

GENESIS

The Quarterly Magazine of St. Ignatius College Preparatory San Francisco, Summer 2020





A VIRTUAL PERFORMING ARTS SEASON: Despite the inability to entertain in person, SI's musicians, singers, dancers and actors all performed virtually. **TOP LEFT** and **RIGHT** are screenshots from "Bernie's Tune," performed by SI's Jazz Band under the direction of **Galen Green**. **TOP RIGHT** is a scene from a video rehearsal of *Pippin*, directed by **Ted Curry '82**. **MIDDLE RIGHT** is a shot of Tchaikovsky's "1812 Overture" which would have been performed at the annual Spring Pops Concert under the direction of **Gillian Clements**. **ABOVE & RIGHT**, the year-end Dance Showcase video offered a piece that would have premiered in April. The 32 dancers were choreographed by **Emily Shick '10** and SI seniors from the Dance Workshop. **FAR RIGHT:** **Audrey Gomes** led the SI Choral Group in an online performance.





GENESIS

A Report to Concerned Individuals
Volume 57, Number 2, Summer 2020

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Joyce Love worked as a physical therapist on the East Coast before moving to the Bay Area, where she served on the board of the Hillsborough Schools Foundation, including a term as president, helping to establish organizational governance and a five-year strategic plan. She was a recipient of the Hillsborough Citizen of the Year award as recognition for over a decade of volunteer service and leadership in the school community. She also served on the executive board of a Peninsula nonprofit that supported community organizations that addressed issues of teen crisis management, suicide prevention and mental health. She continues to support community outreach efforts. She and her husband, **Dr. Ted Love** (a former SI trustee, pictured with her) have two daughters: **Alexandra Love '11** and **Samantha Love '13**.



Adria Renke serves as president of Prophy College Preparatory in Phoenix. She has served on the boards of the National Jesuit Secondary Association, the Jesuit Schools Network International Committee and the Jesuit School of Theology at SCU. She is currently on the boards of the Ignatian Solidarity Network, the Arizona Diamondbacks Foundation and Boys Hope Girls Hope of Arizona. In addition, she is a past member of the Jesuit Schools Network International Committee and a current member of the Jesuits West Mission and Vision Committee. She is the mother of three married children and the grandmother of eight.



FIRST WORDS BY STEVE LOVETTE '63



Those of you who follow *Genesis* know that this column is normally written by **Paul Totah '75**, the magazine's esteemed editor. For more than three decades, **Paul** has produced a publication that many colleges only wish they could emulate.

This edition, **Paul** has decided, will be his last. Instead of offering "First Words," **Paul** will end with a few "Last Words" (see inside back page), which allows the school community an opportunity to offer a few "Well-Deserved Words" in praise of this truly remarkable man of letters. First, here's a little history.

AN IMMIGRANT'S SON

Paul's father, John, immigrated to the U.S. in 1951 from Palestine, where he had worked as a barber. After he settled in San Francisco with his wife, **Sally**, he opened John's of Lakeside, a beauty salon and dress shop on Ocean Avenue, and he became well known among many in the SI community who were his customers, including several mothers of SI's Jesuits.

THE EARLY YEARS

The **Totahs** sent their three sons (including **Robert '76** and **Joe '78**) to St. Gabriel School and to SI. Under the tutelage of **Frank MacPeck, S.J.**, and **John Becker, S.J.**, **Paul's** gifts as a writer emerged and were honed. **Paul** recalls that the Jesuits were not easy taskmasters. "**Fr. MacPeck** was in the habit of reading the worst sentences in essays aloud to the entire class. He'd look at me after reading something egregious, and say, '**Totah** — were you on drugs when you wrote this?' That taught me that no matter the quality of the rest of the essay, it was only as good as its weakest sentence and that every word mattered." **Paul's** writing matured at the strict-but-loving hands of his mentors, and he began to tell the SI story with ever-advancing skill in the pages of *Inside SI*, which he served as publisher.

COLLEGE AND JOURNALISM

It was an easy transition for **Paul** to further his Jesuit formation and gifts as a writer at Santa Clara University and editor of its college newspaper. His gift for verse also emerged there, spawning an eclectic poet from Palestine. After graduation, he spent a number of years working for four newspapers and ended as business editor of *The Dispatch*, a McClatchy-chain daily in Gilroy. During those years, he realized that reporting as a disinterested observer was not for him and that he would rather turn his prose and poetry into vehicles for social change. He also learned to write quickly and meet deadlines. "Writer's block is a myth," he holds. "Writing — and rewriting — is simply work. You don't have to sit around and wait for inspiration to strike."

RETURNING TO SI

He left journalism in 1983 to become part of the Redwood City Catholic Worker House along with **Larry Purcell '62**, furthering the call to service he first heard at SI. There, he worked with homeless teens and Vietnamese refugees while also serving as an advocate for social justice causes, including the Sanctuary Movement for those escaping the civil war in El Salvador. This would later color his work and writing at SI.

During this time, he earned a master's degree in creative writing from SFSU and met and fell in love with **Kathryn Carpenter**. He also realized that if they were going to have a life together, it would require a real paycheck rather than the small stipend he received at the Catholic Worker House. He applied to teach at only one school — SI — and was fortunate to be hired at a place that became a second home to him.

For the past 35 years, **Paul** has been the "Voice of SI," chronicling its triumphs and tribulations as editor and, later, as director of communications. Along the way, he served as moderator of *Inside SI*, the Green Team and the Dialogue Club; as an English professor par excellence; and as the long-standing editor of this publication. He and **Kathy** sent their children — **Lauren '07** and **Michael '10** — to SI, and **Lauren** returned several years ago to work as a counselor. In **Paul's** spare time, he has written four books, including *Spiritus Magis*, the 400-page history of SI written for the school's sesquicentennial celebration.

RETIREMENT, RIGHT? WRONG.

One might think it's time for **Paul** to relax and enjoy the fruits of his life of service. Retirement, however, is one of the few words not found in **Paul's** vocabulary. He plans to write a stage play about the life of **Dante**, a book about Highway 1 and something about his father's hometown of Ramallah. He and **Kathy** want to continue to travel, and he plans to continue to volunteer at The Healing Well in the Tenderloin, at ICA and at The Lantern in the Mission. "Of course, I'd love to work toward combating climate change and achieving justice and peace for Palestine," he adds.

SI will miss you, **Paul**. Your vitality, hard work, wit, humility and dedication have culminated in a written legacy that is unequalled in the annals of our alma mater. By capturing SI's history and preserving it for the future, you have provided all of us — the 20,000 alumni, current students and generations of parents — with a priceless gift. And you've earned our lasting gratitude. Well done!

During his tenure at SI, Steve Lovette '63 served as a math teacher, counselor, coach, assistant principal and vice president. In his 20 years as vice president, SI's generous alumni and families donated \$100 million to build out the campus and raise endowment.

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ON THE COVER: SI alumni in the medical profession helped the sick and dying during the pandemic.

RIGHT: In early May, SI's faculty delivered lawn signs to seniors, who then returned to school May 28 to pick up boxes filled with caps, gowns and other goodies. With graduation scheduled for late July 25 at J.B. Murphy Field, we are publishing a graduation supplement to this issue later this summer. Look for it online in early August.



THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL: HOW SI PERSEVERED IN A TIME OF CRISIS

In some ways, SI's response to the pandemic mirrored that of other schools, with teachers leading classes via Zoom and Principal **Michelle Nevin Levine** offering encouragement through her emails and video messages.

In other ways, the response was extraordinary, in that nearly every aspect of the school community managed to keep going in one way or another after the campus closed March 11, following a decision by the Archdiocese of San Francisco to suspend on-campus activity at its schools.

Counselors counseled. Musicians practiced and performed. *Inside SI, The Ignatian, The Quill* and SITV all published editions. The Father Sauer Academy graduated its first group of eighth graders, and SI sent the Class of 2020 off to college.

Still, it was a strange year, with graduation, as of press time, set to take place on J.B. Murphy Field in late July, with students spaced apart and only two parents allowed in the stands. Instead of a Baccalaureate Mass, seniors drove to the school to pick up boxes from teachers filled with caps, gowns, *The Quill, The Ignatian* and other mementos of their time at SI.

They saw many of those same teachers earlier that month when they arrived at their homes with lawn signs announcing their graduation from SI, and the entire school community gathered through Zoom for a May 20 assembly.

The story of the lawn signs gives some insight into just how eager teachers and students were to see each other in person. After **Levine** invited teachers to sign up to distribute signs by zip code, within 15 minutes all 59 zip codes were taken, according to Assistant Principal for Student Affairs **Jeff Glosser '83**, who worked with Director of Communications **Tom Murphy** and his team to craft those signs. "Some parents were in tears seeing teachers deliver the signs and there were lots of smiles by the seniors. Reconnecting with their teachers gave them a chance to think about events at SI that had given them joy over their four years."

Director of Strategic Initiatives **Bill Gotch**, who also serves as director of SI Summer Programs, sees SI's response to the pandemic as yet another example of how the school mirrors San Francisco in its

resilience and flexibility in responding to crisis. "After the 1906 earthquake and fire, which destroyed the campus in April, SI was ready to go the following September in a new school in a new location. Because we're still flexible and nimble, we have been able to create some semblance of normalcy."

The lessons learned from this, he added, "are like giving every teacher 1,000 hours of professional development. Distance learning, combined with in-class work, is here to stay. It will allow us to help students make up work that they miss because of a game or a retreat. It also allows us to offer education beyond the size limitations of our classroom space while making school more student-centered."

ACADEMICS

Assistant Principal for Academics **Danielle Devencenzi** noted that SI's teachers succeeded with the digital learning protocol because "this was something they knew how to do, thanks in part to their use of our learning management system, Canvas, and their professional development, which has helped them learn to engage teens by appealing to the ways they think and learn."

That professional development included a presentation last November by Edpuzzle on "low-stakes feedback," followed by a February session on "The Teenage Brain and Learning Science," given by SI psychology teachers **Yosup Joo** and **Eric Castro '92**.

That day also included talks by **Devencenzi** as well as **Patrice Bain**, co-author of *Powerful Teaching*, **Lynne West**, and **Lori Hébert** on blended learning.

"Our teachers never skipped a beat as they Zoomed through their days," added **Devencenzi**. "Our teachers and counselors ensured that students were on center stage during this time."

Donna DeBenedetti, a veteran English teacher with three sections of AP seniors, was pleased that virtual classes gave her a chance "to be with my students and check in on them as well as to provide material and opportunities to both read and think."

She also noted that teaching via Zoom "requires skills that are completely different from those you use teaching in the classroom. When you're looking at 28

faces on a screen, there's not the same feel, intimacy or electricity that helps you know whether something is working, but my seniors have been amazing and are still willing to discuss their thoughts both over the computer and through Canvas. They have made insightful connections between our novels and the current moment."

Her freshmen, she noted, "are delightful. I left them in Zoom breakout rooms to talk about Jamie Ford's *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* for about 30 minutes."





LEFT: Finn Rollings '20 delivered his salutatory address in a Zoom assembly with the SI student body, and he did so in a video homage to *The Shining*. *The Levining* was filmed and edited by SITV moderator **Mike Santos** and former SITV president **Alex Ring '18**, with script supervision by English teacher **Donna DeBenedetti**. The remarkable video featured appearances by Principal **Michelle Nevin Levine** and Assistant Principal for Student Affairs **Jeff Glosser '83**. Finn will attend Northwestern University for Radio, Television and Film. At SI, he served as president of Wildcat Nation and SI Live and was a member of and editor for *The Quill* and *Inside SI*.

Then she found herself locked out of Zoom and unable to get back in. “When the class automatically ended at the hour mark, several students emailed me to see if I was OK, *and* they weren’t mad. They got the work done and were perfectly happy with themselves.”

Photography teacher **Carlos Gazulla**, unable to have his students develop film and make prints in the school’s darkroom, asked his students to take photos with their digital cameras and smartphones. A skilled photographer himself, he had never taken seriously the photographic potential of his iPhone.

“In the last few weeks, while biking and going for long walks around the Bay, Sweeney Ridge and Crystal Springs, I have been having fun taking photos with my iPhone and experimenting and learning as much as my students.”

In addition, **Gazulla’s *Español Moderno*** class conversed via Zoom with students in Spain who study fine arts with Lluïsa Bos. The two met 35 years ago when they were students at the University of Barcelona. “Our students read poems to counterparts in Spain about their feelings during this pandemic, and students in Spain shared some of the projects they have been working on these last couple of months.”

OPPOSITE PAGE: Students in Carlos Gazulla’s photography class were busy creating images even during the pandemic. The top is by Siobhan Linehan '20 and below is by Gazulla, taken on one of his walks near Sweeney Ridge above his San Bruno home. Go to siprep.org/genesis for more student photos.

MINISTRY & SERVICE

Assistant Principal for Formation **Chad Evans** has found hope in what he calls “our remarkable students, especially our seniors. They showed up to online Friday Morning Liturgies, where they served as emcees, musicians, lectors and readers. Our senior InSignis leaders were so compassionate and generous and gave of themselves without focusing on how hard it has been for them.”

Students in his religious studies class also “led prayers and showed up ready to learn. They are funny and creative and continued to be as wonderful online as they were in person all year.”

Evans also praised his colleagues “who are endlessly creative about finding ways to minister to students, especially those most in need. Our Campus Ministry team worked to provide access to technology and create programming that accommodated students’ various learning styles and abilities as well as their family situations. They continue to be compassionate, caring and understanding, reminding students that we are here to support them.”

While students are no longer able to do volunteer work outside their homes, with guidance from **Ana Lopez**, SI’s director of Community Service and Social Justice, SI students have found creative ways to support the agencies SI has partnered with over the years. Students have made facemasks, raised funds, written letters of support and advocated for social justice issues to support guests at the VA Hospital, Faithful Fools, The Healing Well, Martin de Porres House of Hospitality and the Pomeroy Recreation and Rehabilitation Center. The spring Solidarity Week was modified to include online gatherings for

students to hear from a Rwandan refugee and to learn, with help from the Filipino Cultural Club, about the role of Filipino farmworkers in the 1960s during the grape boycott. Students also shared stories of their own families’ immigrant experiences and created art around these topics.

Campus Ministry held two all-school prayer services and two “unplugged” gatherings for students that help them reconnect after their senior retreats. “Some of our online events meant that people could join from distant places,” added **Evans**. “One Franciscan priest, **Christopher Iwancio, OFM Cap.**, had been a regular presider at Friday Morning Liturgy while finishing his doctorate at USF. Now that he is teaching in Southern California, he is able to celebrate with us.”

At the May 15 FML, incoming freshmen from the Class of 2024 were invited to join. The May 22 FML shifted into a “modified Transition Liturgy, where we blessed our graduates and those moving from one grade to the next.”

Megan Pryor Lorentz, the director of SI’s Department of Adult Spirituality, has led the effort to provide spiritual support to SI’s faculty and parent communities throughout the pandemic.

“Despite being stressful for our faculty, they have been riding the pandemic well, as our educators are all about the students and passionate about making sure students are cared for and getting what they need. As they focus outward, they still have a real need to nourish inward so they have something to give to kids, are grounded and can be the people they want to be.”

In addition to offering individual spiritual direction to faculty, **Lorentz** has also offered her department’s regular programs, including the men’s and women’s retreats,



ABOVE: The Adult Spirituality Department organized retreats for faculty men and faculty women through Zoom. Pictured here are some of the men who took part.

media and spirituality discussions and book discussion groups.

Programs for parents have also drawn more participants. “We might get a dozen to come to SI for a prayer group, but our last one had 44 join via Zoom. This tells us that next year we may be offering online options as they may provide a more accessible way for parents to intersect with our programs.”

She has also ministered to faculty who have experienced deaths of family members, including one staff member who lost her father-in-law to COVID-19. “Only one sister could be by this person’s bedside when his ventilator was taken out,” said **Lorentz**. “Everyone else prayed for the next hour and a half, which was still intimate and prayerful even over Zoom.”

THE TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGE

In early February, Director of Information Technology **Jamie Pruden** reviewed a variety of video conferencing platforms and chose Zoom in case classes went virtual. He set up an educational domain so that SI could receive benefits the company was offering schools, and he later purchased accounts for faculty and staff to unlock more features and beef up security.

“This was a huge learning curve for me, especially regarding Zoom’s security features, and we locked things down as we grew more familiar with the platform’s strengths and weaknesses,” he noted.

Pruden’s team switched to full-time remote support with a dedicated, direct-support line for employees and students. The team rotated time in the office to minimize exposure and, when necessary, to swap equipment, provide direct help and care for the infrastructure that supported learning at home.

“This team effort allowed the teachers to focus their particular magic on the kids and meet the home tech needs for everyone,” he added.

“I also felt like a therapist at times, helping teachers face technology issues they had never had to deal with before the pandemic. Their frustration was very palpable, and we all learned a new level of flexibility together. I thank them, as well as our parents and students, for their patience as we learned how to navigate in this new teaching and learning model.”

Ed Tech and Innovation Director **Jen Gaspar Santos** noted that the change to digital learning “hit us like a tidal wave. Everyone was surprised by how quickly this happened and how long it lasted.”

She praised the faculty “who are the heroes in all of this. My job was to get them set up and then support them.” She did that through Zoom office hours “where teachers could share their frustrations or find solutions to problems they faced.”

Santos also reminded them not to worry about being perfect. “When you’re learning something new, you’re bound to make some

mistakes. Also, so many teachers were fatigued already, as our school days are hectic to start with.”

For **Santos**, the pandemic highlighted the gap between “differences in family resources in our student body. So many people at SI worked to help to bridge that gap, as we realized that we have to honor the home lives of our students, as well as our faculty, some of whom have small children or older adults living with them.”

She helped the administration in two ways — first, by protecting them from the rush of software vendors “who tried to capitalize on this situation and who don’t understand our mission,” and she led **Levine** and her staff in a design learning exercise to help them prepare for the fall semester “and the uncertain times that we’re bound to face.”

COUNSELING & WELLNESS

Director of Counseling **Katie Blaesing** conducted department meetings at SI over Zoom a week before the stay-at-home order was issued to help her team get up to speed on the platform.

“**Jamie Pruden** was a huge help to us, as we were concerned about privacy during our video conferences with students, and he sent us information to ensure conversations would be secure,” said **Blaesing**.

The department also queried students regarding their internet access and job losses among their parents and “ensured



ABOVE: Librarians **Christina Wenger** (top center), **Cara Brancoli** (top right) and students discussed San Francisco Public Library’s online resources.

that their basic needs were being met,” she added.

She was also aware that students with pre-existing conditions or who historically struggled with their classes might not deal well with the pressures from the pandemic. “We were proactive in creating a plan to help them, and Wellness Director **Nick Calabrese** did a phenomenal job reaching out to students to ensure that they were safe.”

Her department, she added, “acted like a hub of assistance. We directed students to the most appropriate place where their needs could be met, from Magis to Financial Aid to outside therapists.”

The academic counselors, college counselors and Wellness staff all met via Zoom several times each week “so we could advocate for students who were having the hardest time and help them with anything from anxiety disorders to not turning in work.”

Calabrese praised his staff for doing “a great job in an unusual time. Each member of the team was busy as ever as we reminded students of the services we offered and the resources available to them. We helped them find ways to manage anxiety and stress, whether that was over the computer, an app on their phone or someone they could speak to beyond our staff. Our goal was to give them a range of options in hopes that they would find something that worked for them.”

Pam Spaulding, a counselor in the Wellness Department for the past seven years, partnered with several SI students and their families “to navigate personal and complicated struggles,” she noted. “COVID-19 is such a unique experience that has taken us to a strange and new place. Some found silver linings and others struggled.”

Spaulding was impressed with “the brave, creative and vulnerable places I’ve journeyed along with our students over the past several weeks. We’ve met virtually in cars, beaches, backyards, living rooms and bedrooms via Zoom and Google Hangouts and have taken many walks together over the phone.”

She helped students from each class face their struggles. “Many found grace among the chaos. Some were grateful for a break in their schedules and the tumultuous social scenarios of their high school lives. This gave them a chance to focus on themselves, learn new talents and enjoy taking a step back.”

In all, she felt “honored to have experienced the journey in such an intimate way with so many students.”

BEHIND THE SCENES

SI’s Wilsey Library provided key support to students and teachers during the pandemic, first by encouraging students to come to campus before noon on March 11 to pick up school supplies and books for class or to read on their own. “We had more students than we expected take us up on this offer,” said Director of the Library **Christina Wenger**.

She and Librarian **Cara Brancoli** then created a series of screencasts on a variety of topics to help students learn how to cite sources using MLA style, how to choose books to read for fun, how to synthesize sources and how to evaluate online sources.

They also worked with San Francisco Public Library to provide every student and faculty member with free access to the vast online resources that system offers. As a result, all students could see the same video at the same time; do research using magazines, journals and newspaper articles from all over the world; and learn new skills through online tutorials. “One student even taught herself dance moves using a tutorial she found on the SFPL website,” said **Wenger**.

She and **Brancoli** showed students how to use NoveList to help them find a book to read for pleasure, “and we asked our student library die-hards to explore various parts of SFPL’s resources and share with us and their fellow students treasures that they found.”

The two also met with students on Zoom in groups and one-on-one to help with research projects. “The screen-sharing tool is so effective that it felt as if students were standing next to me as we walked through websites together,” added **Wenger**.

The experience, she added, reinforced her notion that “the library is as much an ethos as a physical space. We have been able to get kids to read and think as they come to realize that they have a voice they can share with a community of experts. **Cara** and I have had fun brainstorming, even though we both miss seeing students in person.”

The lessons learned, she added, “mean that school will never be the same. I expect more education and more resources will be offered through distance learning.”

For families that either lacked resources or that took financial hits, SI worked behind the scenes to help thanks to efforts by **Maricel Hernandez** and **Brian Davis** — respectively the director and associate director of the Magis Center for Equity and Inclusion — as well as **Sister Sharon Brannen**, who runs SI’s financial aid program.

Students without reliable internet were given prepaid hotspots with unlimited data, and other families received gift cards for supermarkets. Students also received “social and emotional support through the Magis office,” said **Hernandez**. “We have checked in with kids, too, through AALPA — the African-American and Latino Parent Organization — to offer translation services.”

Not all families, she added, “can offer their children a quiet place to do online work at home. One young man with several siblings had to sit in the hallway outside his apartment to find a quiet place to take part in distance learning. Other students are anxious as they worry about how their parents will pay for rent.”

The pandemic, she added, “is helping us see problems we didn’t see fully before. I’m hoping that this experience will allow us to create a more equitable and inclusive SI community moving forward to help those who are more vulnerable in times like this.”

On the diversity side of her job, **Hernandez** organized the Magis Program and Affinity Groups end-of-year celebration. Ahead of the May 13 event, she and her colleagues delivered sashes and pins to 65 student homes. “We offered a blessing on the students in the ASC, ALAS and the BSU; for new groups that bring together Middle Eastern and Jewish students; as well as a group to promote disability rights. Families were able to give each senior a sash or a pin or both as we blessed them.”



ABOVE: Andrea Phillips was the valedictorian for the first FSA eighth-grade graduating class.

THE FATHER SAUER ACADEMY

Theresa Bayze, director of the Father Sauer Academy, was able to orchestrate a graduation ceremony for FSA’s first eighth grade class despite the pandemic. Scholars weren’t able to gather together for the May 22 event, so each family drove in front of the gymnasium where teachers and staff presented them with their diploma and mementos of their time at the academy.

Those graduates, who will enter as freshmen at SI next year, also created eighth-grade projects and presented them on the FSA website. “Even though they will be freshmen next year, they know they have a home with us, and we hope many return to serve as mentors to next year’s sixth, seventh and eighth graders,” added **Bayze**.

To help students prepare for the stay-at-home order, teachers let students take their Chromebooks home and conducted classes via Zoom. “We had our students engaged from day one. Some students who were distracted in class, as some middle schoolers can be, did even better than before by working from home, where they could be their authentic selves.”



ABOVE: FSA 8th grader Robby Alvarez and his family came to SI along with his classmates and their families to pick up diplomas on May 22.



ABOVE: FSA Director Theresa Bayze, left, and the faculty and staff of the Father Sauer Academy.

In addition to their regular classes, students also met in rotating groups of seven or eight with FSA faculty and staff. “This was our chance to check in with them and offer fun activities. The more points of connection we have, the better we are to care for our students.”

Scholars, who normally come to school through most of the summer, are continuing their studies this summer remotely from home and are taking a combination of academic and elective courses.

ATHLETICS

Athletic Director **John Mulkerrins '89** noted that he was “impressed how the spring athletes handled the pandemic. Many had lost their last chance to play an organized sport for SI. Thankfully, the seniors, despite losing all their end-of-year traditions, are resilient. Instead of complaining or whining, they remained focused and creative.”

He also praised the spring coaches for “keeping engaged with their teams throughout the season via Zoom meetings and providing workouts for the athletes to stay in shape and be healthy. They also checked in with individuals, held group meetings, contacted college coaches and provided mentorship throughout the spring.”

A 20-year SI veteran, he added that “this is the year that I was most proud to be the athletic director at SI, a school where we not only are competitive in our league and section, but also get to work with talented athletes and coaches who rise above the challenges of our time. The Wildcats will return better, stronger, more resilient and — after losing the opportunity to play this spring — even hungrier to compete at the highest levels.”

Gustavo Manzanares '05 of SI's Athletics Office noted that the virtual

program “forced us to teach a more self-sufficient approach to training and preparing for sports. I worked with our strength and conditioning coaches on making this approach the new normal with emphasis on goal-setting, mental preparation and an understanding of the science behind training.”

The strength and conditioning coaches hosted Zoom workouts and offered wellness classes, such as Yoga, led by **Sheila Johnstone. Manzanares** also helped students learn to gauge their progress, and he helped his colleagues “build a strong process to optimize care for athletes.”

CO-CURRICULARS

The student editors and writers of *Inside SI* published four online editions during the pandemic. “Because our editors-in-chief — seniors **Amanda Burns, Izzy Goodrow, Tom Quach** and **Owen Veit** — had set up such an effective administrative structure during the school year, they were able to communicate pretty easily with staff despite not being able to meet on campus in person,” said **Carole Nickolai**, who moderates the school paper along with **Peter Devine '66**.

“Coming together to work on our last few editions of *Inside SI* was the highlight of my quarantine,” added **Burns**. “Working with new production software and communicating with writers proved difficult at times, but we always made it work. The best part of this experience has been the ability to restore some sense of togetherness to our SI community.”

Veit noted that publishing the school paper challenged his team to come up with creative solutions. “We were all motivated by the strong belief that *Inside SI* is a vital part of our community and hoped that our actions would help students and faculty feel united in the face of quarantine.”

Goodrow added that “during this pandemic, *Inside SI* rose to become more than a reflection of our community and has adapted to become a pinnacle of connection for alumni, faculty and students alike and a place for students to hear from their peers on how to stay connected.”

Quach thanked the “amazing moderators for their endless support and guidance” and noted that he believes this chapter created “the most innovative, flexible and resilient *Inside SI* team there has ever been.”

The editors also speculated that online magazines had more readership than the print editions and that more digital issues will be offered in the years to come. “The digital format works very well for students, teachers, parents and even alumni to enjoy the newspaper,” added **Devine**. “This has been a wonderful and inspiring experience.”

SITV continued its news coverage of the school with **Lisa Traum, Mike Santos** and **Yosup Joo** leading student reporters and editors. “We weren’t able to film content on campus as usual,” said **Traum**. “We asked the community to crowdsource material for us to edit and package each week. No longer restricted to the usual 5-minute episodes, we reimagined SITV’s purpose and potential.”

Students and moderators, she added, “stretched our creative muscles to find ways to make meaning from our collective struggle and unite the community.” Lacking access to their studio and its equipment, the team constructed work-arounds to film and edit from home.

“Some of the most visionary and innovative ideas developed in the last few months resulted in original content from spaces we would have never dared to enter in the past, including teachers’ homes,” **Traum** added. “We even learned about native plants from religious studies teacher **Patrick Cody '96**.”

Students were treated to online performances of student instrumentalists, singers and dancers and saw part of a rehearsal for *Pippin*, which would have been the spring musical. “Telling our students and our parents that we had to cancel the musical was tough, as these shows are important moments in our students’ lives,” said Director of Performing Arts **Ted Curry '82**.

“One parent told me that when the prom was cancelled and graduation was postponed, her daughter was upset, but not as much as when we called off the musical. That hit her hard, as our students make lifelong bonds of friendship.”

This pandemic reminded **Curry** about the “most important work we do as teachers.

\mathbb{Q} is countably infinite
 \mathbb{R} uncountably infinite
 Cantor's Diagonalization Argument
 \mathbb{C} uncountably infinite
 $\mathbb{C} \supseteq \mathbb{R} \subseteq \mathbb{C}$
 \mathbb{C} is a subset



ABOVE: Katie O'Reilly '05 launched the Virtual Math Club to help her BC Calculus students advance their math skills. **RIGHT:** The International Food Faire became a cook-at-home event, with students sharing meals on Instagram.



We provide a safe space and, with guidance, love and care, allow students to take risks and become amazing humans to lead the world."

Orchestra Director **Gillian Clements** led her students in a Zoom performance of the "1812 Overture" and had them use the Acapella app to record themselves playing trios and quartets with themselves at home.

Cara Brancoli and **Yosup Joo**, the co-moderators of the SI Podcasting Club, led their team of Wildcast student producers to create a broadcast in early May about the shelter-in-place, with seniors sharing their experiences of loss as well as silver linings they discovered while studying from home.

"Our production process involved our small club crowding around one laptop, but we had to rethink that workflow as we collaborated from our remote locations," said **Brancoli**. "**Yosup** brought his experience from SITV and found software that allowed us to do just that, which will continue to serve the club when we are on the other side of this thing."

Wildcast producers also took part, via Zoom, in a production session of "Ear Hustle," where they learned practical skills "such as how to use room tone and how to sound more natural using a mic, as well as intangible lessons like witnessing the respectful back-and-forth of creative feedback between professional podcasters," added **Brancoli**.

Both she and **Joo** enjoyed watching their students document "our community's experience during the pandemic as they realized that they could learn, grow, create and provide something important to their community despite the obstacles in front of them." (To listen to the podcast, go to <https://soundcloud.com/sispeaks/si-seniors-sip>.)

They also received an honorable mention award from NPR's Student Podcast Challenge

for an episode they did before the pandemic that included an open mic evening at Martin de Porres House of Hospitality, where students shared stories of how their volunteer work impacted their own lives as well as those whom they serve.

Math teacher **Katie O'Reilly '05** launched the Virtual Math Club over spring break for BC Calculus students interested in learning more advanced math. "We met three times over break via Zoom, and I introduced them to set cardinality, groups and finding extrema in multivariable calculus. After the third meeting, several students wanted to continue, so we met on Wednesdays to continue our exploration into pure and applied mathematics."

Her students, including **Ryan Tuthill '20**, **Maanit Sharma '21** and **Darya Clark '20**, "have given excellent presentations on topics of their choosing, and others continued to do so until the end of the school year."

PARENT CLUB EVENTS

The Ignatian Guild held the Mother-Student Communion Mass and Breakfast and the International Food Faire virtually.

The April 26 Mass included 400 families who, through Zoom, celebrated with SI President **Eddie Reese, S.J.**, and saw a montage of senior photos at the end. Guild President **Kathy Conte** spoke about motherhood and her daughter, **Michelle Conte '20**, talked about childhood. "It was an emotional Mass, and we saw some people getting teary," said **Mrs. Conte**. We wanted to be together even though apart."

The Food Faire included 22 postings on Instagram on the #LifeAtSI site showing

multiple families cooking from home, with each post seen between 500 and 600 times for a total of more than 12,000 viewings. "It showed how much our SI community wanted to be connected and was yet another example of our love for family, food and traditions," **Mrs. Conte** added.

SUMMER PROGRAMS

SI's Summer Programs continued under the direction of **Bill Gotch** through distance learning, "which allowed us to double and triple the number of students we could reach," he noted. Academic programs were offered for 6th through 12th graders, and younger students enrolled in a variety of camps, including cooking, multimedia, writing, robotics and engineering, yoga, study skills and digital storytelling.

"I had to spend time explaining to parents how these camps would succeed online," said **Gotch**. "We offered curbside pickup for supplies and revised our pricing. So many families still need our programs because they are stuck at home working, and their children need a structured approach to keep them engaged, educated and occupied."

SI responded successfully to the pandemic, both during the school year and for the Summer Programs, "because we're a community that helped one another get through this. We'll continue getting through this. The silver lining is that this will fast-forward what we hoped to do anyway regarding distance and blended learning. Not every student needs to be in a classroom all day, and when they come to school, they will value that time more, as there will be a great balance between online and in-person education." ∞



Michelle Nevin Levine, in her first year as principal, led SI through its first pandemic since the 1918 Spanish flu. Photo by Bowerbird.

Michelle Nevin Levine sees resiliency and healing in SI's pandemic response

SI Principal **Michelle Nevin Levine** knows just how resilient and creative SI's students, teachers and parents have been since the pandemic shuttered the campus on March 11.

"I especially feel for those parents with school-age children at home, including many of our faculty, who have had to learn how to do their work from their bedrooms and kitchens while managing their own kids' education on the side."

Levine has first-hand experience at this, as she helped sons **Ryan '23** and **Connor (10)** — manage their schoolwork from home.

"Our teachers cared for their own children as they took on the new task of teaching over a computer screen. They were the heavy-lifters of helping us be a successful school during the stay-at-home order. Even though they missed the camaraderie of seeing fellow faculty members and the inspiration that comes from face-to-face contact with students, they remained creative and flexible. I'm so proud of them."

They embraced, she added, "a professional development opportunity that few of us saw coming, and they earned praise from our students and their parents."

When **Levine** first decided to send students home, she thought the stay-at-home order would last around two weeks. "I hoped it would give us a break to help us slow down and spend more time with our families, as the pace of the school

year is fast. Then, when we saw what was happening around the country and world, it became obvious that this would stretch far longer."

She then found herself reverting to her role as a counselor and sent messages to students through email and videos "to bring them light and hope in order to keep up their resiliency. I reminded them that they needed to be patient with themselves when they made mistakes and not seek to be perfect. I tried to model that for them as our new administrative team figured out our response on a day-to-day basis."

Levine singled out for praise Assistant Principal for Academics **Danielle Devencenzi '97** and Director of Communications **Tom Murphy**. "**Danielle** stayed in touch with teachers to feel out the situation and decided early on that we needed to take off each Wednesday to give students a brain break. She never stops working. You just can't throw her off a scent once she decides to get something done." She praised **Murphy** for "helping me with all the communication I needed to send out. He anticipated the needs of the community and talked me through each message and medium."

She also thanked SI President **Eddie Reese, S.J.**, "who helped me keep my eye on the big picture. He has tremendous experience and encouraged me to lead with flexibility and adaptation in mind."

Levine's messages to students often reminded them "that when you meet a challenge, don't see it as an obstacle but as an opportunity to grow. Looking at all they accomplished, I find it hard not to be impressed by them. Despite the distance, the performing artists created videos showcasing dance, theatre, singing and instrumental performances, including **Gemma Bouk '20**, who wrote and performed an original song for the May 20 assembly. All of this simply blew me away."

She also praised SI's counselors and campus ministry team, "who made themselves available for students and kept them engaged. Students also cared for one another as did their parents. Some held socially-distant gatherings, where they met to see each other face-to-face, even though those faces were masked."

As of press time, it's unclear how SI will respond to the pandemic in the fall. "Much will depend on the direction we receive from **Gov. Newsom** and **Mayor Breed**, as we have to follow the public sector. We are planning for more hand-sanitation stations and hands-free payment systems on campus."

For more information about the school's classes and programs, go to siprep.org, where you will find the latest announcements regarding summer programs and the fall calendar. ☺

WILDCATS RESPOND TO COVID-19 WITH HEROISM AND INGENUITY

Editor's Note: The following story draws from interviews of and submissions by more than 40 members of the SI family. To read the full text of these pieces, go to www.siprep.org/covidstories.



FROM LEFT: Dr. Eric Goosby '70 and Dr. Anthony Fauci. Photo by Liz Highleyman.

BY PAUL TOTAH '75
Editor, *Genesis* magazine

During the pandemic, many of those who have shown remarkable leadership and whose policies and advice have saved countless lives have one thing in common — their Jesuit education.

In an April 16 *Forbes* online essay, **William F. Meehan III** noted that **Dr. Anthony Fauci's** "leadership values and actions" are connected to his Jesuit high school education at Regis and at the College of the Holy Cross. He also praised the actions of **Gov. Andrew Cuomo**, a Fordham grad, and **Gov. Gavin Newsom**, a Santa Clara University alumnus. (**Gov. Newsom's** father, the late Judge **William Newsom**, is a 1951 SI graduate.)

Dr. Fauci himself noted in a *National Geographic* interview that his values were "cemented when I went both to a Jesuit high school and a Jesuit college, where the entire theme was service for others."

A May 3 piece published in *USA Today* also sang **Dr. Fauci's** praises in an interview with **Dr. Eric Goosby '70**, who received SI's Spiritus Magis Award in 2017 for his work as AIDS Czar under Presidents **Bill Clinton** and **Barack Obama**.

Dr. Goosby noted that his friend "was deeply affected by exposure to the Jesuit order, which fostered in him a self-expectation of service. This guy goes to sleep and wakes up asking, 'Have I done everything I can do?' It's in his DNA."

Back in the 1980s, when **Dr. Goosby** was working at UCSF and San Francisco General Hospital in one of the country's first AIDS clinics, he attended a meeting with **Dr. Fauci** in the nation's capital. At that meeting, ACT UP activists used chains to lock the doors to demand answers from the doctors who came to discuss new treatments for HIV.

Dr. Goosby recalled that "a lot of us were nervous and scared of possible violence, but **Tony** looked at us and said: 'This is our chance to learn about the frustrations of the community. It's an opportunity for us to learn and serve.' I'll never forget that."

Many SI grads have shown similar leadership roles in this pandemic and have spoken about their foundations in Ignatian values as well as their appreciation of Jesuit education, both of which have inspired them in their work helping people cope with COVID-19.

We have heard from doctors, nurses and researchers working in healthcare, as well as other professionals, who prepared for COVID-19 before it hit the U.S. and who are currently helping those affected by the virus and the stay-at-home order. They are also making plans for what comes next after the pandemic ends.

EARLY ACTION AT THE START OF THE PANDEMIC

Because COVID-19 emerged in China, one SI grad who lives in Hong Kong — **Rayfil Wong '96** — saw the effects first-hand when he flew back to his home after spending Christmas in San Francisco. He reported that by the end of January, "mass hysteria broke out over the coronavirus. The epicenter of the outbreak was in Wuhan, a city I had just visited one year ago. While eating lunch with my relatives, our phones were bombarded with messages that a mask hysteria was about to happen."

Wong found no masks at a local pharmacy, as Hong Kong residents were quick to act to respond to this pandemic, having survived the Avian flu in 1997, SARS in 2003 and the H1N1 "swine flu" in 2009.

"We asked my parents living in San Francisco to ship masks to Hong Kong," said **Wong**. "In the Bay Area, surgical masks were selling out fast as well. Luckily, my friend **Emily Poon** supplied us with a few hundred masks thanks to her connection with an East Bay supplier, and



Rayfil Wong '96

my best friend, **Brian Quan '99**, rushed to Home Depot to check the mask inventory.”



Camille Rich '15

On the other side of the globe, EMT **Camille Rich '15** responded to the crisis in Ireland while pursuing a master's degree in global health from Trinity College in Dublin.

When the virus hit Europe, **Rich** could have flown back to the U.S. but chose to stay after a COVID-19 response team invited her to join its efforts. "I found myself with time to dedicate to global health right here in my community in Dublin," she noted. Because **Rich** was a member

of the Irish Global Health Network and a licensed EMT, the Irish Health Service Executive asked her to help set up a drive-through coronavirus testing center and do contact tracing.

"I was devastated by the impact and death caused by coronavirus worldwide, but I knew this was the work I had been preparing for during my entire undergraduate and graduate school degrees. With community members and family diagnosed with COVID-19, I was inspired by those working on the front lines in other countries and wanted to be able to do my part. Everyone deserves to get medical help no matter how scary it may be."

Dr. Ryan Bricknell '11, an internal medicine resident at the University of Illinois at Chicago, didn't think at first that the pandemic would be that serious. He even went to Brazil on vacation for the first half of March and couldn't understand why "so many people were freaking out about the coronavirus."

When he returned on March 17, he found out why. Even though they were following CDC guidelines at that time, several ICU residents in his hospital had been exposed to the virus from the very first few COVID-19 positive patients and had been quarantined. **Dr. Bricknell** and several of his fellow

residents were called to the ICU, and in a matter of a few days, they went from taking care of two ventilated coronavirus patients to nearly 20, the maximum capacity of the ICU.

"During this time at the end of March, fear was widespread, the test was slow, protocols changed daily, and many healthcare workers were quarantined," he added. "Hospital supplies had dwindled, and we ran out of blood gas kits, dialysis catheters and nearly all our supply of hydroxychloroquine, which we first thought was effective, during a period when nearly everyone with COVID and respiratory symptoms received it."

Back in San Francisco, **Adrienne (Arnold) Bechelli '09**, the chief of staff for the city's Department of Emergency Management, worked with Executive Director **Mary Ellen Carroll** as early as January "once we realized how big this pandemic might become," said **Bechelli**. "We monitored the effects of COVID-19 worldwide and kept tabs through our Joint Information Center to ensure that everyone was receiving information that was relevant, timely, accurate, accessible and equitable."

Her department's headquarters moved from Turk Street to the Moscone Center on March 16, one day before the city's stay-at-home order was issued so that 400 city employees from 30 departments could have room to work together.

They chose this approach rather than meeting remotely from home because "meeting in the same building has proven effective and is one of the best practices in emergency management," said **Bechelli**. "That way we make connections with one another and build trust. There are times we will video conference even in the same room with 10 or so people. That human connection, while maintaining a safe distance, means we are communicating in the best way possible, and that has brought us tremendous success" measured by the low numbers of infections and deaths the city experienced compared to New York City.

The San Francisco Police Department worked, too, to slow the pandemic once the stay-at-home order was issued. **Robert Moser '88**, chief of staff to Police Chief **William Scott**, reported that his officers "began educating people as much as possible regarding the need to wear masks and maintain social distancing. We issued some citations to non-essential businesses that continued to operate, but our primary role was and is education."

In New York, **Nataly Mendoza '09**, a senior nurse at NYU Langone Health, found herself in one of the hospitals hit hardest in the tri-state area. In March, Governor Andrew Cuomo ordered elective procedures cancelled in the state. "Right then and there, our staff began a text chain brainstorming what we could do to prepare," said **Mendoza**. "I've never felt unprepared before. I've always thought ahead and had a plan A, B and C for everything. This was different, as COVID didn't give us that luxury. We felt as if we were flying blind, waiting for something to come in the night and hit us smack across the face. Nevertheless, we united and took this challenge head on."

In a week's time, the 34-bed unit where she worked was full. "Every patient had a ventilator and a multitude of IV infusions running at maximum dosages. We began running low on equipment and certain medications. Doctors and nurses from every specialty were placed under the same COVID-treatment team, united with the same goal. We were in full-on 'war-time protocol,' using language we've never used in a hospital before. Instead of being 'assigned,' staff were 'deployed.' Adrenaline kept us going, and thanks to generous individuals and companies donating hot meals to the hospital, we were able to grab a bite and a short break most days.



Adrienne (Arnold) Bechelli '09



Dr. Ryan Bricknell '11



Asst. Chief Robert Moser '88



Nataly Mendoza '09



Dr. Michael Virk '93 and his family.

RESPONDING TO THE CALL TO SERVE

Many other SI medical professionals also went above and beyond the call to serve during the pandemic. **Dr. Michael Virk '93**, an assistant professor and surgeon for the Department of Neurological Surgery at NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital's Weill Cornell Medical Center, treated patients after recovering from the disease himself.

To prepare for the influx of patients in New York, **Dr. Virk's** hospital cancelled all the surgeries that weren't emergencies and asked surgeons to volunteer in ICUs or emergency departments to care for victims of the pandemic.

On March 26, the day before he was to start his orientation in the emergency room, he felt a slight fever and headache, though both were subtle. "That was the first fever I had had in 20 years," he noted. "And I never get headaches."

The next morning, feeling back to normal, he reported to the emergency room, donned his mask, gloves, goggles and gown and told his colleagues of his symptoms.

"Given the situation, they told me to go home and ride it out." Over the next two weeks, he stayed home with his wife and three daughters, ages 5 and under, all of whom he knew had already been exposed to the virus. He had five days of fevers with night sweats and chills from the afternoon to 3 a.m., one night accompanied by hallucinations. "Each morning I'd feel better and thought I had recovered, though I did temporarily lose my sense of taste and smell. Thankfully, I kept my appetite."

His wife did show symptoms "though not as severe as mine, and our daughters only showed faint signs of irritability, so we all got through this by hunkering down together."

On April 8, **Dr. Virk** returned to the emergency room, where he began treating "patients that had neurological or neurosurgical pathology to free the ER doctors to care for COVID patients, though nearly every patient coming to the ER had COVID symptoms."

Juliet Palarca '99, who has worked as a nurse and administrator at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center for 17 years, experienced one of the darkest weeks of her life last Easter.

On April 10, two days after shift in the Department of Endoscopy, she was notified that one of her fellow nurses had been diagnosed with COVID-19. "It was Good Friday, and I made the decision to self-quarantine at a city-funded hotel in rooms set aside for frontline workers to protect my husband and two young children," she



Juliet Palarca '99



FROM LEFT: Fran Badiola '06 & Sam Nelsen '06.

noted. She kept working while she remained symptom-free and returned home after a week in quarantine.

Sam Nelsen '06, head of SI's crew program, had just quit his job in mid-February as an ICU nurse at Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center to prepare for a career change in nonprofit administration at the end of his master's program at USF this past May.

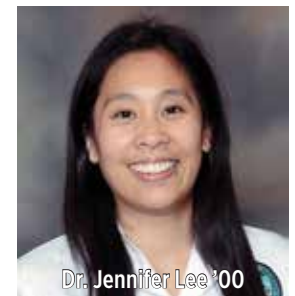
Then he watched as the pandemic started spreading through the city. "I didn't feel as if I could sit this out, as I knew things were going to get bad," he noted. "It went against every sense I had as a healthcare professional, as a coach and as a human being to not put my skills back to use." In March, he offered to return to work, and his nursing supervisor welcomed him back with open arms.

He also realized he needed to help his crew athletes, who were disappointed that their season had been cancelled. "It was heartbreaking for the kids and my fellow coaches, as they had all put in so much work. I tried to help them see that this was an opportunity for them to save the season by saving lives, reframing this not as a loss but as a way they could live out their Ignatian values and choose to do something beneficial simply by staying at home. It was a natural progression of the ethos of crew, where the group comes before the individual. But here it was the public good that comes before the team — a real-life application of the lessons we have been trying to impart through the sport."

Working alongside **Nelsen** in the ICU is his classmate and fellow nurse **Fran Badiola '06**, whom he describes as "focused, driven, intelligent and driven to support the needs of her patients. I'm impressed and in awe of her work ethic and knowledge."

Dr. Jennifer Lee '00, a second-year pediatric critical care fellow at Johns Hopkins Hospital, also switched gears to help in the pandemic. She typically works in the pediatric ICU at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, but after the pandemic hit, she began working with adults, as her PICU assigned half of its beds for COVID-19 patients.

"It's been a huge learning curve as the adults I see, in addition to coming in with COVID-19, suffer from conditions that children hardly ever have, such as dyslipidemia, diabetes and certain arrhythmias," she noted. "The medications they take and the doses are all different from what I use to treat children."



Dr. Jennifer Lee '00

LONELINESS AND ISOLATION

Dr. Lee has had her share of painful conversations with adults at risk of dying. “I took care of one patient who only spoke Spanish. In the middle of the night, his respiratory status grew worse, so we had to intubate him. I told him this through a translator over the phone and explained that, given his condition, we’d also have to put in an arterial and central line as well as a catheter for dialysis.”

The man was reluctant to receive dialysis “as he felt it was too expensive in the U.S. He wanted to return to his home country to receive treatment there. I explained to him that this could be a life-or-death decision. Only later did I realize that I could have been the last person he would ever speak to, as we weren’t allowing visitors at the time.”

As of mid-April, the hospital where **Dr. Lee** works had 23 deaths of the 112 COVID-19 patients admitted. “These people get very sick very quickly and are alone through most of this. Only recently have our charge nurses been able to create a system to allow two family members to visit patients who will soon be at the end of their lives.”



Dr. Elwyn Cabebe '92

Dr. Elwyn Cabebe '92, the medical director of Quality, Medical Oncology at Stanford Health Care and the medical director of Oncology at Good Samaritan Hospital in San Jose, is seeing the effects of isolation on non-COVID-19 patients who are also fearful of being infected by the coronavirus.

“Cancer is an isolating illness already, but in this pandemic, patients are feeling even more alone,” he noted. “Early on in the pandemic, I had a 40-year-old father newly diagnosed with acute leukemia admitted with a fever. He was in isolation for days while waiting for COVID to be ruled out and unable to have his family visit right after receiving a diagnosis of a life-threatening cancer and a possible life-threatening infection.”

The result, **Dr. Cabebe**

noted, was the man felt “emotionally overwhelmed. Our health care team tried to reassure him and his family with frequent communication. Fortunately, he was clinically stable and COVID-negative and is now undergoing treatment.”

Some of his patients, fearful of being infected by coronavirus at a hospital, “ask themselves if they should sit in a chair at an infusion center and risk infection or stay at home with the chance that their cancer might grow and cause more problems down the line. Our job is to handhold these people through this process while we learn how this disease works. There’s just not a lot of data to guide us.”

Dr. Marie Gonella '97, a neurologist at Kaiser Permanente in South San Francisco, has seen the same fear in her patients and also worries about those who have suffered devastating medical events at home, leaving them unable to seek help.



Dr. Marie Gonella '97 and her family.

“I have seen several cases of elderly persons sheltering in place alone at home who have had strokes or other acute medical decline and were not found until days later when a welfare check was requested after family or neighbors couldn’t reach them by phone,” she noted.

“Without daily human contact, their absence at the coffee shop or in the yard wasn’t noticed. They were hemiplegic or barely conscious, alone and suffering at home without COVID-19, but very much victims of this ruthless virus.”

If any good can come of this, she added, “it’s that it may make us all a little more human; it may encourage us to stop and think about others a little more; it may help us check in with family even through technology. As we move forward, let’s all take care of each other. Let’s all be with and for others.”

Dr. Virk also suspects that those dying at home in New York “may have been too afraid to go to the hospital with a cardiac event or a stroke. Medical examiners are so overwhelmed that they aren’t able to do autopsies to determine their causes of death.”

COVID-19 AND MENTAL HEALTH



Dr. Daniel Bonnici '97

Psychiatrists, psychologists and therapists worry about the mental health issues affecting people with known conditions as well as those diagnosed with COVID-19 and the medical professionals who care for them.

Dr. Daniel Bonnici '97, assistant chief of Service, Psychiatry and Behavioral Health at Kaiser Permanente West Los Angeles, fears a “looming mental health crisis from a future surge of people suffering from mental-health related issues partly because of the stay-at-home order and because of their fears and anxieties.”

Some anxiety is appropriate, he noted. “We

should have some fear of shaking hands and then touching our faces. The problem is when this goes to the next level, especially for pre-morbid anxiety patients or those who have obsessive-compulsive disorder. I have patients who are afraid to open windows for fear of the virus creeping in, even though that's not a reality."

Before the pandemic, **Dr. Bonnici** would advise patients "to push themselves to get out into the world and make contact with people. Depression and anxiety tell us to stay inside the house. While we should practice physical distancing, we shouldn't be socially distancing. I want patients to make connections; otherwise, people could grow too comfortable being socially isolated, just staying inside their homes feeling depressed. This egosyntonic behavior says that it feels right to stay in bed because that's what the world is telling me to do. That's comfortable but also dangerous and one of the cardinal symptoms of depression. When people isolate to that extreme, other symptoms can show up including suicidality. Those who aren't calling perhaps are getting worse."

Too many people are experiencing major traumas brought on by the pandemic, including those "experiencing the deaths of loved ones and not able to mourn at a funeral. Healthcare providers are on the edge and fearful of becoming infected. Even I feel this when I walk into an ER. I may not be putting tubes down throats, but I worry if I have my mask on properly or if I am wearing the proper garments for this kind of work. I'm so impressed by what my ER colleagues are doing."

Dr. Bonnici wants people to know that "there are resources that everyone can access right now. We're still here to help, working from our home offices and basements. We're blasting folks with online resources and help numbers. Despite this, I know there are people who won't take advantage of these resources, and these are the folks I worry about. All we ask is that people reach out to us."



Dr. Christopher Baugh '95

Doctors and nurses are also at risk from the psychological effects of dealing with so much death, dying and sickness. **Dr. Christopher Baugh '95**, vice chair of Clinical Affairs for the Department of Emergency Medicine for Brigham and Women's Hospital and an associate professor at Harvard Medical School, sees the wear and tear on medical professionals in Boston.

"If you work in the emergency department, you're signing up for tough times. However, we're used to individual tough cases or a one-time mass casualty event like the Boston Marathon bombing. You work a day like that, and you think the next

day will be back to normal. This pandemic holds a different kind of trauma for healthcare workers given all the uncertainty."

Dr. Mimi Smith '07, a resident at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Hospital in New York City, shares **Dr. Baugh's** concerns, especially the "psychological impacts of learning the ropes

amidst a global health catastrophe. Before COVID-19, mental health was a hot topic among the medical community. According to the Association of American Medical Colleges, almost a third of medical students and residents suffer from depression, and one in 10 report suicidal thoughts."

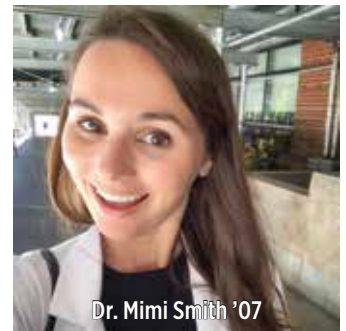
She added that the American Medical Student Association "found that medical students are three times more likely to die by suicide than age-matched peers. For trainees, suicide is the first and second most common cause of death among male and female residents, respectively. The dean of my medical school, **Dr. David Muller**, adds that 'we're so focused on taking care of patients and providing quality care that absent from our education is how we take care of ourselves.'"

Smith warns that "if the second curve of mental distress among doctors mirrors the first curve of COVID-19, then our country could start losing its infantry, and we could lose this war. We urgently need collective action — from the public, our policymakers and healthcare providers themselves — to save the lives of those who are saving the lives of others."

Dr. Ami Kapadia '95, an outpatient internist at Kaiser

Permanente in Daly City, has seen "a whole spectrum of unprecedented emotions that we are navigating as we try to ground ourselves and support our patients and each other. Self-care is so important. Fear and anxiety are at new heights everywhere, and what I see more than ever is that my patients need my compassion and calm as much as, if not more than, my medical knowledge and instruction."

Dr. Ruth S. Rayikanti '03, a psychiatrist in private practice who works with an outpatient psychiatric group in Pacific Heights, suggests that those who find themselves anxious about the virus should pace themselves "regarding the information you're taking in about the pandemic. It's OK to say this is all too much. Information overload is real



Dr. Mimi Smith '07



Dr. Ami Kapadia '95



Dr. Ruth S. Rayikanti '03

and can quickly become overwhelming. When I experience these types of moments, I practice mindfulness techniques and meditation tools that allow me to actively engage in that moment not only to walk away from the news, but also to engage in self-compassion, self-care and self-reflection."

She also hopes that people "establish and follow routines and ensure a good night's sleep by practicing standard

techniques, such as putting a smartphone on night mode during set hours. Even the light coming directly from a phone at night can disturb your sleep cycle.”

THE ECONOMIC IMPACT

As of early May, unemployment claims topped 4 million in California alone, as a result of the pandemic and the stay-at-home order. While most know about the hardships faced by small-business owners, gig workers and restaurateurs, including many SI graduates, some aren't aware of the loss of income many medical professionals have suffered while also caring for people on the low rungs of the socio-economic ladder.



Dr. Man-Kit Leung '94

Dr. Man-Kit Leung '94, a community physician and chair of the board of St. Francis Memorial Hospital and a board member of the Asian American Medical Group, saw an unprecedented drop in revenue, with no income for the months of April and May in the two offices he operates in the city.

He was forced to move his two full-time staff to two-fifths time each and have them apply for unemployment benefits. As an otolaryngologist — a specialist in head and neck surgery

— he had to cancel all non-emergency procedures, such as tonsillectomies and sinus surgeries.

“I still have rent and other expenses, but my own pay was down 100 percent for these two months. Many of my colleagues are worse off than I am and have had to furlough all their staff and close their doors. We are all asking for lines of credit, rent relief and federal stimulus money that we will pay back in the coming months.” He expects that he and his colleagues will recover “though it may take anywhere from six months to a year to do so.”

Dr. Robert Henning '59, a cardiologist, medical school educator and researcher, is a volunteer physician at Tampa's Free Medical Clinic, which cares for the indigent population,



Dr. Robert Henning '59

the working poor of Tampa and immigrants from South America who cannot afford to pay for medical care or medications.

He has found the pandemic to be “one of the greatest challenges of my medical career. Because of lack of money, the patients that I and my fellow volunteer physicians, nurses and pharmacists see in the clinic have serious medical problems that

have been neglected for many months or years. Patient problems with asthma, emphysema, cardiac conditions, diabetes and even cancer are far advanced. Recently, the clinic patient population has increased substantially due to the large number of workers from hotels, restaurants and other small businesses who have lost their jobs and have little or no income.”

These conditions, he added, are exacerbated by “poor nutrition and recent crowded living conditions among people who have lost their jobs and lack money. Unfortunately, some medical supply vendors are taking advantage of the pandemic by increasing costs for medical supplies. For example, medical face masks for staff that formerly cost \$1 now cost \$5 each.”

Even non-medical professionals are doing their share. **Greg Aherne '75**, the co-founder of Raising Sparks Interfaith Ministry, works with **Ann Marie Coletta** to care for San Francisco's homeless by feeding people living in SROs and on the street through something they call their “Chili Fest.” (See the full story later in this issue.) Though they had to suspend those during the pandemic, **Aherne** continues riding his bike to visit those living on the streets and pass out sandwiches “while using a lot of Purell,” he noted. “I do this in part because of the lessons the Jesuits taught me at SI, to be for and with others.”



Greg Aherne '75

COVID-19 AND RACE

Dr. Baugh has also seen the “disparate ways COVID-19 has struck people based on where they live and their socio-economic conditions,” he noted.

“The Latinx neighborhoods of Boston, the African-American neighborhoods of New York and Detroit, low-income communities throughout the country and elderly in nursing homes all constitute at-risk groups. We haven't talked enough about these disadvantaged groups because we don't know enough about the biology of the virus and how it attacks us. We do know that those most at risk don't have reliable access to high quality healthcare, share living spaces with multiple people, can't call in sick or work in places that don't have good infection control measures in place and lack adequate personal protective equipment.”

Back in San Francisco, **Dr. Leung** is also aware that some blame Asian Americans for spreading the virus. “There have been increased attacks on Chinese-Americans, especially given the racist overtones of **President Trump's** remarks. He's not encouraging unity and solidarity but making our nation more divisive.”

Residents in Chinatown also have the challenge of maintaining social distancing in a densely populated area. To help them, **Dr. Leung** and his colleagues have created educational videos and brochures that emphasize the importance of sheltering in place and social distancing. “We are doing our best to keep this underserved population safe.”

NEW LIFE IN THE MIDST OF DEATH

While medical professionals have been struggling to keep people from dying in this pandemic, others have been busy helping new life come into the world — a task complicated by COVID-19.



Dr. Abby Otto '10 is a resident physician in Obstetrics and Gynecology at Loyola University Medical Center, which also employs **Theresa Woods '09**, a nurse, **Dr. Natalie Hartman '09**, a urology resident, and **Dr. Ryan Mak, S.J. '09**, a medical resident.

“Giving birth can be scary enough, but doing so in a pandemic is even more so, especially with a restriction on how many people can visit,” **Dr. Otto** noted.

What most people don't realize, “is just how scared doctors can also get, especially as there is still so much we don't know. It's hard to formulate treatments and create protocols when information changes day to day and even hour to hour.”

Still, she and her colleagues “try to do the best we can for our patients. When I go into a room to meet a woman who is about to deliver, I'll remind her that I'm smiling under my mask.”



FROM LEFT: Susannah (Groh) McGann '09, Micaela Shorrock '06 and Jamie Rey '06.

The challenge, she added, is to bring “positivity to mothers, as their births should be joyful and exciting. I try to communicate that even when my face is hidden. I want them to know that we're there for them and will do our best to keep them and their babies healthy.”

Jamie Rey '06, who works as a birth center nurse at UCSF along with **Micaela Shorrock '06** and **Susannah (Groh) McGann '09**, has seen two mothers suffering from COVID-19 as of April 18, but her unit is on high alert and has instituted new procedures to ensure the safety of medical staff and those whom they serve.

She stressed the need to balance “keeping the mental and emotional excitement of new life in the forefront while dealing with new information that is changing daily. When I get home, I am constantly questioning if I am giving the best care to these women and their families and honoring their experiences.”

Shorrock turns to the Prayer of St. Ignatius as a source of comfort and as a way to start her shift. “I constantly hear the words ‘to give and not to count the cost, to fight and not to heed the wounds, to toil and not seek for rest.’ It is a calming prayer and has gotten me through life and some difficult shifts.”

Rey also worries about her fellow nurses. “Although our patients are our priority, we nurses are also worried about exposure to ourselves and the risk of exposing others, including our loved ones.”

TELEMEDICINE & TELEHEALTH

To keep patients and medical professionals safe during the pandemic, doctors and nurses have turned to telemedicine with a speed and success that has surprised even the fiercest critics. (Telemedicine — a subset of telehealth — “involves the use of electronic communications and software to provide clinical services to patients without an in-person visit,” according to the telemedicine company Chiron.)

Dr. Kapadia harbored some reservations over the years regarding telemedicine “and always considered it a compromise. I thought in-person encounters would allow me to offer a therapeutic human touch thanks to the intuition you gain from interacting with a person face-to-face.”

Now that nearly all her outpatient visits with patients are virtual, she has come to see the value of telemedicine. “That shift ironically brought me closer to the human side of medicine, in that both doctors and patients have a shared mission — to keep everyone safe and to streamline our resources for the very sick. Patients are much more comfortable at home, and I get a better sense of who they are in their homes. This gives me a deeper sense of connection to patients and to medicine. There is a softening of that relationship because we are all in this together.”

The challenge, she added, “is to distinguish over the phone or video how sick a patient is and whether there is pathology, COVID or no COVID. There are limitations.”

Dr. Eliza (Gaenger) Bennitt '94, a community physician specializing in internal medicine at Menlo Medical Clinic, is currently seeing about 80 percent of her patients over the computer.

“As we saw community spread start to happen, we knew that anyone walking into our clinic could have COVID-19, and we needed to rapidly figure out a way to care for these sick patients, but at the same time, maintain the health of the rest of our other patients as well as our doctors, nurses and other clinic staff.”

The move to virtual care was successful “thanks to Stanford Hospital's phenomenal IT Department that got our clinics



Dr. Eliza (Gaenger) Bennitt '94



Dr. Evan Yates '07

rapidly up and running with telehealth, which has allowed many patients to shelter-in-place. Heart disease, diabetes and cancer don't go away when there's a pandemic. Virtual visits allow us to continue to care for all of our patients."

In addition to simply looking at how well her patients are doing, **Dr. Bennitt** can use existing and new technologies to triage her patients over the computer. "Many people have blood pressure cuffs and thermometers at home. In addition, many clinics have been able to loan patients pulse oximeter devices so that they can monitor their own oxygen levels. One of the first signs that someone has become more seriously ill with COVID-19 is that their oxygen levels start to drop."

She recognizes the limits of telemedicine, as "you can't do everything virtually. I can't push on someone's abdomen to feel for areas that may be tender, and I certainly can't help anyone who needs stitches, who has broken a bone or who has dislocated a shoulder. However, I have been able to effectively treat many issues virtually."

Dr. Bennitt hopes that telehealth and telemedicine grow "even after this pandemic is over. I have patients in the North Bay and Central California who still want care at Stanford, and now I can more easily serve them. We have all the technology and tools in place right now."

CREATING MORE SOLUTIONS

In addition to virtual medicine, a host of SI grads have been busy finding or making PPE and coming up with innovative solutions for new problems, including **Kevin O'Brien '92**, vice president of Development Business Operations for Gilead Sciences, Inc. and his classmate **Brian Giovanola '92**, director of Systems and Process for the Foster City-based company, whose drug remdesivir was the first approved by the FDA to treat patients with COVID-19. (See the story on these two grads in this issue.)

Dr. Evan Yates '07, a resident emergency medicine physician in Manhattan, has used training he received while pursuing an MBA to raise funds to buy PPE for his hospital, and he has been involved in getting faceguards crafted on 3D printers.

"We've been flooded with incredibly sick patients and have seen firsthand the struggles that are widely publicized. I have been working with many others to try to locate and distribute appropriate PPE for all of our colleagues and team members. I'm incredibly proud to be a part of this and received the training so far

to be able to positively contribute, whether it is saving lives from people suffering from this terrible disease or using my business acumen to correctly identify and fix supply-chain mishaps."

Dr. Natasha LaBelle '02, an emergency physician at MarinHealth Medical Center, helped her hospital institute outdoor testing in tents as a result of her being tested at UCSF after coming down with a 102-degree fever.

"The tents allow for otherwise stable patients to be fast-tracked and tested through a safe environment, and they also allow for an extra safety net for staff coming into close contact with potential COVID-19 contacts," she noted. "As a patient, I was so impressed by their care and patient-flow system that I became a part of a work group at Marin that adopted a similar set-up."

Fortunately, **LaBelle's** test came back negative, and she returned to work, where she was part of a team effort to secure personal protective equipment using 3D printers. She also volunteered to support her hospital's COVID-19 response, including internal collaboration among multiple departments as well as external collaboration with other local hospitals.

Her husband, **Kieran Culligan '02**, who works in Strategy and Business Operations at X, the moonshot factory (formerly



Dr. Natasha LaBelle '02



Dr. Natasha LaBelle '02 & Kieran Culligan '02

Google X), played a role in the fight against the pandemic “in part because I saw **Natasha’s** experience firsthand as her hospital prepared for a potential shortage of personal protective equipment. I wondered what could be done from the safety of where I sit behind my computer screen, as I wanted to do something.”

The result was a nonprofit called N95DECON that he helped launch to review, collate, publish and disseminate scientific

information about N95 mask decontamination. A team of scientists from UCSF, Cal, Stanford and Harvard, as well as other universities and the private sector, both looked for existing methods and researched new techniques to inactivate SARS-CoV-2 virus that might be found on masks.

“Some of the most promising solutions involve hydrogen peroxide, UV light and heat. We published our findings on our website — N95DECON.org — with a steady stream of new publications that describe the most promising methods and how they can be implemented. We are now in the process of translating our reports into 10 languages and developing solutions for low-resource settings.”

Hospitals and medical workers in countries around the world, from Switzerland to Malawi, are using N95DECON’s work to guide their next steps “thanks to a warp-speed version of collaboration using new tech tools,” said **Culligan**.

LaBelle’s colleague at MarinHealth, **Dr. Siobhan Harrington '98**, an anesthesiologist, worked with others to craft a unique device called an airway box that would fit over patients’ heads and allow her to intubate them more safely than using only personal protective equipment.

The airway box came into being after one of her colleagues found a design for it on social media posted by a Chinese doctor. “We then modified the design by buying extra-long gloves and attaching them to the device so that we could work with patients

and have a tight seal around them. This is part of a grassroots effort that medical professionals around the country have been doing. It’s crazy that these sorts of innovations are not coming top-down from the government. People on the ground have to be creative and do the best they can with patients.”

Dr. George Jaber '04, an adjunct assistant clinical professor of dentistry at USC and a dentist anesthesiologist in private practice, worked with fellow USC alumnus **Dr. Lawrence Fung** to design a 3D-printed mask that could use FDA-approved anesthesia filters “to block 99.97 percent of viruses and bacteria,” he noted.

He also suggested ways to redesign the mask so that it would have a tight seal on the faces of doctors, nurses and other first-responders as well as accommodate off-the-shelf components that are readily available at all hospitals.

“I didn’t think twice about helping,” **Dr. Jaber** said. “As an anesthesiologist, I know just how dangerous it is to intubate patients, as you open the channel for the virus to leave a sick person’s lungs and infect others. Having masks that you can trust is essential.”

He and his colleagues called on a Redwood City-based company to speed the 3-D manufacturing of the masks, each of which takes three hours to craft, and they produced several hundred, which they donated to hospitals in Los Angeles and New York, where the need was greatest.

Several SI students even lent their expertise, including **August Buessing '22**, who, when faced with a need for masks for his family, asked his mother to teach him to use his family’s sewing machine so that he could make the masks for his parents, his brother and himself.

He then made 50 additional fabric masks, which he donated to the St. Vincent de Paul Society in San Rafael in April. He ordered more elastic to make 800 additional masks for his Eagle Scout project.

James Landis '23, **Nick Lieberman '23** and **Jack Goldstein** also started a business making masks, which they sell at 3guyswhocare.com. For every three masks purchased, they donate a fourth for frontline workers, and they also donate \$5 to an environmental foundation.

SI Spanish teacher and Robotics Team moderator **Pedro Cafasso** also created and donated 250 vizors to hold plastic face shields, using equipment in SI’s robotics workshop.

Bjorn Lustic '15, who is working toward his bachelor’s degree in cognitive science at Cal, still has a year’s worth of work left before his own graduation, but that didn’t stop him from helping seniors celebrate graduation in May, at least virtually.

Lustic and a loose band of fellow students built an online model of the campus on a Minecraft server — a place they call Blockeley University — and he worked with university officials to use that space to offer Cal students a place to hold a virtual graduation in lieu of the real thing.

In addition, **Tyler Tran '22** helped Trattoria Da Vittorio, a West Portal restaurant, by creating a website so that customers could order take-out food directly, saving the company a 30-percent commission.



Dr. George Jaber '04



August Buessing '22



James Landis '23



Pedro Cafasso



Bjorn Lustic '15



Tyler Tran '22



Zoe Boosalis '16

Zoe Boosalis '16 and **Michael Sandor** created a dashboard that tracks the fall operating plans of more than 300 universities. For each school, they designate a status tag (no decision, remote, hybrid or in-person), summarize updates and provide links. Users can filter the universities by different categories. Go to joinpack.app to see the results.

THE ADVOCATES

Other non-medical professionals have stepped up to support causes during the pandemic. SI Trustee **Niall McCarthy '85**, the past president of the Consumer Attorneys of California and a partner at the Cotchett, Pitre and McCarthy law firm, had an opinion piece published in the *San Francisco Chronicle* urging **Gov. Newsom** not to sign an executive order granting nursing homes “blanket immunity from all civil and criminal prosecution for the duration of the pandemic. The proposed order would grant immunity, not only for injuries or deaths that result from treating the coronavirus, but for all claims of elder abuse.”



Niall McCarthy '85

He argued that “the coronavirus is a ruthless pathogen that has brought untold suffering to the world. That fact should not be used to shield nursing homes from accountability. Expecting these facilities to police themselves without any oversight will certainly doom more of our seniors.”

Phil McManus '69, the Latin America program officer for the Appleton Foundation, wrote a piece for the SI website advocating for people held in ICE detention facilities, which “do not allow for adequate social distancing and don’t have a very good record on medical care. There are growing numbers of COVID-19 infections in those facilities. Not surprisingly, detainees are



Phil McManus '69

now desperate to get out so they don’t die in detention. But they need support in order to do so.”

He urged people and churches to consider volunteering to take in asylum seekers, even for a short-term quarantine, and he offered his local group as a resource for how to do that. “If you are interested in helping, there’s no need for professional training, just a desire to help. Moreover, in this time of shelter-in-place, there are many church facilities sitting empty that might be used for short-term quarantine purposes.”

Andrew Dudum '07, the founder and CEO of Hims & Hers, wrote in *Fast Company* that the government should ensure payment for at-home COVID-19 testing in a coordinated effort with the FDA. He argued that “affordable home testing will unburden the health system and help get the economy going. At Hims & Hers, we are working with a network of certified and accredited labs and coordinating with the FDA to ensure that we can create access to these tests for the American people.”

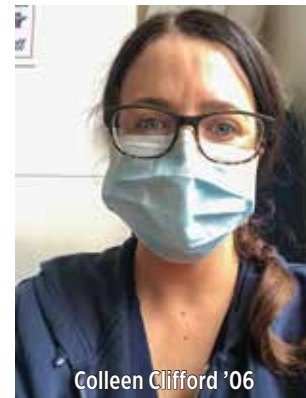


Andrew Dudum '07

POST-PANDEMIC HOPES

Once the stay-at-home order is eased, “it won’t be back to business as usual in the City,” noted **Bechelli**, of the city’s Department of Emergency Management. “When people are allowed back to work, they will most likely have to wear face coverings and maintain social distancing. That might be hard for people who aren’t used to these precautions. People should expect that life will be different in San Francisco for a while.”

Colleen Clifford '06, an ICU nurse at UCSF, hopes that medicine will be different, too. “This pandemic is a wake-up call to let people know just how broken the healthcare system is in the U.S. It has taken the rose-colored glasses off for almost everyone now. If someone gets sick and hears a diagnosis, their second thought is, ‘What is this going to cost me?’ That’s pretty tragic. Anyone who loses a job also loses health insurance. We’ve also seen our delayed response to the pandemic and a lack of personal protective equipment. We clearly need to reform the system.”



Colleen Clifford '06

Dr. Leung decried the lack of government coordination “which has led to a free-market approach. This means that we’re competing with Kaiser, Sutter and all the other hospital networks for supplies. Instead, we should be working with each other to share resources, coordinate testing and ensure lab accuracy. We don’t have enough testing kits or labs, so we still don’t know how bad this pandemic is.”

Dr. Jennifer Chan '94, a thoracic surgeon at Washington Hospital Healthcare Services in Fremont, has already seen the future in her waiting room. “We have extended time in the clinic so we keep no one waiting, and we screen them before they come to see us by testing their temperature and asking about any COVID-19 symptoms. Our workers get screened too, but we don’t test everyone, as we just don’t have enough tests.”



Dr. Jennifer Chan '94

She also hopes that “we can move away from job-based insurance to insure everyone.” **Dr. Brad Angeja '88**, a cardiologist and chair of the Cardiovascular Department of Mills-Peninsula Medical Center, agreed and noted that every crisis brings opportunities.

“Even conservative politicians are recognizing the need for a better health safety net. It’s ironic that the very politicians who shot down healthcare reform in their attacks on the Affordable Care Act are willing to put up money to pay for the care of coronavirus patients. We should look at models, such as Kaiser Permanente, Sutter, the VA and county hospitals or explore single-payer systems. With the proper spirit and administration, we can do better. Maybe this will focus fresh efforts on healthcare reform that is smart and not politicized. Sadly, we’ve seen that with poor government leadership and a lack of infrastructure, disasters will happen. We need to remember this, especially with an election on the way.” ∞



Dr. Brad Angeja '88



BELOW, Kevin O'Brien '92, a vice president at Gilead Sciences, and Brian Giovanola '92 (pictured with his family at RIGHT), worked long hours to help remdesivir gain FDA approval and find its way to hospitals around the world.

Class of '92 grads Kevin O'Brien & Brian Giovanola help Gilead Sciences launch remdesivir, the first FDA-treatment for COVID-19

When the experimental drug remdesivir was approved May 1 by the FDA to treat patients hospitalized with COVID-19, at least two SI grads weren't all that surprised, as they had seen the results of a study conducted by the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which showed that patients with severe symptoms recovered four days faster than those taking a placebo — a 31 percent decrease from 15 to 11 days.

Kevin O'Brien '92, vice president of Development Business Operations for Gilead Sciences, Inc. and his classmate **Brian Giovanola '92**, director of Systems and Process for the Foster City-based company, had been working hard to get their company's drug out into the world as the first ever approved for COVID-19.

The company also donated 1.5 million vials of the drug, enough to treat between 100,000 and 200,000 people, and it stepped up production to meet global demand, reducing the normal production time from 12 months to 6 months.

A *New England Journal of Medicine* study published April 10 showed improvements in 68 percent of those using the drug, which was first developed to combat Ebola, while another study at the University of Chicago showed even better results.

O'Brien, who holds both an MBA and law degree and who has worked for Gilead for 11 years, supports the business side of its operation, managing a global team of 120 professionals to deliver finance, outsourcing, vendor management and clinical contracts for all of Gilead's 200-plus clinical trials.

Gilead's involvement with COVID-19 began in mid-January, when a leadership team met to discuss development

operations for 2,400 of the company's 12,000 employees. The novel coronavirus was on the agenda for the first time "and we debated how much we should focus on this as an organization versus our normal development pipeline of therapeutics," said **O'Brien**.

"Some wondered if it was worse than the flu, and we looked at our library of therapeutic candidates. We quickly focused on a drug that had potential value, one that showed some effect with Ebola and SARS. One week later, we realized this was going to be far different from the flu, and we were told to make it our number-one priority over all other R&D projects. My manager, a senior vice president, told me that I needed to operate outside of normal business lines — to overstep anything to make this happen."

To pave the way for this drug to be used in hospitals and medical sites around the world, **O'Brien** led a herculean effort that topped anything he had ever done. He and his team worked 16-hour days for 14 straight days to accelerate the launch of multiple global clinical trials and programs, including the ongoing negotiation of 2,000 contracts between Gilead and hospitals and clinics around the world so that the drug could be released for testing and compassionate use.

"We faced a tidal wave of requests from sick patients," he added. "Normally, when we release experimental drugs for compassionate use, it's for one or two people at a time. We were receiving 450 requests a day from all over the world."

He spent one Sunday morning negotiating with a vendor to hire 130 people who could start in less than 48 hours



to accommodate the demand for remdesivir. “That’s an outrageous thing to get done that quickly, and those people were soon handling requests to get the processing done.”

Later, **O’Brien** learned of a conversation between Gilead CEO **Daniel O’Day** and President **Donald Trump** at the White House along with 12 other leaders of pharmaceutical companies. “Because of that conversation, we had to get a contract signed with a hospital in Seattle and have the drug shipped there in a matter of hours, as Vice President **Pence** was about to leave D.C. to visit that site. We were up until 2 in the morning to get the job done. Something like that would normally take 40 days. That’s been the story over and over since the outbreak of this pandemic.”

The drug became more widely available after Gilead transitioned to an Expanded Access Program, which allowed the company to give the drug to governments and hospitals for qualified patients, and that change allowed the drug to be used in 40 countries, up from 14 in mid-April in just one week.

During this time, **Giovanola** was busy helping through his team. A 5-year veteran at the company who now serves as director of Gilead’s Systems and Process division, **Giovanola** leads a group of software developers who build custom applications where there are no “off the shelf” ones to buy.

In the case of remdesivir, his team built the web portal that healthcare providers use to request compassionate use access to the drug for critically ill patients.

“Building the portal wasn’t as easy to do as it sounds. It needed to be accessible to healthcare professionals all over the planet who use varying levels of technology and who may not speak English. Some even still use Netscape as a browser, so we needed to make the site simple but also able to provide us

with good data so that we could efficiently interact quickly with these health care providers to get remdesivir to patients who are critically ill and whose lives we could potentially be saving.”

Giovanola led the development project team that included business partners across Clinical Research, Clinical Development, Biometrics, Legal, Operations and Regulatory Affairs along with a global team of developers coding around the clock to “stand up the initial portal remarkably quickly in just under 70 hours. The next six weeks involved 20-hour days to respond to requests for changes and enhancement resulting from a rapidly changing environment and new data requirements. We had to identify, qualify and triage requests before we could ship this potentially life-saving drug to desperate patients.”

The criteria that would qualify a patient for compassionate use access to the drug “changed sometimes as often as twice a day, so that made things even more complicated. We have had more than 5,000 requests for the drug thus far, and we’ve been able to meet those demands.”

Both he and **O’Brien** hope that remdesivir is an interim solution until a vaccine is achieved. “We don’t know how much this will cost us in the end, and we’re taking a business risk to do this,” said **O’Brien**. “Our CEO has said that profit hasn’t entered into the equation. He’s looking at this from an ethical perspective and working to do what’s in the best interest of our civilization. He is committed to making this affordable and accessible to the world. In my 11 years here, I’ve seen this happen time and time again, where we follow the path of science and not the path of profit in order to do the right thing for patients all over the world.”



Greg Aherne '75 & Ann Marie Coletta help the homeless during the crisis

Greg Aherne '75 turned his life around thanks to two bars.

The first was the bar where he met **Ann Marie Coletta** in San Francisco, which proved the start of their loving relationship and, years later, their shared work.

The second was careening over the handlebars of his bike in 2013, breaking his back.

Aherne had been drinking steadily since his days studying at San Diego State, where he earned his bachelor's degree in recreation. The bike accident was the wake-up call he needed to stop drinking and turn his life around.

"While I was recovering from my injuries, I moved downtown and saw people on the streets looking cold and hungry," said **Aherne**. "Seeing them suffer moved me, so I went into my studio apartment, got blankets and jackets and gave them away along with food from my little refrigerator. I continued doing that, making peanut butter sandwiches and passing them out. That was the beginning of my transformation — being open to the suffering of others."

He and **Coletta**, an ordained interfaith minister and Zen Buddhist who went through her own journey to sobriety, co-created Raising Sparks Interfaith Ministry, offering "compassion ministry" through feeding homeless men and women while passing out hygiene kits and letters of love on the streets of San Francisco.

Their work has inspired many, including **Aherne's** classmate **Dan Buick '75**, who noted that the pair "have taken on a super righteous endeavor by trying to make a difference with the people living on the streets of San Francisco. While they have no obvious solutions to this very complicated societal issue, they are making a difference in these people's lives on a daily basis."

Both work other jobs to pay their bills, and they minister in their free hours to San Franciscans who suffer from homelessness, mental health and addiction issues or a combination of the three. **Aherne** works for UCSF in a mental health clinic south of Market, where he assesses people as they come in for help, while **Coletta**, who has held many jobs in the city's mental health system, works as part of the support staff for Conard House on Mission Street, which operates eight supportive housing units south of Market and in the Tenderloin.

Coletta praises **Aherne** for the work he does for UCSF, where "he befriends clients in ways that make him a safety net. He is able to de-escalate situations that even case managers can't because he forms authentic relationships with people. That's the gift he brings to Raising Sparks."

As a student at The Chaplaincy Institute in Berkeley, **Coletta** came up with the name Raising Sparks after learning about Jewish mysticism. "The Kabbalah tells a creation story of beautiful vessels in heaven that held divine light so bright that they burst and fell to earth as shards. We are those shards, and when we connect, we raise the sparks in each other as well as our collective consciousness."

The organization also grew, added **Aherne**, out of their dissatisfaction with the way government agencies and some nonprofits deal with mental health issues. They formed their own nonprofit in 2019 after a few years of doing homeless outreach.

Parts of their ministry include monthly meetings at low-income hotels, where guests are invited to help make hygiene kits (filled with toiletries, socks and other items), sandwiches and notes of inspiration for their homeless neighbors. "That second part is the inspiration we offer," said **Coletta**. "Those notes offer compassion



that flows from a sacred space, where we share coping skills, laughter and friendship while building community.”

Coletta tells the story of one woman who came to monthly meetings sponsored by Raising Sparks. “Those meetings helped her gain confidence and think about working full time. She applied for a job, and I agreed to be her reference. The AIDS Foundation later hired her in its syringe exchange program.”

Aherne pointed to others “who used to show up to our meetings disheveled and intoxicated, and now they are coming cleanly dressed and engaged in our work.”

Another aspect of the ministry is a monthly Chili Fest that has continued since October 2018, halted only by the COVID-19 stay-at-home order. **Coletta** and **Aherne** serve 100 bowls of chili in an hour on the corner of Jones and Taylor. “Some people just don’t do well in food lines,” said **Coletta**. “They do better with us, where they can hang out in a safe space. We also offer to put Mardi Gras beads around their necks and give them blessings of hope and love.”

Aherne tells the story of a young man who came to the Chili Fest “with eyes wide and darting, clutching his few ragged belongings. As we welcomed and served him, we saw that he was agitated and afraid. He told us that FBI agents were at the next corner waiting for him and trying to harm him. We showed him to a folding chair and told him he was welcome to stay with us.”

After he ate three helpings of chili, “he told me that he had not eaten in a long time. Even though our event is stationed between the two largest soup kitchens in the city, it was clear that he would not last long waiting in one of those lines. Because our program turns no one away and because we embrace each person as they are, people like him can feel

welcome and safe. In time, folks with these kinds of fears can begin to trust and engage with other community services to find help and support.”

Raising Sparks works with other ministries in San Francisco, including The Gubbio Project, Lava Mae and The Healing Well, where **Coletta** did her internship work, offering one-on-one spiritual care and support.

After the shelter-in-place order, the pair decided to pause their Chili Fest offerings, though **Aherne** continued riding his bike to visit those living on the streets and pass out sandwiches “while using a lot of Purell,” he noted. “I do this in part because of the lessons the Jesuits taught me at SI, to be for and with others.”

“**Greg** has spoken about his SI compadres at least once a month for 20 years,” added **Coletta**, who is also continuing her work during the shelter-in-place, offering individual spiritual care and support through the phone and over the computer. “The Jesuits are also part of the fabric of my life thanks to my four years at USF. That’s where I unearthed who I really was and discovered my passion for service.”

Throughout the years, the two have searched for ways “to offer radical hospitality, to offer joy and friendship and to do all this with humility, love and authentic connection,” said **Coletta**. “Even if it’s just for one second when our eyes meet the eyes of someone suffering, we connect in that moment. That’s when healing can happen and lives can change.”

For more information, go to raisingsparksinthestreets.com. 

OPPOSITE PAGE: Greg Aherne and Ann Marie Coletta started Raising Sparks Interfaith Ministry several years ago and continued serving the homeless and those living in SROs throughout the pandemic.

A tribute to *Genesis* editor Paul Totah '75 and his 'three simple goals'

BY JIM MUYO

Teacher. Poet. Author. Mentor.
Humanitarian.

Paul Totah '75 has worn these hats and more for the many students he has taught in his three-plus decades at SI. To me, over the nearly 30 years I've known him, he falls into one other category: Friend.

A lot has been written about **Paul** lately, beginning when he announced his retirement from the faculty in 2018. His long and rich biography has been chronicled in this magazine and other places, and even in this edition there is a moving remembrance, a tribute really, by **Steve Lovette '63**, SI's former vice president for development. So, I set about with a different approach. Also, as **Paul** told me, "We don't need a rehash of where I was born and all of my dreams."

I am honored and humbled to have been asked by **Paul** to write this piece. **Paul** is an inspiration. He doesn't move in any way short of full throttle in anything he does. We met when I was working at USF as communications director and editor of the university's magazine. I don't remember the details of when or where we met, but we were both in the same line of work, toiling for Jesuits in communications at our respective institutions.

One day in 1999, I got a call from **Paul**, who asked if I would partner with him in planning the conference for the summer of 2000 for the Association of Editors of Jesuit Publications. The goal was to bring together editors from Jesuit works including colleges, universities, high schools and other ministries. Having never planned such a conference, I sheepishly said I would be glad to assist. I had no idea what I was getting into. I had never before worked closely with **Paul**.

Simply stated, **Paul** was (and still is) relentless. His focus and passion for ensuring a dynamic conference pervaded each conversation. "Let's select the topics, and let's line up the speakers. We need special events. Who will say the Mass? What about meals? Can we use space at USF?"

I'm pleased to say that the conference was a hit. With **Paul** setting the tone, I learned much about tenacity and passion. Every time I have seen **Paul** since, he brings nothing less than that same tenacity to everything he does. And, he does so for all of the people he reaches and helps.

Paul and I started to meet for lunch on a regular basis while I worked at USF and, later, when I served at the Jesuits West



Paul & Kathryn Totah in Machu Picchu in 2016.

Province in Los Gatos, a job that **Paul** suggested I apply for as he was on the search committee. At almost every lunch, **Paul** would come in holding the latest edition of *Genesis* and asking if I had a copy of my magazine.

We'd discuss the respective magazines, talk about the challenges of freelancers and administrators who wanted things "a certain way," and then we'd chat about our families and what we were doing outside of work. **Paul** would also talk about these "three

simple goals" he wanted to achieve at some point in his life. More on those later.

Many times, after hearing of all of **Paul's** many volunteer and personal projects, I left our lunches shaking my head, thinking, "What I am doing with my life?" I felt as if I were standing still and being left in his dust. Mind you, **Paul** never talked about himself in a boastful or braggadocious manner. That is not his way. Rather, he seems by his example to be inviting others to step up and lend a hand wherever there is a need.



From left: Michael '10, Paul '75 & Lauren Totah '07. Lauren is a counselor at SI, and Michael works in the clean energy sector on the Peninsula. Photo by Kathryn Totah.

Even now, in “retirement,” a word I’m sure he does not embrace or even understand, and in the age of COVID-19, **Paul** still finds the time, the energy and the passion to keep helping others.

“Even though the places I usually go to volunteer are shut down due to the pandemic, I’m still teaching English as a second language to women from Central America at The Lantern in the Mission,” **Paul** said. “Also, every Wednesday, I’m on a Zoom call with people from The Healing Well in the Tenderloin. Some of them are transitioning from addiction, alcoholism or homelessness. I feel just fortunate to be part of their story in their lives. I see myself in the role of traffic cop, just helping everyone to share their wisdom.”

Paul also volunteers with Tree City Pacifica, to plan an Arbor Day celebration in his home town to help combat climate change. He manages the group’s Facebook page, where he has shared information about environmental racism in light of the Black Lives Matter movement.

He also manages the Facebook page for the Palestinian American Coalition – San Francisco, which organizes an annual Palestinian cultural day in Foster City. “We work to educate the broader community about issues surrounding Palestine,” said **Paul**, whose father was born in Ramallah. In the fall, he also helps students at Immaculate Conception Academy revise their college essays.

OK, get the picture? Are any of you shaking your head, just as I do after my lunches with **Paul**? These activities don’t even include the “three simple goals” that he still wants to achieve. Again, more on those later.

As **Paul** was putting this edition of *Genesis* – his last – to bed, I asked him what he would miss most about editing the magazine. He said he was looking ahead to the many things that the world needs and how he can help. This new decade began with the COVID-19 pandemic, and it quickly took a dramatic and unexpected turn with the killing of **George Floyd** in Minneapolis on Memorial Day.

“Now the world is on fire,” **Paul** said about race relations, civil unrest and the call for police reform. “One of the things that I just keep thinking is how much more work there is to do to further the cause of justice and equity in this country.”

For that, he’s hopeful that the Jesuit education he experienced as a student at SI and Santa Clara University – and the teaching he did at SI since he was hired in 1985 – will make a difference.

“We promote values-centric education,” he noted. “We’re just not going to teach engineering to produce good engineers. We work to inspire students to put those skills to use in order to help and heal the poorest and most vulnerable among us to create a just, equitable, healthy and sustainable world.”

Paul also has very fond memories of the lives touched, the lives impacted. “The best classes I ever taught weren’t the best thanks to me but because of the chemistry that happens when great students are given the opportunity to shine. I had the joy of sitting back and watching them explode with goodness, brilliance and talent. My role was to create opportunities for them to be their best selves.”

That’s really what **Paul** is about, making things better, giving people to opportunity

to succeed and excel. And, that’s in line with those “three simple goals” that **Paul** would share with me at nearly every one of our lunches. Those three goals?

1. Fight Climate Change. He’s already started to do that in his hometown of Pacifica with Tree City Pacifica.

2. Work for Peace in Palestine. He’s working on that with his work for the Palestinian American Coalition.

3. Reform Secondary Education. This is a dream he has long held, and it’s not idle chatter. **Paul** co-wrote *Charting a New Course: Reinventing High School Classes for the New Millennium* with SI social science teacher **Eric Castro '92**.

Paul has never been one to shy away from a challenge, and while each of these “three simple goals” have challenged the globe for decades, if there’s one person I know who might be able to accomplish all three given the time and the resources and the sheer force of his will, it is **Paul Totah**, my friend, who inspires me not to stand idly by when action needs to be taken to help people in need.

It is my pleasure and my good fortune to know you, **Paul**. You inspire and motivate me as I’m sure you did the many students who were privileged to be in your classroom.

Here’s to the next chapter. The next lunch is on me. ☺

Jim Muyo is a former reporter for the Oakland Tribune and director of communications and magazine editor at USF and the Jesuits West Province. He currently serves as director of communications at Samuel Merritt University in Oakland.



Paul & his father, John B. Totah.

Colleagues and peers reflect on the editor of *Genesis* magazine

Sometimes, we can get a better sense of who a person is not by listening to the person himself but by hearing from the people who have known and worked with him. Here are the thoughts from the people who, like, me, have been fortunate to work with **Paul**. — *Jim Muyo*



In my 13 years as principal of SI, I did not make a better hire. Not only was **Paul** a superb English teacher, but he raised *Genesis* magazine to a higher level. **Paul** accomplished this because of his total love of our beloved SI and his deep

understanding and embodiment of Ignatian spirituality. We were blessed beyond measure by this good and dear man.

— *Mario Prieto, SJ, SI principal 1981 – 1994*



As **Harry Carlin, S.J.**, put the modern SI on the map, **Paul Totah**, editor-in-chief of *Genesis* and PR spokesman for the Sunset school, promulgated and popularized the longtime Jesuit San Francisco college preparatory for a

contemporary culture.

This incredibly talented and creative writer and publisher brought the traditional high school into the 21st century.

Paul masterminded it all; he even wrote the sesquicentennial history of the school, *Spiritus Magis*. This loyal alumnus, teacher, insightful counselor and wise colleague will never be forgotten by Ignatians everywhere.

Fr. Carlin put SI on the map; **Paul** sent that map into the stratosphere.

— *Anthony P. Sauer, S.J., SI president, 1979 – 2006*

As a relative newcomer to the Jesuits West Province staff, I quickly turned to my peers at our Province for advice and help, and there was no one I leaned on more than **Paul Totah**. A graceful, powerful writer and an accomplished photographer, **Paul** is a born storyteller and the very definition of an Ignatian communicator. He brings such a



sense of mission and artistry to everything he does, but the defining characteristic of **Paul's** work is his fierce love for SI. It is hard to imagine SI and, in particular, *Genesis* magazine without

Paul. While **Paul** may be finishing his mission with SI, I know he will continue to do what he does best — tell stories that lift our spirits and help us recognize the many ways that God is working in our lives.

— *Tracy Primrose, Jesuits West Province communications director*



Reading *Genesis*, you can feel and understand what Jesuit education is. **Paul Totah** makes this possible. Over the years, his work has helped advance the mission of SI in too many ways to count.

I think he produces one of the finest alumni publications in the U.S., among both high schools and universities. In an age where magazines are on the decline, neighborhood newspapers and school journals, what I call “hyperlocal” publications are thriving and becoming even more relevant. Ask an alum or supporter of SI about the way he or she feels when *Genesis* arrives in the mailbox. You know you have just received a small gift filled with good news and good writing.

I have many connections to **Paul**. He was in the same class at SI as two of my cousins, but I first heard his name when my mom worked with him as a member of the Ignatian Guild. I never had him as a teacher, but my older sister, **Juliana Terheyden '97**, reported he was an excellent one. He was a faculty leader on my junior retreat, and truth be told, I remember more of the lessons learned during those few days off campus than in some of my classes that year.

Paul and I reconnected at an alumni event, and when I joined Archbishop Riordan High School as director of communications in 2011, he became a trusted colleague. We both understood the nuanced world of school marketing and communications, and although we worked at different places, we shared the same goal to promote the value of education everywhere. As **Paul** often said, “a rising tide lifts all boats.”

Nine years ago **Paul** provided feedback on the first magazine I produced for Riordan. I think **Paul** invited me to lunch at the Jesuit dining room — he is hospitable like that. I was a novice magazine editor excited to share the product of months of labor with “the Great One,” as **John Ring '86** calls him. In his straightforward and thoughtful way, he gently suggested a list of much needed improvements. This showed me he was truly a teacher at heart. I'll never forget his advice: produce a product that anyone could pick up and learn something from, regardless of any connection to the school. That was invaluable and something I always bring to my work.

Paul is a prolific writer. I'll admit that sometimes it takes me a few weeks to get through a single issue of *Genesis*, but his stories and profiles that highlight the value of an SI education are truly exceptional. The magazine always includes intelligently written and interesting articles, and the best issues tell the stories of authentic people working to change the world. If you stumbled upon *Genesis* in a dentist's office or swiped it from your neighbor's mail, you'd think, “Wow, this is a fine school.” And if someone reading this has committed the latter infraction, it was probably because a *Genesis* cover generally features a stunning piece of photography.



My favorite issue was “Rethinking Africa” (Summer 2013 above), where **Paul** explored this vast continent in new and different ways through the eyes of SI alumni. In his introduction he gave readers this simple invitation: “I hope the stories here... remind you, too, of your connections to people and land, history and culture far from your own and encourage you to be stewards of something larger than yourself.”

Writing prowess aside, I think **Paul's** true God-given gift is the way he connects with people. His lens is goodness and truth, but like a good Catholic and a good reporter, he asks tough questions to find answers that will make the world better and more beautiful. He

has the ability to be both present and uber-responsive. I joke that if his email response time is more than five minutes (even while traveling in different time zones), something is wrong. Yet I've also observed him in interviews and how he builds trust with his subject. He can find common ground with anyone.

You'll also never have a conversation with **Paul** without him mentioning his family, whom I've only met briefly but feel as if I know well. He is deeply proud of his wife and children and the paths they have chosen.

I had the good fortune to hire **Paul** to write a few articles for Riordan's alumni magazine, *Future*. Last November, *Future* won an award from the San Francisco Press Club for an issue **Paul** contributed to. This was a professional highlight for me, one that I was honored to share with my mentor.

What's next for **Paul**? I think he should run for Mayor of Pacifica, but I know he'll continue to write prolifically and stay connected to the SI community. In the year 2055, someone will be writing the bicentennial history of SI. This could very well be **Paul** after his tremendous work on *Spiritus Magis: 150 Years of St. Ignatius College Preparatory*, but the only reason why I would suggest another writer is that he is too humble to devote an entire chapter to himself and the ways that his storytelling in *Genesis* helped advance the mission of SI. And that is very much an important chapter in the school's history.

— **Victoria Terheyden '99**,
Riordan High School communications director



If I had to highlight anything about **Paul**, it is his work ethic. Nobody works harder than **Paul Totah**. He is an inspiration to his colleagues, and his professional approach to every project causes everyone around him to raise their game. In

terms of role models in the workplace, **Paul** is at the very top of all lists.

It has often been said that "the office of *Genesis* never sleeps" because **Paul** answers calls and emails at all hours of the day, will drive or fly anywhere for a story, goes out of his way to create new work for himself and is never satisfied until he gets it right. The school raised millions of dollars during **Paul's** time as *Genesis* editor, and much of that can be attributed to him. There have been countless occasions when

Paul would meet with someone to write a story and come back to report that the graduate he interviewed agreed to start a \$100,000 endowed scholarship. That is no coincidence. **Paul** has written hundreds of stories that have raised the profile of our school and that have made us all proud to be a part of something special.

— **John Ring '86**,
former SI alumni director



I had the pleasure of working with **Paul** for my entire 17 years as SI's alumni director. During those years, he and I were a part of the Development Team, headed by **Father Sauer** and **Steve Lovette '63**, that worked on the

multi-year *Genesis* capital campaign, which transformed the footprint of SI's campus.

As *Genesis* editor, **Paul** was SI's official voice that reached out to alumni, parents, benefactors and the broader San Francisco community. To be perfectly honest, we could not have completed this million dollar effort without him. The man was genius in his ability to communicate in a manner that was not only informative, but also creatively engaging. **Paul's** writing skills reach far beyond *Genesis* magazine, as evidenced by the number of books he has published on a wide range of subjects. He is truly the Poet Laureate of Pacifica.

— **James Dekker '68**,
former SI alumni director



"O, Captain! My Captain! Our fearful trip is done,
The ship has weather'd every rack, the prize we sought is won,
The port is near, the bells I hear, the people all exulting."

One of my nicknames for **Paul** these past years has been "captain," as it alludes to this poem from Walt Whitman, a fellow poet and kindred champion of mother earth. It also bespeaks my profound respect for SI's own Leonardo da Vinci.

Paul is *always* a teacher — patient, nudging, encouraging and, most of all, hopeful. He's an Ignatian visionary. He loved

team-teaching his Nature/Nexus class with **Chad Evans** and continued to work with the Green Team and the junior class during Stewardship Week. I give him a bad time about planting native weeds out at Lands' End, but doggone it if he hasn't made a difference out there over all these years.

Paul and **Eric Castro '92** authored a book profiling 21st century teachers who are exploring different educational experiences to connect today's student with tomorrow's world. I have loved talking education with **Paul** on this topic. He has me, on my walks at night, thinking about classes titled "Water" or "Transportation" or "Energy" or "The California State Constitution" and how these cross-curricular classes could animate and reshape education.

Paul was asked by **Fr. Tony Sauer** to take over editing *Genesis* in 1987. He turned an 8-page rag into the best school magazine in the country — and that's at *both* the high school and college levels! **Paul** made an art form of capturing stories of how our graduates have lived out our mission, and he has done so through gripping interviews, poetic prose and photos that tell SI's story.

Perhaps **Paul's** seminal life experience was going through the Spiritual Exercises with **Fr. Tony Sauer** as his director. I loved hearing him share his 19th Annotation experiences with **Mary Ahlback's** senior religion class. There's no guile in this man: He's curious, interesting, passionate and sensitive to our planet and the people who trod it. These qualities, I believe, are an outgrowth of his spiritual life.

So, too, was SI's Dialogue Club. For years, he had participated in a Bay Area group of Palestinians and Jews who got to know one another and dream of a peaceful Middle East. At SI, he and several other teachers did that with the Dialogue Club, where they gave students a chance to share their stories as a way of breaking down barriers. He is a man of peace.

The first time I asked our team to articulate goals for the upcoming year, **Paul** said three things: He wanted to fight climate change, work toward peace in the Middle East and transform education. He wasn't kidding. He has done great, iconic, deep, Ignatian work his entire career here.

This teacher, editor and retreatant is really a visionary, healer and saint.

— **Joe Vollert '84**,
SI's vice president for advancement

Photo of Joe Vollert by Bowerbird.





The Class of 2020 returns to school

Seniors came to SI May 28 to pick up boxes filled with caps, gowns, *The Quill*, *The Ignatian* and other goodies in advance of what would have been their May 30 graduation. About 40 faculty came to cheer them on and distribute the boxes. Graduation is scheduled to take place July 25. Look for coverage of this on the SI website. Photos by Bowerbird.

Alicia J. Donahue, Esq., named chair of SI's Board of Trustees



Alicia J. Donahue, SI's chair of the Board of Trustees as of July 1 and the first woman to hold this position, sang the praises of her predecessors — **Greg Bonfiglio, S.J.**, and **Peter Siggins '73** — and reflected on her history with the school.

"When I was a student at St. Rose Academy, our carpool drove down Sunset Boulevard so we could see the boys going to SI," she noted. "We felt like outsiders, and we were, but we also felt an affinity for SI, as the sports events and dances were an integral part of our high school experience."

Back then, she added, "I didn't know much about the Jesuits or Ignatian spirituality. My three children — **Samantha Geno '05**, **Georgia Johnson '09** and

Edward (E.J.) Silvia, Jr. '11 — attended SI. I owe it to them, as well as to **Fr. Greg, Peter** and **Fr. Eddie Reese, S.J.**, for helping me understand more about what it means to be an Ignatian — something that has become a central part of my life."

Her predecessors, she added, "put Ignatian principles at the forefront of our work as Trustees. They practiced discernment and showed wisdom in how they served the school. I hope I can continue to do that as well, and I feel honored to be selected for this post."

Ms. Donahue started her position in the midst of a pandemic as well as a time of racial divisions and calls for equity and healing. "The pandemic's effect on school life at SI happened fast. I was so impressed with the administration, staff and the students themselves over the last quarter. Moreover, recent events have shown us all the importance — indeed, the necessity — of being aware of and acknowledging our inherent biases. As a Board, we try to ensure that SI provides meaningful and inclusive opportunities for diverse members of our community. Towards that end, I'm pleased that we recently saw the graduation of the first eighth grade class of the Father Sauer Academy and their matriculation to SI."

A native San Franciscan, **Ms. Donahue**, earned her law degree from USF in 1984 after graduating from Cal. She has made the Best Lawyers in America list since 2018 and was selected by the *San Francisco Business Times* in 2017 as one of the Most Influential Women in Bay Area Business.

She was honored as an Expert Guide for Women in Business Law in 2016 and

earned a spot on the Who's Who Legal, Life Sciences list in 2016 and 2020. In 2006, she was named among California's Top Women Litigators by the *California Daily Journal*.

The co-chair of the Product Liability Litigation Practice Group, Donahue served as the managing partner of the firm's San Francisco office between 2005 and 2011.

For more than 30 years, she has represented drug and device manufacturers in complex litigation and has coordinated proceedings and multidistrict litigation cases (MDLs) throughout the country.

She currently serves as the firm's Relationship Partner for Pfizer, Inc., Roche and Genentech Inc., for which she also serves as national MDL counsel. She also represents these companies in mass tort litigation throughout the country.

She has presented at the Defense Research Institute, the American Bar Association's Product Liability Section and Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section, the American Society for Quality Biomedical Division as well as the Diversity and Flexibility Alliance on numerous topics, including complex tort litigation, jury selection, punitive damages and deposition strategy.

She is a member of numerous professional associations as well as a former trustee of the De Marillac Academy and the Forbes Chair of the Board of Directors of Immaculate Conception Academy. She is currently vice president and secretary of the Board of Directors of The O'Shea Foundation. ∞

Kate Kodros retires after 44 years as a leader in Catholic education



Kate Kodros with students in 2014 and (RIGHT) in 1995, shortly after being promoted to assistant principal for academics.



Kate Kodros, who spent most of her 44 years in Catholic education at SI, is retiring after a career marked by brilliance, innovation and leadership.

That it came during a pandemic was, in a strange way, fortuitous for **Kodros**. Earlier this year, doctors found a cyst on her larynx that had been causing her to lose her voice. “I guess that comes with yelling at teenagers all these years,” she noted.

Her doctor gave her two options — undergo surgery or rest her voice. “I spent the next two days at home trying to get my voice back, and then we told our students to stay home due to the pandemic. Had I stayed in the classroom rather than teach through Zoom, I would have had to continue using a microphone and a loudspeaker.”

Students were able to learn from home, and school was able to continue thanks in large part to the work **Kodros** did while serving as assistant principal for academics — a job she held between 1995 and 2009 — and her accomplishments following her return to the classroom to teach world history.

The Learning Management Systems committee, which she chaired, led the way in selecting tools such as Canvas, which gave teachers an efficient way to assign homework, do offsite testing and manage their classrooms. “I don’t know how we would have succeeded at digital learning without it,” she added.

That sort of forward thinking marked **Kodros’** entire career. In 1995, she became the first woman in the province to serve as an assistant principal. The year after she stepped down, she taught part time and spent the other portion “learning how to be a teacher

in the 21st century. I followed colleagues around as if I were their prized goat. I learned so much from **Eric Castro ’92**, **John Stiegeler ’74**, **Katy Dumas**, **Shel Zatzkin** and **Steve Phelps**. They taught me how to make good Keynote and PowerPoint presentations and package information better than ever using big visuals.”

Later, she embraced the use of iPads in her classroom and helped students learn to use Google Docs and Sheets to collaborate on group projects. “I did yell at more than a few kids for watching March Madness or playing video games, but for the most part, I saw the iPad as a great learning tool.”

The result for **Kodros** was that “the second wave of my time in the classroom was better than the first wave. I knew far more about what worked and what didn’t.”

Kodros has long been a leader in Catholic education, even as a student at Immaculate Heart High School in Los Angeles. **Kodros** (then **Kate Kelly**), began her path toward leadership as the president of the school’s 50-member drill team despite being cut from that team in her freshman year.

“We had a small budget and no professional choreographers, and each girl made her own uniform, but we still took first place in a 20-school competition,” said **Kodros**.

As a freshman and sophomore at SCU, **Kodros** honed her leadership skills on the Student Senate before spending her junior year studying in Florence. She followed her bachelor’s degree in history with a teaching credential from USF and was hired by St. Rose Academy, where she worked as a teacher, counselor and senior class moderator until coming



to SI in 1988 to serve as a counselor and assist with the school's transition to coeducation.

In her time as an assistant principal, she helped SI's faculty become even more skilled, oversaw curriculum revisions and led the school through three accreditations that gave the school top marks.

Throughout her tenure, **Kodros** stressed outcomes-based learning. "Instead of asking themselves what they will cover tomorrow, teachers ask what they want students to know, understand or do by the end of one class. This is a simple but significant paradigm shift that resulted in better curriculum."

As the administrator in charge of hiring new teachers, **Kodros** is proud of the skilled educators she brought to SI. "As a teacher, I found an incredible source of pride to be their colleague. These are the best teachers, and I was honored to work alongside them."

Her past 11 years has also brought her great joy "as I'm a big ham. I love putting on a show and helping students find interest in history. I even loved the committee work I did."

That work led to helping to define the morning X-period as a time to advance collaboration among teachers, and it spurred the development of the Cura Groups for freshman, which **Kodros** described as an "intense homeroom," where freshmen could become acclimated to SI and make connections with their new classmates.

She looks back with pride, too, on her work moderating the Young Democrats of SI Club and advising students who led the walkout that followed the school shootings in Parkland. She praised the student leaders of that walkout, one that gained the support of nearly every student and teacher.

Kodros saw her own children — **Molly '06** and **Jack '08** — succeed at SI and, for a time, was able to count her husband, **George**, also a veteran teacher, as a colleague when he worked as a long-term substitute chemistry teacher.

Once travel restrictions are lifted, she and her husband hope to visit their son in Greece, where he is doing postdoctoral work in atmospheric chemistry, studying the effects of pollution on human health. They are also looking forward to visiting Los Angeles, where daughter **Molly** kept the music going during the COVID-19 crisis as vice president of events for Dash Radio.

Kodros was honored twice at the end of the school year, first when Mayor **London Breed** named May 22 as Kathleen Kodros Day and then again on May 28 when she received the Charles T. Murphy Ignatian Award for teaching excellence at the final faculty in-service. Speaking on her behalf was SI counselor **Donna Murphy**, who brings **Kate's** story full-circle, as **Donna** was **Kate's** former student and teacher's assistant at St. Rose Academy.

Kodros returned to the classroom, in part, because she followed the lead of other administrators who ended their careers in a similar way. "Now I'm following their lead by retiring. I thought about doing this a year ago, but I wasn't ready. I knew I had more to give, as I still felt vibrant and had a lot to offer. Now with my voice needing rest, I realize it's time." ∞

ABOVE: A parade of colleagues in their cars celebrated **Kate Kodros** after her last online class ended. After the car parade, **Bob Vergara '76** read a proclamation from Mayor **London Breed** announcing Kathleen Kodros Day in San Francisco.



FROM LEFT:
Christina
Wenger and
Cara Brancoli
offer students
advice and
resources to
help them
determine the
accuracy of
what they read.

Teaching students, and everyone, about the need for news literacy

BY CHRISTINA WENGER & CARA BRANCOLI
SI Library Faculty

Why did **Socrates**, whose ideas you can find in thousands of books, discourage people from learning to read and write? He worried that when people learned these skills, they would forget how to remember.

About losing our memory, he was right. Learning to read has allowed our culture to upload historical memory into the papersphere and free up memory and attention for other pursuits. However, if only a small group had access to the skill of reading, then only the elite would have had the luxury of all the recorded wisdom of the ages, including history, news and literature.

When a technology like reading came along, the right answer wasn't to run away from it, leaving it only available to a few, but to democratize it and make it available to everyone.

We are in a similar cultural moment in our history, but this time, the challenge is to work together towards greater news literacy because each of us is vulnerable to those who know how to manipulate the news.

Studies have shown that our teenagers struggle to tell the difference between true information and fake information, and our older generations are seven times more likely than other groups to post links to fake news on Facebook.

(See the online version of this story at siprep.org/genesis for citations to this piece.)

As **Darren Linvill** and **Patrick Warren** wrote in a Nov. 25, 2019, edition of *Rolling Stone*, "professional disinformation isn't spread by the account you disagree with — quite the opposite. Effective disinformation is embedded in an account you agree with." In other words, these fake news accounts intend to manipulate our emotions and therefore our politics.

In order to continue to spur democracy and be full participants in our world of knowledge, we can't run away from social media or news outlets. Instead, we have to learn how to "read" them. And

because the way information reaches us continues to change and evolve, we all have to become more and more news literate.

The SI Library is teaching these skills at SI in a number of ways. We provided instruction in news literacy to eighth graders in the Father Sauer Academy, supplementing it with resources created by The News Literacy Project, a nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization whose mission it is to provide resources to help students learn who and how to trust in an age of digital information.

During the summer, we will also provide news literacy instruction to incoming freshmen, focusing on the skills of determining authorship, analyzing tone and testing validity through lateral reading — which is the skill of verifying what you're reading as you're reading.

We also offer instruction in news literacy to classes whose teachers request our expertise. Some departments, such as social science, are directly tackling these issues within their curriculum on their own. For example, the Ethnic Studies course includes a unit on media literacy in which teachers emphasize the value of healthy skepticism. They use the News Literacy Project analysis tool as a reference for students as they test the validity of websites and stories.

The Library Department believes news literacy instruction — some of which is outlined on the next page — should happen in every class that asks students to read online.

Adults, too, should continue sharpening these skills throughout their lives to be informed citizens in our changing digital culture. We encourage parents to discuss with children media analysis resources from Common Sense Media or The Center for News Literacy, and everyone should consider subscribing to *The Sift*, a News Literacy Project newsletter that directly addresses of-the-moment issues of media literacy.

What can you do to strengthen your own skills? Review the information on the next page and then reach out to the library faculty if you like. We can come talk directly to any group you belong to and lead you in practicing some skills. ☺

“Each of us is vulnerable to those who know how to manipulate the news.”

– Christina Wenger & Cara Brancoli



How to discern digital fact from digital fiction

There are at least four specific skills news literate people must have in the age of digital media.

1. They must be able to determine authorship.

Readers who can effectively determine authorship can answer the following questions while reading online:

- Who wrote this?
- Is the author a person or an organization?
- Who paid for the site's creation?
- Why did the author create this article or site?

2. They must be able to identify a complex audience.

Readers who can effectively identify the complexity of audience can answer the following questions while reading online:

- Who is the intended audience?
- Who is helped by this?
- Who is harmed by this?
- How will unintended audiences be impacted by this?

3. They must be able to analyze the author's messaging techniques.

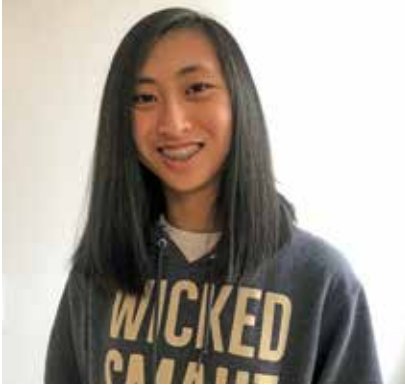
Readers who can effectively analyze the author's messaging techniques can answer the following questions while reading online:

- What is this about?
- What is directly stated?
- What is indirectly stated?
- What is the tone?
- What techniques does the author use to present the message?

4. They must be able to fact-check how reality is represented.

Readers who can effectively fact-check how reality is represented can answer the following questions while reading online:

- When and where was this created, and how does that context shape its message?
- How was this article or site shared with its intended audience?
- What parts of the message are fact and what parts are opinion?
- What are the article's or site's information sources?
- What do other unrelated authors or organizations say about the same topic?
- Does my lateral reading support the claims of this article or site? ∞



Admiral Callaghan Society selects essay contest winners on climate change topic

The annual gathering of the Admiral Callaghan Society may have been cancelled due to the shelter-in-place order, but the Admiral Callaghan Essay Contest did garner 26 essays and five winners, each of whom looked at the issue of climate change as a threat to our nation's security. The winners included (**TOP ROW, FROM LEFT**) Luke Veit '21 (1st place), Sophie Pelton '20 (2nd place), Katie Honeyman '20 (3rd place), (**SECOND ROW**) Audrey Tam '22 (top sophomore winner) and Melissa Hua '23 (top freshman winner). Ben Harrison '83 coordinated the essay contest that involved 15 judges, and Dennis Murphy '77 continued to serve as the society's president.

Parent clubs announce officers for the new school year

The Ignatian Guild, SIPAC, AALPA and the Fathers' Club all selected new officers for the 2020–2021 school year. In June, the Ignatian Guild installed the officers pictured here. From right are President **Sheila McCarthy**, Vice President **Cathleen Rigatti**, Recording Secretary **Kerry Dolan Button**, Corresponding Secretary **Kelly Scandalios**, Treasurer **Karin Tucker** and Assistant Treasurer **Jenny Yung**.

SIPAC welcomed its new executive Board, including President **Michelle Mendoza**, Vice President **Jenny Yung**, Treasurer **Kim Yoshii**, Recording Secretary and Communications Chair **Randolf Arguelles '86**, Events Co-Chairs **Valerie Nicolson** and **Venetia Gatus**, Fathers' Club Liaison **Victor Jimenez**,

Ignatian Guild Liaison **Venetia Gatus**, SIPAC Faculty and ASC Liaison **Ray Orque '03** and Alumni Relations Officers **Robert Tenney '88** and **Meggie Chichio**.

Fathers' Club officers are President **Matt Niehaus**, Past President **Dave Hollister**, First Vice President **Stephen Wynne '90**, Second Vice President **Mike Rossetto '83**, Auction Chair **Brian Heafey '86**, Auction Vice-Chair **Marty Murphy '84**, Treasurer **Eric Ludwig**, Secretary **Tom Ivers**, Events Co-Chairs **Tony Kiehn** and **Jamie Dyos**, Concessions **Jim Scheg**, Concessions Vice-Chair **Ralph King**, Sergeant-at-Arms **Matt Miller '86**, Communications Co-Chairs **Bill Ryan** and **Eryc Branham**, Bruce Mahoney Chair **Jeff Hagan '85**, SIPAC Liaison **Victor Jimenez**, AALPA Liaison **Cristhians Leon** and Father Sauer Academy Liaison **Ivan Limo**.



AALPA's new board are Co-Presidents **Jaime Alvarez '90** and **Christina Solomon**; Secretary **Tamala Thornton-McKinzey**; Admissions and Community Outreach Chair **Sandra Barnes**; Mentor Parents Lead **Michon Caton**; Ignatian Guild Liaisons **Lydia Floccini**, **Kelli Willis** and **Griselda Ayala**; Fathers' Club Liaison **Cristhians Leon**; Alumni Relations Chair **Rufus Davis**; ALAS Showcase Chairs **Griselda Ayala** and **Marisol Durand**; and BSU Showcase Chairs **Geoffrea Morris**, **Jessica Fontenot** and **Erica "Nikki" Perry Cooper '94**. ∞



SI's cross country team at Timaru Boys School, where they visited and ran in the New Zealand national championship. They posed with a statue of **Jack Lovelock**, New Zealand's gold-medal Olympian.

New Zealand runners and swimmers find a partner in SI exchange

BY CHAD EVANS
Assistant Principal for Formation & Cross Country Coach

When high school water polo athletes from New Zealand's Auckland Grammar School flew to San Francisco last January to stay with SI students and compete in the Bay Area, it was the latest chapter in a relationship that started in 2003 when **Kevin Grady**, SI's admissions director and cross country coach at the time, fielded an odd call.

"Cheers, mate. My name is **Rodney Gordon**. I'm calling from Auckland, New Zealand. I'd like to bring my cross country team to California to run and have a bit of touring. Could we billet with you?"

That launched a trans-Pacific alliance between SI and one of the premier public schools in New Zealand.

SI has enjoyed long-established exchange programs with Jesuit schools around the world but had never partnered with a public school, let alone one from New Zealand.

Even though **Grady** didn't know these boys, their school or what billeting was, he agreed. Later that fall, **Gordon** arrived in San Francisco with a group of coaches, parents and 20 young men from Auckland Grammar's distance squad, set to run at the prestigious Stanford Cross Country Invitational.

Not only did they run well at Stanford, the Kiwis brought a joyful spirit of adventure, an openness to experiencing a new culture and their school haka — a traditional Maori dance typically done before a sporting event as a way of playfully trying to intimidate one's opponent.

The "boys from Grammar" performed their haka in the SI student center to roaring crowds, and they enjoyed their visit so much that they returned four more times — in 2005, 2008, 2012 and 2016.

(The 2016 visit comprised 40 runners, and the 2003 and 2005 visits included **Mat Mildenhall**, who went on to win numerous

national championships in cross country and track in his country and, later, multiple All-American honors in distance running as a student at Villanova University).

Each time they came to visit, the Kiwis encouraged SI students to stay with them in New Zealand, but it took until June 2019 for 18 SI athletes, under the direction of SI cross country coach **Nick Alvarado '06** to lead his contingent to New Zealand to tour the country, stay with families from local schools and run in the New Zealand national championship cross country meet held in Timaru on the South Island.

Timaru was chosen, in part, because it was home to **Jack Lovelock**, the great New Zealand runner who won gold in the 1500 meters at the 1936 Olympics. SI athletes even posed with a statue of **Lovelock** at his alma mater, Timaru Boys School.

The same generous spirit of hospitality that characterized previous exchanges was present throughout the country. SI distance runners were graciously welcomed into the national championships in a spirit of international competition and exchange.

Athletes also had the chance to kayak to giant Maori carvings, compete in street luge in Queenstown, visit Mt. Cook National Park and enjoy billeting from the other side, courtesy of hosts from Auckland Grammar and Christchurch Boys schools.

The relationship between the two schools expanded when **Gordon** arrived in San Francisco this past January, along with 20 athletes from his school. Now coaching his son in water polo, he hoped to expand into a new sport. (A high-level rugby player and a nationally-ranked triathlete in his younger days, **Gordon** also "fancies a bit of sport" himself.)

The two teams practiced and scrimmaged together for two days, leaving with plans for the Wildcats to take their water polo "togs" (as the Kiwis would say) to Auckland in the near future. ∞

SPORTS WRAP

PHOTOS BY PAUL GHIGLIERI

BASEBALL

Coaches: V: Brian Pollzzie, assisted by Matt Kaufman and Richard Murray; JV: Mike Jackanich '02; F: Jason Lock '13 assisted by Matty Lewis.

Highlights: SI beat Marin Catholic 10-2 and Christopher High School, which knocked the varsity out of CCS competition last spring.

Graduating Seniors: James Adams, Sam Sinks, Matt Kitts, Josiah Bryant, Mario DeMera, Miles Padilla-Grafilo, Nick Glafkides, Colin Clifford, Lamar Bullock, Sancho Llamas, Stephen Hartwell.



BOYS' CREW

Coaches: Sam Nelsen '06 (head boys), assisted by Mike Bonpin '90, Ryan Santos '19, Richie Gordon '07 (head frosh), John Strizich '10 and Tom O'Connell (boatman).

Highlights: SI adopted the Peninsula Indoor Rowing Championships, hosting the 20th annual event last February with competitors of all ages and abilities from 17 regional teams.

Graduating Seniors: David Wilkes, Robert Garcia Nabor, Charlie Young, Cole McDonough, Orlando Ampie, Tom Quach, Derek Johnson.



BOYS' GOLF

Coaches: V: Dan Schwabe (PGA Class A Professional); JV: John DeBenedetti '83

Graduating Seniors: Johnny O'Meara, Jack Luttringer, Ryan Tuthill, Nick Asbra.



GIRLS' CREW

Coaches: Kate Girlich '11, assisted by Greg Davis '12, Georgia Davey '15 and Sarah Siegel.

Highlights: Both the varsity and freshman crews collaborated for the first ever virtual "2020 Spring Break Games." Mixed teams competed in costume for the most daily points and overall points during the course of spring break. Challenges to reach the most number of "meters" included daily runs, hikes, bike rides and body circuits. Some themes included Marvel Monday (superhero), Walt Disney Wednesday, Facemask Friday and Super American Sunday. The girls enjoyed sharing photos of themselves working out from home in costume.

Graduating Seniors: Amanda Burns, Meave Crehan, Katie Honeyman, Nina Ng-Lara, Megan Mulkerrins, Michaela Mulkerrins, Tiffany Lee.



GIRLS' LACROSSE

Coaches: Erin Burns and Karen Silcott, assisted by Genevieve Lucas-Conwell and E. Michael Gerrity.

Graduating Seniors: Ellie Baenen, Gianna Rocca, Maggie Doyle, Darya Clark, Sophie Pelton, Liv Arthur, Marena Tharpe, Maggie Brosnan, Kelly Wall, Caty DeBonis, Mia Barnes.



BOYS' LACROSSE

Coaches: Chris Packard assisted by Ryan Carter '04, Julian Gunter '15, David Bowe '96, Peter Langkammerer '01 and Ryan Mix.

Graduating Seniors: Danny Ryan, Wells Bligh, Marlowe Kushner, Beau Gardner, Gianluca Billante, Joseph Celetano Jr., Danny Burke, Reade Hansen, Deven Enos, Matthew Silva, Holden Arnett-Zhang, Joseph Hagen, Jared Rodi, Sean Ferguson.



SOFTBALL

Coaches: Paul Webb assisted by Buzz Sorenson, Diane Leider, Meredith Mannion and Jacqueline Boland '14.

Graduating Seniors: Kelly McGuigan, Jane Ghiselli, Marjoelle Palacio.



GIRLS' SWIMMING & DIVING

Coaches: John Dahlz '03 assisted by Diane Davis, Mario Gini, Laura Horsley, Eric Banach and Bryna Tsai.

Highlights: SI only had one meet, but it was a memorable one. The defending league champ SI varsity girls beat powerhouse Mitty for the second year in a row — a first in SI history. Last

year's co-champion JV team also beat Mitty, the other co-champion team, by 50 points.

Graduating Seniors: Shannon Ferry, Ally Hughes, Marie Nido, Lena Wang, Elle Scandalios, Mia Sto. Domingo, Jalene Gee, Lauren McCormack, Anna Schatz, Grace McFadden, Jane Thompson, Julia Middlebrook, Reese Burns, Camila Lanza, Abby Lam.

BOYS' SWIMMING & DIVING

Coaches: Mario Gini assisted by Morgan Kwong '15, John Ottersberg, Bryna Tsai, William Grant and Joshua Bruce.

Graduating Seniors: Ian Beer, Alexander Hauer-Molero, Daniel Ng, Shaun Parinas, Tommy Hooker, Luca Caniglia, Michael Yeung, Billy Barry, Richard Chang, James Wavro, Ethan Asbra, Ryan Chang, Nicholas Caceres, Kurt Schober, LJ Summe.

BOYS' TENNIS

Coaches: Craig Law '84, assisted by Ed Grafilo, James Greig, Greg Hom and Jonas Satuito.

Graduating Seniors: Daniel Boudagian, Daniel Gaffney, Nathan Mar, Ben Murphy, Andrew Polansky, Kyle Austin.



BOYS' & GIRLS' TRACK & FIELD

Coaches: Rob Hickox '72, assisted by Nicholas Alvarado '06, Jenelle Apolonio '17, Leila Ben-Youssef, Rudy Buntic, Aldo Congi '72, Colman Conroy '88, Michael Kennedy '10, David Longacre, Jamie Lundy '06, Kourtney Osentoski, Christie Olsson Brush '98 and Steve Lee '99.

Graduating Seniors: Paul Ikeda, Stephen Wong, Alexander Hall, Matthew Miloslavich, Henok Engidasew, Oliver Ortiz, Michael Harrison, Matthew Teupel, William Plam, William Simonds, Aidan Pidgeon, Tim Mullins, Tyler Truong, Issac Lee, David Orellana, Robert Niemara, Benjamin Lee, George Hollister, Charles Ashendorf, Rory McMahon, Nader Shihadeh, Isiah Martin-Lopez, Enzo Masson-Bello, Ronan Kramer, Marykate Buscher, Bridget Lucey, Anastasia Dorn, Gigi Mohr, Tiffany Wilson, Madeline Woo, Bronagh Milligan-McAleese, Olivia Bick, Kelly Lee, Ashley Tam.

BOYS' VOLLEYBALL

Coaches: Kareem Guilbeaux '01, assisted by Nick David '08, John Alexander '18 and Scott Mar.

Graduating Seniors: John Samonte, Jackson Mar, Gerard Tina, Stephen Austria, David Madriz Morales, Aidan O'Reilly.



Maya Fok '98 follows long line of mentors in her new role as varsity girls' basketball coach

Maya Fok '98 playing in a 2007 alumni basketball game at SI.



Maya Fok '98, who will serve as head coach of the girls' varsity basketball team next year, brings with her both the experience of being a player at SI as well as the wisdom of her past coaches.

The former girls' basketball coach at Urban High School, **Fok** points to mentors such as **Shel Zatzkin**, **Steve Phelps**, **Julie Guevara '94**, **Tim Reardon '86**, **Jim Dekker '68**, **Bob Drucker '58**, **John Duggan '59** and **Mike Mulkerrins '91**.

The coach who most inspired her to excel did so in a surprising way. "In my sophomore year, **Steve Phelps** told me that I would never play college ball because, at 5-foot, 3-inches, I was too short," she recalled. "I was seething after that, and my only goal from that point was to play basketball in college. Years later, I realized he only said that to motivate me."

That motivation helped **Fok** receive league MVP honors in her senior year as she propelled her team to the CCS championship title.

She played varsity all four years at SI, earning her starting position by surprising her opponents with her speed and finesse as a point guard at a tournament sponsored by Marin Catholic.

Later, at a practice at SI, while goofing off with her teammates, "Coach **Zatzkin** called me out by referring to me as Miss All Tournament and criticized me for my bad attitude. My heart was in my throat, but I realized I couldn't be a cocky eighth grader anymore who could do whatever I wanted."

When coaching, she still quotes many of her former mentors, including **Drucker**. "Whenever I would look down at the ball, he would remind me that the ball will always be round, that the ground will always be flat and that I never need to look down. The ball will always come back up, so just look at the court."

Coach **Guevara** "was only four years older than I was at the time, but I was a hothead in high school. She would calm me down and knew exactly what to say so that I could get my head back in the game."

Reardon and **Dekker** "just taught me how to have fun the whole time. We always laughed, even once, when I was playing poorly at a game at Mercy. I guess I gave coach **Reardon** a dirty look as I was so frustrated with myself, and to this day, they still laugh about my expression."

Coach **Mulkerrins**, she added, "has always been a mentor to me. All the years I was coaching at Urban, we would discuss mutual opponents, and he helped me grow as a coach."

She praised him for his 282-134 record over his 14 years leading the Wildcats to 14 NorCal playoffs as well as three league and two CCS titles. "I hope we can continue to work together, as he's been a great resource for me as a coach and is one of the nicest people I know. I have the utmost respect for him as a coach and as a genuinely good person."

Fok came to SI in large part thanks to **Harry Pantazopoulos**, who saw her playing while she was a student at Katherine Delmar Burke School and training at a basketball camp organized by former SI coach **Don Lippi**. "He told **John Duggan** about me, and

“The lessons you learn playing basketball bind you together forever. You work hard toward a common goal, and that’s what life is all about.” – Maya Fok

John asked me to play in a summer league team he coached at SI. Before that, I had planned to attend Lowell, but thanks to him, that experience led to my SI career.”

After graduation, **Fok** played two years at UC Davis and another two at UC San Diego before finishing her degree in psychology. She worked as an assistant coach at SI between 2003 and 2006 for both **Guevara** and **Duggan** while teaching preschool at the Jewish Community Center. In 2009, she earned her master’s degree in pediatric occupational therapy from Dominican University and opened a private practice two years later on Pine and Steiner Streets with a business partner.

She had assistant coaching stints at the JCC, the Schools of the Sacred Heart and Dominican University before taking the head coaching job at Urban in 2014 after being recruited by the school’s athletic director, **Joe Skiffer '99**, another former SI basketball player.

In her time there, she helped her girls win league titles in 2016 and 2018 and the NCS title in 2018. Her team also made it to the NCS championship game in 2017.

She continues to play basketball at the Olympic Club, where she also coaches the men’s 55-and-over team.

From her years coaching and playing, she learned to be an effective communicator “and to listen to constructive criticism without taking it personally. The lessons you learn playing basketball bind you together forever. You work hard toward a common goal, and that’s what life is all about. I teach my players the value of communication, listening and keeping the big picture in mind. There will be rough patches, which we will get through together, as well as the highs of accomplishing a goal, such as beating SHC.”

Coaching alongside **Fok** will be **Angelique Boccara '04** and **Max Betkowski**, the latter of whom, after graduating from Galileo Academy in 2012, earned a Division-1 men’s basketball walk-on spot at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. After a 2014 NCAA tournament run, he served as the college’s head strength and conditioning coach for both men’s and women’s basketball. He also played two years for his college football team and graduated in 2017 as a two-sport athlete with three years of D1 coaching experience and a bachelor’s degree in kinesiology with a concentration in exercise science.

Boccara played with the SF Lady Rebels before coming to SI and at CSM after graduation. She runs her own basketball program and leadership nonprofit called She Got Game, which works to develop women leaders through basketball instruction and competitive play. She also leads a global concierge service which serves some of the largest credit card brands, Fortune 500 organizations and financial institutions in the country.

“I coached **Angelique** in her senior year, and she later assisted **Julie** in Alameda and me at Urban,” said **Fok**. “We are so excited to be back, as **Angelique’s** charisma and connection with people make it fun every single day.” ∞

SI scholar-athletes set to compete in colleges across the country

Congratulations to the following scholar-athletes from the Class of 2020 who have committed to playing on the college level.

Baseball

Colin Clifford	Xavier University
Mario DeMera	USF
Sancho Llamas	Occidental College

Soccer

Olivia Carroll	Carnegie Mellon
Caeley Goldstein	Univ. of Washington
Jocelyn Wong	Oberlin College

Basketball

Rachel Harvey	Cal State Northridge
Daniel Webster	Luther College
Kourosh Kahn-Adle	Brandeis

Swimming

Reese Burns	NYU
Jane Thompson	Northeastern Univ.
Lena Wang	Northeastern Univ.
Lauren McCormack	Vanderbilt

Football

Teddy Buchanan	UC Davis
Beau Gardner	UCLA
Michael Harrison	U. of Colorado
Danny Ryan	USC

Softball

Kelly McGuigan	Williams College
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Tennis

India Houghton	Stanford
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Lacrosse

Joseph Celentano	Westminster
Sophie Pelton	Chapman

Water Polo

William Barry	SCU
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Rowing

Nina Ng-Lara	SDSU
Kate Honeyman	UC Berkeley
Michaela Mulkerrins	St. Joseph’s Univ.

First ever All-Brophy Team named

The John E. Brophy Award normally recognizes the top male and female senior athlete of the year, but given the pandemic that disrupted the spring season, the SI Athletic Department assembled the first-ever All-Brophy Team to recognize top athletes, each nominated by their teammates who answered this question: “Which senior teammate gave the most to your sport through his or her athleticism and commitment?” Here are their selections, listed first by the sport they were nominated for followed by other sports they played.

Baseball: James Adams (Football)

Basketball: Daniel Webster & Angie McAdams

Crew: Charlie Young & Michaela Mulkerrins (Field Hockey, Soccer)

Cross Country: George Hollister (Track) & Anastasia Dorn (Track)

Field Hockey: Megan Mulkerrins (Soccer, Crew)

Football: Teddy Buchanan

Golf: Jack Luttringer & Crystal Alcaraz

Lacrosse: Joe Celantano (Football) & Liv Arthur

Soccer: Declan Patankar & Elle Van Giesen (Field Hockey)

Softball: Kelly McGuigan

Swimming: Daniel Ng, Anna Schatz (Water Polo) & Reese Burns

Tennis: Kyle Austin & Michelle Conte

Track: Will Plam & Madeline Woo (Soccer)

Volleyball: John Samonte & Ellie Untalan

Water Polo: Billy Barry (Swimming & Diving) & Elle Scandalios (Swimming & Diving)

2-Sport Athlete: Danny Ryan (Lacrosse & Football record-holder for receptions)

3-Sport Athletes: Michael Harrison (Football, Soccer, Track & Field) & Jalene Gee (Water Polo, Basketball, Swimming & Diving)

MAKE AN IMPACT ON FUTURE IGNATIANS



We thank those alumni, parents and friends who have joined the Father Harry Carlin Heritage Society by remembering SI in their estate plans. Anyone who has made a legacy gift to SI, such as naming SI as a beneficiary in a will, trust, retirement plan or other account — regardless of the size of the gift — is welcome to join this special group. We especially welcome our newest members whose names, below, are bolded.

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Mike Clancy '59 turns a life of poverty into a legacy of giving

Michael Clancy '59 had a hard life growing up, marked by parental illness and poverty.

By his early 40s, he rose to become a successful attorney and a multimillionaire who spent his days golfing and traveling the world when he wasn't living in his Nob Hill penthouse.

Now, at 79, he plans to help students at SI — as well as St. Vincent's School for Boys and Hastings Law School — by creating scholarships named for him and his brother **Bruce '51**.

Mike's story begins even before he was born. His father, **Ambrose Clancy**, eager to serve in WWI, left Chicago at 16 for Canada, where he lied about his age and enlisted in the army. While serving in France, he was bayoneted and gassed, which led to ill health and seizures throughout his life.

Ambrose married in 1933 and had four children — **Bruce, Patrick, Juneva** and **Michael**, who was born in 1941 in San Francisco. Doctors treated **Ambrose** with electroshock therapy, which hurt more than helped.

After he and his wife divorced in 1943, **Ambrose** stayed in San Francisco and worked as a longshoreman, and his wife remarried and moved her family in 1945 to Oregon, where she became seriously ill. When told that she might not survive, she asked **Ambrose** to care for the children in San Francisco.

"While my father took charge of us, he lived in a rooming house south of Market Street with no money and poor health," said **Michael**. "That's how my two brothers and I arrived at St. Vincent's School for Boys in San Rafael in 1946 and my sister **Juneva** at Mount St. Joseph's in San Francisco."

Founded during the Gold Rush as a home for orphans and boys whose families couldn't support them, St. Vincent's was **Michael's** school and home from ages 5 to 10. "My father would take long bus rides from San Francisco once a month on visitors' Sundays and liked walking up the long tree-lined road from the bus stop to the school to see my brothers and me, and he would also visit my sister monthly too."

Michael's mother did not die from her illness, and after her marriage with her second husband ended, she returned to San Francisco and remarried in 1951, when she took her two youngest sons out of St. Vincent's. **Bruce** was drafted into the U.S. Army, and **Juneva** was sent to live with another relative in Northern California. When **Patrick** turned 17, he joined the Marine Corps, leaving only **Michael** to live in the Tenderloin with his mother and her new husband. **Michael's** father died the next year at the age of 51 from injuries suffered from a fall brought on by a seizure.

Michael finished grammar school at St. Boniface before enrolling at SI, which his brother **Bruce** had attended, though neither had money for tuition. "The priests were always after me to cut my hair, but I couldn't even afford to do that," **Michael** added. **Harry Carlin S.J. '35**, SI's vice principal at the time, told **Michael** that he could not attend classes if his hair wasn't shorter, "so he would give me a dollar whenever it was too long and tell me to go to USF to have it cut by the barber there."

In 1958, **Patrick** finished his stint in the military and rented a studio apartment near SI, where he provided **Michael** with a place to study and sleep. **Michael**, in turn, worked afternoons at a drugstore inside the St. Francis Hotel to help with expenses.

At SI, **Michael** thrived in his religious studies "thanks to my training at St. Vincent's and its Dominican nuns and priests. My SI classmates called me a little heretic because I always loved to debate aspects of religion



with the Jesuits. Despite that, the Jesuits proved kind to me. I couldn't afford a school ring, so one of the scholastics asked me to take ring measurements and orders at the bookstore in exchange for a free ring."

A year later, **Robert Leonard, S.J.**, who had served as SI's principal between 1955 and 1957, handed **Michael** an envelope containing \$10 and said it was a gift from an anonymous benefactor. "I suspected the money had come from **Fr. Carlin**," said **Michael**. **Fr. Leonard** suggested that **Michael** use the funds to pay for a haircut and buy a white shirt for his high school graduation.

After leaving SI, **Michael** started classes at City College, but unable to keep up with his lessons, he dropped out the following March. A month later, he landed a job as a driver for **Josephine Feldman**, the wealthy widow of a merchant, whom he had first met when she shopped at the drugstore where he worked.

"I worked for **Mrs. Feldman** for the next seven years without ever taking a day off," he added. She convinced him to enroll again at City College, where he earned his AA degree followed by a bachelor's degree from SFSU in 1964 and a law degree from Hastings.

While a law student, he received a scholarship created by **Mrs. Feldman** in both his second and third years. "I didn't know she had created the scholarship until I had received it," he noted. She later attended **Michael's** Moot Court argument and his law school graduation. Even though he stopped working for her to study for the bar exam, the two remained close friends until her death in 1983.

Michael worked for the Franchise Tax Board both before and after a stint with Standard Oil Company of California as a lawyer in its Tax Department and retired in 1995. He is currently living in a retirement community in Walnut Creek.

"Even when I was at SI in the 1950s, I knew there were students from wealthy families as well as students like me, whose parents had fallen on hard times and who couldn't afford the tuition. In a past issue of *Genesis* magazine, I read with great interest the obituary of **Curtis Mallegni '67**, who, like me, had lost his father at a young age and who was helped at SI thanks to angels who had materialized. I'm hoping that the money from my memorial fund will help future students for years to come." ❧

“There were many soldiers, but the jungle was so thick that we couldn’t tell how many. We had some hand grenades lobbed at us from their position atop a hill. One landed close to me, but, thankfully, it was a dud.”
— Bob Johnson ’42

Bob Johnson ’42 reflects on life and death in the Pacific during WWII

Bob Johnson ’42 only spent three of his 95 years serving in the military, but those are years he will never forget.

He served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theatre during World War II, fighting in jungles on Guam and preparing for an invasion of Japan, one that never happened thanks to that nation’s surrender.

The experience led him in 2002 to establish — in conjunction with SI’s Alumni Office — a tribute to the 96 SI grads who died during the war and to work on a scholarship in their name to help current students.

In the fall of 2019, **Mr. Johnson** sat in his San Bruno home with his son, **Rick Johnson ’77**, SI archivist **Bob Vergara ’76** and *Genesis* editor **Paul Totah ’75** to reminisce and reflect on a chapter in American history and in his own life.

Born in 1924 in Chicago, **Mr. Johnson** moved with his parents to San Francisco in 1937 at 13, where he enjoyed intramural sports at SI such as football and basketball. He navigated the long commute to the Stanyan Street campus by streetcar and bus from his home in the Marina District.

He enjoyed his classes, especially history taught by **John McGloin, S.J. ’29**, and he grew close to **Lloyd Burns, S.J. ’16**, who celebrated his marriage to **Dolores Tattenham** and who baptized their four children.

“While I was at SI, my classmates were patriotic and gung-ho about the possibility of fighting,” he noted. “Every day, when I would come home from SI, I’d ask to see the mail hoping to see my draft notice.”

Mr. Johnson had no animosity toward Japanese Americans, including his two classmates — **Takashi Watanabe ’42** and **John Morozumi ’42** — who chose to leave school early to avoid being sent to internment camps.



Bob Johnson ’42 and his son, Rick Johnson ’77. OPPOSITE PAGE: Bob was stationed in Hawaii before being sent to Guam, where he helped secure the island.

“**John** was a nice kid and quick on his feet when we played basketball. We had become friends as we sat near each other in class. On his last day at SI, we got together and bought him a gift. As he started to leave after the last class, we presented him with a watch. After he said his goodbyes, all of us stood up and applauded for five minutes. Then he finally closed the door and left. It took another 50 years for him and **Takashi** to receive their high school diplomas at our Golden Diploma ceremony.”

Mr. Johnson’s draft notice finally arrived after he had enrolled as a freshman at USF, and he enlisted as a private in March 1943. After basic training, he was assigned to the Army Artillery Corps and sent to Hawaii, “which was still considered a target for a second attack,” he noted.

There, he ran into his classmate, **Charlie Silvera ’42**, who later earned his way onto the New York Yankees’ roster as a catcher. “Everyone called him **Swede** because of his blonde hair. He was playing in an exhibition game in Hawaii as entertainment for the troops. While he was coaching first base, I walked down onto the field and yelled ‘Hey **Swede**’ in his direction. He turned around and said, ‘Oh s—t!’ He was surprised to see me.”

He spent the rest of his time in Hawaii practicing for a water landing by swimming 50 yards in combat boots. He was later transferred to Guam, where he helped secure the island. As he sailed to Guam aboard a troop ship, an escort destroyer encountered and destroyed a Japanese submarine. “This was my first sense of real danger — that at any moment we could be swimming for our lives in the Pacific Ocean.”

After he landed in Guam, he and his fellow soldiers were taken by truck late in the evening into the jungle, where they heard shooting. “It was so dark, that we couldn’t see our hands in front of our faces. The following morning, we saw that we



were in the thick of it. We started to clear the brush to pitch our tents, but we were moving so slowly that one of the officers used a bottle of liquor to barter with someone who had access to a bulldozer to clear our area. Once he started in, we saw rats the size of dogs running all around, as we had upset their nests. Even after we built tents with wooden floors, we'd hear the scraping of rats running around. We had our bayonets fixed, ready to kill them when they appeared."

He also met the local people, "who hated the Japanese Army and who led us to them once. There were many soldiers, but the jungle was so thick that we couldn't tell how many. We had some hand grenades lobbed at us from their position atop a hill. One landed close to me, but, thankfully, it was a dud. We advanced, firing into them. By the time we got to the top, we saw one soldier's body leaning against a tree. He had died by suicide rather than risk capture."

During his tour of duty, he advanced to the rank of technical sergeant and was fortunate to escape the heavy fighting that others suffered through. "I tip my hat to anyone who did the real fighting in the war because it must have been horrific."

Orders came that would have transferred him to Okinawa for the invasion of Japan, but the U.S. dropped two atomic bombs, the second one on Aug. 9, 1945, the day of his 21st birthday, that brought an end to the war. When he returned to California along with other troops hoping for a welcome-home parade, he found little fanfare.

"When we disembarked at the Port of Los Angeles in San Pedro, there was no one waiting for us — just a handful of workers. We returned to the Bay Area by way of a train. When I arrived in San Francisco, I had a cab take me to Podesta

Baldocchi, where I bought roses for my mother, who had no idea when I would return. When I got to our house, I rang the doorbell and waited for my dog, but found out he had died in my absence. That was my return home."

Once back in San Francisco, he finished his degree at USF and found a job in accounting and finance at a variety of firms including C&H Sugar and Colmar, which sold ski equipment. Early on, he heard about classmates gathering for lunch downtown, "but when I was first working, I couldn't take off for an hour. Later, I made a point of meeting with my classmates, who were so close-knit because of the war. Of the 96 SI grads who died, 10 were from our class."

His son, **Rick**, was able to attend a few of those reunions and hear the stories "that always took my father back to the Pacific. He would come to life, especially if he met someone who was from SI who was also stationed in Hawaii, such as **Joe Vevoda '42**, who stopped there with the Merchant Marines. They shared a meal and only realized later that they had eaten horse meat for dinner. They ended up being each other's best man at their weddings. That camaraderie started at SI and then carried on into the military and beyond. I could tell that their careers were driven by their Ignatian service to others."

His father's example of service led **Rick** to a career in youth and adult corrections, where he worked through the counseling series until his retirement in 2013 as an associate warden. Since retirement, he has served as a volunteer chaplain at the Sacramento Youth and Detention Facility, where he mentors young offenders and conducts Bible study classes along with his wife, **Chris**. They also coordinate Inside Out, a program connecting teens being discharged from Sacramento Juvenile Hall with a mentor and a neighboring home church. ∞

Forbes names Alex Fotsch '08 to 30 Under 30 list for science

When **Alex Fotsch '08** left SI for Cornell University, he hoped to prepare himself to join his family's wine business and help with its vineyard in St. Helena and tasting room in Sausalito.

His career path, however, led him first to Central and South America to help rural farmers and then to San Diego, where he went to work for a company that ferments microorganisms to encourage crop root growth in order to create higher yields as well as healthier fruits and vegetables.

His success led *Forbes* magazine to name him as one of its "30 Under 30" for 2020 in the science category for his work as vice president of agricultural operations for Locus Agricultural Solutions (Locus AG). The company's certified organic biotechnology recently won a global award helping farmers reduce their use of chemicals as they combat plant disease while reducing agricultural greenhouse gas emissions.

"Just as probiotics help people balance bacteria in their digestive systems, our products do the same to balance the soil and its microbiome for crops," said **Fotsch**.

The company, which was founded in 2017, launched its first product in 2018. Now, farmers in 20 states "are successfully using our product and are seeing economic and environmental benefits across a variety of crops."

Locus AG currently sells two products under the Rhizolizer line — one for the food and agricultural industry and the other for turf and sod. The technology was developed to help Florida growers fight citrus greening disease, which came to the U.S. from China a decade ago and has devastated Florida's citrus economy. The disease makes oranges shriveled, sour and green by reducing a tree's ability to move sugar from its roots to its fruits and has led to a 70 percent drop in orange production from 2005, making the price of orange juice rise markedly.

Citrus farmers in Florida who use Locus AG's products for the past two years "have seen up to a 40 percent improvement in yield," said Fotsch.

The two organisms in Rhizolizer that get added to soils are the fungus *Trichoderma harzianum* and the bacterium *Bacillus amyloliquefaciens*, neither of which are genetically modified.

"We grow these in fermentation tanks similar to ones you might see in a microbrewery, and we deliver them fresh to farmers in containers that keep them cold and thriving."

Farmers use Locus AG products to boost yields in crops that include grapes, almonds, corn, cotton, potatoes, strawberries, apples and tomatoes.

Rhizolizer helps farmers fight climate change by supercharging a plant's ability to capture carbon and nitrogen from the air and deposit the emissions into the soil where they are used to increase soil health and make plants more productive and resilient.

"Initial lab and field tests have found that treatments sequester up to 10 times more carbon than any other farming practice and reduce up to nearly 70 percent of nitrous oxide emissions, a gas 300 times more potent than carbon," added **Fotsch**.

Locus AG's Terradigm product helps turf farmers grow green and lush lawns and corn farmers reduce the use of fertilizers while increasing or maintaining quality.

Fotsch has a familiarity with farms and farmers thanks to his experience on his parent's vineyard in St. Helena. He learned Spanish working in the fields alongside men and women harvesting grapes, and that led him and two SI classmates — **Tom Mattimore '08** and his brother, **Billy '09** — to do a service trip in Honduras, where they built a clinic to screen people for AIDS. "That made me aware of how sheltered I was growing up in Marin and helped me build my character. My ability to give back connected me to people in Honduras and reset my values and priorities."

So, too, did his experience at SI, where he played on the state-championship lacrosse team along with the **Mattimore** brothers and **Nick Miller '08**, who was also named by *Forbes* magazine to its "30 Under 30" list for his success as a musician performing under the stage name **Illenium**.

"My coaches **Greg Angilly**, **Mike Abou Jaoude '02** and **Chris Packard** taught lessons that still resonate with me, including how to step up as a leader and how to be accountable to your team by developing a strong work ethic. They also stressed the need for us to play as a cohesive unit. Those lessons carry over as I interact with our 45 employees, 15 of whom are on my team based in California, Florida, Ohio and North Carolina. It all begins with serving the interests of our growers, and to do that, we develop camaraderie in our group, just as we did on the lacrosse teams at SI. That's why I surf and rock climb after work and on weekends with my coworkers. We learn to support and understand each other both on the job and outside the office."

At Cornell, **Fotsch** switched from viticulture and enology and earned degrees in business as well as plant breeding and genetics. "Thanks to my parents, I knew the practical side of agriculture from how to grow grapes and operate a tractor to the yield potentials of different varieties. However, I didn't understand the genetic side of the business. Some fortunate undergrad research positions led me to where I am today."

His good fortune also led him to meet **Paul Zorner**, the father of one of his fraternity brothers at Cornell and co-founder of Locus AG. "He served as a mentor to me, and I helped in one of his ventures in Central and South America for a year and a half working to help low-income, rural farmers grow jatropha seeds, which can be turned into renewable aviation fuel and animal feed. Working there had a substantial effect on me, as more than a quarter of the world's population is employed in agriculture and can easily be affected by drought, leading to war and economic and political instability. It made me passionate about finding ways we can use agriculture as a pathway to peace, particularly in developing nations to help low income growers improve farm incomes."

Zorner eventually brought **Fotsch** on board as his first hire when he started as CEO of Locus AG. "In the early days, it was him and me and his dog driving around in his pickup truck talking to distributors and farmers."

“I feel passionate about this business as it involves new ways to grow food and create fuel that doesn’t add to greenhouse gases. It also helps to ensure that workers are paid fairly and that we continue to protect the environment. We need sustainability in all arenas.” – Alex Fotsch

Alex Fotsch '08 is helping farmers find better ways to grow their crops thanks to microorganisms that encourage root growth.



While the company has grown, it is still a year or two away from being profitable, but the future looks promising, especially as **Fotsch** expects new products to be available soon to help wheat and soy farmers.

In the meantime, he has been busy working as the youngest board member on the Roundtable on Sustainable Biomaterials, a global organization based in Geneva that offers certification and spurs the growth of businesses like Locus AG. “I feel passionate about this business as it involves

new ways to grow food and create fuel that doesn’t add to greenhouse gases. It also helps to ensure that workers are paid fairly and that we continue to protect the environment. We need sustainability in all arenas.”

He feels honored to receive recognition from *Forbes*. “I owe a lot to my friends and family and communities like SI that have supported me and have given me so many opportunities to succeed. Without them, I wouldn’t have had a chance to help launch and grow Locus AG or to give back to others.” ∞

Poet Valerie Ibarra '99 brings a new voice to the city's Public Defender's Office

When San Francisco poet **Valerie Ibarra '99** became the public face of the Public Defender's Office in San Francisco, her friends were quick to quip that the move was a perfect example of poetic justice.

Ibarra, a mainstay in the city's poetry scene, has written many poems about justice issues over the years. "Poets are inherently drawn toward freedom, so when we see injustice, it comes through our poetry," she noted. "Since taking this job, I've written more poetry about the hypocrisy of how justice plays out in our society. It's a way to help process some of the heaviness that comes with working in the criminal legal system, and having poetry as a creative outlet helps me keep a healthy balance."

Her boss, Public Defender **Mano Raju**, even asked **Ibarra** to read one of her poems at his election night party last November, and **Ibarra** continues advocating for poets and poetry every month in her internet radio broadcast at MutinyRadio.fm.

A longtime organizer of Poems Under the Dome in City Hall every April for National Poetry Month, **Ibarra** will join the committee that will pick San Francisco's next poet laureate. Though the stay-at-home order meant this year she didn't serve in her traditional role as emcee for the City Hall event — as well as all the others she traditionally leads, including Peace in the Park, Earth Day SF, UN International Peace Day and 100,000 Poets for Change — she quickly adapted to host the first ever Poems Under the Digital Dome.

Ibarra made the move to the Public Defender's Office last July after placing fourth in the city's civil service test to be a public information officer, and now she and her team interact with press on cases handled by her office. She also concerns herself with the big-picture issues of her job, including mass incarceration.

"We have 2.3 million people in prisons and jails in our country and are the largest jailer nation in the world, both in total number of prisoners and per capita. I agree with those who say that mass incarceration is one of the largest civil rights issues of our time, and now I get to participate in this discussion to try to change hearts and minds regarding how we treat those accused of committing crimes in this country. We assume that if we lock people up and forget about them, then we're safer. If we really want our communities to be safe, we need to explore alternatives to incarceration, facilitate restorative justice when appropriate and invest in support services that can reduce harm and help people avoid future interactions with the system."

In her time on the job, she has learned some of the reasons for these numbers. "There was a man who was charged with attempted murder and a couple of other charges for throwing a handful of pebbles at a construction worker and no one was hurt. This was a case of the prosecutor overcharging the offense. Someone in his position, who's looking at a potentially long sentence, could feel pressured to take a plea deal even when there's not enough evidence to convict him on the underlying offense. Lucky for him, he had a public defender who took it to trial and the jury acquitted. That's one less imprisoned person."

The problem with the justice system, she added, "is that we're preconditioned to assume that anyone arrested is guilty, despite what the Constitution tells us — that people should be presumed innocent until proven guilty. If you're a juror or just someone just watching the news and you see a person in an orange jumpsuit wearing handcuffs, that's tough to do. That's why representation is so important, so a jury can learn not only about the circumstances of the case, but who this person is outside these walls."

In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, the Public Defender's Office has worked to fast-track the release of people from county jail with fewer than 60 days left on their sentences and those who may be at high risk for the virus. "These people are in crowded and unsanitary jails, and there's a concern that if the virus comes into the jail, it will spread among the incarcerated population, staff, attorneys and visitors. Although they seem isolated, they aren't, and to create more distance among them, we need to release people who don't need to be in jail."

One of the people released thanks to efforts by her office was a Vietnam veteran who was in jail awaiting his trial. **Ibarra** coordinated an interview with *This American Life* to help him tell his story in a segment called "Outbreak Breakout." Her office has also made progress in advocating for the release of youth from juvenile hall and people being held in immigration detention throughout the state.

Part of her job involves dispelling myths surrounding the work of her office, "including the notion that we have done away with all bail. While the office of the new District Attorney has a policy not to ask for cash bail, judges can still set bail for certain offenses."

Ibarra is proud to work for one of the country's premier Public Defenders Offices, "especially because the people with whom I work are passionate, intelligent and effective in this fast-paced environment. They have

Much of Ibarra's world view was shaped by her religious studies classes at SI, "which stressed our Jesuit and Christian values, especially forgiveness. That's a concept that tends to get obfuscated by our fast-moving media culture, which often ignores critical thinking. It's better to find ways to forgive and move forward."



taught me so much that I feel as if I've inadvertently enrolled in law school. They have a level of passion and dedication to those whom they represent, and they are fighters who are trying to protect people's rights."

The leadership of her office, she added, "emphasizes having a holistic approach to this work. Our various units play a role in learning about those who have been charged with crimes — everything from their upbringing and level of education to the programs they have completed. This is information attorneys can bring to court to represent the whole person."

Much of **Ibarra's** world view was shaped by her religious studies classes at SI, "which stressed our

Jesuit and Christian values, especially forgiveness. That's a concept that tends to get obfuscated by our fast-moving media culture, which often ignores critical thinking. It's better to find ways to forgive and move forward. I think about my class with **Mr. Shaughnessy**, where we would debate controversial issues and realize that these were far from black and white. Instead, we'd look for mutual understanding and nuanced approaches. This is exactly what I try to do when I look for ways to present stories to members of the press. I can humanize the people we represent and point out flaws in the system we like to call justice." ∞

Valerie Ibarra '99 in a photo taken on her first day at her new job in the Public Defender's Office.

Referee Buzz Pujolar '62 honored by SF Prep Hall of Fame

When the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame inducts **Vince Tringali** and **Ralph “Buzz” Pujolar '62** into its ranks this Oct. 17, it will be doing something expected and something rare.

The induction of **Tringali** is a natural for the Prep Hall of Fame. A legendary SI football coach in the 1960s, **Tringali** was featured in *Genesis*'s two issues ago for his work leading his team to a first-place ranking in the nation after 19 undefeated consecutive games in 1962 and 1963 and helping the school win the WCAL crown in 1967, the first year SI entered that league.

The induction of **Pujolar**, however, represents a rare event, as there are only a handful of referees in the Hall of Fame.

“Refs don’t typically get honored,” he noted. “We’re not supposed to be honored. We’re the third part of any game and take pride in not being involved in anything where honors are concerned.”

Instead, **Pujolar** and his fellow referees are too often the targets of critics unhappy with a call or the outcome of a game.

One game that stands out for him is the 1988 state championship in Oakland, where Bishop O’Dowd point guard **Lou Richie** (now that school’s head basketball coach) made a shot with seven seconds on the clock.

“We had to disallow that basket because another player touched the ball in the cylinder,” said **Pujolar**. “Bishop O’Dowd, which was down by 1 point, ended up losing the game. In the tunnel after the game, the O’Dowd coach told us we had done a good job. Later, on KTVU, he ripped into me, accusing me of a bias in favor of public schools, as I was teaching physical education at a public school then. **Mark Ibanez** asked my partner and me if we wanted to come on the show and offer a rebuttal, but we said no. That’s not what refs do. We don’t involve ourselves in that sort of thing. Later, that game became a small part of a graphic novel about the school’s 2013–2014 season.”

Pujolar, who was elected president of the Northern California Officials Association several times, takes pride in the honesty and impartiality his profession demands. He hasn’t kept track of exactly how many high school, college and Olympic Club basketball games he has refereed in a 40-year career that started in 1974, but he knows it numbers in the thousands.

Along the way, he has earned the respect of coaches and referees for his knowledge of the rule book and the way he applies those rules. “The job of a ref is to give both teams an equal opportunity to play their best game. That doesn’t mean you give them an equal opportunity to win, as one team may be significantly better than another. You just want to be sure that you aren’t giving anyone an advantage. When you walk off the court, you want to be able to hold your head up, knowing you gave it your best effort.”

Born in the Mission District, **Pujolar** only spoke Spanish at home in his early years, as his grandparents, who helped raise him, had immigrated from Spain. His parents gave him a nickname “as my father’s name was **Ralph**, and there wasn’t going to be two **Ralphs** around the house. I also loved a comic

book character named **Buz Sawyer**, so they started calling me **Buzz**. Later, when I heard about **Buzz Aldrin** and **Buzz Lightyear**, I realized I was part of a pretty cool pantheon.”

Pujolar was a sports fan from his days at St. Monica’s and loved seeing the Giants leave behind New York City for San Francisco. He played frosh baseball and intramurals at SI and spent time playing trumpet in high school and acting in his senior year.

He left Santa Clara University after one semester “as the Jesuits and I mutually decided it wasn’t going to work out. The dean told me the school already had too many SI wise guys.”

After earning degrees from San Francisco City College and USF, he landed a job teaching PE for the San Francisco Unified School District and spent most of his 35 years at McAteer High School before finishing his career as dean of students at Wallenberg.

His fellow PE teachers, as well as his uncle — a firefighter and a college basketball referee at the time — inspired him to don the black and white stripes. “I was lousy at first, like most everyone is, but I stuck with it because I enjoyed it. It was fun being on the court, and I got a kick out of the challenges. I also loved the movement. You need to be in shape to officiate basketball well.”

He also found that he had a knack for dealing with players and coaches, though he did find a challenge with Riordan’s **Ron Isola**. “**Ron** is a fantastic person, but when he was coaching, he would work you and work you. I asked one of my mentor referees, **Jim Witt**, for advice, and he told me that when **Ron** was on my ass, I should kneel down and pretend to tie my shoe so it didn’t look like we were having an argument. A week or so later, **Ron** was again on my ass, so I started to kneel down to pretend-tie my shoe. **Ron** said, ‘Who do you think you are, **Jim Witt?**’”

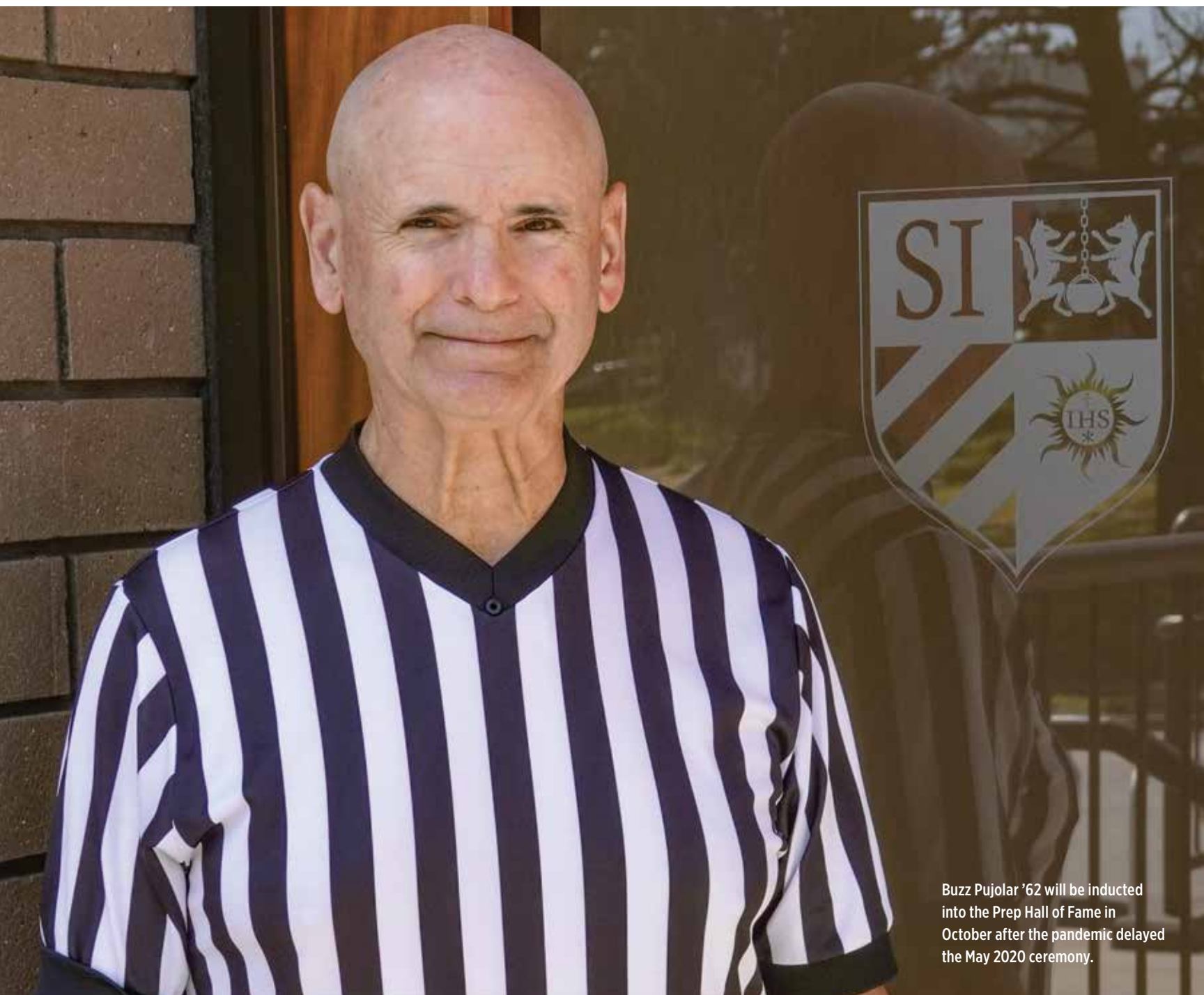
Among **Pujolar**’s favorite games to ref was the Bruce-Mahoney. “That was the assignment of the year. Anyone who is among the upper crust of refs would always cross his fingers to get the game because the venue is packed to the rafters with legs hanging over the edges of the upper tier. It’s a fun job.”

He did try his hand once with a CYO game. “I was coming out of the YMCA at Stonestown and stuck my head in at St. Stephens to see what was going on. The ref was late in coming to the game, so I was asked to fill in. You’d think the people on the sidelines would have been grateful — but no. I had a horrible experience. I had always heard about CYO parents, and I experienced it close up that day. That was the end of my CYO career.”

Pujolar found camaraderie among the other refs, many of whom would gather at Original Joe’s in Westlake on Fridays after the evening’s games. “We’d meet in the glass room, and everyone had a story to tell either from that night or from a recent game. That was a bonding experience not every person has, and I’m still friends with many of those men.”

He has stayed close, too, with his SI classmates. “I think it was **Ed Rhein '62** who started calling our class the Happiness Boys,

“I was lousy at first, like most everyone is, but I stuck with it because I enjoyed it. It was fun being on the court, and I got a kick out of the challenges. I also loved the movement. You need to be in shape to officiate basketball well.” – Buzz Pujolar '62



Buzz Pujolar '62 will be inducted into the Prep Hall of Fame in October after the pandemic delayed the May 2020 ceremony.

and I thought that was a terrific name. I love seeing those guys every Christmas for our lunch at Original Joe's in North Beach organized by **Bill Landtbohm '62** though our numbers have started to dwindle a bit.”

He and his wife, **Andrea**, sent daughter, **Tara '94**, to SI, and their older daughter, **Valerie**, graduated from San Rafael High School in 1986.

Pujolar also started officiating at games at the Olympic Club starting in the late 1970s, and he continues working there since retiring from school games. “Some of those games had so many SI grads that it looked like an SI alumni league for a while. They now have 35-plus and 45-plus leagues, which has helped me extend my career. I've never been interested in piling up games, but I do still enjoy getting in a run on the court.” ∞



From left, Charlie '67, Marcus '95 and Paul Gaetani '00.

The Gaetani Family: Handling the headaches for SF property owners

If you own a building in San Francisco or rent an office or apartment, just think about all the problems you might face — everything from burst pipes and black mold to dealing with a maze of city regulations.

Luckily renters and owners have an ally in Gaetani Real Estate, a property management firm that has served both groups for nearly three quarters of a century starting in 1946.

The family-owned company traces its roots to Abruzzi, Italy, the home of **Eduardo Gaetani**, who left in 1902 for New York, where he learned how to be a tailor. He moved three years later to San Francisco and opened a shop on Sacramento Street near Cherry, in a building that his great-grandsons now manage.

Eduardo's son, **Tony**, began Gaetani Real Estate at the end of World War II, after serving aboard transport ships that supplied U.S. troops fighting in the South Pacific. Those ships left from Fort Mason in the city, where **Tony** was stationed and where he also worked as a medical assistant. (Gaetani Real

Estate, incidentally, now manages the residential housing at Fort Mason.)

Tony's son **Charlie '67**, stepped into the family business in 1972 after graduating from USF. Back then, the company also helped people buy and sell homes and built apartments before focusing primarily on property management. For a time, **Charlie** partnered with his brother, **Tony Jr.**, before the latter left to do construction full time.

In 2014, when **Charlie** stepped down, his sons **Marcus '95** and **Paul '00** took over the business. The company now manages 450 buildings thanks to 50 part-time and 30 full-time employees, including **Dave Alexander '95**.

Central to the company's success over the years was **Charlie's** wife, **Nadine**, who started working in 1984 and continues as the firm's accountant. "My parents — who will celebrate their 50th anniversary in August 2020 — were a great team and that has been the foundation of our approach to working and developing

The Gaetani brothers also deal with a host of issues facing all San Franciscans, from the homeless crisis to real estate prices that rank among the highest in the world. They urge city politicians to do more than just talk about helping the homeless, but to do something to help addicts become clean and sober and to work with those suffering from mental illness to receive the help they need. They also believe the solutions need to be regional and not just city-wide.

a family business,” said **Marcus**. “The company wouldn’t be what it is today without her.”

He added that his tenants and building owners “appreciate that when they call us, they speak directly with one of our employees rather than just leave a message.” **Marcus** learned the lesson of person-to-person care from his father and from his time serving as a lieutenant in the U.S. Navy.

During Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, he was an officer with Destroyer Squadron 23, and he also served aboard the *U.S.S. Nimitz* in the Persian Gulf. In his time in the Navy, he tried to learn his job “fast and well. I also learned to care for the sailors I supervised and got to know them as people with aspirations, likes and dislikes. I also learned the value of having allies and working with many different types of people from all over the world in pursuit of a common goal. The same qualities work well in property management, as empathy and coordination are a big part of what we do here.”

He also approaches his work with the same team spirit he had in the Navy, including a two-year assignment as a naval exchange officer in Chile. “That gave me the opportunity to look at the U.S. Navy from the outside. Now, doing property management, I can see the points of view of landlords and tenants as well as those in the city crafting and enforcing regulations. With each group, I try to help them achieve their goals.”

Done well, added **Paul**, “property management is a win for everyone, with tenants caring for properties as much as owners. If you maintain your property and treat tenants with respect, dignity and gratitude, that care will pay you back.”

Father and sons learned this lesson at SI, which taught them “to follow the moral imperative to do the right thing,” said **Marcus**. “There are some bad actors who follow the letter of the law but don’t do right by their clients. We do the right thing because it’s the right thing to do. We treat tenants like people and not just as income and numbers.”

Charles, Marcus and Paul praised their SI teachers, including **Horace Buley, Vince Tringali, Bill Isham, and Chuck Murphy ’61**.

Both **Marcus and Paul** also pointed to lessons learned from coaches such as **Kevin Quattrin ’78 and Joe Vollert ’84**. **Marcus** played soccer and football, and **Paul** was part of the wrestling team and did track and field. “I loved hearing the homilies and prayers before our games,” said **Marcus**. “I always found them inspirational, relevant and thoughtful.”

Both feel rooted in the SI family and are friends with many of their former classmates. In addition, **Paul’s** wife, **Jen Krasner**, developed and ran SI’s Wellness Team for years, and **Marcus’** wife is **Gabrielle Kaho Gaetani ’96**, whom he met at SI. **Marcus** is also part of the Admiral Callaghan Society, which supports SI grads in the armed services as well as veterans.

For **Paul**, SI taught him “that there is something bigger than you are, and life shouldn’t just be all about you. In high school, the ethos imparted was to look after people and have compassion.”

His family’s company, he added, has been around so long and served the community so well that Gaetani Real Estate “is built on trust and reputation. If we walk into a building inspector’s office or the Rent Board, people know we’re honest brokers who do right by both owners and tenants.”

That trust and their expertise have allowed the **Gaetanis** to complete a five-year project of seismic retrofits for 100 properties that will help people survive the next big earthquake. “We were able to finish these retrofits — a huge undertaking — thanks in part to lessons I learned in the Navy,” added **Marcus**. “Our mantra was ‘always have a plan,’ and then modify that plan as new information came in and as priorities shift.”

The brothers also deal with a host of issues facing all San Franciscans, from the homeless crisis to real estate prices that rank among the highest in the world. They urge city politicians to do more than just talk about helping the homeless, but to do something to help addicts become clean and sober and to work with those suffering from mental illness to receive the help they need. They also believe the solutions need to be regional and not just city-wide.

They aren’t fans of rent control or the myriad regulations faced by builders. “Put together, these factors limit the inventory in the city, and that keeps prices high,” said **Marcus**.

“Some people feel they are trapped inside rent-controlled apartments,” added **Paul**. “The city needs to make it easier for these people to move when they want to and for developers to build units we desperately need.”

Both **Paul and Marcus** love working for a family business in the city where they grew up. “I also love that each day is different,” said **Paul**. “I’m not tied to a desk staring at spreadsheets. Instead, I meet with vendors, contractors, tenants and neighbors to help make the city a little bit better. This job fills me with pride.” ☺



Cesar Contreras '92 takes SF's real estate market global

“Many baby boomers are now selling their large homes, but younger buyers want smaller, efficient properties within walking distance to shops and restaurants as well as public transportation to help them get to their jobs on the Peninsula and to the airport.”
— Cesar Contreras

Photo by Andy Berry.

Cesar Contreras '92 has seen a world of change in the San Francisco real estate market since he started selling homes in the 1990s. In fact, he has seen the world rush in to scoop up city homes and condominiums, and he has sold to a virtual United Nations of buyers from every continent other than Antarctica.

“Some of the money from Chinese buyers has slowed a bit,” he added. “Not long ago, money from China was flowing so freely that I always had an associate who spoke Mandarin or Cantonese or both. Many realtors do the same thing, as we need to be sure we are sensitive to and have knowledge of the cultures of our buyers.”

Contreras also works with many people from Mexico, Central America and South America “who like the fact that I speak Spanish fluently,” he added.

A first-generation San Franciscan, **Contreras** (whose sister is former Alumni Director **Alexa Contreras '05**) has roots in Nicaragua, where his mother lived before immigrating to the U.S., and in Guatemala, where his father was born and raised.

The international nature of the business also means that realtors need to advertise homes beyond local newspapers. “All you need to have is one buyer who writes a ‘wow’ offer to justify the added effort and expense, especially in a world-class city like San Francisco, where people want access to our microeconomy near Silicon Valley and the biotech industry.”

That increased marketing cost comes in the form of professional photos and videos, including drone footage. “We’re producing mini-movies to market our properties, and the costs are high because we need to represent high-end properties from one-bedroom condos to seven-bedroom Pacific Heights mansions. You can’t be afraid to invest in worldwide marketing when you market these homes.”

The upside to this outreach, **Contreras** added “is that many of these buyers have become friends, and they help me network around the world.”

After graduating from SI and USF, **Contreras** worked with Sapunar Realty on 28th and Judah, where veterans such as **Rich Hunt '60**, **Nick Sapunar** and **John Christen '61** served as mentors. He later worked with **John's** sons, **Anthony '91** and **Paul '92**. When Coldwell Banker bought out Sapunar, he partnered with **Anthony** and eventually moved to Pacific Union and then to Compass, which occupies the former Hard Rock Café building on Van Ness Avenue.

“In the early days, I’d sign up for any open house I could, and I relied heavily on my connections as a native San Franciscan. We had a few multiple offers in the old days, but nothing like we’re seeing today. Now I’ll get calls on homes that have been on the market for two minutes.”

He has also seen changes in the kinds of homes young buyers want. “Many baby boomers are now selling their large homes, but younger buyers want smaller, efficient properties within walking distance to shops and restaurants as well as public transportation to help them get to their jobs on the Peninsula and to the airport. They want simplicity and convenience and are looking for condominiums with a bedroom for them, a bedroom for their one child and one more for an office.”

He was used to selling to classmates from SI and the other city schools “where there was a degree or two of separation. My greatest satisfaction is when I help old friends and classmates achieve their real estate goals in the San Francisco market, which is both ultra-expensive and competitive.”

For those looking to buy in San Francisco, **Contreras** encourages people not to be afraid to borrow from their retirement accounts or other nest eggs. “That can be scary, but given the trends in the Bay Area, you’ll be OK in the long run. You need to be comfortable being a little uncomfortable to get into home ownership. If you do decide years later to leave San Francisco, your investment in real estate will have served you well.”

KEEPING IN TOUCH



1951 Four members of the Class of '51 gathered in San Rafael for a small reunion June 5, 69 years after graduating from SI. From left are **Stan Buchanan, John Mallen, Joe Burke** and **Denis Ragan**.

1954 Lawrence Basso, following four decades

of medical practice at the Palo Alto Medical Foundation and Stanford University, is still actively teaching undergraduates Human Physiology and Pharmacology. When asked about the most important part of his education, he always answers that “it was the great St. Ignatius High School that I was fortunate to attend. The Jesuits taught me to love learning as a lifelong endeavor. It prepared me so well for everything else that followed. It is still true today.”



1968 Two SI-owned restaurants were named as finalists for the James Beard Award: Swan Oyster Depot, owned by the Sancimino brothers (from left) — **Jim '75, Phillip '76, Stephen '68** and **Tom '72** — for Outstanding Hospitality; and Trick Dog, co-

owned by **Josh Harris '00** (inset) for Outstanding Bar Program.

1971 Dr. James Corum's new book, *Legion Condor 1936–39* looks at the Luftwaffe in Spain and what the Germans learned there and applied in the early years of World War II. A former dean of the Baltic Defence College, he retired from university teaching and moved to the Gulf-Coast town of Foley, Ala., where he does contract research for NATO. He is writing his 15th book, this one on the 1940 Norway air campaign.

1977 Russell Anixter arranged the Lerner and Lowe song “On the Street Where You Live,” performed by the Russ Anixter Hippie Big Band, and featured in Local 802's Songs of Support series to help musicians in this trying time. See and hear it at erf.local802afm.org.



1981 SI Drama graduate **Francis Jue**, who won best featured actor from the Bay Area Theatre Critics Circle last year for his work in *Soft Power* at the Curran Theatre, won two more awards from the BATCC this year: best featured actor for *The Language Archive* at TheatreWorks and best principal actor for *King of the Yeas* at SF Playhouse. This season in New York, Off-Broadway's Lucille

Lortel Awards nominated Francis twice as well, for *Soft Power* and *Cambodian Rock Band*, and he won for best featured actor for *Cambodian Rock Band*. Francis was awarded an Outer Critics Circle Honor for featured actor in *Soft Power*, and he also received two more nominations from the Drama Desk Awards as best actor for both *Cambodian Rock Band* and *Soft Power*.



1982 Michael Patt became an assistant fire marshal with the San Francisco Fire Department in 2019. He lives in Sebastopol with his wife Julie Gualco-Patt (Mercy High '83) and his three daughters: Michaela, Genevieve and Isabella.

1985 Geoff Callan co-directed and produced *The Push*, an award-winning documentary about Grant Korgan, the first spinal cord injured athlete to push himself 100 miles to the South Pole.

1986 *The Half Moon Bay Review* featured Half Moon Bay High School girls' basketball coach **Martin Dioli** (who was a basketball phenom at SI and at Gonzaga University) and his daughters, whom he coaches along with Varsity Coach **Antonio Veloso '92**.

1988 Michael Guenza continues to teach at Francisco Middle School in North Beach. In 2017, he and his students received the National Park Service's George and Helen Hartzog Award for Outstanding Volunteer Service, along with David McGuire and Shark Stewards, for their work to increase awareness about the impact of marine debris and single-use plastics on the San Francisco Bay. The students also won top prize at the 2017 International Ocean Film Festival for their short film “Hang onto Your Butts.”

1989 Alfonso Rey serves as chief revenue officer at Vidora, an artificial intelligence predictions platform.

1990 Shane O'Connor was featured on sfgate.com for his work creating plexiglass dividers to help businesses during the pandemic.

1994 Julianne Guevara was named principal of St. Joseph Notre Dame High School in Alameda. She is a former social science teacher at SI as well as the head women's basketball coach. At SJND, she also served as the head women's basketball coach as well as director of admissions and assistant principal of student life.



1999 Elliot Geidt, a general partner at Redpoint Ventures, was named to the 2020 Midas Brink List by Forbes, TrueBridge and Midas List of up-and-coming investors.

Julie Yap (right) has been appointed to serve as a judge in the Sacramento County Superior Court. She has served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Affirmative Civil Enforcement Unit of the U.S. Attorney's Office, Eastern District of California since 2019. She was a partner at Seyfarth Shaw LLP from 2016 to 2019, where she was an associate from 2012 to 2016. An adjunct professor at the University of the Pacific, McGeorge School of Law until 2018, she served as a U.S. Supreme Court fellow and as a law clerk for the Honorable Frank C. Damrell, Jr. at the U.S. District Court, Eastern District of California. A Fordham University School of Law graduate, she fills the vacancy created by the retirement of Judge Robert M. Twiss.



2001 Ben Matranga is running for San Francisco supervisor for District 7.

2008 Adam Greenberg, (right) co-founder and CEO of IUNU, was named as among the Forty Under 40 to watch by Greenhouse Product News. / *The Boston Globe* featured **Paul Toboni**, director of Amateur Scouting for the Red Sox.

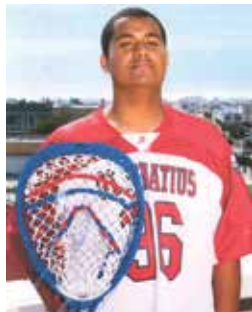


2009 Derrick Cleland, DO, MPH (left), graduated from Nova Southeastern University medical school in Southern Florida and began residency in internal medicine at Loma Linda University in July. He and **Jillian Nielsen '12** recently got engaged.

2010 Bridget Arriaza is finishing her graduate studies at NYU's Nutrition & Dietetics Program with a concentration in Clinical Nutrition. She is a nutritionist interested in evidence-based nutrition and health as well as a wellness consultant, counselor and writer. Previously, she earned her bachelor's degree in Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Studies from USC's Keck School of Medicine and minored in Spanish. / **Breniel Lemley** was awarded the 2020 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. Her proposed research is about understanding science media and its impact on young children's learning. / **Lauren Roger** was voted onto the Board of Directors for the San Francisco Women's Political Committee, a non-partisan organization committed to elevating, endorsing and empowering women to positions of political leadership, as well as endorsing ballot initiatives in each election.

2013 Ryan Curry, a reporter for NBC26 in Green Bay, Wisc., was part of a team that received an Edward R. Murrow award for Best Overall Newscast in the Midwest region for the coverage of the Jayme Closs story. He had reported from the scene where Jayme was held captive. / **Briana Megid** was featured in *The San Francisco Chronicle* for her work with NextGen America to get out the youth vote in the November election in support of Joe Biden.

2015 Robert Emery, a senior catcher at USF, has been named to the Buster Posey Award Watch List for the second year in a row, an award given to the top NCAA Division 1 catcher in the nation. He will be playing baseball for the University of Arkansas' Razorbacks this coming season. / **Alex Griffin** (right) graduated with honors in 2019 from Fairfield University in Connecticut. From there he was awarded a select place as one of 100 graduates from across the country to participate in the NBC Page Program at 30 Rockefeller Center in New York City. In that cohort, he was chosen to work with NBC at the Summer Olympics in Tokyo. / **Camille Rich** is getting a master's program in Global Health at Trinity College in Dublin, Ireland. She now finds her studies brought to life in this pandemic. Rather than return to the US, Camille volunteered to stay and assist at Dublin's first COVID-19 drive-thru testing center. (Read more about her in the COVID-19 story in this issue.)



2016 Gavin Doyle led 10 USC campus organizations to donate nearly \$10,000 to Homeboy Industries during the quarantine. Homeboy Industries Founder Greg Boyle, S.J., said of him: "We greatly appreciate his leadership at USC and help spreading our efforts. He truly embodies the Jesuit idea of being a man or woman with and for others." / **Joseph L. Jimenez** (right), a catcher on Chapman University's baseball team who helped the school win the 2019 DIII NCAA World Series, received the Don Perkins Leadership Award. He hopes to play professional baseball after graduation.



2017 CDT Lauren McNevin USMA '21, representing West Point, toured Mozambique's Samora Machel Military Academy in Nampula province. Leadership, adaptability and her Portuguese language skills were tested and, for a while, she was the country's favorite foreign visitor with gifts of tee-shirts and snacks that were much appreciated. She found it to be a rewarding experience in a remote and challenged nation.

2018 Delaney Peranich was featured in *The San Mateo Daily Journal* for her success as a two-sport athlete at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo in both beach volleyball and track and field.

2020 SI grads and one coach were honored by the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club High School Awards, even though it had to cancel its May 11 banquet due to the pandemic. **Teddy Buchanan** received the Vince Tringali Football Award, named for SI's former coach from the 1960s. **Teddy** led SI to its first WCAL title since 2006 and was honored by Prep2Prep, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, NorCal Prep and the WCAL. **Colin Clifford** received the Joe DiMaggio Baseball Trophy for his expertise, even though his season was canceled due to the pandemic. Last year, he led SI to its first CCS tournament appearance in five years. Among the SFIAC's Athlete of the Year winners were **Danny Ryan** (football and lacrosse), **Rachel Harvey** (basketball) and **Duke Reeder '21** (football and lacrosse.) In addition, football **Coach John Regalia '93** received the Steve Mariucci Trophy for leading SI to a 9-3 overall and a 7-1 league record. / *The San Francisco Examiner* named **Caeley Goldstein** and **Elle Van Giesen** as its San Francisco Players of the Year and also named them to its All-City High School Soccer First Team. It gave second-team honors to **Declan Patankar**, **Maddie Kjeldgaard** and **Katrina Avila** and third team honors to **Luca Ornstil**. Honorable mention went to **Joe Patino** and **Chloe Hudson '22**. It also gave girls' coach **Tom Atencio** coach of the year honors and honored the entire SI girls' team with "team of the year" honors. / **Ed Lawrence Hagape** (right) won an essay contest from Fireside Publishing.



2021 Annika Pyo won a \$500 Best in Class award in the Growing Up Asian American Art Contest sponsored by AACI.

2023 Silver Waves Media named **King-Jhsanni Wilhite** as its number-two player for NorCal basketball for the class of 2023, and Prep2Prep named him its CCS Freshman of the Year.

BIRTHS



1994 Ken Sullivan and his wife, Libby, a son, Harry Ryan (right), born Oct. 5, 2019.

2009 Laura (West) Fischer and her husband, Michael, a son, Matthew Price (left), born Feb. 4, 2020. Laura and her family live in Hyattsville, Md.



IN MEMORIAM

1943	Hike Kazarian	1958	James P. McCormack
1943	Edward W. Schuldt	1958	Richard E. Mussallem II
1943	Taylor T. Wheeler	1960	Wayne D. Del Carlo
1947	Ernest C. Bracchi	1960	Col. Howard C. Eggers
1950	Frank Dunphy	1964	Tom Hughes
1951	John T. Burke	1969	Dennis P. McShane
1953	Timothy F. Cadigan	1974	Kevin T. Webb
1954	Frank M. Bozzini	1980	William Vaquilar
1954	Richard W. Crespo	1982	John Heaphy
1955	William H. Harrison	1984	David M. Mahoney
1955	Rev. Dr. Loring McAllister	1986	Eric P. Hansson
1957	Peter S. Balestrieri	1989	Larry Berroya
1957	Frank Prideaux		
1957	John W. Wagner, Sr.		Eileen Dickson, former SI Athletic Office Manager
1957	Paul M. Watson		

LAST WORDS: EXODUS



Years ago, I used to joke with friends that I would rename my final issue of *Genesis* magazine and call it *Exodus*. I could not have guessed then that my departure would be accompanied by a plague.

As an aside, reporting on SI's response to the pandemic has left me so impressed, even more than normal, by my colleagues at SI and by our alumni who

adapted to changing circumstances to continue to care for students, the sick and each other, even from afar.

This shouldn't surprise those familiar with the history of the Society of Jesus or with Jesuit education. Some notable Jesuits have cared for victims of pandemics over the centuries, and some paid the ultimate price, including **Aloysius Gonzaga, S.J.**, who died in the 16th century as a result of his ministry to plague victims. As for teaching via Zoom, the Jesuits from the start believed in the power of using new technologies for communicating, as evidenced by **Ignatius'** purchase of a printing press in 1556.

In my own way, as editor of around 130 issues of this magazine since 1987, I've tried to adapt to changing circumstances and to keep up with new technologies in order to tell the story of our students, alumni and teachers — as well as the school's rich past and a future filled with promise.

For my first issue in 1987, I sent stories to the printing plant to be typeset the old-fashioned way. For my second magazine, I used game-changing desktop publishing software on a Macintosh Plus computer. Later, at the start of the new millennium, I switched from film to digital cameras, and when **Paul Hanley '63**, our first webmaster, created siprep.org, I added our stories to the Internet.

Along the way, I discovered a passion for photography, and over the years, I became better at using images as well as words to tell the story of the SI family. I remember telling **Yosup Joo**, a gifted psychology teacher and videographer, that I knew just the moment to take photos of students — when I could see their faces shining with light.

It's that light I hoped to convey in my writing, too. All these years, I felt fortunate sharing the light of so many people whose stories are imbued with transformation, journey and meaning. All of this, I discovered early on, is a position of privilege as well as something quite intimate — to interview people and then tell their stories back to them and then share them with you.

Serving as editor is better than what I once envisioned as my dream job — to be in charge of a small-town newspaper. Publishing *Genesis* is similar, in that the 20,000-plus members of the SI community could constitute a small town, but almost all the stories I write about are in the “good news” category and celebrate successes.

Even the global pandemic is the exception that proves the rule. I thought I'd interview two, maybe three, alumni doctors or nurses regarding their front-line work. Instead, that project morphed into more than 40 stories, all of which are recounted on www.siprep.org/covidstories.

I shouldn't have been shocked that so many in our community rose to the challenges caused by the coronavirus, but I was overwhelmed by both the quantity and the quality of their work, including the efforts of **Kevin O'Brien '92** and **Brian Giovanola '92** of Gilead Science, Inc., whose company was the first out of the gate with a treatment for COVID-19 after the FDA approved its drug remdesivir.

The online series also includes reports from **Rayfil Wong '96** in Hong Kong and **Camille Rich '15** in Dublin, showcasing how Wildcats are working around the globe as well as close to home.

Still, I leave my post as editor feeling as if I have unfinished business. As I write this, the world is reeling in the wake of the killing of **George Floyd**. Climate change still threatens our world, and wars rage on across the globe. This magazine has played, and still can play, a small role in addressing these problems. I'm also feeling unsettled over all the mistakes I've made in the past and people who may have been hurt by my decisions. If I continued as editor, I might have opportunities to address failings both external and internal.

Despite this, I know it's time to move on, and I leave feeling, above all else, grateful. I am so thankful to you, dear readers, for putting up with my quirks and imperfections over the years; I am appreciative, too, of all the writers, photographers, proofreaders, illustrators, layout artists, webmasters, social media directors and story pitchers who have helped make *Genesis* something worth reading.

I am grateful to my colleagues, past and present, on the Advancement Team, especially **Tony Sauer, S.J.**, who took a chance and trusted me to make the magazine more than a promotional brochure for the school. Thanks also go to **Steve Lovette '63** and **Joe Vollert '84**, the past and current vice presidents for advancement, and to past principal **Mario Prietto, S.J.**, and former English chair **John Murphy, S.J. '59**, who hired me in 1985 to teach.

I am thankful for my friends among the faculty who have supported me and tolerated my terrible puns. I feel fortunate, too, that I was able to work at the school that my son, **Michael '10**, attended, and where my daughter, **Lauren '07**, now serves as a counselor. I am grateful to my wife, **Kathryn**, for putting up with too many late nights photographing plays and parent events and for having to listen to me sing the fight song every time I drove by the Sunset District campus.

All of these people and experiences — all the storytelling and photos and collaboration and even the criticism — have made me a better person. That, of course, is exactly what SI tries to do with each new class of students — to urge them to become their best selves by helping them understand and direct the story of their lives.

I hope I run into you at an All-Class Reunion once we are able to gather together. You may meet me, from time to time, on the pages of this magazine, if I'm ever called upon to write a story for the next editor, whoever she or he may be. Above all, I hope we all keep trusting in the power of stories to help us find meaning, to inspire us to treat each other with love and to make this world a kind, sustainable and just place. — **Paul Totah '75**

Love is always at the service of others.
Because love is seen in actions, not words.

- Pope Francis



SI JOINS TOGETHER: DAY OF CARING



ON APRIL 30, THE SI COMMUNITY JOINED TOGETHER TO SUPPORT OUR DAY OF CARING!

The outpouring of love and generosity was extraordinary.
Thank you for making a difference for our students!