the all-boys model for north of 70 years.

"It's going to be just the same," Conclara said. "The talks are going to be the same. The closeness and seriousness is going to be the same. All the magic that made Kairos special for us as men is going to be just the same now that we have more students."



As the 40-year mark approaches quickly, the Kairos retreat has done indescribable favors for thousands of Crusader students over the years. Vezzali-Pascual and Valverde continue to walk around the halls, campaigning for every senior to witness first-hand how strong the retreat is.

For almost a full week, phones and screens are replaced with conversation, and televisions are swapped with powerful advice. As seniors sprint to adulthood, many things could happen. No matter what those obstacles may be, they can't tear down the unbreakable bond and everlasting love found on Kairos.

"I think it's the pinnacle of everything we do and I think it's such an important part of senior year," Vezzali-Pascual said. "The experiences that happen in senior year to put students in touch with their faith, allow them a space to get to know God and each other, and deepen their relationships with their parents are such a gift."

Sometimes the "best-kept secret" is worth finding out.

*This article is dedicated to Jake Hawkins '04, who passed away suddenly in September 2021, and served as an alumni leader on many Kairos retreats.*



# HOW TODAY'S YOUNG JOURNALISTS FOUND THEIR PASSION AT RIORDAN

by JC CANICOSA '16



Despite what you've heard about Riordan alumni, they weren't always perfect.

They didn't walk into Lindland Theatre for freshman orientation already knowing they'd be tomorrow's computer programmers, doctors, artists, or writers. They didn't know they had passions and potential waiting to be tapped. Heck, they probably didn't even know where their homeroom was that day.

But that's what Riordan provides for young men and women with potential. Direction.

Want to try acting? Here are four years worth of theatre classes to get you started. Want to see if you like Cross Country? Practices start at 3:30 after school, open to all.

Anything you may have a inkling for: anime, music, science, culture, food—somewhere at Riordan, a club or class or activity is waiting for you to find it.

For me, and so many other Riordan alumni in the journalism workforce, that direction led me to a passion. It was something about the idea of storytelling, but the subjects were members of your community, that really drew me to craft.

I love what I do, and I know my fellow writers who worked at *The Crusader* feel the same way.

Looking back, it's crazy how seven years ago I was interviewing Mr. Juan Zumbado, the dean of students, about (what I thought was) a hard-hitting piece on the video games ban on campus. And today, I'm talking to the governors and senators about the COVID-19 crisis.

If you asked 16-year-old me, he'd probably say, "the video games story is more important."

The point is, we wouldn't have been able to find that passion for the craft if we never started along our humbling beginnings (for me it was in Room 204 on Wednesdays at lunch, for the Newspaper Club under the leadership of then-moderator Mr. Vigen Rassam '87).

Today, many of those writers are continuing to hone their craft in the professional and college journalism world. I spoke with four of them about how Riordan prepared them for where they are now, on and off the presses.

Read more about their path on the following pages.

**"I fell in love with the aspect of being able to bear witness to news as it unfolds and the privilege of reporting it through my camera."**

**- Stephen Lam '03**

**JC Canicosa '16: What are the main differences between covering a high school campus and a college/professional one?**

**Steven Rissotto '20, the editor-in-chief at Skyline College's newspaper (*The Skyline View*), podcaster, and former editor-in-chief of *The Crusader*:** One of the major differences between covering a college campus compared to a high school campus is that everything in college is sped up two notches. An emphasis on localizing stories becomes the top building block and being able to navigate through a larger campus is a lot to get used to.

The hardest part from a journalism standpoint is learning the new personnel, and since I'm at a junior college the time to introduce yourself is limited. I've noticed this throughout COVID, where we've lacked student sources because the reporters simply don't know anyone else on campus because of the lack of in-person learning.

High school was definitely more hands-on and we did a lot of learning on the go. When you get to college, it's almost expected that your skills are good enough to start writing right away and the grace period is cut in half. It was uncomfortable at first in a new environment, but my key to journalism has always been to stay composed while uncomfortable.

**Keven Muñoz '18, editor-in-chief at Drew University's newspaper (*The Acorn*) and former staff writer for *The Crusader* and journalism student:** The biggest difference I noticed was that college has a lot more people and a lot more activity. So, you have to be on high alert. College students can be some of the most outspoken people and really value being heard.

**Roman Peregrino '18, editor-in-chief at Georgetown University's newsmagazine (*The***

***Georgetown Voice*) and former editor-in-chief of *The Crusader*:** There is so much more freedom to publish anything you want or feel is needed, but that comes with responsibility. You have to make sure you put in the work and the research because there are real world consequences for not reporting a story correctly.

It is also harder to make connections with professors or other students as it was to know teachers at high school. Finally, it is both easier and harder to manage your time in college. In high school, you would just write a story when your homework was done, as if it were another assignment. In college, you have to carve that time out, with a strict deadline over your head.

**Stephen Lam '03, staff photographer at *The San Francisco Chronicle*:** I believe the biggest difference between a high school paper and *The Chronicle* is the scale and speed in which the news is delivered. The stories in the Riordan paper back then were mostly quick school-related features and it ran much like a quarterly. I don't think there was a website for the newspaper either.

**"Journalism has helped me in many ways—from learning how to effectively do research, to how to ask questions."**

**-Keven Muñoz**

**What inspired you to continue doing journalism after Riordan?**

**Rissotto:** My time at Riordan boosted my desire to pursue journalism at the next level because I realized it was something I really enjoyed doing.

Sure, I can write an article while conducting staff meetings, but the social interaction with the staff, sources, and advisor was an aspect about the industry that I fell in love with.

After my four years as a Crusader, I didn't really have an adjustment period when I got to college because everything felt normal to me because of my preparation in high school.

## FEATURE STORY

**Muñoz:** Journalism was an important part of my high school career where I was able to develop my writing style and my voice. I thought that these were key aspects of my life that could benefit from being involved in a more rigorous environment.

Journalism has helped me in many ways—from learning how to effectively do research, to how to ask questions and even how to organize my writing.

**Peregrino:** At first, I actually didn't plan on pursuing journalism.

I was at the club fair at the beginning of freshman year with my roommate and we decided to just put our names down for *The Georgetown Voice* because they had no application and the people seemed nice. I liked being a high school journalist but I didn't want to make it a career and figured I would try different things.

But my roommate said he wanted to join their design team and I decided to attend one news meeting. I never looked back and eventually met some of my best friends in the world.

**Lam:** Photography was a hobby during my high school years and I went on to study mechanical engineering for three years before accidentally discovering photojournalism. I fell in love with the aspect of being able to bear witness to news as it unfolds and the privilege of reporting it through my camera.

**Describe the impact that Ms. Susan Sutton (current faculty advisor for *The Crusader*) has had on the program and on you.**

**Rissotto:** Most of the journalism concepts and style I've learned over time have come from Ms. Sutton. She was absolutely instrumental in giving me the tools I need to never feel like a situation is too big. She genuinely cares about her students. There's nobody on campus that works harder



Clockwise from top left: JC Canicosa, Keven Muñoz, Steven Rissotto, Stephen Lam, and Roman Peregrino.

than she does, and it's a reflection on the success the program has experienced in recent years.

We can be in a big time crunch and everyone would be stressed and running on fumes except her. She stays even keel and I know the rest of the staff really feeds off that.

**Muñoz:** Ms. Sutton was one of the best mentors I had at Riordan. She rebuilt the newspaper program at Riordan so that it could be something that we were all proud of. As for her impact on me, Ms. Sutton taught me how to lead a newspaper and push my writers to do their very best. She never stopped believing in us which made it that much easier to keep going.

*continued on next page*

**Peregrino:** Ms. Sutton means the world to me.

She has always believed in me and made me strive to not just be a better writer but a better person. I feel as though I always have a home in her classroom. I owe a lot to her.

**Outside of journalism, what are some values you learned at Riordan that you carry with you on the job or off it?**

**Lam:** Respect and empathy.

It still baffles me how a group of young men with raging hormones and various upbringings managed to get along, but I think we learned through mutual respect.

I also remember those mandatory community service hours. I dreaded it then but I still vividly remember the times serving breakfast at Martin de Porres at sunrise and talking to people about their struggles. It put life into perspective. Those interactions which were often a simple act of listening carries over now that I am working on many stories on that front.

**Rissotto:** Outside of journalism, Riordan was kind of the foundation of how I developed socially.

I had a good amount of friends in middle school, but I first witnessed the family atmosphere in high school. All the students had the same goal with the idea that nobody would be left behind. I was challenged when I started writing in the newspaper and playing baseball because I didn't have any core relationships.

I quickly learned that I could be myself at Riordan and that helped me grow as a man during the four years I was there.

**Muñoz:** Riordan taught me how to be confident in what I have to say and not take my own voice for granted.

One of the major challenges in college is

learning how to fit in and being comfortable with who you are. However, the teachers and friends I made in college really made me feel like it was important for me to not shy away from the things that make me me.

This form of thinking made it easy for me to adjust to the different social spaces in college.

**Peregrino:** In terms of values, I've definitely felt as though I learned to talk to a very diverse group of people.

Riordan was a relatively small, but diverse school so I talked to a lot of people with different backgrounds and life experiences. I feel like that helped me be comfortable at Georgetown talking to people, whether that was for a story or not.

Life is all about interacting with others and I feel like Riordan was the place that helped push me out of my comfort zone.

I also learned that you have to take every opportunity that comes your way—you never know what that will turn into.

###

*JC Canicosa is a political journalist in Baton Rouge, Louisiana covering the Louisiana Legislature, as well as education, poverty, and government programs (or lack thereof) through the COVID-19 pandemic. In college he served as the sports editor and senior staff writer for The Loyola Maroon, where he also wrote an award-winning column.*

*In Mr. Vigen Rassam's journalism class at Riordan, Canicosa wrote articles about the NBA, band trips and new school policies—as well as new campus renovations.*

## Message from the Board Chairman



Dear Riordan Community,

In the last edition of *Future Magazine*, I highlighted Riordan's transformational decision to become a coed school. I am very pleased to report that Riordan, with a significant boost from the

successful conversion, has continued to build on its many recent accomplishments by increasing enrollment, improving financials, and refocusing strategic planning and marketing to reflect a changing environment. Furthermore, as a result of our growing development revenue, much needed capital improvements to our facilities have been completed. As we look ahead to next year and Riordan's immediate future, once again we find ourselves in the midst of transition.

Dr. Andrew Currier announced in May that he'd accepted an offer to be the Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Oakland. In this new role he will be serving more than 45,000 students in 41 elementary schools and eight high schools in the East Bay. On a personal level, I had the pleasure of working closely with Andrew last year and will miss his patient leadership. I wish him all the best!

During Andrew's four years as president he achieved a number of unique accomplishments, including overseeing many renovations to our facilities, most notably, the new athletic field. He also faced the challenges of the Covid pandemic and pushed Riordan to be the first high school in San Francisco to reopen. Finally, he spearheaded the decision to go coed. Another example of Andrew's exemplary judgement was hiring Tim Reardon as Principal, who has now stepped in as Interim President. I know I speak for the entire Board when I say that we are in really good hands with Tim at the helm.

The Archdiocese of San Francisco and a committee is currently conducting a search for the next president, with a candidate expected to be announced in the spring of 2022 (read more about the process on page 62).

I would like to acknowledge and thank the following departing Board members: **Steve Mayer '72**, **Joe Silvestri '74**, John Palmer, John Ring, and Kevin Ryan. John Palmer will remain on the Strategic Planning Committee, where he has made strong contributions as the previous Chair. Steve Mayer and Joe Silvestri will also continue as valuable members of the Finance Committee. Steve Mayer was the longest serving member on the Board and was instrumental in working closely with Gloria Liu, who is doing a terrific job as Director of Finance to implement better, more accurate accounting procedures. I also want to welcome three new board members—**Ernesto Castillo '87**, Maria Marquez, and **Louis Reynaud '77**. All three are very accomplished individuals, and we appreciate their willingness to join the Board to provide guidance and expertise.

In summary, Riordan continues to move forward on a very positive track. The entire administration and Board of Trustees deserve kudos for a job well done. While we've made significant progress over the last few years, we cannot rest on our recent accomplishments. A great coach, I'm not sure who, once said that you're only as good as your last game. I'm confident that Riordan will keep its focus laser sharp and continue to provide an excellent education and a rich experience for current and future Crusaders.

Sincerely,

Mr. Brian Spiers '75

# Leaving a Legacy of Faith and Fellowship

*Celebrating the Man Behind the Largest Gift by an Individual in Riordan History*



Salomone during his senior year at Riordan.

Adding Archbishop Riordan High School to your estate plan and making a planned gift through the Fennelly Society will support the growth of the school well into the future. For more information, contact Director of Planned Giving Karin Haskell at [khaskell@riordanhhs.org](mailto:khaskell@riordanhhs.org) or (415) 586-8200, ext. 232.

**Guido J. Salomone Jr. '57**, who passed away on July 19, 2021, at 83 after battling a chronic illness, left behind several legacies that will outlive this good and gracious man.

For Riordan, his legacy has made history thanks to a \$2 million gift, the largest donation by an individual in the school's history.

Mr. Salomone grew up in the Parkside District and attended Parkside School before transferring to St. Cecilia School. At Riordan, he made many friends among his classmates, and the school became close to his heart. He had wonderful memories of his time there and stayed connected to the campus by attending numerous events as he worked to support its mission.

After high school, Mr. Salomone served in the U.S. Army Reserve for six months before studying hotel management at San Francisco City College, a career path he diverted from when he took a job at Pacific Telephone and Telegraph in 1963 as an outside technician. He briefly worked in management before picking up his tool bag once again. Among his last duties was installing part of the internet's backbone for Pacific Telesis before retiring in 1996 after 33 years with the company.

Anne Seppi, Riordan's Director of Annual Giving, noted that "Guido was a devout Catholic who cared deeply about the simpler and more meaningful things in life. He had a very giving spirit regarding his time, talent, and treasure. I am better for having known him, and I believe his generosity will impact our students and faculty for years to come."

"Moreover, whenever he visited campus, he knew so many of our students, and they were always happy to see him," said Ms. Seppi.

He evidenced that same devotion as a sacristan at St. Stephen Church, where he trained altar servers, practicing patience as he instructed boys and girls about the order of the Mass. "He taught them how to carry and hold the sacred vessels used for Mass, and he made sure that any dirty alb he saw was cleaned," said Mary Molly Mullaney, Director of Faith formation at the parish.

"Mr. Salomone was always super helpful with the altar servers. He was patient, and always made sure everything was ready to go before we would even arrive. Because of him, our masses and services always ran smoothly," said **Rudy Ragan '16**.



## ALUMNI NEWS

He even trained Georgia Davey when she was an altar server at the church. Now a Development and Communications Associate at Riordan, Ms. Davey noted that "Guido was at every mass I served. He went about his work quietly but with so much pride. He also trained my three younger sisters, and they, like so many others, will never forget him."

"He was more than a sacristan," added Mrs. Mullaney. "We treated him as if he were part of our staff."

She praised Mr. Salomone's attention to detail. "He made sure everything worked properly, and if something were broken, he would fix it at his own expense."

When the church decided it needed a new organ, Mr. Salomone and a small group of parishioners lobbied for a quality pipe organ. They shepherded the process, interviewed two manufacturers, and visited several venues to listen to how the organs sounded. It took several years, but an organ was finally installed in 2001. Even then, he continued to help by paying for its maintenance.

"He loved organ music and was instrumental in the fundraising for a new organ. When the budget wouldn't cover the additional cost of installing a second organ console in front of the sanctuary, he got his brother to go in with him to pay for it," added Mrs. Mullaney. "His devotion to the church also extended to the school, and he often would buy holiday treats for the teachers."



Above: When parishes were forced to close because of the pandemic, St. Stephen's featured cutouts of their faithful, including Salomone in the first pew near his cherished organ. Right: Salomone with Mary Molly Mullaney.



In 2017, Salomone (pictured at far right) and his classmates celebrated their 60th Diploma on campus.

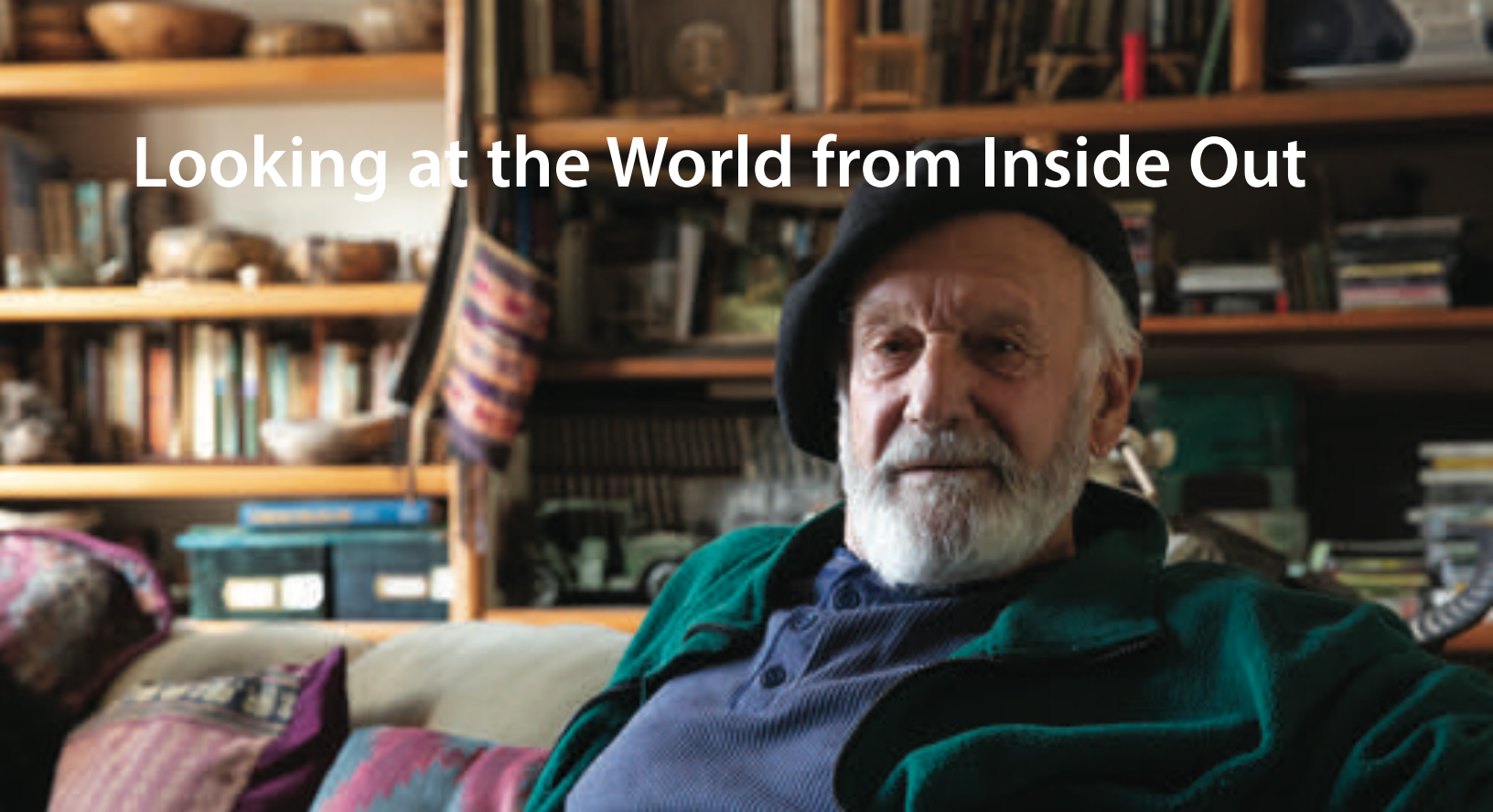
Mr. Salomone was a fervent traveler who loved going to Europe and also explored New Zealand, Australia, the Holy Land, and Eastern Europe. "All I had to mention was the name of a country, and he would tell me about a friend or relative who lived there," said Ms. Mullaney.

Mr. Salomone also had a rich personal life and made many friends, including Stephen Bertram, the executor of his estate. The two first met at the phone company, and Mr. Salomone went out of his way to show him the non-touristy spots of the Bay Area including a bakery in Half Moon Bay that Mr. Salomone's family had owned from the 1930s to the 1970s. He also served as the core of his group of friends for whom he was a father figure. They sought him out whenever they came to town, as he always stepped up to care for people.

"We are profoundly moved by Mr. Salomone's generosity," said Simon Chiu, Riordan's Development Director. "His gift will impact Riordan and our students both in the short and long term. We hope that his example inspires others to support Riordan in similar ways."

**Vicente Francisco '19**, who also knew Mr. Salomone through altar serving at St. Stephen's, summed it up. "Mr. Salomone lived quietly and contributed to his community in a thankless and devoted way. And just like his gift, he will go on to touch the lives of others without them knowing."

# Looking at the World from Inside Out



**Reno Taini '59**, who earned California Teacher of the Year honors in 1982 for a stellar career in education, points to his time at Archbishop Riordan High School for instilling in him a passion for service.

He brought students to the tops of mountains and tree canopies and created curriculum for the Teachers in Space program. Now a consultant living in Woodside with his wife, Randi duBois (also an educational leader), Taini has received a host of other honors from his two alma maters, including the 1999 Chaminade Award, and from the educational community.

**"There's magic in our connections with each other and with nature and a need to instill a volunteer spirit of service in young people."  
-Reno Taini**

The son of Italian immigrants, Taini grew up in the Excelsior District surrounded by fellow Italian neighbors and merchants. "I didn't think there was anyone other than Italians in the area until I was about 10," he recalled. He attended Corpus Christi School and worked alongside his father Gaspare, a landscape gardener.

## Finding Family at Riordan

Taini expected to go to Balboa High but was directed to Riordan thanks to his father's customers, who spoke highly of the school. There, he played football, ran sprints, and competed in pole vault. "Riordan sang to my heart," he said. "I grew up as an only child, so I was excited to be part of a school rich with teammates, classmates and teachers."

In 1957, in Taini's sophomore year, an earthquake rocked the city. "We were in a holding pattern until the principal decided to send students home. When I went outside, I saw my father, as Riordan was one of his customers. He told me to jump into his 1950 Chevy pickup, and we drove to a carpet store on Ocean Avenue to pick up 12-foot-long bamboo poles used to transport carpets. We then used those poles to support the statue of the Virgin Mary to keep it from falling over, as the earthquake had caused its base to crumble. The next day, my father built a new base for it." That statue and base were later refurbished in 2019, when a plaque was added honoring Gaspare and Reno Taini's efforts to save the statue.

At Riordan, Taini found mentors in his coaches and in Bro. Mario Marino, SM, who taught him biology "and who helped me appreciate the life around

me, something I also picked up working with my father. Later, Bro. Alfred Nunes, SM, took some of the Excelsior District students to San Francisco State for a field trip to show us the campus." That trip, he would discover, set the course for his life.

### Bringing the Classroom Outdoors

As a student at San Francisco State, Taini chose to major in biology. "I walked through campus one day and saw a photo of Larry Swan, a famous professor and TV personality who was part of the first American Himalayan Expedition as well as a 1960 Everest expedition led by Sir Edmund Hillary. Being a biology major complemented my training at Riordan, where I learned the value of service. When the Riordan brothers asked for volunteers, I always said yes. My college professors were the same way, as they spoke about our duty to mitigate climate change long before the topic became mainstream. I carried all that into my own teaching profession."

He then entered a marketplace eager for science teachers. "It was the space race, and we were being pursued by schools. I also hoped to serve in the military, but I wasn't allowed to enlist as I was the only child of elderly parents."

In 1965, Taini taught biology and coached football at Jefferson High School. He helped students navigate years filled with racial strife and drug abuse, and he also found peace after renting the oldest home in Colma, a town far more rural than its neighbors, thanks, in part, to its many cemeteries. Taini also later came up with the city's slogan, "It's great to be alive in Colma."

At Jefferson, Taini created an innovative course that took students on field trips to learn about nature and gain wilderness skills. They climbed cliffs in San Francisco's Glen Canyon Park and hiked up San Bruno Mountain. "My students and I developed field guides and learned about the original inhabitants. We also were able to see an electron microscope, as I wanted my students to experience things beyond the norm."



Taini and his wife Randi DuBois.

Environmentalists in the Bay Area soon got wind of Taini's expertise thanks to a story in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, and he gained support from the Sierra Club and from Stewart Brand, the founder of the Whole Earth Catalogue, who made introductions for Taini and his course, which his students began calling the Wilderness Program.

Over the years, Taini's principals often wondered what he was up to, but they let him continue as they saw the benefits to his students. "I also made sure the superintendent knew what I was doing. He told me that the district had never done anything like this before but to keep on doing it."



Taini (at right) with students during an outdoor education class.

His program also included a 10-day survival quest and building a ropes course in 1974 at YMCA's Jones Gulch—the first in the state. He included urban experiences and had students pick up litter on Mission Street, teach grade school students to nurture organic gardens, and create videos on gun violence. The idea for that video came out of a classroom forum weeks before the Colorado tragedy.

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Taini in the Loita Hills in Kenya with Maasai villagers during his time leading safari expeditions.

## Exploring New Horizons

Taini also spent his summers far from the Bay Area. He began going to Kenya in 1971 and formed an explorer's club among fellow teachers. "We left as soon as school ended and lived on the cheap for three months before returning the day after Labor Day to start teaching again."

Along the way, he even impressed Prince Charles who had promoted *Outward Bound*. "His group wanted me to recruit students for Operation Drake, where high school kids would sail a boat tracing Sir Francis Drake's voyage to New Guinea. They wanted a diverse group of students, and my own class fit the bill, so several of my students took part in that adventure. One even discovered a new kind of lizard."

A later *Outward Raleigh* trip took him to Peru, where he sent an international group of college grads into the treetops. His expertise there impressed the owner of an African safari company. For 20 summers, Taini led expeditions, some of which took him to the summits of Mount Kilimanjaro and Mount Kenya as well as to Maasai villages. "For me, all these trips were always about service as well as learning the culture and survival skills of the indigenous people."

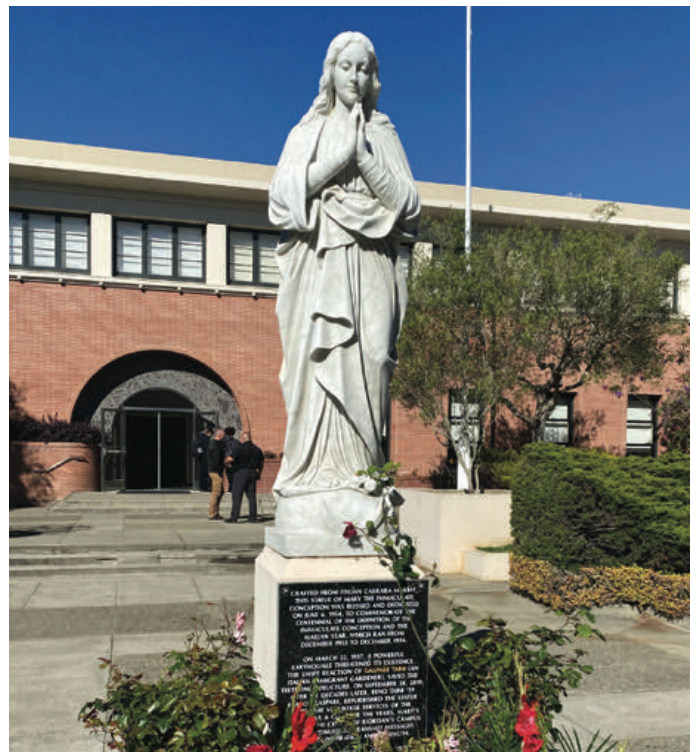
His overseas travels also took him to Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and the Philippines, where he was part of the UN's refugee relief programs. He credits Mike Conway, retired now from the SFPD, who earlier had convinced Taini to add a ropes course

to the Police Academy taught by Taini's students and to help create a wilderness program for police officers and school children from underrepresented communities to build trust. "Mike also asked me if I wanted to go to the Philippines to help Vietnamese refugees build a ropes course and a climbing wall, and I agreed. Those who had experience fishing wove climbing nets for us."

## Educating in New Frontiers

Between 1985 and 1986, he also took part in NASA's Teacher in Space Project, which sought to honor teachers and inspire students to study math, science and space exploration. Taini was tapped to develop curriculum and help mainstream audiences understand the benefits of space exploration. "I was number 105 in line to go on the space shuttle, and Christa McAuliffe was chosen ahead of me. After her death aboard the *Challenger*, that program eventually ended."

He still works as a consultant for school districts looking to replicate his success. "I was able to take kids into dangerous places in a safe and expert way, and they want to know how I did that. I love sharing these tips, as there's magic in our connections with each other and with nature and a need to instill a



The statue of Mary in Riordan's inner courtyard honors the heroic efforts of the Taini family.

volunteer spirit of service in young people.”

Taini is still doing that, thanks also to the scholarship he and his wife established at Riordan in the 1980s, where he hopes students will learn the values that have motivated his fulfilling life.

“Now that the school is coed, that means boys and girls will be helped by a Riordan education,” he added. “We’re in an age that’s moving fast, and I know — from teaching coed classes, serving as a volunteer firefighter and working in education — the benefits of having women and men work together to meet the challenges the future holds.”



Taini reflects on his many travels and life experiences.

## Talent and Hard Work Takes Jason Smith '16 to New Heights at U.S. Track & Field Olympic Trials



**Jason Smith** is one of the most talented jumpers to come out of Riordan. During his senior year, he was a WCAL and CCS champion in the Long Jump, finished 4th in the state finals and set the school record for the longest jump during that competition. He matriculated to Long Beach State where he is the current school record holder there in the Outdoor Long Jump (26-01.75) and Indoor Long Jump (25-10.25), as well as a 2021 NCAA Outdoor National Championship Qualifier (Long Jump, High Jump) and 2021 Second Team All-American (Long Jump, High Jump).

After an impressive 9th place finish last June in the High Jump finals at the U.S. Olympic Trials, don't be surprised to see Smith on the podium in the coming years!

# Golden State Crusaders



Matt Montenegro, Jason Manalo, and Miguel Guerrero outside the Chase Center in San Francisco.

## BY VICTORIA TERHEYDEN

For those migrating back to work after months at home, it's nice when your office is one of San Francisco's premier sports destinations—the Chase Center—nestled in the heart of vibrant Mission Bay. Even better, it's exciting to work on behalf of one of the most successful teams in sports history, and see familiar faces from your alma mater in the corridors.

This is a reality for **Miguel Guerrero '12**, **Jason Manalo '12**, **Matt Montenegro '07**, and **Jordan Jimenez '16**, who are advancing their careers and finding their passions while working for a team that is not only at the top of the game, but espouses a set of forward-thinking core values that connect to

the education they received at Riordan.

Guerrero joined the Warriors in December of 2019 as a Public Affairs Coordinator. While he hasn't had a full season at the venue yet, he said it's great to see live events slowly coming back and to re-engage stakeholders as an entertainment destination.

Last year Guerrero helped spearhead the Warriors' Voter's Win Campaign in the run up to the November 2020 election, a multi-platform effort to promote voter engagement and registration. By all measures, it was a huge success, with almost 6,000 casting their vote at various Warriors-sponsored

polling places in the Bay Area. While there are definitely some high profile and fun moments in his job, he deeply appreciates the Warriors' authentic commitment to civic engagement and supporting local communities, which has also been a theme of his professional career.

"It's exciting to build upon social impact work, hone in on key values, and work on behalf of an organization committed to doing things well," said Guerrero. He also helped found the AAPI Dubs, a resource and professional development group supporting Asian American and Pacific Islander employees across the organization.

A few doors down from Guerrero's office is Jason Manalo, who works in financial planning and analysis. After graduating from USF with a degree in finance, and as a member of the Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity, he worked for a few tech companies before landing at the Warriors in 2021, which he calls a dream job.

"The culture at the Warriors is great, like no other company I have been at. Everything feels like a family-run business, and it's very collaborative and friendly." Manalo added that the team's focus on community engagement is a professional value he sought after his experience at Riordan.

Outside of work, he is also committed to working with young people, especially first-generation Americans. He launched a program with fellow Crusader and USF classmates, **Matt Espanol '12** and **Eduardo Santos '12** (and Janel Villamor, Mercy San Francisco '12), called The Pathfinder Mentorship of San Francisco ([www.thepathfindermentorship.com](http://www.thepathfindermentorship.com)) to help underserved youth through the college application process and first professional years.

Down on the court or up on the jumbotron, you might catch Matt Montenegro, a long-time dance instructor and performer who is now part of the Blue Crew, the Warriors' all-male hip hop dance team. A few years ago he saw an ad on social media for auditions, and was one of 12 out of 90 dancers



Matt Montenegro performs with the Blue Crew at the Chase Center. Photo by Josh Leung/GSW Dance Team.

selected. This season, he'll be dancing with the Blue Crew for 13 home games including opening night, various performances in the community, and with the Gold Squad, the Warriors' all-female dance team. Like many, the dance teams sought creative measures during the pandemic, including learning routines virtually, and following Chase Center protocols on grueling 12-16 hour shoot days.

Practicing up to 15 hours a week when prepping for a game is a balancing act for Montenegro, in addition to his other roles as the Fine Arts Department Head at Sacred Heart Schools in Atherton, and as a student pursuing a PhD in Leadership Studies at Gonzaga University. But he views it as a gift. "The Warriors doesn't feel like a job because I love it," he said. "The organization has such a far reach and true pulse on what is happening in the world, and is not afraid to dive in on important issues. Trying to have a more socially aware presence beyond basketball aligns with what I stand for as a human being. From the top to the bottom, every-



Jordan Jimenez (left) captured a fun moment between Warriors' stars Jordan Poole and Steph Curry.

*continued on next page*

thing about their mission is about giving back.”

While not an official Warriors employee, Jordan Jimenez has significant experience with the Blue and Gold. A self-taught photographer, Jimenez started out shooting AAU basketball tournaments and other sporting events, and worked his way up to a hearty freelance business with news outlets and brands such as *Slam* magazine, *Bleacher Report*, and Adidas, as well as big names such as Pau Gasol, James Harden, and Jeremy Lin.

Through connections, tenacity, and a superior work product, Steph Curry has become a regular client. “He is super humble, super down to earth. As much as he is great on the court, luckily I’ve been able to see the side off the court and that’s even greater,” said Jimenez in a recent interview with *KRON4* news.

Whether it is bumping into each other in the Chase Center, it’s great to see these alumni doing terrific, service-inspired work for one of the Bay Area’s sports legends. Being part of a winning team is icing on the cake.



On assignment, Jordan Jimenez (left) photographed Jordan Poole during practice.

**“It’s exciting to build upon social impact work, hone in on key values, and work on behalf of an organization committed to doing things well.”**

**-Miguel Guerrero**

Guerrero, Manalo, and Montenegro run into each other on work days for the Warriors.





# 2021 Chaminade Award Recipient Dan Donovan

For his leadership and many contributions to the Riordan community over the past three decades, **Dan Donovan '70** received the 2021 Chaminade Award on January 22, 2021.

No one is more loyal to the school than Dan Donovan. He has devoted countless hours in the boardroom as a Trustee, alumnus, and alumni parent, and on the court as a faithful Crusader basketball fan.

Donovan believes that anyone who attends Archbishop Riordan High School is truly blessed. His message of stewardship is simple—make Riordan your avocation or passion and help further the Crusader Legacy.

In his acceptance speech he also thanked his wife Jan, and sons Pat and Sean '12, for supporting his avocation, as well as the talented men and women who previously received the Chaminade Award and inspire others by their service and generosity.

Dan is pictured below with fellow Chaminade Award Recipients and classmates from the Class of 1970, (l-r) **Chris Callero, Phil Cazahous, and Tony Pantaleoni**.

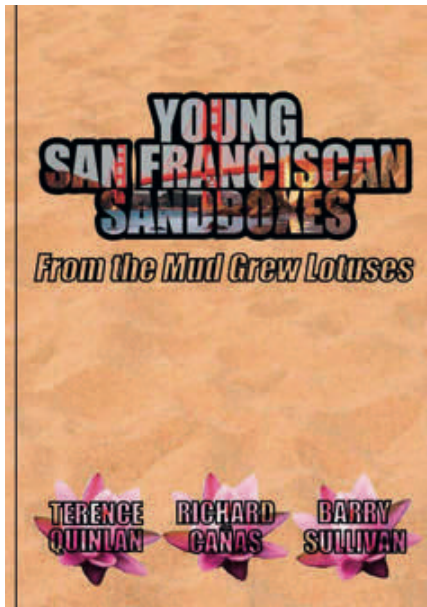


**“Make Riordan your avocation and help further the Crusader Legacy.”**  
-Dan Donovan



**1958**

Co-authors **Terry Quinlan**, **Richard Canas** and **Barry Sullivan** recently published *Young San Francisco Sandboxes*. It's the story about growing up in the Golden Age of San Francisco in the 1940s and 1950s and the experiences of these three "brothers" who came from completely different backgrounds. Available at [www.quinlanbook.com](http://www.quinlanbook.com).



**1967**

In September, **Frank Walsh**, a 28-year veteran of the Santa Clara Fire Department, biked more than 3,500 miles from Santa Clara to New York to commemorate fallen first responders of 9/11. He commented to *The Crusader* that his journey was "a way of reminding people that things were really tough, and we pulled through it, so let's do that again."

**1968**

Last April **Dan O'Neill** was awarded an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Alaska Fairbanks for 40 years of contributions to Alaska history and literature. O'Neill is the author of four books and a former columnist with the Fairbanks *Daily News-Miner*.



**1981**

In October **Joe McCloskey** received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the San Francisco Bay Area Law Enforcement Emerald Society.

**1986**

**Tony Rodoni** (below) served as the Commencement Speaker at the Class of 2021's graduation



held on Mayer Family Field. In his address to students, he encouraged them to work hard and sit in the first row!

**2012**

**Adam Herrera** married Katie Paterson in September, surrounded by his family (including dad **Steven Herrera '76**), and many Crusader friends.



**2015**

**Alec McMorris** received his degree from UCLA in 2019 and is currently at the Keck School of Medicine at USC.

**2016**

**Rudy Ragan** is an Account Executive at Cal Athletics.

A standout guard at University of Hawaii, **Eddie Stansberry** was the number seven draft pick by the Texas Legends (Dallas Mavericks) in the 2021 NBA G League draft.

**2018**

**Uziah Metcalfe** is doing lots! He is currently an SFPD Police Cadet, gaining experience across all units including SWAT and K9, at different district stations across the City. He is also a Sports Performance intern at Stanford University. Currently assigned to the men's basketball and golf teams, he works with their Head Strength and Conditioning Coach and is learning about sports science and athlete programming.



**2019**

**Vicente Francisco** is in his third year at UC San Diego studying Linguistics with a minor in Education.

**2020**

**Zach Phillips** plays tuba for the University of Notre Dame marching band, entertaining thousands at football games and other events.



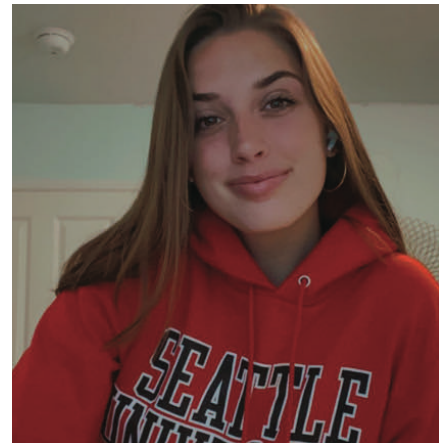
**2021**

**Hayden Peregrino** is a freshman at Dominican University on the men's cross country team. At his first college-level race, he saw some familiar faces on the course. **EJ Odocayen '20** was running for Santa Clara, and their former Riordan XC teammates planned



a Saturday practice to cheer them on!

**Coral Shafer** is a first-year nursing student at Seattle University. She writes: "It has been a whirlwind since leaving Riordan. Just yesterday I was walking the halls and now I'm here amongst the towers of downtown Seattle. I couldn't be happier with where I'm at, and I wouldn't be here without the support Riordan gave me."



**Have news to share with the alumni community? We want to hear from you.**

**Email [alumni@riordanhs.org](mailto:alumni@riordanhs.org).**

# Alumni, when was the last time you were on campus?

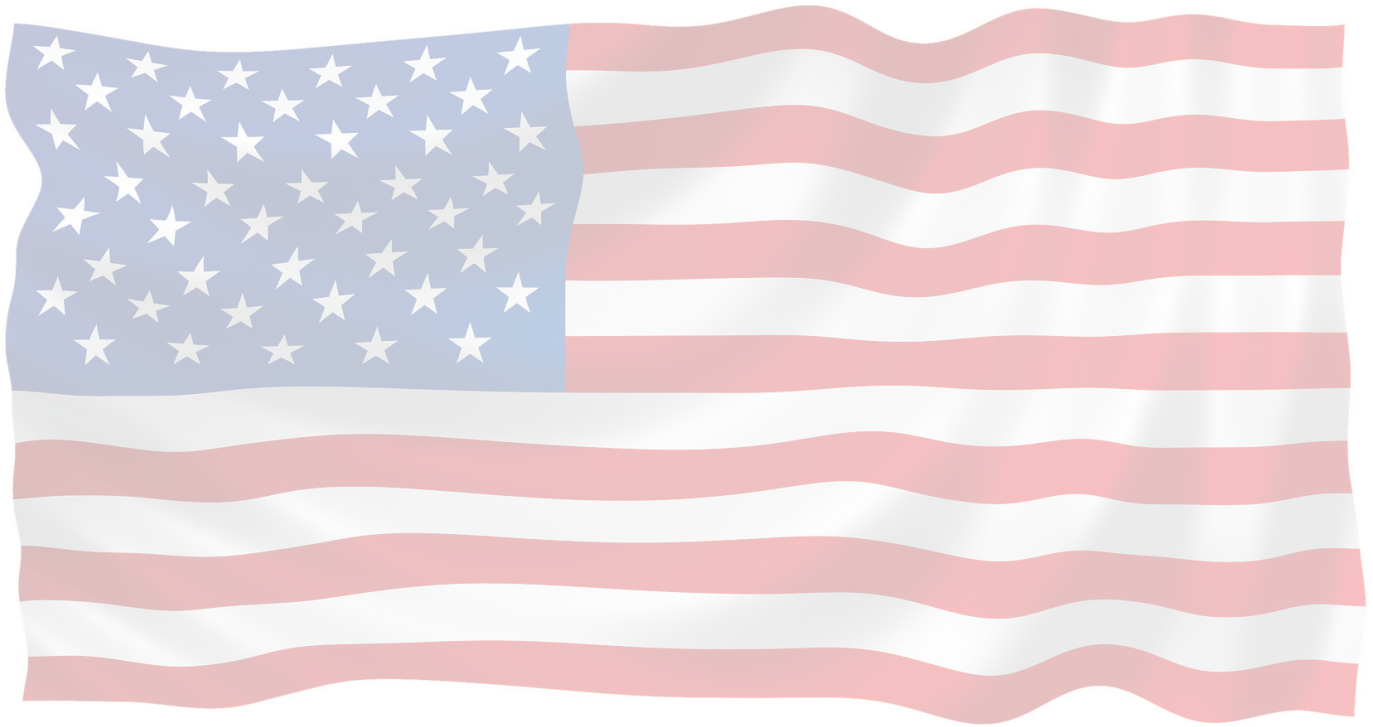
So much has changed at Riordan in the last few years with the transition to coeducation and improvements to our campus. And yet, Riordan is still the same school that provides a quality Catholic education and cutting edge programs. Alumni and friends, you're invited to come by for a "New Era Tour" where you will learn about our vision for the future. We encourage you to attend with your classmates. For more information please contact Mr. Steve Mullin, [smullin@riordanhhs.org](mailto:smullin@riordanhhs.org).



Above (left and right): The Class of 1965 and 1959 toured Riordan this fall. Among their many stops was a visit to an Engineering class.

Right: Members of the Class of 1955 visited in October, with a special stop at an icon of Mary donated by Chuck Murillo '55, in honor of his son Steve '79. Chuck hopes to encourage people to stop and take a moment to meditate and reflect at this holy piece of art. Pictured (l-r): Paul Cronin '93, Interim President Tim Reardon, Dr. David Murillo '77, James Murillo '79, Chuck Murillo, Paul Osborn '55, and Kevin Reidy '55.





## CALLING ALL RIORDAN VETERANS

So many of our alumni have honorably served our country and we are interested in hearing more about this aspect of the alumni experience. If you would like to share more information about your service, we'd like to hear from you.

Please fill out a survey on [www.riordanhs.org/alumni](http://www.riordanhs.org/alumni) or contact Director of Alumni Relations Paul Cronin, [pcronin@riordanhs.org](mailto:pcronin@riordanhs.org) or (415)586-8200 ext 357.

If you know a fellow alumni who served and has now passed, we are looking for that information as well.

## 2021 Golf Tournaments

### Congratulations to the Winners

Spring 2021: John Antonini, Marc Bruschera, Rich Hunt and Sam Petke

Fall 2021: Billy Bright, Michael Doherty '83, Marco Innocenti '02  
and Steve Landi

While we had to be flexible with our events this year, luckily golf was on the agenda! Riordan hosted two outstanding tournaments in the spring and fall with both regulars and new golfers alike. Look for more information about our next 2022 golf event!





# Thank you to our generous sponsors who helped us raise **\$70,000** for Riordan athletic programs and facilities.

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Nic Roche '15  
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Cotty Wolcott

\*Indicates donor to both fall and spring tournaments!



## Class of 1970 50th Reunion

**A year late but still great!**

The talented and spirited Class of 1970 gathered in October to celebrate five decades as Crusader alumni. While the pandemic delayed the gathering, the class didn't miss a beat connecting with friends, touring the school, and celebrating the good days and times to come.





# Golden Graduates

Together again!

Crusaders from the 50's, 60's, and 70's gathered for lunch and to connect with friends old and new at the Lake Merced Golf Club in August.



## OBITUARIES

### David Mackin '53, Passionate Alumnus and Competitor

Dave Mackin was deeply committed to many of his cherished alumni communities. After graduating from Riordan, he attended the University of Oregon where he was in the ROTC program, and became a Second Lieutenant in the US Army. In addition to a successful career as a Senior Vice President and Certified Financial Planner, "Smackin Mackin" was a legend in the handball community, and competed at national and international competitions in a sport he truly loved. He passed away on January 5, 2021.



### Gene Mullin '55, Loyal Supporter and Class Leader

Gene Mullin always lended support to fellow alumni and the Class of 1955. He passed away on April 5, 2021. A man of many talents and careers, he was a husband, father, teacher, coach, public servant, board member, and author. Among his many achievements: San Mateo County Teacher of the Year in 1991, twice Mayor of South San Francisco, and a three-term member of the California State Assembly from 2002-2008. He will be remembered by his family and friends as a diplomatic, intelligent, and thoughtful person, and passionate about the things that matter.



### Rev. Raymond Malley, SM '58, A Mentor for Many

Fr. Ray Malley passed away on January 7, 2021. He served at Marianist schools and universities across the U.S., including Riordan and Chaminade University, where he was the NCAA representative for the athletic department while also teaching theology. Undoubtedly, he made a great impact on students, including Riordan Board Chairman Emeritus **Mike Mayer '71**. "Fr. Malley played a formative role in my education," said Mayer. "He nominally taught Latin, but he took the initiative to go way beyond the formal coursework. He 'volunteered' a small group of us to take on more demanding reading assignments in history. In college and graduate school I never felt at an educational disadvantage to anyone. One of the main reasons I stay involved at Riordan is that I feel an obligation, and a desire, to give back and pay forward the gift Fr. Malley gave me."



### Elizabeth Peregrino, Community Leader and Former Trustee

Elizabeth Peregrino wore many hats in the Riordan community. As a former parent, Board of Trustees member, and Parent Board President, she was one of Riordan's biggest fans and offered her time and talent for the betterment of the school. Elizabeth passed away suddenly on September 14. She will be greatly missed by the many she knew in the Riordan community, her colleagues at Facebook where she was the Global Director for HR Risk, Privacy & Compliance, and especially by her beloved husband **Mario Peregrino '85** and sons **Roman '18** and **Hayden '21**.



## *In Memoriam*

We offer special support and prayers to the friends and family of these individuals grieving during the time of COVID.

### *ALUMNI*

Edward Douglas '50  
Handford Clews '52  
Victor Bacigalupi '53  
John "Jack" Doherty '53  
David Mackin '53  
Carl Franke '54  
Paul Rasore '54  
Thomas G. White '54  
Eugene Mullin '55  
James P. Murphy '55  
John Haderle '56  
David Frisella '57  
Guido Salomone '57  
Thomas Sullivan '57  
John Williams '57  
Bill Jovick '58  
Rev. Raymond Malley, SM '58  
Michael Goodin '62  
Czeslaw "Chet" Grycz '62  
Michael Montague '63  
John Pelosi '64  
Philip Stuhr '65  
Jim Paolini '65  
Ronald Basso '66  
Edward Jasinski '71  
Rev. Joseph Hartzler, SM '73  
Steven Esscok '81  
Luis Humberto Tapia '88  
Alex Wassef Lama '89  
Jake Hawkins '04

### *FRIENDS OF RIORDAN*

Jeanne Biernat – Wife of James Biernat '66, sister of Ray Arata '53, and Former Mercy High School San Francisco Faculty  
David Bowe – Former Riordan Faculty  
Harvey Christensen – Friend of Riordan  
Eileen Clark – Mother of Faculty Member Kim Loder and Grandmother of David Loder '99  
Leonard Davey – Grandfather of Georgia Davey  
Jeannette Eden – Mother of Fr. Tim Eden '63  
Victoria Mahoric – Mother of Greg Mahoric '71  
James Manley – Friend of Riordan  
Linton Martin – Father of Gabe '20  
Elizabeth Peregrino – Wife of Mario '85 and Mother of Roman '18 and Hayden '21  
Felipe Sanchez, Sr – Father of Felipe '82 and Victor '84  
Raji Soudah – Father of Roger '85 and Raymond '02, and grandfather of Drama Director Stefania Pierucci  
Warren Spiegel – Grandfather of Timothy Spiegel '24  
Robert Spirz – Father of Carl Spirz '78  
Sue Warren – Grandmother of Cara Garcia

This list reflects the names of individuals who have passed away since the previous edition of *Future*, as reported in obituaries or sent by family and friends. To submit a name, please email [alumni@riordanhs.org](mailto:alumni@riordanhs.org).

# To our donors, we thank you.

Dear Supporters,

During a challenging few years for our school community, country, and world, no one is more loyal than the Riordan community. From our Annual Fund to Giving Day, your support allowed us to provide the best education for the young men and women of Riordan, who will go out and do great things with their education. This past fiscal year was especially noteworthy as we raised the second highest amount in the school's history.

We hope you are inspired by the stories of some of our students and dedicated alumni in this issue of *Future Magazine*. They are truly doing incredible things in and for the world, and all got their start in the hallowed halls of Riordan. In particular, we are pleased to share that this past July Riordan received the largest gift from an individual in the history of the school from the estate of the late Guido J. Salomone Jr. '57. Mr. Salomone lived a life of deep faith and now leaves an incredible legacy at his alma mater. I also want to say a huge thank you to our first alumna donor, Ms. Annie Le '21!

We've made some changes to how we share this year's annual giving report. To view the full report please visit [www.riordanhs.org/annualreport](http://www.riordanhs.org/annualreport). Throughout the year we hope to share even more stories about the impact that your support will have on the future of the school and our students. We are deeply grateful for your generosity and look forward to more exciting things to come!

Sincerely,



Mr. Simon Chiu  
Director of Development



Take a picture with your phone to make a gift!

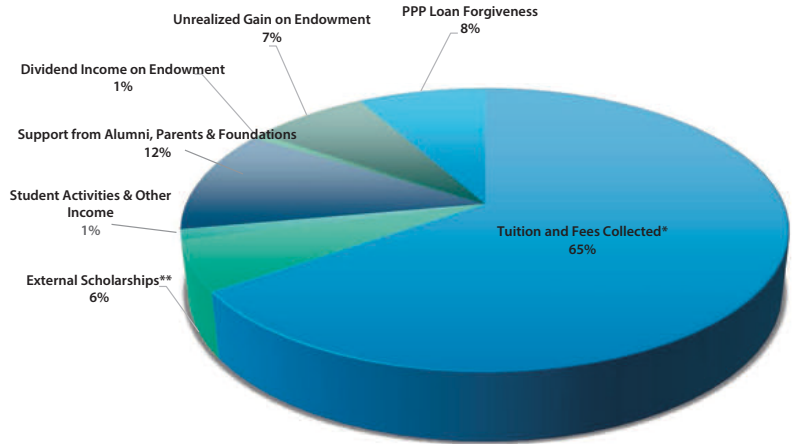


# FY 2020–21 Income and Expenses

July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021

## Sources of Income

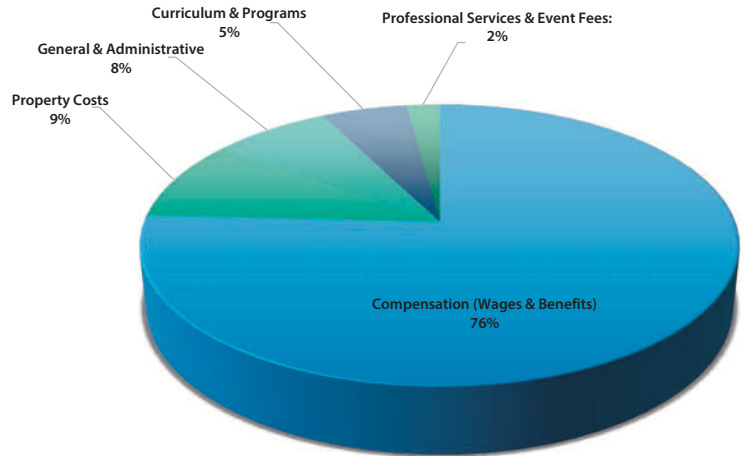
Tuition and Fees Collected*	\$14,374,569
External Scholarships**	\$1,263,128
Student Activities & Other Income	\$258,461
Support from Alumni, Parents & Foundations	\$2,572,117
Dividend Income on Endowment	\$140,692
Unrealized Gain on Endowment	\$1,633,940
PPP Loan Forgiveness	\$1,786,800
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>\$22,029,707</b>



\*Net tuition collected from families after distribution of Riordan granted financial aid totaling \$6,164,083.  
 \*\*Financial aid granted to students for tuition by outside individuals, foundations, and organizations.

## Expenses

Compensation (Wages & Benefits)	\$12,552,101
Property Costs	\$1,503,140
General & Administrative	\$1,243,492
Curriculum & Programs	\$904,069
Professional Services & Event Fees	\$340,939
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>\$16,543,740</b>



**Note: FY 2020-21 brought many unique financial circumstances, resulting in contributions to a higher-than-usual net income:**

- Lower expenses due to impact of COVID-19 on operations
- \$1.6m unrealized gain on the Endowment
- One-time PPP loan forgiveness of \$1.79m



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Mrs. Annette Isola  
Mr. Michael Kelly & Mrs. Catherine Kelly  
Mr. Steven Kent and Mrs. Cynthia Kent  
Mr. Jaber Khuri '78 and  
Mrs. Catherine Khuri  
Kotas Pantaleoni Architects  
Mr. Kevin Leung  
Mr. Philip Linker and Mrs. Ruby Linker  
Ms. Nicole Lionetti  
Mr. Anson Louie and Mrs. Bernice Lew  
Mr. Holger Luedorf and  
Ms. Stephanie Luedorf  
Mr. Ryan McDermott and  
Dr. Margaret McDermott  
Ms. Martina McGrath  
Mr. Trevor Michalchuk  
Ms. Erin Murphy  
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Mrs. Kathleen Perotti  
PG&E Matching Gift Program  
Scott's Park Avenue SJ, LLC  
Dr. Joseph Spinelli '56 and  
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The Hooked on Golf Foundation  
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 Mr. Arthur J. Bacci  
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 Mr. Martin Kilgariff  
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Ms. Annie Le

# The Fennelly Society

Riordan's planned giving society honors the memory of Ed Fennelly, a man who demonstrated exceptional vision, organization, and dedication throughout his 40 years of service at the school. We are deeply grateful to the following individuals who have included Riordan in their estate plans or made a planned gift. For more information about about joining the Fennelly Society, please contact Mrs. Karin Haskell, (415)586-8200 ext. 232 or [khaskell@riordanhs.org](mailto:khaskell@riordanhs.org).

## *The Carmen S. Aguilar Family Trust*

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## Presidential Search Update

Following the departure of former president Dr. Andrew Currier in June 2021, the Archdiocese of San Francisco, working with a search committee made up of members of Riordan's Board of Trustees, faculty, staff, and parents, have engaged national search firm Educational Directions to guide the process and attract top candidates. Consultants from Educational Directions visited Riordan this fall to get to know the school and speak with a range of stakeholders to gain feedback on the values, experiences, and vision desired in a future leader. Interviews with prospective candidates will take place this winter, with an announcement of a new president expected in the spring of 2022.

More information about the search process and a job description can be found at [www.riordanhs.org/about/president-search](http://www.riordanhs.org/about/president-search)



# SAVE THE DATE!

## Riordan's 2022 Crab Feed

**When:** Saturday, January 22, 2022, 6:00 pm

**Where:** Archbishop Riordan High School

**Menu:** Crab, Salad, Pasta & Dessert  
Chicken option available

**TICKETS:** [www.riordanhs.org](http://www.riordanhs.org)

# SAVE THE DATE

ARCHBISHOP RIORDAN HIGH SCHOOL

presents

## 2022 Purple & Gold Gala



**FRIDAY, MARCH 4**

6 PM - COCKTAILS

7 PM - DINNER & AUCTION

FOLLOWED BY DANCING TO THE LIVE MUSIC OF THE CHEESEBALLS

[WWW.PURPLEANDGOLDGALA.COM](http://WWW.PURPLEANDGOLDGALA.COM)



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