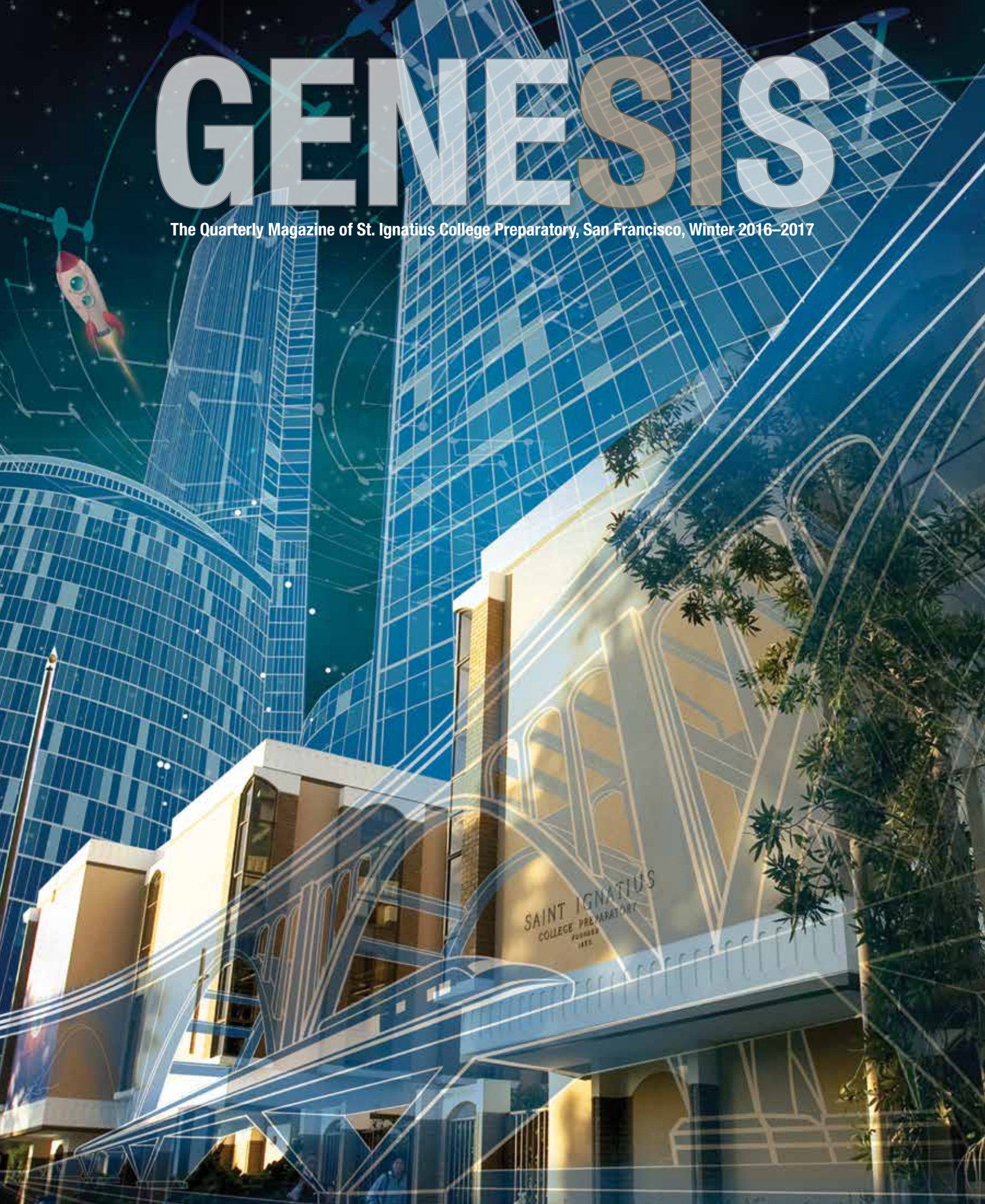


# GENESIS

The Quarterly Magazine of St. Ignatius College Preparatory, San Francisco, Winter 2016–2017









## A Report to Concerned Individuals

Volume 53, Number 4 Winter 2016-2017

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The Winter Dance Concert, *Rhythm and Flow*, featured a host of talented students performing numbers choreographed by Meredith Cecchin Galvin '97 and Emily Shick '10. Inset is freshman Mia Fuerte.

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**Below:** Spanish teacher Pedro Cafasso and Director of Educational Technology and Innovation Jennifer Gaspar-Santos turned a third-floor room into a classroom of the future with floor-to-ceiling white boards, digital displays and moveable desks and chairs that allow for easy reconfiguration.

## First Words

Frequent readers of my First Words know my wife and I like to travel. We caught the bug early on as we both trekked through Europe in Volkswagen vans in the 1970s, she with her family for six months when she was a sophomore at Mercy SF and I with Fr. John Becker, S.J., and nine classmates in the summer of 1975. Our first trips to foreign lands taught us more than any other experience save for having children.

We went abroad once again recently, this time to Peru and to the Galapagos Islands. To prepare for the latter adventure, I read *The Beak of the Finch: A Story of Evolution in Our Time* by Jonathan Weiner, who won the Pulitzer for his remarkable work that chronicles the story of Peter and Rosemary Grant and their observation of 13 species of finches on Daphne Major, part of the Galapagos archipelago. On that small island, they saw evolution in action when both drought and heavy rains led to rapid evolution in beak size. Those finches evolved in order to survive — to crack open the seeds that remained.

SI just announced two sorts of evolutionary changes; rather than changing to survive, we are doing so because we are called, in the words of our mission statement, to respond “courageously to the opportunities and challenges of our time.”

The first evolution is actually a return to our roots. When SI President Eddie Reese, S.J., announced the creation of the Father Sauer Academy — a middle school program that this August will offer full scholarships for seven years to students who qualify for reduced-price lunches through SNAP — he was channeling the early days of the school when SI opened its doors to primary and middle school kids.

Fr. Reese told me he created the academy because “there are kids starving for a great education, and we run a bakery. We need to make our product available to those who can’t afford to buy it. This will give us the chance to make transformational Jesuit education

available to young people who aren’t even thinking about a school like SI. We have to do this simply because we are in a position to do something.”

Evolution is also happening to both the social science and religious studies curriculum. Again, read more about the specifics of these changes in this issue. Though I have never taught in either department — I’m a grizzled former English teacher — I am excited by what these changes will bring because I believe in something that the great poet and teacher Theodore Roethke once wrote — that the art of teaching is a dance between teacher and pupil. Teachers need to respond to the students in front of them, not to students they taught 20 years ago. We need to teach different material in new ways because we have new dance partners in our Generation Z clientele — students who will soon be tasked with the job of solving the enormous problems facing us today and in the years to come.

SI continues to evolve in other ways. Veteran Spanish teacher Pedro Cafasso and Director of Educational Technology and Innovation Jennifer Gaspar-Santos designed a learning space configuration with new desks, chairs and digital displays in Pedro’s third-floor classroom; there is also a white board that runs from floor to ceiling on which students can brainstorm ideas for innovative class projects. Our teachers and administrators know that the inscape of the mind is linked to the landscape of the classroom, and a simple thing as desks that swivel to allow for collaboration can enhance a school day.

I have seen some educational fads come and go over the years, but I also know that if we don’t experiment, we risk remaining stagnant and falling behind a rapidly expanding curve. That’s what makes working at a place like SI exciting, because we have the courage to change when we need to. That’s why I’m still an enormous fan of this place and why SI will be around, I suspect, far longer than any of us can imagine. — *Paul Totah '75*





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**On the Cover:** This fanciful future-vision of the school speaks to SI's forward-thinking approach to education, from the Design Thinking process that is helping teachers revise curriculum to the Father Sauer Academy, SI's new middle school venture. Photo composition by [Nancy Hess '05](#).

## Father Harry V. Carlin, S.J., Heritage Society

*We especially thank the following lifetime friends who have made provisions in their estate plans — bequests, charitable trusts, gifts of life insurance or retirement funds — to support SI's Endowment Fund. Such gifts provide for the long-term welfare of SI and may also provide donors with valuable tax and income benefits during their lifetimes. The forethought and generosity of the following is most appreciated:*

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## SI to launch new middle school program named for Fr. Tony Sauer, S.J.

Beginning in August, SI will return to its historical roots and further its Jesuit mission by offering a full scholarship middle school program called the Father Sauer Academy.

For the early part of SI's history, the school educated both primary and middle school students. The Jesuits believed then that the best way to prepare students for a rigorous college preparatory curriculum was to start early.

The middle school Academy is named for Anthony P. Sauer, S.J., who served as president between 1979 and 2006. A remarkable school leader, Fr. Sauer instituted another major sea change when SI went coed in 1989. He also expanded the campus and turned a good city school into a great regional college preparatory.

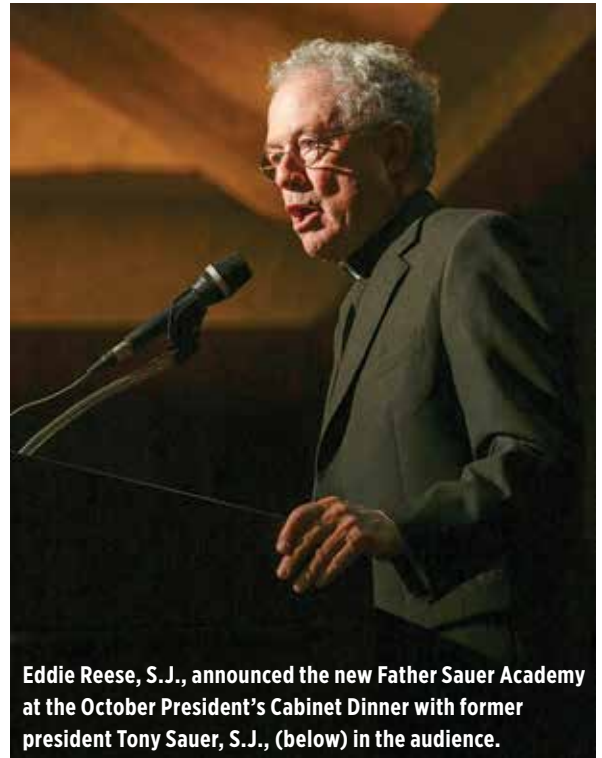
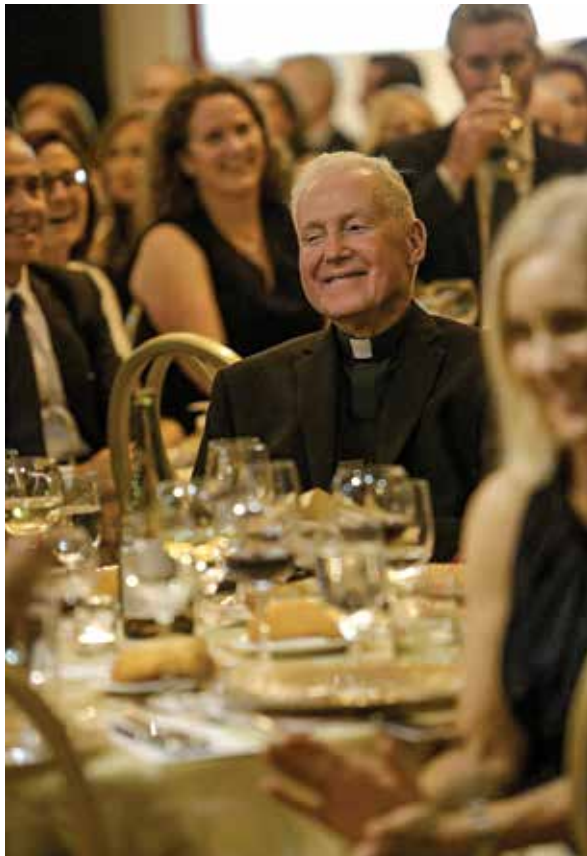
The Academy will accept students from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and offer them full scholarships for their three years of middle school and four years at SI.

"This move aligns with the Jesuit mission to serve students with limited financial means," said SI President Edward Reese, S.J., who announced the academy at the President's Cabinet Dinner on Oct. 8. The program aims to attract highly motivated students who might qualify for the USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program.

"The Academy will address the injustice of the educational divide," Fr. Reese added. "While not a cure-all, education is the best way to address disparities in wealth, to prepare students for academic success and to give them opportunities for growth. It is incumbent upon all Jesuit schools to provide programs to meet the challenges of the most disadvantaged among us."

The first class of 30 sixth graders will begin classes in the school's west campus building in August 2017; by August 2019, the middle school will be fully enrolled with sixth, seventh and eighth graders.

"At SI we prepare leaders to respond courageously to the challenges of our time, and these leaders come from varied backgrounds and families," noted Fr. Reese. "We



**Eddie Reese, S.J., announced the new Father Sauer Academy at the October President's Cabinet Dinner with former president Tony Sauer, S.J., (below) in the audience.**

hope to find boys and girls with innate ability but who lack the educational background needed to thrive at a college preparatory. We want to identify and attract scholars at an earlier age so that they are better able to succeed at SI and at the university of their choice."

SI will accept students based on academic ability, elementary school recommendations and demonstrated financial need. "We expect that these students will have at least one adult who is committed to their education, who will be part of their application process and who will be with them as they go through school," added Fr. Reese.

Once at the Academy, these scholars will take part in an extended school day and an 11-month school year. "We then plan for these scholars to matriculate directly into SI as high school students."

On Dec. 9, SI Principal Patrick Ruff announced that Karen Hammen will serve as the academy's director. A veteran educator steeped in Jesuit tradition, Hammen comes to SI after serving as the vice principal of St. Peter School in San Francisco's Mission District. (See story on opposite page for more on Hammen.)

While Hammen started accepting applications in January from students of all faith backgrounds and denominations, she noted that the best applicants are industrious 5th grade Catholic girls and boys with demonstrated financial need currently attending public school. (Go to the Academy's website at [siprep.org/academy](http://siprep.org/academy) for more information.)

Once students are selected for the Academy, Hammen will create a transportation plan that could involve bus service to and from their neighborhoods, a Clipper Card to ride on the Muni Transit System, or ZUM, a company with pre-qualified drivers of vans and small buses for school.

The Academy will be funded separately from the college preparatory program through donations and will not use SI tuition or financial aid designated for high school students. "We currently project that we will need



between \$1 million and \$1.2 million to start the Academy and fund the first year,” added Fr. Reese. “The sooner we reach that goal, the sooner we can start building the Father Sauer Academy Endowment to provide a sustainable revenue source.”

If you are interested in supporting the Father Sauer Academy, contact Vice President for Advancement Joe Vollert '84 at [jvollert@siprep.org](mailto:jvollert@siprep.org) or call him at (415) 682-5019. ∞



**ABOVE:** Karen Hammen, the new director of the Father Sauer Academy, will step into her new job in July. She comes with roots in the Mission District and a commitment to help inner-city students below the poverty line succeed at SI.

## St. Peter's VP Karen Hammen to lead Father Sauer Academy

Karen Hammen, the vice principal of St. Peter Catholic School in San Francisco's Mission District, will serve as the director of the new Father Sauer Academy, SI's new middle school program, starting in July.

A veteran educator, Hammen is steeped in Jesuit tradition. She grew up attending Mass in a Jesuit parish in Missoula, Mont., she went to a Catholic high school that was once run by the Jesuits, she attended the College of the Holy Cross run by the Society of Jesus, and she served as a Jesuit Volunteer in New Orleans after college. She taught at the Sacred Heart Nativity Schools in San Jose sponsored by the Jesuits and led SI students on two immersion trips to Costa Rica in 2008 and 2009. She is currently a member of St. Agnes Parish, run by the Jesuits.

She also brings a decade's worth of experience working with Latino families in the Bay Area as well as two master's degrees from the University of Notre Dame in Indiana, both from the school's prestigious Alliance for Catholic Education (ACE) Program, which led her to teach in McAllen, Texas, and Birmingham, Ala.

Hammen was born in Los Angeles and moved with her parents to Missoula when she was five. Her mother worked as a nurse, her father as a chemist. With parents working in the sciences, she first planned to become a doctor.

She also befriended the young men and women fresh out of college who worked in Missoula through the Jesuit Volunteer Corps. “They first introduced me to notions of AMDG and *magis* and showed me what it meant to be a person for and with others. Later, the Ignatian spirituality of my Jesuit parish was given language and meaning studying at Holy Cross.”

After finishing her bachelor's degree in biology, Hammen opted to spend a year as a Jesuit Volunteer and was assigned to New Orleans, where she worked at a shelter for victims of domestic violence. In Louisiana, she was struck “by the deep racial and economic divisions that exist there. Women who only have high school diplomas feel trapped by their financial situations to stay in abusive relationships.”

She felt drawn to education first by her experience tutoring children in the shelter and later by friends in Notre Dame's ACE program who were visiting New Orleans. “One morning I woke up and clear as day I knew that I wanted to apply for that program and be a teacher at a Catholic school. I wanted to work to create justice and equity.”

Later, she felt drawn to administration and earned a second master's degree in Notre Dame's Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program, this time in educational leadership “as I like thinking about how systems run and how cultures and communities work.”

For the past three years, she has worked with the faculty and staff at St. Peter School in San Francisco's Mission District to provide an academically rigorous Catholic education to students whose families struggle financially. Many of the parents “were not born in the U.S. Some of them have limited formal education and English language skills. They also face the challenge of earning a living wage for their work. Their struggles are compounded by the rising cost of living in the city, and that has a domino effect on other stresses they experience. I'm proud of our work because we partner with parents to put students on the path to college and open them to a world of possibilities.”

The Father Sauer Academy, she added, “aligns with what is important to me in education. It is a Jesuit, Catholic school that will help lift students out of poverty. It will prepare students to move on to and succeed at SI.”

At St. Peter's, Hammen works with a group of respected women in the community, the Madrinas, who help convince prospective parents that St. Peter's will be a good fit for their children. Her first order of business at the Father Sauer Academy will be to work with SI's current staff and parents to help the school reach out to families of fifth graders in neighborhoods and parishes without Catholic schools. The new Academy students, she added, “will bring their unique gifts to SI as they learn what it means to be for and with others. As they leave SI, I know they will be agents of change in their families, in the community and in the world.” ∞

## Father Harry V. Carlin, S.J., Heritage Society

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These 18 women and men took office as members of SI's Board of Trustees on July 1. The change came after a Governance Steering Committee, composed of members of the previous Board of Trustees and Board of Regents, recommended that the previous two-tiered governance structure be replaced by a single board.

We thank these individuals for their service to the school since they took office and for their work in the months and years to come.

### Corrections

In the fall *Annual Report*, we omitted Michelle L. Espiritu '04 as a donor and the Class of 1964, Robbie Unruh Memorial Scholarship from the list of scholarships. Our apologies for these errors.



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## For Martin D. “Pete” Murphy ’52, legacy giving is no joke



Pete Murphy and his wife, Joanne, at the 2006 President's Cabinet Dinner. Pete served as Board of Regents chair and as a Trustee.

As his SI classmates and colleagues can attest, Martin D. (“Pete”) Murphy ’52 takes his charitable work seriously and himself lightly.

Almost anyone who knows him well has heard his jokes, especially his straight-faced, highly fictional claims to the unsuspecting, such as: “Your dad would never have gotten through SI without me. The poor guy just couldn’t master Greek verbs,” followed by the hearty Murphy laugh.

What he talks about less, but takes more seriously, is volunteer work for Catholic causes, for which he and his wife, Joanne, have earned an astonishing number of awards over their 51 years of marriage. Pete has received the St. Thomas More Award as outstanding Catholic attorney, the Alice Phelan/Sullivan Award from Catholic Charities, Alumnus of the Year from USF School of Law and the Christ the King Award from SI. Joanne has received the Saint Elizabeth Anne Seton Award for her support of aging priests and sisters, the Frank Brennan Award from the St. Vincent de Paul Society of San Francisco for service to the poor and the Assumpta Award from the Cathedral of St. Mary of the Assumption for her 30 years of fundraising and volunteer work.

According to Michael Stecher ’62, Pete’s fellow attorney and friend for three decades, Pete’s many charitable interests have not diluted his loyalty to SI. “Pete’s devotion to SI is unmatched,” Stecher said. “His work as a member and chair of the SI Board of Regents is a major reason why SI is where it is in the community today.”

Along with chairing capital campaigns for St. Brendan Church and School, SI and USF Law School, and serving on the boards of several Bay Area Catholic organizations, Pete, a retired estate planning attorney, and Joanne, a

retired teacher and event planner, have included SI as a beneficiary of the Murphy estate plan.

“I asked Joe Vollert, SI’s vice president for advancement, what the biggest need was,” Murphy said. “He said scholarships, so we made an initial gift to set up a scholarship fund. We will fund it fully through a future gift from our living trust.”

The school, Murphy added, “gave me a great start in life, and I wanted to give back. SI tuition cost \$10 a month when I attended. Many talented students will need much more than that to attend.”

Murphy’s father, Martin M. Murphy, also an attorney, served as president of the TransAmerica Title Insurance Company. Pete’s mother, Anna, taught algebra, history and mathematics at Galileo High School in San Francisco.

A third-generation San Franciscan, Pete grew up in the Marina. “My mother would borrow a book from a lending library and return it read the next day. I got my daily reading habit from her.” He described his father as a reserved, steady and reliable man and a good Catholic. Pete attended daily Mass for 30 years until recent walking difficulties slowed him down. “But I’m getting back to this great habit,” he said.

He considers his SI teachers, especially the scholastics, as important influences. “At that time, SI had very few lay teachers. The scholastics were just 10 or so years older than we were. They were great men who had a big influence on me at SI, where I enjoyed my studies and athletics.” Pete had played forward on the 130-pound basketball team, coached by John Lo Schiavo, S.J., a scholastic at the time, and he played first base for SI’s varsity baseball team, which played at Big Rec. “Those experiences meant a lot to me.”

A graduate of Santa Clara University and USF Law School, Pete served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army from 1956 to 1958. A former Ambassador of Planned Giving for SI, he encourages estate gifts to the school. “If you can get involved in SI, do it. If you’re able to give back to SI with a gift in your will or living trust, do it.”

SI is pleased have Joanne and Martin D. (“Pete”) Murphy as founding members of its Father Carlin Heritage Society. For Heritage Society information, contact Marielle Murphy ’93 at (415) 682-5014 or at [mmurphy@siprep.org](mailto:mmurphy@siprep.org).

**FATHER SAUER ACADEMY FUNDRAISER:** Below, Lori Puccinelli-Stern, her father, Larry Puccinelli, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom, Fr. Reese and Hillary Newsom Callan (Gavin’s sister and wife of Geoff Callan ’85) were on hand at MatrixFillmore for a fundraiser for the Father Sauer Academy.



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## Supporters step up to sponsor students with one-on-one scholarships

Bill Buckingham told SI four years ago that he wanted to sponsor a student directly. An SI parent and a graduate of Loyola High School in Los Angeles, Buckingham wasn't alone, and his actions have started a trend.

Buckingham took the lead from fellow Loyola Cub and co-worker Justin Gmelich, who had started a foundation called Teddy's Fund (named after his son who had died at 18 months) to provide full scholarships to students at Jesuit high schools.

Buckingham had helped Charlie Gagan, S.J. '55, at Mission Dolores Academy and knew students there who would need full scholarships to attend SI. Through Teddy's Fund, he has provided tuition and expenses for two students who are now a senior and a sophomore.

This kind of help has come at just the right time. In recent years, SI has experienced a dramatic rise in the need for financial aid in response to the changing demographics of San Francisco — both to the higher cost of living and to the rising cost of running a school.

In the 2006-2007 school year, students and their families needed \$1.3 million in aid; this year SI will award more than \$3.9 million, a 200-percent increase. However, the SI Scholarship Endowment Fund can only provide \$2.9 million toward this need.

Last March, at the end of the admissions season, SI found itself without enough money

to meet parents' financial aid needs. "We ask our alumni and parents to partner with us to provide the balance," said Vice President for Advancement Joe Vollert '84.

Ryan Feeney '99 was inspired by Gmelich and Buckingham, both former colleagues. "He decided to sponsor a student as a way of giving back to the high school that gave him so much," said Vollert.

Tony Miley '84 reconnected with his alma mater and classmates through their reunions and Christmas lunches and was looking for a way to help transform a young Ignatian's life. He noted that his parents sacrificed much for him and his sister to attend high school. "Sponsoring a student gives me a chance to honor their sacrifice by paying it forward to the next generation."

Van Maroevich '69 and Gerry Clifford '69 have also committed MOC/ Maroevich, O'Shea & Coghlan Insurance to provide direct tuition support to an individual student. Van and Gerry hope that their company's example will inspire others who own their own businesses to consider doing the same.

One former SI parent and board member convinced his friend, an international philanthropist, to sponsor an SI student. That person, for decades, has sponsored students in Puerto Rico, where he worked before his recent return to the U.S.

One alumnus and former parent, who asked to remain anonymous, also hopes to provide students access to the remarkable experience that he and his children had at SI. "I understand the importance of building the endowment fund to provide tuition assistance, but I wanted to have an immediate and tangible impact on a specific student this year," he noted. He plans to sponsor this student through his four years at SI.

"We have 34 full scholarship students in just the freshman class this year and funding for only 22 of them," said Vollert. "If you are interested in partnering with SI and one of these students in his or her journey through our halls, please contact us. We could use your help."

### How to sponsor a student

SI has the following stipulations about directly sponsoring student:

- Donors cannot pick the student to sponsor nor can donors be related to the student as IRS regulations forbid this.
- We ask donors to sponsor a student for all four years.
- Students must qualify for tuition assistance. We ask donors to cover the balance of their tuition. ☺



The Loyola Guild held its annual Christmas Tea at SI on Dec. 11 in the Student Center. Pictured above are President Connie Mack, center, and her host of volunteers.





## Day of Giving succeeds thanks to matching gift from Dr. Randy Green '86

**BY TIMOTHY REARDON '86  
ALUMNI DIRECTOR**

SI celebrated its first ever Day of Giving on June 28, the birthday of Anthony P. Sauer, S.J., who served as president of the school between 1979 and 2006.

The goal for the day was to secure 500 unique donations in a single 24-hour period and to attract at least 100 first-time givers. Donors were asked to give in honor of their favorite teachers, coaches and Jesuits with the added bonus of \$40,000 in matching gifts if the school reached its goals.

The community blew the top off the target number, amassing more than 800 total donors, 200 first-time givers and a total of over \$140,000.

SI alums, parents, former parents and students had a great reason to celebrate, and much of the success can be attributed to Dr. Randy Green '86, who contributed a \$25,000 matching gift in honor of his freshman counselor, the late Paul Capitolo, S.J. '53.

A practicing surgeon with a law degree and an MBA, Green did not have an auspicious start at SI. He grew up on 28th Avenue and Ulloa Street with his mother and grandmother and attended St. Cecilia School. During his first semester at SI, he chose to take a job washing dishes at the Bashful Bull Restaurant rather than play football. He confesses that in those early

days, he was not as attentive to his studies as he should have been.

"That's when Cappy gave me the sink-or-swim speech," said Green. "He basically let me know that he knew I was smart, that I wasn't putting any effort into my work and that SI was going to have to say goodbye to me if I didn't turn it around."

Green's gift helped his class complete the Class of '86 scholarship, now known as the Class of '86 Fr. Paul Capitolo, S.J., Scholarship.

"Both Tony Sauer and Cappy were important to me," noted Green. "I considered them both friends during my time at SI, and Tony flew out to New York to do my wedding in 1992. SI and the Jesuits were a great support to me, and I'm proud to be a part of the tradition of Jesuit education."

From academic probation to the honor roll, Green was a late bloomer who eventually realized his potential and became one of SI's great success stories.

He graduated from Le Moyne College, a Jesuit school in upstate New York, before going on to Northwestern Medical School, where he earned his M.D. in 1994 followed by an internship and residency at Stanford Hospital and a fellowship at the University of Virginia. For the past 12 years, he has been the Program Director in Cardiac Surgery at St. Joseph's Hospital Health Center in Syracuse, New York.

In addition to his medical work, Green also earned a law degree from the Syracuse University School of Law and is of counsel to the Centolella Lynn Law Firm in Syracuse, with a principal role in its Healthcare Law Practice Group.

He brings to the firm and to his practice his unique experience as a practicing physician in cardiothoracic surgery. He counsels physicians, physician groups and hospitals in all aspects of healthcare law, with a focus on clinical integration, physician alignment, managed care contracting, network development and other healthcare transactions.

More recently, Green earned an MBA from the Johnson School at Cornell, completing the trifecta of advanced degrees in law, medicine and business.

He now lives in upstate New York with his wife, Meg, whom he met in his freshman year at Le Moyne. They have two sons, Nate and Casey, and a daughter, Hope. Nate recently graduated from the University of Miami, Casey earned a lacrosse scholarship and is a sophomore at Scranton University, and Hope is currently a freshman at Harvard. ☺

**ABOVE:** From left are Nate, Randy, Casey, Meg and Hope Green.



## The next generation has its turn on the 'Catwalk for the Ignatian Guild fashion show

Ignatian Guild fashion shows of past years always had clever twists. None, however, had the high-tech glitz that this year's Generation Z shows had as they celebrated SI's post-millennial senior class.

At one point, the Robotics Team's robot navigated the runway and a flying drone delivered a handkerchief to one model. Students also used selfie sticks, fiber-optic clothing and latex and metal fabrics to showcase their brave new world, with SITV live-streaming the backstage action.

Led by co-chairs Miriam Sweeney, Carolyn Terry, Kathy Conte and Lisa Cullinane — along with Ignatian Guild President Saasha Orsi — the Nov. 5 dinner and the Nov. 6 luncheon raised \$320,000 for the school's Scholarship Fund and drew 291 senior models, more than any previous show in the 47 years the Guild has sponsored this extravaganza.

"No other event celebrates the senior class, other than graduation," said Mrs. Orsi. "I've never before seen a group of students come together and celebrate this way. One student told me that this has become a senior rite of passage, as they look forward to what has become a truly SI experience."

Despite the show's high-tech theme, it began with an opening number from *Bye Bye Birdie*

featuring students in '50s wear speaking on old-fashioned telephones. Each number showed how communication changed through the decades, finally ending with cell phones and selfie sticks.

"These young men and women have never known a world without computers, and they are the most innovative group of kids the world has ever seen. That's why we used #changingtheworld as part of the title. They can find out any information they need from the phone in their back pocket. These students are connected and focused as they solve problems and build community."

That community spirit also included former Guild members, who came back in the last week to help with the show and be with students as they grieved the loss of one of their classmates. "It took one call and 20 women sprang into action," said Mrs. Orsi. "The spirit of the show leads women to want to come back."

Mrs. Orsi also praised the four chairwomen. "They were extremely creative in finding ways to raise money at a time when the school is in the midst of its Compass Campaign. They launched a raffle that, alone, raised \$43,000 from 18 gift baskets. They also saved money by making most of their costumes, jewelry and accessories using recycled materials. The number of people involved in the auction

portion of the evening show also demonstrated the creativity of all involved."

Four items on auction also helped the Scholarship Fund. One package included a seat at next year's Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade behind the *Today Show* hosts. Another included seats at graduation along with dinner at the Wayfare Tavern. A third package offered a catered dinner at the highest bidder's home hosted by SI's president and principal. A final package, donated by several SI families, included tickets to the NCAA final four games along with airfare and tickets to a Giants' game with Club Level seats and to a Warriors' game.

The innovative fashions this year included student designs from the Academy of Art University. Student performers also played a greater role than in past years, choosing their music and choreographing their numbers.

"This was such an exciting moment for these seniors," said Mrs. Orsi, who co-chaired the fashion show two years ago. "The excitement was there since May, when we had 250 students sign up right off the bat. Everyone who got involved is grateful they did." ∞

**OPPOSITE PAGE RIGHT:** Guild President Saasha Orsi with fashion show chairs Carolyn Terry, Kathy Conte, Miriam Sweeney and Lisa Cullinane.







SI Principal Patrick Ruff and Keith Bruce served as auctioneers at the end of the fashion show.





## Sense of Place: *Creating family, home & community right where you are*

Back when I taught Nature/Nexus, an eco-literature class, we began with a unit called “sense of place.” The idea was that once you know a place, then you start loving it. That’s when you work to care for it. That’s when stewardship begins.

The graduates in this section each manage to craft community as well as find a home and family in disparate settings that range from Hollywood sets and bucolic vineyards to dance studios and Texas racetracks. They are stewards of their communities as they care for those around them and bring to life everything from Pinot Noir grapes to TV shows that explore the inscape of the mind.

Robert Hewitt Wolfe '83 does the latter as an executive producer and writer for *Elementary*, which explores the intuitive mind of Sherlock Holmes. Wolfe was also a staff writer for *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine*, part of a storied franchise that celebrated its 50th anniversary last year. In the opening Q&A interview here, Wolfe reflects on what it means to conjure up a community on a space station in the outer reaches of the galaxy. He also speaks about the community he found at SI — one that he captured, in part, in his new book, *The Goblin Crown*, which takes place at a school very much like his alma mater.

This feature section returns to earth with a story about a family ranch that the Clearys — five Irish cops from the Sunset District, along with their mother and sister — turned into a series of vineyards that they planted and tend in the town of Freestone.

The stories in this section then travel south, back to San Francisco, with five pieces that explore the great city that has been SI’s home since 1855. Eight students last summer took part in an immersion experience in the heart of the Tenderloin, where they partnered with an unusual non-profit, one that cares for homeless men and women by teaching them yoga, meditation and writing — skills that do more to help these people on the fringes of society than one might think.

Read the piece by Dan Flanagan '59, who sings the praises of Jim O'Toole '61, the man who proved instrumental in the transfer of the Presidio from the Army to the Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Also learn about Dave Alexander '95, who pays homage to the city through his Pine Street Brewery, which he calls a “local-centric company,” both in his customer base and in the iconic names of his beers.

The Barulich family, owners of BiRite Foodservice Distributors, celebrated 50 years in the city by donating half a million dollars to 10 local non-profits that for years have fed low-income families and homeless individuals. What better way to create community than by allowing so many to share meals?

Brandon Brodt '78 celebrates the city in his first book, *The Last San Franciscans*, which tells the history of neighborhoods near and dear to him.

This section returns north for a bit, to the town of Mill Valley, where Annie Leese Thistle '02 has her Performing Arts Academy of Marin, a place that is a second home to hundreds of students who study theatre, dance and voice. Then we steer to Texas where architect Ann Armstrong '93 has built her new home, with just over 200 square feet of living space. A gifted artist, she also leads walking tours of Austin and helps others create unique maps that explore new ways of defining a city. Nearby, John Hughan '04 finds community on the Circuit of the Americas racetrack, where he teaches men and women how to channel their inner Mario Andretti.

The feature section returns full circle back home with Megan (Shaughnessy) Bondy '95 discussing her life as a mother of two sets of twins and with Tony del Zompo '84 writing about how much he has come to value his SI reunions and the camaraderie he has found among his classmates.

This, ultimately, is what SI offers students, alumni, parents and faculty — a virtual home, a caring family, a community both far-flung and as close as the next reunion. It’s what we teach our students to do — to take care of one another and to broaden their definition of family as wide as they can.

It’s what we are all called to do. — PT ∞



San Francisco looking eastward at Mount Diablo. (Photo by Paul Totah '75 with SI English teacher Bill Isham piloting the Cessna 172.)







# **Star Trek & Elementary** writer Robert Hewitt Wolfe '83

*explores the life of the mind and the outer reaches of the galaxy*

*Star Trek* celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary last September as one of the most successful TV and movie franchises in history.

Along for part of that ride was Robert Hewitt Wolfe '83, who wrote for and produced *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* in the 1990s and who now serves as an executive producer and writer for *Elementary*, which carries on another franchise — the story of Sherlock Holmes.

If you read about Wolfe online, you will discover one truth about him: His colleagues consider him the nicest guy in the business. He is universally respected by his fellow writers and producers and by the actors for the shows he has helped craft in his quarter century in the business — shows from *Alphas* and *The Gates* to *The Dresden Files* and *Andromeda*. He also wrote for *Riverworld*, *The Dead Zone*, *The Twilight Zone* and *Star-Crossed*.

Last fall, as Trekkies around the world were boldly celebrating as never before, *Genesis* editor Paul Totah '75 interviewed Wolfe by phone from his Los Angeles home, where he lives with his wife, Celeste, and their dog, Baxter. He and Celeste, a retired psychotherapist, have been married for 22 years. She recently returned from working with refugees in Greece, helping people in camps who were escaping war and poverty.

The interview came before the November publication of Wolfe's first novel — *The Goblin Crown: Billy Smith and the Goblins, Book 1* — which he set in a high school modeled after SI. (The part where Billy is transported to an underworld teeming with goblins, Wolfe admits, isn't based on the Sunset District campus.)

The *Star Trek* franchise, by the way, lives on, both in the upcoming big-screen sequel to *Star Trek: Beyond* and in *Star Trek: Discovery*, a new series that premieres May 2017 on CBS All Access.

## **Q. What was your early life like and what drew you to science fiction?**

A. I moved around the country with my family, as my father was an Army officer. I moved to the Presidio when I was 8 before moving to the Richmond District after my parents split up. My family later moved to the Sunset District in my sophomore year at SI.

My love of science fiction and desire to write went hand-in-hand. The first books I read were young adult Westerns, including fictionalized biographies. When I got to San Francisco, I found the base library in the Presidio had young adult science fiction books, including several by Robert Heinlein. I ate those books up. I was always a voracious reader, especially as we moved a lot when I was young.

The thing about living on Army bases is that all the kids you meet are used to moving, so friendships don't last a long time. But books did. I love to read still, as it powers my imagination. As a kid, I read under the covers with my flashlight long past bedtime. I was so excited by what I read that I tried to write novels of my own. My first two, both unfinished, were fantasies that included hand-drawn maps.

## **Q. What are your memories of your time at SI and UCLA?**

A. I went from St. Monica's to SI, where I made friends that I still have today. I really enjoyed SI and hung out with with the AP kids and those in the Science Fiction and Fantasy Book Club. I ran cross country, did a little bit of work on *Inside SI* and took a lot of AP classes.

At UCLA, I did my undergrad work in Motion Pictures and TV and got my master's in screenwriting. However, I went in as an electrical engineering major, as I first thought I'd work for Lucasfilms doing robotics, which was what movies used for special effects sequences before CGI. Then I realized I didn't like math and physics as much as I enjoyed writing. I entered the Film Department in my junior year and made my first student film, which cost \$800 that I didn't have. I scraped the money together by working in food services and at the campus art gallery as a guard. That \$800 was a complete loss, but the first screenplay I wrote won a \$2,500 prize. Even though it was the only money I would make as a screenwriter for five years, that's what made me realize that I could write for a living.

Because *Variety* published the names of the student winners, I was able to find an agent. I wrote more scripts that received no traction over the next few years, during which time I pursued my master's in fine arts. I bounced around Hollywood doing entry level jobs, working as a production assistant, reading unsolicited scripts and working on music videos. I continued to write feature films that didn't get bought but was fortunate enough to get invited to pitch ideas to *Star Trek: The Next Generation*. At one meeting with the producers of the show, I came in with two ideas. One, I thought, was a sure thing and the other was my backup idea, an homage to classic Westerns that I called *A Fistful of Datas*. They passed on the "sure thing," but they liked my back-up idea, bought it, and let me write the first draft of the script. Later, *Deep Space Nine* hired me to write a freelance script before bringing me on full time as a staff writer. I spent five years on the show, working my way up to producer.

## **Q. The first two *Star Trek* TV series were about journeys into the unknown. *Deep Space Nine* was about a space station that orbited a planet for seven years. What drew you to that kind of series?**

A. *Deep Space Nine* stood out because the characters couldn't run away from their problems. In the previous *Star Trek* series, the crew of the *Enterprise* would arrive somewhere with good intentions, spend 42 minutes solving problems and then never return. That's a terrific format for telling stories, but it's not the only way, and it didn't work in the space station format. With *Deep Space Nine*, the audiences could see if solutions really did work out as the characters grappled with long-term consequences of their decisions. This world was a more complex place than the previous series and offered a more realistic worldview.

*Star Trek* and *Star Trek: The Next Generation* were more like the 1950s idea of nation building, of going in, fixing things and walking away. With *Deep Space Nine*, Captain





Benjamin Sisko and his crew had to roll up their sleeves and work their asses off for seven years to help the planet of Bajor transition into the Federation. We still offered the utopian vision of *Star Trek* but with the realization that perfect possible futures don't come for free. You have to work for them. Captain Sisko was more of a builder than Captain Kirk or Captain Picard. He didn't solve problems in 42 minutes but in 7 years.

**Q. I'm a Trekkie from my days watching the original show as a kid. I know why I'm drawn to the show. What do you think is the reason the franchise has had such a long run?**

A. *Star Trek* has endured so long because it speaks to audiences on many levels. The series offered fun and exciting adventure stories with fight sequences, pretty girls, handsome guys and derring-do. On the next level, the shows offered strong, identifiable characters, ones who strove for utopian ideals. Good people tried to do good things well despite occasional failures and internal conflicts.

In the *DS9* writers' room, we spoke about director Howard Hawks and how he created characters who

were extremely competent at what they did. We felt that audiences really enjoyed these types of characters. Add to that the wonderfully idealistic vision that [*Star Trek* creator] Gene Roddenberry had for the future of humanity, one in which we set aside our differences and unite to work toward common goals and take care of each other. People like to believe that we can accomplish great things to make the world better.

Also, *Star Trek* was always a show about large moral issues and shades of gray. Characters' decisions were not black and white. They struggled to make the best decision by picking their way through a dilemma. This sort of storytelling elevated the shows beyond mere adventure. *Star Trek* works well as it combined the whiz-bang fun of holodecks and aliens with the realm of big ideas and moral dilemmas.

**Q. The idea of characters struggling to choose the greater good sounds a lot like the Ignatian notion of *magis*.**

A. Yes. I have thought about this, too. I was exposed to philosophy and spirituality at SI and learned we need

Robert Hewitt Wolfe poses with the mechanical Hound of the Baskervilles from the "Hounded" episode of *Elementary*. He serves as an executive producer and writer for that series.

Wolfe has worked on 300 TV episodes in his long career in Hollywood, including many for *Elementary*, which stars Jonny Lee Miller as Sherlock Holmes.



to discern the greater good from among a multitude of choices. When characters weigh options and choose between two paths, that makes for a great scene and a great lesson. We always said that every story should make the main character grow through an ordeal.

**Q. You have another credit beyond writer and producer for that show. You also acted in one episode.**

A. Yes. When I announced that I would be moving on, the show let me be on camera for my last episode for an evacuation of the space station. They put burn makeup all over my face, and all I had to do was limp in front of the camera. It was cool wearing a Star Fleet uniform, but that moment for me was more about saying goodbye to a job I had held for a long time than about being an actor. I knew I would miss the cast and crew.

**Q. Why did you choose to leave *Deep Space Nine* despite the success you and the show enjoyed?**

A. I was burnt out. I was one of only five writers and co-wrote 35 episodes. I was exhausted and felt as if I had given most of what I could give to the characters. And I had other things lined up. I sold a pilot and had a feature film looking as if it might happen. I wanted to pursue other interests and grow as a writer.

**Q. One of those new projects included *Andromeda*, which ran for five years.**

A. After working on a couple of pilots and film scripts that weren't made, I was hired to develop and run *Andromeda*. I worked with Majel Barrett, Roddenberry's widow, along with the production company that had bought Gene's archives. They allowed me to go through his papers, and I merged his ideas with mine for the *Andromeda* series. It was an interesting experience, going through giant boxes of old scripts, speeches and ideas. You could see in his papers that Roddenberry thought deeply about moral issues and the future of humanity.

The job turned into a mixed bag, as the production company was not the cream of the crop. I went in there with my eyes open and lasted longer than I had anticipated.

**Q. Your latest project also sounds fascinating — a retelling of Sherlock Holmes as one of the writers and executive producers of *Elementary*.**

A. I'm really proud of what I've done now in my three years with *Elementary*. Holmes and Watson are such tremendously influential characters that you can see how they show up even in *Star Trek*. Spock has some of Holmes, and Bones has a bit of Watson in him. And our show, created by the super-talented Rob Doherty, updates Holmes and Watson to modern-day New York city, with a Sherlock who's a recovering heroin addict and a Watson who's an



Asian-American woman. It's great interpretation, and it's a blast to be part of it.

The toughest part of writing *Elementary* is probably working up Holmes' amazing deductions. When I write an episode, I try to think like Holmes, but it can take hours to create a scene in which Holmes comes up with something brilliant while making it all sound organic and spontaneous. How does he perceive each piece of the puzzle? No one is as smart as Holmes is in the moment; you have to do your homework to be that smart and to make sure the pieces fit together. It's a magic trick really.

**Q. Looking back on your career, what do you take the most pride in?**

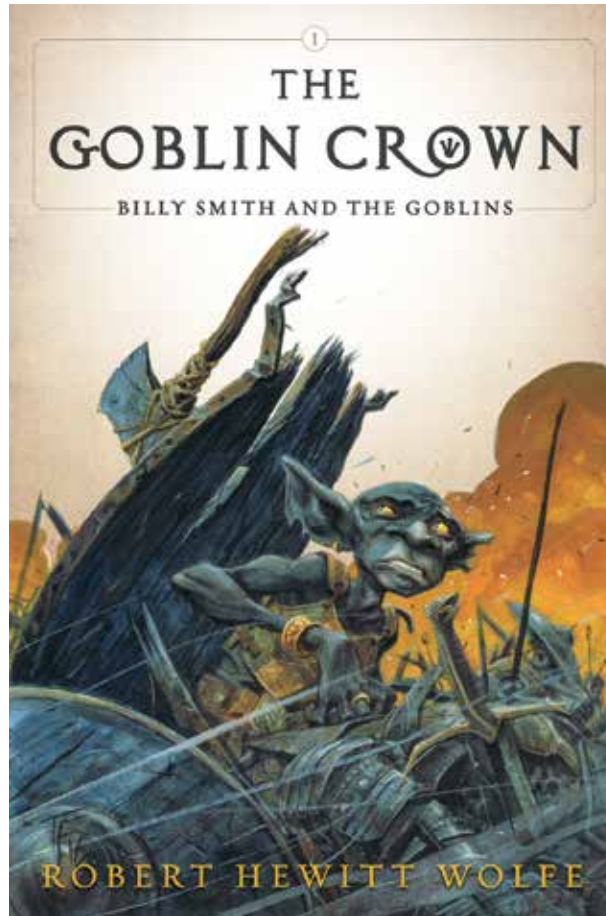
A. I've probably worked on 300 episodes of television, 75 of which I have written. I take pride in this body of work. I've been able to tell stories to millions of people, which is an honor and a tremendous gift.

In my office, I write my ideas for episodes on 3x5 cards and pin them to my bulletin board. The ones that are produced, I tape to another wall. These are like markings on the nose cone of a bomber that show how many successful missions I've had.

**Q. You have one more victory to mark on your wall — a new book that just came out — *The Goblin Crown*.**

A. It's a young adult fantasy that begins with three high school students on their first day at a prep school in San Francisco that I think SI readers will quickly recognize. They get transported to a Tolkeinesque magical land where goblins have lost a war to humans and are now threatened with genocide. However, it's the goblins who rescue these kids as they have a legend about a human child king who will save them. Complicating the story is a goblin dictator who wants to go down fighting against the humans. It's very much a book about loving thy neighbor as thyself and not demonizing the other. The main character is a mixed race boy who moved around a lot as a kid and who is searching for his own identity. He learns that goblins, despite being vilified in fiction, are just the same as people. Even the bad ones have their own tragedies that fuel how they behave.

Part of what motivated the book was living in a city as diverse as San Francisco. When you marry the girl-next-door in San Francisco, that girl can easily look like my wife, who is Chinese-American. My friends were Irish, Italian, Chinese, Filipino, Hispanic and African-American. They were from every possible social and religious background. That powerful experience informed my writing for the *Star Trek* franchise and my book. I feel it's important that our fiction reflect our country in all its glorious diversity. My goal was to make *The Goblin Crown* a book that all young readers, no matter what their backgrounds, can enjoy and identify with. It's part of the reason I enjoy writing for an Asian-American Dr. Watson on *Elementary*. My experiences at SI and of growing up in San Francisco definitely influenced all of that. ∞



*The Goblin Crown*, Wolfe's first novel, is based in part on his time at SI.



Robert and his wife, Celeste, during the Writer's Guild strike.

## The Cleary Clan *crafts a good life where redwoods meet the vines*



seem natural that this family would find home, adventure and vocation among the green vines and redwoods that tell the newcomer they have arrived in paradise, or at least its earth-bound echo.

How this family came to produce some of the best Pinot Noir and Chardonnay in the state is a tale best described as sideways, both because the 2004 film *Sideways* spurred the popularity of Pinot Noir and because the Clearys came to Freestone in a sideways route that stretched from Ireland and Australia before coming home.

This generation — Cindy (Mercy '74), John '75, Michael '77, Tom '79 and Kevin '84 — came to their land thanks to previous generations, including their parents, Jack and Kathleen. Jack, a Riordan grad, and Eileen, a St. Paul's grad, were the children of Valentine Cleary and his wife, Julia.

It was Valentine who started it all when, at 15, he left his home in Ireland in 1909 to work on his cousins' sheep station in Australia. He later sailed to San Francisco where he worked as a blacksmith for the San Francisco Fire Department. He was tempted to return to Ireland when it seemed that the Depression would never end, but he visited his friend's Freestone land shortly before WWII broke out and changed his mind. He bought his own acreage, which he named the V-bar-C Ranch, and raised sheep and cattle near land once owned by Jasper O'Farrell, the man who laid out San Francisco's streets.

Valentine's son, Jack, grew up in San Francisco and traveled with his parents to the land on weekends. He joined the San Francisco Police Department and worked on cases



It's hard to imagine a family more rooted in, more part-and-parcel of, more nourished by their land than the Clearys.

Some might be surprised that the Cleary clan, which comprises five Irish cops from San Francisco's Sunset District (four of whom are SI grads), an Irish matriarch and a Mercy High grad turned nurse, would be so at home among vineyards, oaks, livestock and hawks.

If you are fortunate enough to be invited to their ranch just south of Occidental in the village of Freestone (named for the quarry where locals could pick up free sandstone), you won't see any contradiction. It will just







that would make San Francisco history, including everything from the Zodiac to the Zebra murders. David Talbot included interviews with Jack in *Season of the Witch*, though Jack wasn't pleased with the attention it brought his way.

He married Kathleen Newell, who had come to San Francisco from County Mayo as a teen to escape the life of a farmer. "Then she went to an Irish dance, where the first person she met was my father, the cowboy," said her daughter, Cindy. "He took her back to the ranch, and Jack's parents loved her from the start. She settled right into that way of life."

She also earned several nicknames for the care she has in keeping the family together. John calls her "the Torch" for lighting so many candles to saints, and Cindy calls her "El General." Years later, when the family grew to include five children, Kathleen would call her five children to the dinner table by banging on a large fire bell. "It was so quiet in the country, we could hear that bell from miles away," said John.

Most weekends, the five children would leave their home on 30th and Taraval for Freestone, where the surrounding ranches became their backyard and playground. They invited their friends to the ranch to swim in a nearby lake and wander the hills. Those friends also learned that a trip to the ranch meant they had to pitch in and do some work. Once done, they were invited to write their name on the inside of the barn as testament to their labor. "Coming to the ranch was never a freebie," said Tom.

Jack and Kathleen later bought John a pony that he named Trigger, and he became adept at riding it to herd

the family's 30 cattle and 80 sheep. John later won reserve champion in the Grand National Rodeo and two gold medals in the Police Olympics. Tom had his own American quarter horse named "Big Jake" that he rode to first place in the first and only Freestone Derby held in the summer of 1984.

Each of the sons followed their father's path to the SFPD, and each had a successful career filled with honors and distinctions. John retired as an inspector, Tom as a captain and Mike as a lieutenant. Kevin, who received a gold and silver medals of valor, continues to serve as a sergeant and inspector.

"When we were growing up, our house was always filled with cops, defense attorneys and DAs who would talk about a Zebra killing or a recent bombing," said John. "That entered our subconscious and led us to join the force."

In 1983 John structured the purchase of a 36.5-acre ranch for him and his siblings adjacent to their parents' property. Tom had become aware of the land after it had come up for sale; Tom, John and Mike then collaborated on the purchase.

Fourteen years later, Warren Dutton, a family friend, convinced the family to switch from ranching to cultivating grapes. "My mother thought we were getting too old to chase sheep and cows around," said Cindy. "Of course, the soil needed work after 50 years of cattle and hay." When the Clearys made the switch, they became the first in their region to grow grapes, and their success drew others to grow grapes on the surrounding lands.

Now, John and his wife, Danielle, grow and sell grapes to premium winemakers and bottle their own wine under the Cleary Ranch Vineyards label. They also buy from Mike and Cindy, who work 8 acres right next door on a parcel they call the Michael Valentine Vineyard.

Tom and his wife, Sue, own Bohemian Vineyards on another parcel adjacent to Jack and Kathleen's home and vineyards. They also own land to the northeast that they have cultivated in an area known as Green Valley.

"As growers, Sue and I are committed to cultivating the finest possible grapes. As vintners, we are dedicated to producing wine that expresses the distinct qualities of our fruit and land," added Tom.

Jack and Kathleen also grow and sell grapes. What makes the family foray into the wine business less surprising for an Irish clan is the model set by another Irish-American Sunset District SI family. Martin Lee Sr. '28 and his sons Mike Lee '62 and Marty Lee '56 bought a winery in 1970 that would become the world-renowned Kenwood Winery.

"My father worked with Marty Lee Sr., who was also a cop, and we met with Mike in Kenwood," said Tom. "He told us to roll the dice, even though it was a big investment."

The investment the Clearys made included time, money and hard work. It took years of planting and managing the land before they could sell grapes or make their own wine.

But the work proved as fruitful as the grapes they grew. "I love the farming aspect of growing grapes," said Mike. "I love being on the tractor mowing, disking and tilling. I love seeing the seasons progress and watching the vines budding out. It's an amazing process and even made a beer drinker like myself enjoy some great wine."

Tom sells his grapes, which are classified as "ultra premium" to David Bruce, Silver Oak, Flowers, DeLoach,

**Opposite page top:** Jack and Kathleen Cleary brought their children — and their children's friends — to their Freestone cattle and sheep ranch every weekend for years before converting the grazing land to vineyards.

**Opposite page below:** Tom and Sue Cleary and his family own award-winning Bohemian Vineyards. They grow Pinot Noir and Chardonnay grapes on their land in Freestone and just outside Occidental. From left are Tom and Sue Cleary's children: Michelle '09, Jake '15, Megan '12, Brian '15 and Kelli '08.

**This page:** John and Danielle Cleary and their dog, Diddy. John owns Cleary Ranch Vineyards and sells Pinot Noir and Chardonnay to some of the best restaurants in the state.

**This page:** Cindy and Mike Cleary operate Michael Valentine Vineyard on eight acres adjacent to their parents' home and vines.

**Opposite page:** Kevin Cleary, the youngest of the Cleary clan and a decorated member of the SFPD, is the only one not involved in the wine business.



Schramsberg, Paul Matthews and other top wineries. After selling only grapes at first, his venture, in 2004, became the first family-owned vineyard in Freestone with its own wine label, named for the adjacent Bohemian Highway.

His wine soon earned gold medals at the San Francisco International Wine Competition and first place in the Pinot Shootout and Summit, a blind tasting of more than 250 of world-class Pinots. In addition, Grapelive.com gave the 2010 Bohemian Pinot Noir a score of 93. The reviewer noted that he "tasted this wine in a lineup that included Williams Selyem, a Rochioli Vineyard wine and a Walter Hansel, and it bested them all, a huge surprise conceding the quality of the wines sampled.... This wine really shows purity and class."

"We know we have a good product," says Tom. "But we want to stay small so that we can sell to the friends, family and community we grew up with."

Part of his proceeds go to raise funds for at-risk, inner-city kids through The Guardsmen, a San Francisco service organization to which he belongs. Tom also honored his family's roots by putting a photo of his grandfather Valentine on the label of his 10-year-anniversary-edition Bohemian Vineyard V-bar-C Ranch Pinot Noir. He also includes his entire family in the business. Daughters Kelli '08, Michelle '09 and Megan '12 are part of his sales and marketing team and staff the vineyard's annual wine tasting event along with their brothers, Jake '15 and Brian '15, who also serve as assistant viticulturists.

John's Cleary Ranch Vineyards' grapes have earned him rave reviews and gold medals for the winemakers who have

purchased his grapes. Vivino gave John's 2013 Pinot five of five stars, and some of the best wineries in Sonoma and Napa are purchasers of the Cleary grapes. You'll find John's wine at Morton's, John's Grill, the Fairmont Grand Del Mar in San Diego, the Union Hotel in Occidental and at Original Joe's in North Beach and in Westlake.

"When the movie *Sideways* came out, that helped us big time," added John, as the main character in the movie celebrated Pinot Noir while disparaging Merlot. "The price for Pinot Noir grapes was rising slowly, but when the movie came out, they shot up and are still shooting up."

The Clearys are also justifiably proud of their Chardonnay. John's venture into that varietal happened also in a sideways manner when a few Chardonnay vines were planted on his land by mistake. When Bill Phelps of Joseph Phelps Vineyards ate a few of those grapes, he told John that they would make a great wine.

For John, as well as for his brothers, the venture into wine making "is more about family, friends and tradition than anything else. That's why I have an old family photo on the label of each of my wines and why I have so many gatherings here to bring together friends from the city and wine family members." John's classmate and good friend Joe McGuinness '75 helps John plan these parties.

John plans to take his wine to the next level as he transitions to sustainable and organic farming practices through a partnership with Ernest Vineyards. "We'll produce less tonnage and at a greater cost but we will focus even more on greater quality in the grape than we have now."





**Above:** The home of Jack and Kathleen Cleary pays tribute to their family’s roots with a photo of Jack’s father, Valentine (top), who started a cattle and sheep ranch in the town of Freestone. Surrounding the family photos are tools that the Cleary family used on the ranch.

Helping John make the transition is his partner, Dan Darcy (Serra '96), his winemaker Kent Humphrey “who jumped all over the idea of an organic vineyard” and assistant winemaker Hanna Chort.

You can also see John’s connection to his land in his photographs of the hawks, bobcats and other wildlife around his vineyard — photos that have won top prizes at county fairs — and in his wife’s paintings. John’s connection between business and family also includes his daughter Jessica Diaz, who serves as company business manager. Another daughter, Sgt. Christina Serrano, an 11-year veteran with the SFPD, is in charge of recruiting for the police force.

The Clearys have managed to craft a family business that involves cooperation but still some separation, with each member having a specific role in separate businesses. Each has also worked to hone his or her skills as a grower of grapes and a winemaker. After working as an ICU nurse for years, Cindy went back to school along with her brother Tom to study viticulture with Professor Richard Thomas at Santa Rosa Community College. She also gleaned information from family and friends in Australia.

Despite this mutual support, the Clearys know that some things lie beyond their control. “You do the best you can and leave everything up to Mother Nature,” said Cindy. “It’s like a soccer game. You train your players and then hope for the best. We’re challenged growing Pinot and Chardonnay grapes in our cold climate because those are delicate and finicky grapes with thin skins. That’s why we don’t go for

tonnage but for the quality that our buyers value.” Mike added that he and Cindy lost half their vineyard after one night of frost. “That’s why farmers constantly check the weather. We worry about too much or too little rain or heat.”

Thus far, their risks have paid off. “Being small, we don’t feel the pressure that the large wineries have,” added Cindy. “We mainly sell grapes, and our business grows by word of mouth among restaurants and hotels. Once brokers realized how good our grapes were, they stayed with us. That’s what attracted winemakers like David Bruce to buy our grapes years ago.”

Even Kevin, the only sibling not involved in the wine business, knows his family will stay in Freestone for generations for the “fresh air, wide-open spaces, vast acres and wildlife. Every animal native to California roams Freestone Valley. The tranquility at night has a soothing effect on the mind, body and soul. What more could the younger generation ask for?” ∞

## Finding Christ *in the city's Tenderloin*



**Above:** Kathy Curran (left), who founded The Healing WELL, asked Gigi Goddard, who lives in an SRO, to work at her Hyde Street center greeting people who come in. Curran's agency offers a range of services not typically associated with care for the homeless, including classes in meditation. SI students slept in the center's meditation room during their two-week immersion experience last summer serving residents of the Tenderloin.

Just a few blocks from Civic Center — the political heart of the city — you'll find the dark underbelly of the Tenderloin, a place most San Franciscans and tourists avoid, not eager to confront homeless men and women living with addiction and mental health issues. Look more closely, though, and you'll see another side of this neighborhood, including parents walking children to school, seniors exercising in the park and flowers on windowsills.

You'll also see, on Hyde between Eddy and Turk, a building that is home for both the Faithful Fools and The Healing WELL.

There, Tenderloin residents find a respite from the chaos of their lives and the noise of the streets. They meditate, write poetry and prose, do Yoga, practice Tai Chi, study the Bible, create art, practice storytelling, take cooking classes and see and discuss movies — ministries not typically associated with homeless people.

SI's connections to this place are many. Eight SI students and three faculty and staff spent two weeks living there and working in the Tenderloin last summer on an immersion trip.

Kathy Curran is the Healing WELL's founder and director. Two of her children went to SI and her husband, Jim McGarry, taught religion at SI in the 1980s and 1990s. In addition, her cousin is Brother Douglas Draper, S.J.

Marty Murphy '75, a retired firefighter, leads AA meetings at the center, and Caroline Smith, a longtime Ignatian Guild and Loyola Guild member whose sons attended SI, is a regular volunteer.

### **KATHY CURRAN & THE HEALING WELL**

Curran founded The Healing WELL, which stands for Wellness, Empowerment, Liberation and Love, in June 2015, and was offered a home for her ministry at the Faithful Fools, a live/work space founded by a Unitarian Universalist minister and a Franciscan sister. The two organizations have a common mission. "We care for the people of the Tenderloin by building relationships," said Curran.

"This place brings me a lot of joy. Our center is a haven in the storm out there. We stand in solidarity with our neighbors and help people develop the skills and relationships to

cope with the trauma and stress of their lives, advance their recovery and step forward into brighter futures."

She knows that teaching poetry and yoga to residents of the Tenderloin raises more than a few eyebrows among people curious about her work. "They tell me that I've got to be kidding. But the people who live here include writers, culinary experts and fantastic yogis who just happen to be homeless or who live in single room occupancy hotels (SROs). It's so easy for us to see these men and women as walking needs, but that is dead wrong. There is talent, beauty, potential and the desire for hope here. It doesn't matter if you're housed or not."

Services to the homeless communities, she added, should go beyond "warehousing people and shipping them away. They need far more than a place to sleep and a warm breakfast, including mental health support and services for their substance abuse and addictions. Unless we tackle these issues, we're just a revolving door. These are our brothers and sisters who have a right to be here. We love and honor and grow with them."

One such brother is Salvador Gasca, who has participated in Healing WELL since its inception. Now a member of the group's advisory board, Gasca has come a long way since his years living in a Tenderloin alley, addicted to heroin and running with a gang.

"I wanted to clean up my life, so I knocked on every door I saw to get a counselor and find housing," he said. "After that, I needed to 'stay the path.' The Healing WELL provided me with daily structure, so I wouldn't just isolate myself in my room with my depression. I learned tools and techniques to calm myself and started connecting with people like me who didn't judge me. Now, as I walk down to the Healing WELL from my home, I see drug use and people drinking out of brown bags. It just reminds me of how far I have come. I have housing, a job and a community now. It's the love here that makes the difference."

Another person who found a lifeline at The Healing WELL is Gigi Godard. Originally from Akron, OH, Godard successfully completed gender reassignment surgery. She has lived in an SRO with her ex-wife for 11 years after months sleeping on the street and in shelters, bus stations and cars, experiences exacerbated by Godard's struggle with addiction and bipolar disorder.

"This place is like a church to me," said Godard. "I love this place. It's a diamond in the midst of all the hell that surrounds us. The gentrification that is happening around us isn't the answer. Where are we going to go?"

Living as a man, Godard never felt herself. "I didn't know who I was. Now that I'm a woman, I'm who I'm supposed to be, but I'm considered by some the lowest of the low. I've had things thrown at me, and people wise off to me. But thanks to this place, I leave here happy and singing."

At 67, Godard performs as a spoken word artist and musician and works the front door of The Healing WELL greeting those who come in.

"Gigi offers a warm and friendly presence as she greets people," said Curran. "And I'm a lot like her, as this place also brings me a lot of joy. I experience so much courage, hope and determination here. I am inspired and encouraged



every day. It is a grace to be among people who are dealing with real life issues and watch them as they focus on who they are and how they will live in this world. That's what we are all called to do."

### SI IMMERSION TRIP

Those who also answered the call to be with the people living in the Tenderloin last June were rising seniors Aleah Jayme, Ryan Nassar, Julia Di Lena, Matt Branick, JoAnna Barbero, Coleen Mercado, Rianna Machado and Taylor Spaulding. They were joined by Campus Minister Jen Roy, French teacher Daniel Brown and Special Events Coordinator Kristin Haygood on the San Francisco Immersion trip.

They slept in the meditation room at Faithful Fools and volunteered with the Healing WELL, the Care Through Touch Program, Up on Top (a children's program), the St. Francis Living Room, the Demonstration Garden and St. Anthony's Foundation.

Jayme confessed that she and her fellow students felt disappointed at first to be assigned to the Tenderloin instead of one of the more distant immersion sites, but they soon discovered that they didn't have to travel far to meet people whose lives differed radically from their own. "It's sad now to realize how closed we were to the experience," said Jayme. "We know all the stereotypes associated with the Tenderloin. But those two weeks taught us the difference between solidarity and charity. The former allows us to step into other people's shoes and learn about their stories. By eating with the homeless men and women at St. Anthony's, we got to listen to their stories and understand what they are going through. We are also showing that we care for them and love them."

During their first night in the Tenderloin, they attended a show at the Demonstration Gardens on Golden Gate Avenue featuring dancers suspended by ropes who performed on the side of a building. Poets and spoken-word artists also took part for an audience that included families who live in the area. "There's a lot of good in this neighborhood despite the reputation the Tenderloin has. It was a unifying experience for the neighborhood and taught us the area was different from what we thought it would be. By the end, the two weeks I spent in the Tenderloin had become the most important weeks of my life."

Students sorted donated clothes at St. Anthony's and delivered items to disabled residents. They cleaned and bussed plates in the dining room and sat with diners to speak with them during lunch.

"All of this changed me beyond anything I imagined," said Jayme. "I meet people now with an open mind and open heart, including my classmates. People at SI and in the Tenderloin all make mistakes, recover from them and support one another. I learned to appreciate the diverse community at SI and enhance it where I can."

The children at the Up on Top program "were so happy just to see that we were there to hang out with them and have fun," added Jayme. "On the last day, we grew emotional as the kids had grown as attached to us as we had to them. Antonio wouldn't leave Julia's side and asked when we were coming back. These kids have gone through a lot, and just us being there for two hours influenced them."



Nassar echoed Jayme, noting that he learned "how important it was just to be present. There were so many people at the places we were who thanked us for being there and taking time out of our schedule to help out. This showed me just how powerful being present can be."

### MARTY MURPHY '75

Murphy always keeps in mind the adage his grandmother often repeated: "There but for the grace of God go I." A retired firefighter, Murphy has been clean and sober for 24 years. He volunteers with The Healing WELL each week to lead an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting for Tenderloin residents struggling to stay drug-free and sober.

"The reality is that without a few breaks in our own lives, that would be us," said Murphy about the men and women he ministers to. "There has to be compassion."

He also points to the city's failed attempts over the years to address homelessness. "You have to treat those who suffer from mental illness, from addiction or from both. The city has only applied bandages to bleeding arteries."

The people making a real difference, he added, are those at The Healing WELL and Faithful Fools. "What they do offers hope and has helped turn around the lives of so many people. If Christ were to come back, he would go to the Tenderloin to join Kathy and her colleagues."

Murphy takes issue with some of the precepts of AA, including the insistence on complete sobriety for those struggling to break their addictions. "I believe in harm reduction for those who can't stay completely sober, which, for most people in the Tenderloin, just doesn't work."

Each Wednesday, he sits with five to 10 people at lunchtime. "I never drive away unhappy about my time there. I recently attended the funeral of my classmate, Jim Morrison '75, who struggled with addiction. I'll never forget the eulogy his son, John '10, delivered. I try to do everything I can to keep others from Jim's fate and then leave the rest to God."

Murphy found it difficult at first "to open my heart to others and volunteer there. In the end, I did so because I felt

**Above:** Eight students, now seniors, worked during the summer for St. Anthony's kitchen, pictured here, and with children in the Tenderloin. At left is Kristin Haygood, SI's special events coordinator, who accompanied the students.



**Left:** Marty Murphy '75 leads an Alcoholics Anonymous meeting at The Healing WELL once a week.

**Right:** Former Ignatian Guild President and current Loyola Guild member Caroline Smith makes nutritious lunches for Tenderloin denizens who find a safe haven at The Healing WELL. She also befriended one of its clients, Rex, whom she visited in the hospital and helped reconnect with his family.



called, especially when Kathy spoke at Mass at St. Agnes, where I'm a parishioner."

Helping Murphy in his ministry is the faith of his late parents — Martin "Ben" Murphy and longtime Holy Name principal Noreen Murphy, who died this past September — and his Jesuit education at SI. "These are my two greatest assets."

### CAROLINE SMITH

Former Ignatian Guild President and current Loyola Guild member Caroline Smith also felt called to serve the homeless when she attended Mass at St. Agnes and heard Fr. Frank Buckley, S.J., make a pitch for volunteers to help homeless people at a Howard Street ministry.

The suggestion surprised Mrs. Smith, who had spent years serving as a parent volunteer at SI. "I never thought of working with homeless men and women before, but I thought I should do something different with my life. After I went down there, I got totally hooked."

When Curran began her ministry in the Tenderloin, Mrs. Smith joined her. She now prepares large salads every Monday for 10 individuals who attend a meeting that supports their recovery from various addictions.

Mrs. Smith loads those salads "with every healthy vegetable I can find," she noted. "My main concern is to feed them something nutritious. These people have worked so hard to get where they are, and some relapse for a while, but the meal helps with their recovery."

She also ventured into another kind of ministry when she befriended Rex, whom she first saw while looking for a parking spot. "He was lying in the alley when he asked if I needed help finding a parking place. He told me I could park where he was lying. I saw him weeks later when he came staggering in looking so sick. Kathy said someone needed

to take him to the hospital, and I was the only one with a car. At San Francisco General, they told me it was too late to register him, so we put him up in a hotel for one night and returned the next day."

Doctors eventually discovered that Rex had a malfunctioning heart valve and transferred him to UCSF for surgery. Later, he moved to Laguna Honda for rehabilitation. At all three hospitals, Mrs. Smith became a regular visitor, often going three times a week to visit with Rex.

"He is a living miracle, and one of our best success stories. Now he helps me every Monday. I pick him up, and he carries my food into The Healing WELL. On other days, he volunteers at City Impact on Turk Street and has become a fantastic helper there."

For years, Rex's family refused to see or help him. "They had given up on him. If you saw him, you would have written him off too," said Mrs. Smith. "Now his family is back in the picture, and I feel as if Rex is part of my family. I wish others could enjoy the same recovery he has made."

The secret for Mrs. Smith is opening her heart and sharing her stories of suffering with others. "I told Rex about losing my son Peter '80 to a car accident when he was in college and losing my husband. Rex's issues aren't my issues, but when we both shared our troubles, we were both lifted up. There's so much love in the Tenderloin. That's why I've stuck with it for so long. I walk down the street now wishing we could do more. We can't do it all, but we can give comfort to some and help people become the persons they are trying to be." ∞

*For more information about The Healing WELL or to visit, volunteer or donate, please contact Kathy Curran (kcurran@healingwellsf.org or 415-500-2099) or visit The Healing WELL's website: healingwellsf.org.*



# The green heart of the city *is the Presidio thanks to Jim O'Toole '61*

BY DAN FLANAGAN '59

The Presidio is the crown jewel of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area today thanks to Jim O'Toole '61. There should be a statue of him in the park as thanks to his work in Congress in the 1990s.

After a hard-fought battle, San Francisco's Presidio just missed being sold at auction. It then came under the management of the Presidio Trust, a U.S. Government Corporation established by an act of Congress in 1996 and signed by President Clinton.

Long the Army's premier West Coast installation, the Presidio's strategic significance began to decline after World War II. In 1972, Congress passed legislation creating the new Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) and kept the option open for the Presidio to be included in this massive new park complex should the U.S. Army ever leave San Francisco.

In 1989, as the Cold War drew to an end, the Base Realignment and Closure Commission decided that the Presidio, San Francisco's first military outpost, was no longer needed.

When the military left in 1994, the Presidio was turned over to the National Park Service. This wasn't the end of the story, as the costs of converting a military post to public use were prohibitive and not a viable option. In that same year, Rep. Nancy Pelosi asked me to help the Senate pass legislation that would make covering these costs successful. However, the Republicans, who controlled both the House and Senate, were skittish about what they saw as excessive spending and further obligations to the Park Service System.

I knew the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee well, having spent years working on national energy policy issues, particularly the 1992 Energy Policy Act and on electricity deregulation. I called the committee and asked to meet with the appropriate GOP majority staff person reporting to Chairman Frank Murkowski. That's how I discovered Jim O'Toole.

Jim, late of the National Park Service, served on the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Majority Committee staff from 1986, during which time the Presidio was transferred to the National Park Service, through his retirement in 2004.

When I first met with Jim in his Senate committee office, I emphasized my San Francisco roots "having grown up just beyond the gates of the Presidio" on Green Street. I noted how the Presidio Trust was a very important initiative that all of San Francisco supported. Jim responded that he had also grown up in San Francisco not too far from the Presidio. When I indicated my SI heritage, Jim told me that he was also an SI grad.

From that point, Jim was the helmsman keeping the Presidio trust legislation on track in the Senate, creating unique and innovative solutions, moving the nearly impossible process forward. I spoke with Jim often in 1994 and 1995 and reported back to Nancy Pelosi's office that the Presidio Trust legislation in the Senate ultimately would be okay.

Finally in 1996, in a demonstration of bipartisan collaboration, Congress created the Presidio Trust, a first-



time effort to successfully marry U.S. Government and private sector expertise in the management of a park unit. The outcome resulted in transferred jurisdiction of 80 percent of the Presidio to this new federal agency, with the National Park Service managing the remaining 300 coastal acres.

The Trust was given a mandate to preserve the areas of the Presidio under its jurisdiction and attract non-federal resources to the park to ensure that it would sustain itself by 2013 without direct annual taxpayer support. If the Trust failed to achieve this mandate, the law directed that the Presidio would be sold as excess federal property. In 2013, the Presidio reached that crucial milestone.

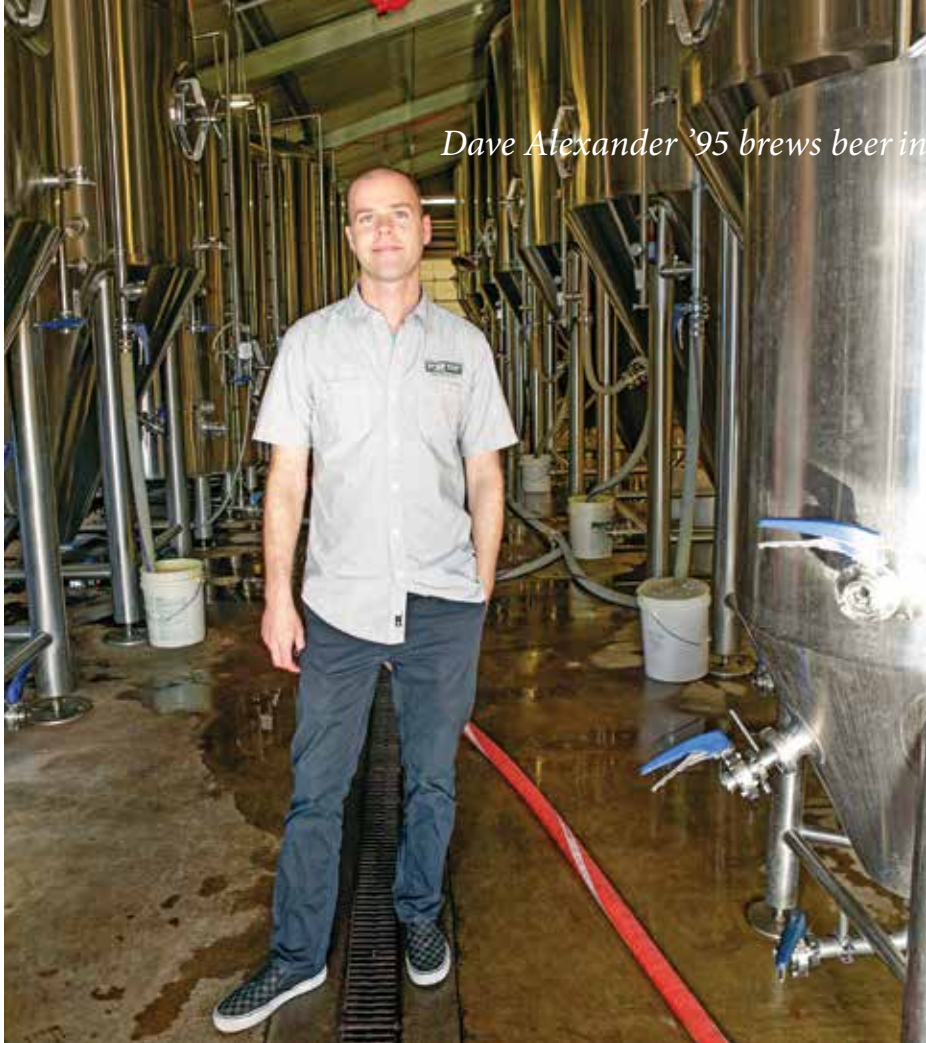
The Presidio Trust, considered in 1996 to be an experiment in the stewardship of a treasured American place, is today viewed as an innovation public trust that works — the first of its kind — thanks in large measure to Jim O'Toole. ☺

**Top:** Students in 2011 added native plants to the Presidio's overlook to the Golden Gate Bridge as part of SI's Stewardship Week.

**Center:** Jim O'Toole, who served on the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Majority Committee staff, kept the Presidio trust legislation on track in the Senate.

**Below:** From 1981 to 2009, the author, Dan Flanagan, served as president of a governmental affairs/public policy advisory firm based in Washington, D.C., The Flanagan Consulting Group Inc. Today, Dan serves as a senior public policy adviser and is a member of the Board of Advisors at Stanford's Global Policy Center.





*Dave Alexander '95 brews beer in* **the name of the city he loves**

Dave Alexander, co-owner of Pine Street Brewery, at the brewing facilities of Ft. Point Beer Company, where he used to create his beer. He now brews his beer in San Carlos. Those who came to the Red and blue Campus Crawl in June were able to sample his beer, as Dave poured along with a few other brewers.

Dave Alexander '95, a fourth-generation San Franciscan, celebrates the city he loves with suds.

The cofounder of Pine Street Brewery, he brews a beer named for a city street where the company was born, and he limited sales to San Francisco for the first two years. He also crafted its various brews and the designs on its cans to represent aspects of the city.

His Pine Street Brewery Black Bay, for example, "has a dark and foggy SF feel to it," he noted. His "It Came From Beneath" brew shows giant tentacles ready to take down the Golden Gate Bridge, its name an homage to the famous 1955 horror movie.

"First and foremost, we're a local-centric company," said Alexander. "All of our logos show San Francisco because my business partner and I love the city. When bars and restaurants choose us over someone else, they are doing so because we are local and small. They like that they can call us and ask us to bring a couple of kegs over so they can test something new. Not a lot of big breweries provide the customer service that we do."

His beer has also won a string of local awards, including "Best Beer" at an event at Public Glass and the People's Choice Award at the Third Annual West Coast Craft Can Invitational. At Devil's Canyon Brewing Company in San Carlos, where Pine Street brews its beer, Alexander's recipes received the Favorite New Discovery Award at a recent competition.

More than 65 restaurants, bars and stores stock his beer, including those owned by fellow SI grads Chris Fogarty '94 (R Bar and Stock in Trade), Brian Cassanego '96 (Noir

Lounge and Wine Jar) and Sam Mogannam '86 (Bi-Rite Market). You'll also find Alexander's beer in Whole Foods. Just don't look for bottles, as he prefers cans, "which are more ecologically sound than bottles, as aluminum can be recycled easily and blocks sunlight more effectively. Cans are lighter than bottles and more easily packaged. We can also paint our city-themed designs on the cans."

Alexander enjoyed growing up in the city off Lincoln Way, though he now makes his home in Pacifica with his wife and daughter.

At SI, he excelled as a baseball player and started the Surf Club along with Ryan Jackson '95. He majored in biology at San Diego State University and, after graduation, started his own business selling a GPS system for golfers that told them how far they were to key targets. He sold a percentage of his company to Bushnell and worked for them in sales and marketing for a time in Southern California.

In 2013 he returned to the Bay Area to work as a property manager and realtor for fellow SI grads Marcus '95 and Paul Gaetani '00 (co-owners of Gaetani Real Estate). While at a party at the Bourne Mansion, he sampled some home brew crafted by Jay Holliday, who made his beer first at his apartment and then in the mansion. "That was my initiation into craft brewing," said Alexander, who admits that he preferred wine over beer at the time.

"Beer became the new wine when new craft brews came on the scene. I am able to buy two or three beers for \$15 as opposed to one bottle of great wine for \$50, allowing me the chance to try many different great beers."

In 2013, he and Holliday became partners in Pine Street Brewery and began using recycled Pellegrino water bottles for the 10 gallons of beer they brewed each week. The business grew when they contracted with Fort Point Beer Company and Devil's Canyon to do the brewing based on their own recipes. Now, they produce 40 barrels (1,240 gallons) a month, varying among nearly a dozen different types of beer, from a smoked porter and a saison to a stout and an India Pale Ale.

Alexander and Holliday have one employee who makes deliveries. They hope to continue growing and, perhaps, open their own taproom and brewing facility in San Francisco.

Alexander found satisfaction in this new business because of the social aspect to it. "My partner and friends spent evenings crafting the beer that we enjoyed. After it was done, we gave it to friends and were excited to hear them tell us how great it was. It's wonderful creating something that is coveted."

The hard part of the business is competing against Budweiser, Coors and Miller. "That's why the small breweries work together to make a better product. Our hope is to take over as many of the tap handles as we can that Bud has at the neighborhood bars and fill them up with local craft beer."

The other challenge Alexander and Holliday have is finding new accounts. "It's a lot like property management. I see both jobs as helping people rather than just trying to sell them something they don't need. That's why I'm not aggressive in my sales approach. Luckily, people know and love our beer, so I don't have to knock on doors and do high pressure sales." ∞



## Brandon Brodt '78 writes of the city's neighborhoods of days gone by

Brandon Brodt's new book is a love song both to San Francisco and to a young soldier — a transplant from Chicago, who fell in love with the city after moving here in the 1950s.

Brodt '78 self published *The Last San Franciscans* in 2014 to celebrate the city of his youth and to tell the story of his relatives as well as the various neighborhoods that were his old haunts.

In a chapter entitled "Parkside Donuts," Brodt writes the following: "Out in the Sunset District, evening descended on Golden Gate Park with long shadows, plunging miles of trails and meadows into darkness. Soon after dusk, the west side of town was covered by an evening blanket of gray mist. The streets descended towards Ocean Beach and the Parkside District, where giant drifting mounds of sand once flowed unimpeded here like Sahara dunes. The sands moved freely for decades, until they were penetrated by a Lincoln Street railcar and by John McLaren's gargantuan park." Later, he features SI students in his "Sunset Boulevard" chapter with mentions of the Great Highway and Playland-at-the-Beach.

Brodt first thought of writing the book when he turned 30 and had the goal "of putting myself back in the old city, the one that is now disappearing, and tell its story through the voices of my family members." He began the actual writing five years ago and sells his book at Lulu.com.

A pharmacist by trade who once worked at Kaiser Hospital in Walnut Creek and who now works at Torgsyn's Pharmacy on Geary Boulevard, Brodt grew up in the Mission District in a city that he found both creative and dynamic. Too young to recall the Summer of Love, he did witness the changes of the 1970s and 1980s and heard stories of the old days from his parents and relatives.

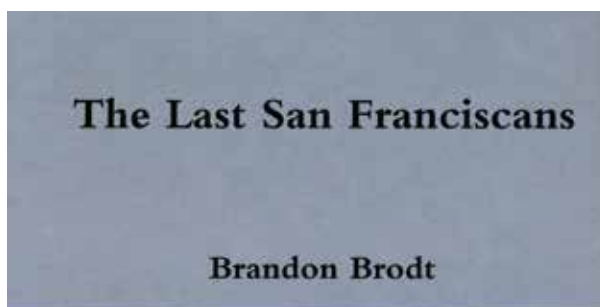
At 13, he moved with his family to Mill Valley, but he found his way back to the city to attend SI. "Sometimes I'd hitchhike or grab a ride in the back of a senior's pickup truck."

He played soccer at SI and excelled in computer science so much that he took classes at USF in his junior year. He graduated from SI a year early to enroll at USF, where he also ran cross country. He later competed as a speed skater and was a finalist in 2005 at the U.S. National Speedskating Championship.

He stayed active professionally, working with an HIV clinical trial group and volunteering with Project Open Hand and the American Liver Foundation. He served as president of the Diablo Society of Hospital Pharmacists and tutored at Berkeley High and City College. He still runs the Bay-to-Breakers annually, has several marathons under his belt and coaches youth soccer.

San Francisco in his day "was more of a blue-collar, working class city than it is today," he added. "We had Hamms Brewery, the Twinkies factory in the Mission, American Can Company and a working port on the waterfront."

Still, he added, "change is good. We're attracting new people from the East Coast, and they bring the same excitement for the city that my father had when he came here." Brodt also respects the preservation movement that seeks to renovate architectural icons of the past, including the New Mission Theater, which is now the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema. "I do miss the old San Francisco, but change is inevitable. I just wish families, seniors and those living in apartments had more protection." ∞



Brandon Brodt graduated early from SI to attend USF to prepare for his career as a pharmacist. He dedicated his book to his children, Sean, 23, and Chelsea, 16. Go to [facebook.com/thelastsanfranciscans](https://facebook.com/thelastsanfranciscans) for more.



## The Barulich family celebrates 50 years *of BiRite feeding the Bay Area*

For BiRite Foodservice Distributors and the Barulich family, the bread and butter of their business for the last half century has been bread and butter and everything else you might find in a commercial restaurant — from ovens and pots to white table cloths and heirloom tomatoes.

To celebrate 50 years as a family business, the company held a party June 20 at John's Grill to donate \$500,000 — \$50,000 each to 10 local non-profits that for years have fed low-income families and homeless individuals thanks to food donations from BiRite.

The company has thrived all this time thanks to its local focus, serving companies and restaurants from Silicon Valley to Napa Valley, and because it has always been family run, with corporate heads schooled both at SI and Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory.

In 1966, the Barulich family bought BiRite Restaurant Supply — not to be confused with Bi-Rite Market owned by Sam Mogannam '86 on 18th Street.

Victor Barulich, who lived in the Sunset District and who owned Sunset Produce on 20th and Noriega, and his first cousin John Barulich, a driver for BiRite, bought the company in 1966. (John would later send his sons to SI — Greg '82 and David '77.) They ran it as a small business, at

first delivering canned goods to restaurants. As business grew, new generations joined the company to help manage the growing workload.

Victor and his wife had three children: Bill, Dianne Prindiville and Steve. The two sons serve, respectively, as BiRite CEO and president.

Bill's children now run the day-to-day operations: Nathan '94 serves as vice president of operations, Aaron '98 works as general manager, and Zachary '02 is chief financial officer. Their sister, Lauren '05, once worked for the company as an equipment buyer but now works for Deloitte. In addition, Steve's daughter Kathryn '08 also worked at BiRite, and Steve sent his son, Matthew ('11), to SI as well.

The company moved in 1997 from San Francisco to a 250,000-square-foot complex in Brisbane where 310 employees help the company gross more than \$300 million in sales while supplying food and restaurant supplies to nearly 3,000 customers, including Facebook, Scomas, Boulevard, State Bird Provisions, Pacific Catch and Plutos.

"We sell everything necessary to turn an empty building into a restaurant," said Aaron. "But we have moved away from sacks of flour and frozen French fries. Because we are smaller than our competitors, we are more nimble and have



been better able to respond to customer demands for fresh, local, organic, craft and heirloom foods.”

For example, BiRite used to supply olive oil from Spain and Italy. “But customers want local olive oil, so we offer that now,” said Aaron. “We also own our own produce company and deal directly with farmers.”

Aaron had his start in the business — like all those from his and previous generations — by sweeping the warehouse floor. “Then, because my father didn’t want me hanging around the office and my mother didn’t want me around the house on my days off, I went out with the drivers and stacked 70-pound boxes of beef onto pallets.”

As the general manager, Aaron now sets the day-to-day pace for the company while his brothers work to streamline operations. “It can be a challenge working with family, which is why we have distinct roles,” Aaron added. “In the end, we make sure that everyone’s voice is heard, respected and translated into one BiRite point of view so that we speak as one. That gets tricky when I have to deal with customers who forgot to order something and need it right away, while my brothers have to figure out how to save money through efficiencies. It’s a push-pull where both goals need to be respected, but we know our success is based on long-term relationships with our customers.”

That push-pull relationship evidenced itself in a recent redesign of the company’s logo, one that went through two design companies and 50 versions. “We all had an emotional attachment with the old logo, having grown up with it, which is why the redesign took four months. It took a lot of time with us sitting around a table and expressing our opinions, but we finally ended up on the same page.”

Aaron loves working in the food industry in the Bay Area, where, aside from high tech, food is king. “I love reading Paolo Lucchesi ’00, one of the food writers for the *Chronicle*, and being a part of the cutting edge food scene. I also love the back alleys and small kitchens all around San Francisco. I’ve delivered food down every flight of stairs you can imagine and have seen it all. It’s also nice to hear about great meals that my friends enjoy at these restaurants and know what our company has played some small part in this.”

Most of the Barulich clan was on hand when 60 or so gathered at John’s Grill for the company’s 50th anniversary lunch. “We have had a long relationship with St. Anthony’s, St. Vincent de Paul and Glide and other non-profit partners,” said Aaron. “We made the donations because it was time to celebrate and to memorialize our long history in the city. My father and uncle learned about service at Sacred Heart. My siblings and cousins at SI learned about AMDG. We are fortunate to enjoy success doing what we love while helping our community, one that, despite having so many Michelin-star restaurants, still has a large homeless population and people who can’t afford to feed their families. This was our opportunity to give back to our community.”

As for the similarity between BiRite and Bi-Rite Market, Aaron notes that on occasion people compliment him on Sam Mogannam’s salted caramel ice cream. “At first I pretend to take credit and say thank you. I’m a little jealous of Sam and his great company, one whose history is as long as ours. I’m also proud that Sam is one of our customers.” ∞



**Opposite page:** The Barulich Family, back row from left: Aaron, Zack and Nathan; front row Bill and Steve. Photo by Niall David Photography.

**Above:** Aaron Barulich '98 outside his family’s Brisbane-based business and one of the trucks that make up the fleet that brings supplies to restaurants and stores around Northern California.



Annie Leese Thistle '02 began teaching dance, acting and singing lessons in Mill Valley in 2009 and recently opened a new studio and school on Belvedere Drive just east of Highway 101 for her many students.



## *Creating a space and a surrogate family* **for Marin's budding performers**

More than 500 young people in Marin County will tell you that their favorite place can be found at 60 Belvedere Drive in Mill Valley. There they find a wondrous combination — the best of home and school.

Annie Leese Thistle '02 founded the Performing Arts Academy of Marin (PAAM) in 2009 as a place to teach theatre, voice and dance to children as young as 3. In doing so, she created the kind of place that she wished she had when she was a child. "When I was little, I wanted to sing and move and dance, just like all kids. Performing is such a large part of our learning, and fostering this for my students has been an awesome experience."

Over the past seven years, students have found a place to make friends they typically don't make at school. "This is where they come to connect with other students who love to perform. If I closed my doors, their lives would be so different. They tell me that this is the favorite place to be all week."

Her academy inspires a wide variety of students to excel. "Serious students can train and hone their drive and ambition. For those who are less experienced, they can build confidence and hear positive messages that through hard work, you can achieve while building friendships along the way. I tell my students I would not be asking them to do more if I thought they had reached their potential. I help them see how they can expand their boundaries and move to the next level."

Thistle is committed to her work because she knows just how much students are helped both by the physical exertion of dance and by the adrenaline and endorphins that their bodies release when they perform. "When you're in the moment of a performance, you are not yourself; instead, you are embodying a character or a perspective or trying to reach a goal. You experience a sense of freedom as you commit yourself fully to your art and learn to step outside yourself."

Thistle knows all of this from her work not only as a teacher but also as a young dancer and singer. Her mother enrolled her in dance classes when she was 3. As she progressed, she entered a program at the University of Louisville's Dance Academy, where she earned honors as one of the program's best dancers.

She moved to Mill Valley with her family when she turned 12 and branched out from dance to try her hand at theatre. She danced at Marin Dance Theatre, acted in commercials and performed through the Marin Theatre Company's youth program.

As a freshman at SI, she lost confidence in her ability to sing, but she loved hanging out in Bannan Theatre with her friends. "I saw every single production of *The Pajama Game* in my junior year."

She continued dancing, however, and excelled at Boston College, where she rediscovered her love of the musical theater stage. She took classes in both Boston and New York and performed in musicals and dance productions.

After earning her bachelor's degree, she taught theatre and dance at several East Coast schools and also performed with regional companies, including Reagle Music Theatre in Waltham, Mass.

She moved back to Marin County in 2009 along with D.J. Thistle, whom she met while in Boston, and the two married a year later. D.J. now teaches fifth grade at Mt. Tamalpais School while Annie works full time as the director of PAAM, which she started in a church in Mill Valley shortly after her return to California.

She began with a small summer program that led to a Marin County Fair performance, and she has since expanded to 500 students and nearly a dozen teachers in a new 6,000-square-foot, two-story building that comprises six dance studios and one voice studio.

There, students learn theatre, voice and dance, including ballet, pointe, jazz, tap, hip-hop, contemporary and acro (gymnastics). "Some children become triple threats and do all three," Thistle noted. "Others spend as much as 20 hours a week here, as this is their second home. They identify as PAAM students." Like true family members, they threw a baby shower for Thistle shortly before her child was born last year.

Thistle is also grateful to her family, including brothers Charlie '04 and Hunter Leese '07, her parents and her husband "for believing that I could make this all happen. This is not anything I could have done on my own. I also have an amazing faculty, including an associate director, Katlin Vagelatos, who care about PAAM just as much as I do."

Thistle's success with children has led her to dream about expanding her program to include advanced programs for high school students and adults. She also hopes she can find a permanent performance space.

"My husband would say that I work tirelessly to ensure that people around me and the product I'm representing are the best they can be," added Thistle. "I work hard so to ensure that everyone is on board and invested, and I see the results on stage. When my kids perform, I watch them like a parent and enjoy the results of all those months of preparation. I'm just grateful that they keep coming back and wanting more." ∞

## Ann Armstrong '93 explores and teaches about Austin *from her tiny home to its weird streets*



Ann Armstrong '93 defies easy description. A tall woman, she has just moved into a tiny home that barely passes the 200 sq. ft. mark. A San Francisco native, she has adopted Austin and is challenging herself and others to map it in creative ways. A gifted architect, she wasn't content only wielding pencil and drafting board; instead, she became an expert welder and woodworker, making furniture and teaching art classes.

What links all of these endeavors is her desire to create "more intimate relationships between people and place and between people and materials," she said. "This intimacy makes us more human and more connected. Working with wood and steel is messy. Exploring a city on foot is time consuming. But if you engage, good things will come. The key is intimacy. Having an intimate knowledge of steel, I know how it behaves and am able to tap into and shape its beauty."

Even the shorthand description for Armstrong's career isn't so short. She is an artist, an architect and an educator, and she does each of these in ways that encourage others to have a sense of place — to appreciate where they are and help shape it.

She began her love affair with space thanks to her father, David, who taught drafting and architecture at Washington High School. "His drafting tools and templates were my toys," she noted, and she used them to draft floor plans and elevations starting at 8. "Thinking about how to make space work together seemed important to me. I assumed all my friends cared about space and would want to draft buildings for fun."

Her early life was a mix of the best and worst of American architecture. "I grew up in a ticky-tacky box in San Francisco on the hillside, just like the ones Malvina Reynolds sang about in her song 'Little Boxes.'" She also traveled to her mother's hometown in Wisconsin where she saw Frank Lloyd Wright structures, including his studio where he and his architects crafted American icons. "When you are exposed to a special space, you feel it and are affected by it," she noted.

She had a private art teacher starting in fourth grade and continued studying art at SI under Katie Wolf, who sent her and the other Art and Architecture students into the streets of San Francisco to sketch unique buildings. "Even then, it was important to me to engage with places."

While pursuing a bachelor's degree in architecture at the University of Oregon, she enrolled in a program that took her to Rome, where she felt "an intense sense of place. People have lived in and cared for that city for thousands of years."

After earning her degree, she worked as an architect in San Francisco for eight years on projects both local and far-flung. The latter left her feeling dissatisfied. "I learned that I wanted to be as close to the work as possible. On some jobs, I spoke only with out-of-state contractors and never saw the finished project. There was a gap in the feedback loop and less accountability."

In 2004, Armstrong left San Francisco for what she thought was a brief sojourn to pursue a master's degree in architecture from the University of Texas in Austin. There, she took a welding class and fell in love with heavy metal. She took more classes before finding a job with an



Austin-based firm where the architects designed buildings, hired subcontractors and did some of the construction themselves. She landed the job because the firm needed a steel fabricator.

She found the job satisfying in that it allowed her to combine old skills with new ones; she spent half her day drafting and the other half building what she had just drafted. She found that experience more powerful than watching construction from afar, and she also found joy in making furniture, blending wood and metal. “Those materials are better together. I don’t want to sit on a steel chair.”

Seven years on that job, however, took a toll on her body, as she worked in welding armor in 100-degree Austin summers. “You give up all comforts when you work on a job site, and you learn to bring everything you need. If you forget a tool, you just have to improvise.”

She switched to full-time design and began teaching art at Laguna Gloria, one of Austin’s art museums, where she helped students learn to meld steel with wood in their creations. “The class should have been called ‘Intro to Power Tools.’” She went on to teach at a private high school, where she worked in the art department as the shop teacher.

Armstrong also found a space to work on her own projects, including a 220-sq.-ft. home she built with her partner. “It took longer than we thought it would to build, as Texas has real weather. We spent \$600 on tarps and learned that those don’t hold up well to Texas rain, wind and sun.”

The home has an indoor and outdoor shower, a compost toilet and a gray water system that irrigates a container garden. It sits on land that Armstrong rents from a friend, “so we’re living half off the grid,” she noted.

Seeing where all her garbage and wastewater goes motivates Armstrong to pare down and “make better use of resources. Small homes use less material and have less waste in building. They use less energy to heat or cool. We’re not wasting water by flushing a toilet. We compost on site and feed it back to the land. Every two weeks, I have to dump a tank in a nearby RV park, but knowing that water just doesn’t go down a drain makes me use less of it. We also don’t pave over the earth. We just hover over it like a mobile home. Even though we have 100 square feet of bamboo flooring, if I could do it all over again, I would have used more salvaged windows and wood. All of this has sensitized me to the waste I create.”

Armstrong also hopes to sensitize others to the places in which they live. In Austin, she has become part of a “placemaking” movement by creating hand-drawn maps of the city and its neighborhoods based upon her interests. One map shows the location of unusual trees and how they are shaped by the buildings surrounding them as they seek light. Another explores the “walls and voids” of Austin, highlighting interesting spaces, ones that Armstrong also explores on city walks where she serves as tour guide.

“Walls define a space, while voids are empty spaces filled with potential. Below one bridge, we now have the largest urban bat population, one that draws tourists who come to see them when they fly out at dusk. These bats filled the void below the bridge because there was a space where something amazing could emerge. It literally was a pregnant void.”

Another one of her urban oddity maps focuses on interstitial spaces — the tight alleys between buildings. One of Armstrong’s favorite is 100 feet deep and narrows from 18 inches at its widest to a foot in width. She has taken a group of seven people into its narrows.

She is hoping to form an atlas of Austin by encouraging others to add their own hand-drawn maps to her collection of 150 crowd-sourced maps. “Some have locations of their favorite agave plants, and others point out the best taco stands. Nothing is off topic. Others draw maps of where they fell in love or how they commute from home to work. The more maps we have, the more accurate our perception of this place becomes. I also encourage people to share their maps. I’ll give you one of mine if you give me one of yours.”

To see some of Armstrong’s works, go to [ann-made.org](http://ann-made.org) and explore work found in her portfolio. And then consider making a map of your own neighborhood or city. If you run into Armstrong in Austin, she’ll most likely trade one of hers for your sketch. ∞



**Opposite left:** Ann Armstrong at SI’s art studio in 2016 during her visit to the school. She took numerous classes from veteran art teacher Katie Wolf, who fanned her passion for art and architecture.

**Opposite right:** Armstrong in her shop in Austin, Texas.

**Left & below:** Armstrong and her partner built a tiny home just larger than 200 square feet in which they now live. She uses the area under the stairs for storage and used bamboo for the flooring.



*John Hughan '04 teaches car control at Texas racetracks to*  
**drivers who feel the need for speed**



John Hughan '04 has come full circle — an appropriate turn of phrase for a man who likes to carve corners around Texas racetracks.

When he was young, he loved his toy dashboard so much that the steering wheel broke off in his hands. Undeterred, he began to use that wheel to “drive” himself around the house while making racecar noises.

He had little interest in cars as a teenager. He found his love of driving reignited several years ago when he learned that his roommate’s girlfriend had enrolled in a clinic at Sonoma Raceway — the new name of the former Sears Point Raceway. “I wasn’t aware that anyone could drive a regular car on a racetrack,” said Hughan.

After moving to Texas with his then-fiancée (now-wife) Corey Pallatto '02, he took his car to the racetracks, first at Texas World Speedway with The Drivers Edge and later at the Circuit of the Americas with Edge Addicts.

He now serves as an instructor with the latter group, helping students safely channel their inner Mario Andrettis.

Drivers learn high performance skills and gain confidence, though they are not technically racing, as laps are neither timed nor competitive — conditions that would block drivers from being insured.

As a senior Windows server engineer at Dell in the company’s Global Infrastructure Services Group in Austin,

Hughan helps internal business departments figure out what is required for new applications. “I get to design infrastructures, translating business requirements into technical ones,” he noted. Hughan enjoys this better than fixing broken systems, “as I get to raise the status quo rather than restore it.”

On the racetrack, he helps his students raise their status quo. A natural teacher, Hughan tutored fellow students at SI, taught an undergrad class while at Cal and worked as a mentor. “Now I get to apply those skills while riding shotgun in a total stranger’s car doing 140 miles per hour down the straightaway toward a concrete wall just past a hairpin turn.”

Hughan signed up with Edge Addicts to serve as an instructor and works over the course of a weekend with one or two students who first attend classroom sessions that cover general techniques and concepts to augment their one-on-one instruction.

On the track, students train in five 25-minute sessions each day. Both instructor and student wear helmets with headsets allowing them to communicate over the wind noise coming through their open windows.

Hughan’s first car driven on track was a 2008 Acura TL Type-S, which he drove once at Texas World Speedway. He later upgraded to a 2011 BMW M3 shortly before he and Pallatto married. Last year, he replaced that with a 2016 Porsche Cayman GT4.





**Opposite page:** John Hughan in his Porsche Cayman GT4 in the Circuit of the Americas pit lane about to serve as pace car for the Pirelli GT3 Cup Trophy USA race, with the race cars gridded up in the background.

**Left:** Hughan stands with Karen Zimmerman, owner of Edge Addicts Motorsport Event Management, the first group where he became an instructor. The cars behind them are a Corvette Z06 and a Ferrari 458 Challenge Evoluzione racecar.

"If you want to learn to drive fast, you don't need to buy a fancy race car or even modify your existing one," said Hughan. "Most drivers don't drive anywhere close to what their cars can do. My goal is to coach them out of their comfort zones."

Even though Hughan doesn't time the laps his students drive, both can sense improvement. "Especially at the novice level, when you're improving by leaps and bounds as opposed to fighting for every tenth of a second, you can plainly feel yourself going faster, especially around corners. You don't need a timing device to tell you that."

Those timing devices, he added, can distract drivers enough to cause accidents. "Even with advanced students, the value of the information found on a timing device has to be weighed against the insurance and potential decision-making ramifications." He cites one statistic from the infamous Nürburgring in Germany where rescue workers find timing devices running in 80 percent of cars involved in crashes.

Hughan teaches his students to look far ahead rather than fixating on their front bumpers so they can plan for the next corners. "You have to look at the larger picture of the track and be proactive rather than reactive."

He enjoys driving fast for the obvious reason. "I like the thrill. There's no place where you can legally drive fast other than a racetrack. Even more fun than driving fast down straightaways is going around corners, as that requires technique, which keeps it interesting. No racer has ever turned a perfect lap. There's always something better you can do next time."

The side effect of all this speed is that he has become a safer, slower street driver. "I'm never reckless when I drive on streets. I'm more mellow because I have an outlet where I can go fast."

He also applies the techniques he has learned on the track to street driving. "I'm always thinking about my exit strategy if something happens in front of me. I know what my car can and can't do. If I need to swerve, I know how tightly I can do so rather than just cranking the wheel and hoping that physics will bend the rules just for me. Likewise, I train my drivers to manage controlled slides."

The best part of the job, he admits, "is watching students have their light bulb moment when everything clicks for them."

For those interested in learning to drive fast on tracks, Hughan has the following advice. "Don't modify your car with huge brakes or a supercharger or roll cage upfront. First see if you like the experience and go from there. It's easier to learn on lower horsepower cars. One student brought a Lamborghini Aventador with a 700-horsepower V12 engine for his first-ever track day. The sound and acceleration was a lot of fun for me, but it was far more car than my student was able to handle, and it kept him from building confidence."

Hughan's final advice: "Leave your ego at the gate, and if your car has a fair amount of value, verify your insurance policy's coverage for these events or look into supplemental insurers who offer coverage specifically for these performance driving events. That can save you down the road." ∞

## *Finding yourself by* **naming your tribe**



Megan Bondy '95, second from right, along with her sister, Martha Shaughnessy Convery '97 (third from left), and their father, veteran religious studies teacher Mike Shaughnessy '67 (right). All attended the Ignatius Guild's Food Faire last May with Megan's and Martha's children. From left are Oliver (Martha's youngest), Cyrus, John (Martha's oldest), Daphne, Lily and Cleo.

### **BY MEGAN (SHAUGHNESSY) BONDY '95**

Becoming a mother to four children in two years threw me off balance, to say the least.

I had been married a few months when we got pregnant with our first set of twins. Those babies were not quite six months old when we learned we were expecting twins again. By age 37, I had been married for two years, had four babies aged one and under, was laid off from the company I had been working with for 12 years and found myself living in a new house in Concord, Calif., a city where I had no friends and no community. Very few of my friends from the city even know where Concord is. I was, for lack of a better word, unmoored.

In a new place, it has been up to me to find and nourish the tribe we need. When I'm not ok, we are not ok. What I need to be ok is connection, community, work that challenges me while making a difference in the world and time to be alone.

This is especially challenging, as I've seen my time and energy shrink given the demands of work, marriage, friends and kids.

But my values are crystalizing. I have learned that we show what matters to us by what we make time for, despite the reality that most of us feel there is never enough time.

I carved out such a time last July, when my family of seven — husband, wife, two three-year old twins, two two-

year-old twins and Poppy (our word for grandpa) — took our first flight. We flew to Vermont by way of Boston, and it was as nuts as you'd expect it to be.

Just like any other day in the life of the Bondy family, our travel days consisted of wrangling small children, feeding them, changing diapers, finding potties, finding food, hoping for naps and moments of sweetness communicated primarily by desperate glances.

After renting a minivan that didn't have enough room for four car seats and three adults and settling myself onto the floor illegally for our drive up to Vermont, we headed for a quick meet-up at a playground somewhere in Massachusetts so I could visit with my friend Lee, a woman I had met through an ex-boyfriend.

Through a series of texts and Facebook messages, we managed to set aside a precious hour in which to come face to face. In the eight years since we had seen one another, between the two of us we had become mothers to six children.

When we met up, her 2-year-old son was asleep in the car, so we hugged, and I took her 5-year-old daughter, whom I'd never met, to play with my kids until her brother woke up. Between pushing swings and handing out Goldfish, Lee and I fit in years of conversation about marriage, womanhood and mothering as well as about identity, power, work and love. Then we hugged and went our separate ways, unsure of when the next meeting would be.





Megan and her husband, Neil Bondy, along with their children, from left: Cyrus, Cleo, Daphne and Lily.

Lee is part of my tribe, even though she lives 3,000 miles away. Another tribe member is my 70-year-old retired ex-CEO, my professional mentor, who drives across the bridge from San Rafael every Thursday to bring breakfast, lunch and books for me to read. My dad — known as Mr. Shaughnessy to generations of SI students — comes over every Wednesday. The rest of our family comes when they can, loving us, cleaning the kitchen or folding laundry.

Mainly, however, my tribe comprises the many women who are helping us raise our children. Our babysitter, Stephanie, and her two girls take care of our four kids with delight and love. Rhoda, our 80-year-old neighbor with whom we share a fence, spends a couple of hours a week with my two older children baking cookies and working in the garden.

They, along with Lee, are part of a community of women who support me and lift me up as we each navigate the bewildering road of raising children. Some of the women I have never met, but I have read their blogs since before I joined their motherhood ranks. Some of us met through a mothers' group — one takes my kids to school when I can't; another brought me chocolate-covered almonds when my dog died.

Some of us have been friends since before SI. We met on soccer fields as young girls, and now we text, call or meet up for dinner, serving as touchstones for one another as we take our own young girls and boys to soccer or gymnastics or the park.

One of them lives on a chicken farm in Iowa — we met at an organ donation conference over a decade ago, and we have only seen each other twice in real life. She was the one I spoke to, online, in the early days of my second pregnancy, when I was shocked and terrified about the prospect of having two more babies so soon after delivering our premature twins. She soothed me and counseled me and said some of the most important words I know: "Me too."

These days, I find myself often thinking about what it means to be a person. In the choose-your-own-adventure

pages of life, how much do our decisions and our surroundings impact the way we live our lives, the way we see ourselves, the identities we claim?

It seems to me that being an SI Wildcat helped make me the person I am today. So did living in San Francisco, being a big sister, playing soccer, going to college on the East Coast, learning to speak Spanish and travelling to many different countries. Even more, it matters that both my parents value conversation, intellectual curiosity and social justice. Being a woman and being of Irish descent also have shaped me. By the nature of how I look, how I have been educated, where I live and how I've been raised, I belong to different communities without even trying.

What I have come to see, finally, is that I am a shape-shifter. I have great privilege, and for most of my life, I have used the experience of having a foot or a toe in different worlds to listen and observe and learn from people in all sorts of communities. I've always been curious about what it is to be a person. How much do we share? How much does our experience form us? How much can we understand another person? I hope we all can push ourselves to create and belong to communities where we feel the security of belonging as well as the discomfort of feeling like "the other" and trying to belong.

No one can shelter any of us from the loneliness of being alive, from our intense need to connect and be seen by others or the need to be told, "You matter," and "Me too."

That's why I'm grateful for my tribe — the extended family that circles out beyond my two sets of twins, my husband and parents. They help me embrace more than I can and give me glimpses of just what it means to be human.

*To read more from Megan, check out her blog at [handfullx2.blogspot.com](http://handfullx2.blogspot.com). ∞*

## Why class reunions *matter more than ever to me*



**BY ANTHONY DEL ZOMPO '84**

I betrayed a family value when I chose to attend SI as a freshman in 1980. My father went to Sacred Heart, and my two older brothers graduated from Riordan. On the surface, SI was the logical choice. My brothers were super achievers, and I didn't want to be Lou and Frank's "little brother" for another four years. Sacred Heart didn't have the reputation that it has today, and most of my closest friends were attending SI. But because of the constant insults from my father and brothers, I often felt like a blue-collar kid trying to fit in at a white-collar school.

That feeling remained with me as I attended my first reunion in 1994. I hadn't "made it," whatever that means, and I was still comparing myself to my classmates who had established careers and families. It would take an additional 15 years for me to realize that life isn't a race and to discover that if I continued to measure my success in relation to others, I would always fall short.

I did look forward to our 25-year gathering in spite of myself. I spent most of the evening getting reacquainted with Peter Bjorkland and Robert O'Brien. Although I had known both men during our four years at SI, I had not been close with either of them. Still, I was struck by the depth with which we, as men approaching mid-life, could converse with neither pretense nor a need to be anyone but ourselves. Sadly, Robert passed before we would gather

again as a class, but I'm grateful for the chance I had to share that evening with him.

A number of years ago, a few men from our class gathered for a luncheon around the holidays. They had a great time, and a tradition began. Jesse Montalvo created a Facebook page for the class of 1984, and the word began to spread.

When I attended my first luncheon in 2012, I was still grieving the loss of my father. He was a first generation San Franciscan and a member of the SFPD for 32 years. When we sold his home, the same building my grandparents had lived in, I was devastated. The house on 1585 Chestnut Street wasn't just a building in the Marina. It was where I had spent countless childhood days in prayer with my grandmother and where I would visit my grandfather and walk with him to the park to watch him and his friends play bocce ball. It was where my father had spent the rest of his life after he and my mother divorced. The sale of the home seemed as if a vital connection to my childhood had been severed.

I sat with Matt McGuinness that day. Matt and I had been friends since grammar school, and he was also grieving the loss of his father, Mark, who had graduated with the class of 1955. Matt and I had gotten into plenty of trouble together as kids, and suddenly we were the grownups responsible for our children and our work. Matt was running IDS, a flooring company he had started with his father, and he had sent all three of his children to SI. In spite of the years that had passed, our friendship didn't miss a beat. We could pick up





right where we had left off, but the connection was deeper and more intimate.

After lunch, I was filled with a renewed sense of optimism. Yes, my father and his home were gone, but I realized that my connection to SI would sustain me and that I could count on the men I had known since childhood to keep me grounded in the years ahead.

On Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014, the class of 1984 gathered for our 30-year reunion at Harris' Restaurant on Van Ness Avenue. The party sold out, and the restaurant staff had to set up additional tables in the hallway for last-minute attendees. I learned from Tim Reardon '86 that it was the largest turnout for a class reunion in years.

That evening, I spoke with Nils Kristoffersen, who operates the Wild Basin Lodge in Allenspark, Colo. We hadn't been close during our time at SI, but the time we spent together at the reunion was memorable as he shared his recollection of me from our time together at SI.

"Delz, you were the nicest guy in high school."

I was shocked. "That's funny," I replied. "I always thought I was kind of a loud-mouthed jerk with a chip on my shoulder."

His brows creased. "Not at all. You were never a bully, and you were always really kind to the smaller kids. If you ever want to come out Colorado, I'd love to have you as my guest."

I was honored. And confused. For three decades, I held on to an idea of who I was in high school — a kid from the wrong side of the tracks. Thirty years later, I learned that my memory of myself was suspect and that other people can have a less biased and sometimes refreshing perspective.

Another gathering was on Dec. 11, 2015. Again, the turnout was impressive. There were upwards of 50 of us gathered that day, including five of us from my grammar school. Matt McGuinness, Marc Dioso, Kevin O'Sullivan, Mark Orsi and I represented St. Cecilia's class of 1980. It was absolutely surreal to share an afternoon with men

with whom I had spent 12 years of my life, from childhood through adolescence.

After that lunch, SI's Vice President for Advancement Joe Vollert stood and spoke. "This is a big year for the class of '84," he said. "Most of us have either turned or will turn 50. And it seems that we probably have more yesterdays than tomorrows."

We remembered the graduates of the class of '84 who are no longer with us, and Joe went on to challenge us to take a look at the legacy we are leaving SI as well as the city of San Francisco. He noted that as Jesuit-educated men, we are called to action and service, and he proposed a grass-roots committee whose purpose would be to leave an impact upon the city that has been SI's home since its founding in 1855.

I left feeling an odd combination of hope and melancholy. My classmates and I are older, no doubt. But, for those of us who remain, there is an opportunity to make a difference.

As I returned home to Santa Cruz, I passed the gaping hole east of Brisbane where Candlestick Park once stood, and I laughed out loud in my car. If you had told me during my freshman year in 1981 that the 49ers, who had just won their first Super Bowl, would one day move to Santa Clara, or that the Giants would play in China Basin, I would have suggested medication. Change is inevitable, but growth within that change is optional.

I'm in awe of my classmates and the growth both they and I have experienced in the years since our time at SI. I embrace the opportunity to tend to my remaining roots, to till the soil and nurture the growth that my connection to SI affords me. As I approach the big five-0, the words "We are SI" mean more to me now than ever. ∞

**This page:** The author (right) with classmate Dionisio Esperas at their 25-year reunion in 2010 at Alfred's Steak House.

**Opposite page:** Marc Dioso, Mark Orsi, Kevin O'Sullivan, Tony del Zompo and Matt McGuinness at their 2015 Christmas lunch.



## Design Thinking guides changes in social science and religious studies departments

Who knows best what students need to learn?

- A. Teachers
- B. Students
- C. Experts
- D. Parents & Alumni

For teachers in the social science and religious studies departments, the answer, they discovered, was “All of the Above.” Thanks to surveys and interviews with a variety of stakeholders and an innovative process called Design Thinking, students next August will find significant changes to their lineup of classes in these departments.

Coined in the late 1960s, the term Design Thinking comprises a process that asks teams of people to discover what people need and want and then to collaborate on prototypes, quickly test them and modify the best of the breed.

After a year of work, the Social Science Department will now offer a semester course called Introduction to Ethnic Studies to freshmen, a yearlong course called Modern World History to sophomores, U.S. Histories and Cultures to juniors and a range of one-semester courses for seniors including Constitutional Law, San Francisco Politics, Criminal Justice, Social Movements and The Black Experience. Other electives include Social Cognitive Psychology, Behavioral Neuroscience, Economics and European History.

Another sea change for the department is the replacement of the AP Program with a modified Honors Program. In past years, many students took AP US History, AP Government, or AP Psychology. Students will still have the option to take these exams with support from the department. The Honors Program will also end the practice of separating students into tracked courses. Instead, students will apply for honors-level work while remaining in a heterogeneous class. If accepted, they will be given more assignments and receive bumps in their GPA. This is consistent with many honors programs at the university level.

Based on the success of this curriculum revision, the Religious Studies Department began their own Design Thinking process to adjust courses for ninth and tenth graders.

Next year, freshmen will take a full-year course and sophomores a one-semester course — the opposite of what they currently do — in part to respond to the shift in the Social Science Department and because the department believes students at a Jesuit, Catholic high school would benefit from a year-long religious studies course in their freshman year.

The changes began when Justin Christensen, now in his second year of chairing the Social Science Department, asked his colleagues in May 2015 what they believed to be the big-picture questions students would face in the next few years.

“My department wanted to take a step back and examine how well we were meeting our students’ needs,” said Christensen. “When the department met again in the fall, they voted unanimously to allow me to find a process by which we could tackle that question.”

Christensen then attended the Design Thinking InspirED conference along with fellow department members Eric Castro '92 and Katy Dumas as well as engineering teacher Mike Santos and Jennifer Gaspar-Santos — SI's director of educational technology and innovation, who had Design Thinking training and experience.

“You need a change-agent to make the process work well,” noted Gaspar-Santos. “For us, that conference gave us the process we wanted to use and the direction we wanted to go.”

Gaspar-Santos first experienced Design Thinking at the Nueva Innovation Lab in Hillsborough in 2004. “At first, I thought it might be a trendy Silicon Valley buzzword, but I began seeing avenues to apply it.” She used Design Thinking at her previous school, Castilleja, and later learned that it had been a tried-and-true process since the 1970s. “It’s a human-centered approach to solving problems that involves empathy as well as iteration, prototyping and testing. Rather than designing in a vacuum, people look to others to inform their design and then build and test prototypes quickly. We try to fail as early as possible in order to succeed faster. The faster we test prototypes, the closer we get to solving problems.”

In addition to helping the Social Science Department and the Religious Studies Department, she has led workshops for the Advancement Team and the Wellness counselors to help them set goals and determine strategies.

In January 2016, she began guiding the Social Science Department’s efforts to answer this question: What do current and near-future SI students need from the Social Science course catalog? “Our goal was to design a four-year Social Science experience for our students,” added Christensen.

Last spring, pairs of Social Science teachers began the investigative process by conducting surveys and interviews and meeting with focus groups. They included in their research current seniors and freshmen, teachers at SI and at other high schools, SI alumni in or recently graduated from college, professors and employers.

After listening to these groups, the department then defined the top three student needs. “Common themes emerged, including the need for students to see themselves in the curriculum, the need for more relevance and the need for student choice,” said Danielle Devencenzi '97, who chaired the department between 2007 and 2014.

“When asked to come up with something new, we all have a tendency to skip ahead and begin brainstorming ideas,” said Christensen. “That’s why I fell in love with Design Thinking. You have to go through a process where you resist the tendency to rely on anecdotal perceptions and biases. Only after our study did we see that we were behind the curve in some aspects.”

Members of the department then spent a day off campus to brainstorm solutions by creating prototypes of a four-year sequence of courses. Gaspar-Santos led the session, which also included SI’s Director of Equity and Inclusion Matt Balano, Holy Name’s principal, a USF economics professor and Ashley Summers '03, a legislative aide to Supervisor Katie Tang.

“These people looked at our prototypes and asked if they were meeting our students’ needs,” said Devencenzi. “That’s what Design Thinking challenges us to do.”



The day ended with three models rising to the top, and the department reflected on those four-year plans over the summer. Teachers received feedback on the three prototypes from SI's Academic Council and outside experts such as Allyson Tintiangco-Cubales, Ph.D., an SFSU professor in the Asian American Studies Department and an expert in ethnic studies curriculum development.

When they met at the end of the first quarter, a dozen of the 15 teachers opted for one plan. "But we spent the day tweaking that prototype even more," added Christensen. "You're never done in Design Thinking, as it calls you to continue iterating."

SI's Academic Council then heard the proposal from the Social Science Department in October, and, based on the council's feedback, Principal Patrick Ruff approved the changes.

Christensen understood that some parents and students might question the logic of dropping courses designed to teach specifically to AP tests. "We made this change because our students need courses that offer more relevance to them. In the past, we would spend most of April and May reviewing for the exams. By not teaching to the U.S. History Exam, we can go deeper into the 1960s, '70s and '80s so that our students better understand what happened in the late 20th century. By not teaching to the AP U.S. Government Exam, we can give our students more choices to explore how they will become politically active. Students, however, can still take these exams on campus, and anything we aren't covering in the courses, we will provide support so that students can fill in any gaps they might have. We are mindful that students like getting AP credit so that they walk into college with a head start."

The lack of tracking will also allow for a wider mix of students in each class, and students have the option of applying for honors-level work in each upper division course. "We found many colleges offering this option," said Christensen.

"Students will find that dropping the 'AP' designation won't reduce the rigor of our courses but make them challenging, authentic, student-driven and meaningful," added Devencenzi.

The ethnic studies curriculum, she noted, "will help our students become culturally competent and gain cultural humility. We need these 21st century skills, especially in college and the workplace, where our students will work with people from a wide variety of backgrounds. They need to learn to talk about race, culture, gender, religion and sexual orientation, to see diversity as a strength and to look at issues through a variety of lenses. As Ignatian educators at a Jesuit school, we call our students to be counter-cultural and talk about topics in a way that is healthier than what is modeled in the media. The only way our students will grow is if we arm them with



the language and knowledge they need to change personally and to make changes in the world. We also need to teach them to learn to listen in order to understand rather than listen only to respond."

The addition of the ethnic studies course also responded to a need identified in the accreditation report that called for curriculum review and revision pertaining to diversity, equity and inclusion. "In response to feedback, data and research, we have worked for years to figure out how to add an ethnic studies graduation requirement," said Balano. "We have worked with internal committees, such as the Diversity Inclusion Group, and external consultants who advised us how to proceed."

Balano is a veteran at teaching ethnic studies, having co-created the Burning Illusions course with Lizette Dolan '94; this year, he taught a revised version of this course as a senior English elective to students who also received three CSU credits for their work.

Christensen added that "our young alumni tell us that they wished they had ethnic studies in high school, as they are finding employers looking for candidates who excel in cultural competency."

"As our society changes, our schools need to change to meet students where they are and prepare them for where they're going," noted Devencenzi. "This is what Ignatius did and what we need to do."

Midway through this process now, the Religious Studies Department has gathered information from high school and primary school teachers and students, from alumni and parents, from directors of religious education at the parish and archdiocesan level and from "other industry stakeholders, such as rabbis, imams and other religious leaders," said Shannon Vanderpol, chair of the Religious Studies Department.

Her department has also interviewed life coaches and psychologists. "These people are good at marketing, and we have to learn from them in order to communicate powerfully the messages found in the gospels."

Her department hopes to create prototypes for freshmen that dovetail with the social science ethnic studies course. "This is an exciting overlap for us, as our lens on equity is the same lens we apply to the mission of the school and our mission as Catholics. How do we help students grow in their identity and continue the traditional voices that come from the bishops' curriculum and our catechism? We need to create spaces for the voices we don't often hear and invite people to the table who don't normally get invited. To do that, I want to use the best practices from every possible constituency."

Vanderpol hopes that the new curriculum will respond "to the trend for U.S. Catholics to be less and less catechized each year. The exciting challenge for us is to see how we can form people in the Catholic Church in ways that animate and engage modern culture and students' needs and that invite them into what is really life-giving about the Church."

Carole Nickolai, SI's assistant principal for academics, praised the efforts of the two departments. "Since I've been working at SI, I have sought ways to ensure that our curriculum prepares students for a global society. I'm impressed with and appreciative of these teachers who are willing to lean in and try this. I expect our students will have a rich experience that will better prepare them for college. Kudos to the women and men from both departments who are working laboriously to create courses and curriculum informed by data and the best research." ∞

**OPPOSITE PAGE LEFT:** Justin Christensen with Henry Davis '17, one of several students who offered feedback to the Social Science Department at an Academic Council meeting. **RIGHT:** Psychology teacher Yosup Joo getting feedback from Angelina Hue '16 on his prototype. **TOP:** Religious Studies Chair Shannon Vanderpol. **BELOW:** Former Social Science Chair Danielle Devencenzi '97.



Sophie Harrison '17 (center) and Delores Chan '17 (right) were among eight students who spent part of their summer in Costa Rica as part of SI's immersion program. They all worked at a day camp in San Blas for children. Photo by Carlos Gazulla.



## From Kansas City to Costa Rica, students learn the value of simple living and community

When students enter SI, they first hear the Ignatian challenge to be men and women with and for others. The multitude of service and leadership opportunities at SI give them opportunities to fulfill this challenge, including the immersion and service trips organized by SI's Campus Ministry Team for rising seniors.

This past summer, students traveled to Kansas City's Jerusalem Farm for a service trip. Another group — seniors Delores Chan, Olivia Dutton, Sean Gallagher, Sophie Harrison, Joseph Lofton, Ben Mann, Ayushi Tandel and Meghan Walsh — did an immersion experience in Costa Rica supervised by Spanish teacher Carlos Gazulla and his family.

### COSTA RICA

Two students on that trip, Tandel and Walsh, noted that the people of San Blas “welcomed us with open arms and left us with the promise that their doors would always be open for our return. It was a humbling experience to realize that strength of community exists everywhere no matter where you live, what background you come from or your relative wealth.”

The girls also learned to appreciate “the lively Latin American culture and rejected the misconceptions that led us, at first, to confuse poverty with simple living. Back at school, we now strive to take risks, to explore outside our comfort zones and to live out the lessons we learned as respectful, loving Ignatians.”

### AYUSHI TANDEL '17

Each morning, we helped a group of teens from San Blas run a day camp for children who were on their winter break. For many, the camp was an escape from problems at home, and they eagerly took on every camp activity, from finger painting to extreme games of freeze tag. The openness and excitement of every child surprised us and created an environment of simplicity that we had never experienced before.

On the second day, the kids asked us to teach them an arts and crafts project from the U.S. I, in my imperfect Spanish, nervously began to teach students how to fold and play the origami fortune teller. As more and more kids joined in for the origami, I felt a sense of peace and contentment that set the tone for the rest of the trip.

Children patiently listened to my instructions and helped me explain what I was saying. I felt the curiosity and enthusiasm of the kids as they learned something new, and the miles that separated cultures and experiences didn't seem so drastic.

In that moment, kids were just kids, and we were just a group of people enjoying the moment and appreciating the presence of one another. Instead of dividing over our cultural and linguistic differences, we shared what made us different to find solidarity in our differences.

Unlike the busy schedules of everyday life at SI, the pace of San Blas offers a more relaxed approach to structured time and schedules. In our

first days in Costa Rica, I found it hard adjusting to this cultural difference and lack of routine. As the days went on, I learned to stop looking forward to the next activity and just live in the moment. There were times when I didn't know what we would be doing next, and I found myself enjoying the moment so much that I would lose track of time.

One night, as I walked in the park with Melany, a teen from San Blas, our conversation shifted from small talk to shared stories and memories of our lives. Melany talked about her relationship with her mom, her experience being an only child and her love for Fifth Harmony. I shared my story of being a middle child of five children, my adventures with friends back home and the role of my Indian heritage.

I don't know how long we talked as we shared the experiences that made us who we are. We talked about faith and the questions we had about the future. Despite growing up in different environments with different experiences, we found that many of the emotions and challenges we faced were similar. We both found strength in our family, love in our community and faith in others.

At the end of our walk, Melany and I talked about our very awkward first meeting. We reflected on the mutual risk of reaching out to one another that resulted in our honest, open friendship. I realized that being a person with and for others is all about taking the risk to be



there for others, especially those different from me. It's in these relationships that we connect with others and learn about ourselves.

### MEGHAN WALSH '17

My immersion experience reached a climax as I settled in with my host family for the second week of the trip, which at first proved a culture shock, as the family consisted of a mother, father, older sister, younger brother, three SI students, 30 turkeys, 20 chickens, five dogs, three turtles, two parrots, a kitten and a baby crocodile.

Throughout the week, I laughed, ate and conversed, embracing the simple yet genuine lifestyle. The language barriers disappeared as I found myself deep in conversation with people I assumed I had nothing in common with. My papá, Rodolfo, took it upon himself to teach me everything he could and shared sincere and honest answers to any and all questions. By the end of the week, we had discussed politics, government pensions and benefits, security and the educational systems of Costa Rica.

I felt invited into the culture and into the family. In addition to countless Spanish-dubbed American movies — imagine Harry Potter without the British accents — and information about Costa Rican culture, I also saw a contrast in how news was reported, especially regarding the tragedy in Nice. I watched as my host family was devastated by the aftermath of the Nice attack in the same way I saw my own family react to the Orlando nightclub shooting. I also realized that I felt safe, as I had found a true second family.

### JERUSALEM FARM

Counselor Sarah Merrell and religious studies teacher Patrick Lannan took 10 students to Jerusalem Farm, set in urban Kansas City, Mo., where they helped remodel the home of an elderly woman along with the farm's Curbside Compost Manager Jordan "Sunny" Hamrick, Executive Director Jessie Schiele and her husband, Project Director Jordan Schiele.

Students also worked on the farm, putting in new racks and boards to collect honey in hives, picked berries and weeded the gardens.

Students gave up electricity for the time they spent on the farm. "The students had a tech-free experience, with no TVs or phones and no music other than the music they played at night on guitars," said Merrell. "They learned that they needed to be in relationship with each other. You could see students connecting and making friends just by being in a work group and figuring out who would do what task."

Merrell was also impressed with how well students took to conserving the resources of the farm, including water. "They took showers using two buckets of water, about 10 gallons in all. And they realized they didn't need to wear



The SI contingent at Jerusalem Farm

make up or smell a certain way. They saw for themselves how society encourages them to purchase products they just don't need, and that was a liberating experience for them."

Merrell's own children, Sophia, 9, and Johnny, 6, along with her husband, Tom, accompanied her on the trip. "My children loved running around barefoot and experiencing a farm that had no electric lights at night. It gave us all an appreciation for people around the world who have no electricity and little water. The farm also helped my children learn the value and dignity of chores, and the students saw just what it takes to keep a home and farm running and all that their parents and guardians do for them.

Students also took part in a protest at the Kansas City Federal Building to end the death penalty and learned about the number of innocent people killed on death row. "One person drove by and yelled at students, 'How would you feel if your mother was raped and murdered?'" Our students had to wrap their minds around these real issues and see if they agreed with Church teaching that killing isn't the right thing to do."

### ROSE MURPHY '17

Before we left for our trip to Kansas City this past summer, I was skeptical about how the trip would change me. All I really knew was that we would have to take bucket showers and eat vegetarian for a week.

The first few days in Kansas City were quite an adjustment with the complete change of routine and hotter temperatures than a San Francisco girl could ever imagine. It wasn't until the fourth day when I experienced the grace of the trip.

That day we helped put a new roof on a woman's house. After lunch, the homeowner came out, and I sat with her and talked for about four hours. She repeated the same five stories about her life and her family, yet I have never felt more *with* another person.

Just sitting with her and listening to her made her day and taught me a valuable lesson about the importance of being present with

every person we interact with. It's a lesson SI has been teaching for years.

The people we met, along with our experiences, created a community devoted to prayer, service and simplicity that can't be broken. The trip was, in many ways, an extension of the core principles of St. Ignatius. We built a community with each other and in the neighborhood and worked for social justice and in kinship with those around us.

### AUDREY TERRY '17

During our time at Jerusalem Farm, we were lucky enough to be with a band from Hawaii, Tubby Love, whose members were friends with one of the leaders. They stayed with us for several days. On community night, an event Jerusalem Farm hosts every week, neighbors and friends came to share the meal prepared by some of my classmates. Though the dinner was an amazing experience, it was what took place after that stuck with me.

Everyone gathered around a campfire one of the leaders had made and listened to the band from Hawaii sing. As the night went on, others, including a group of Ugandan refugees who were staying with us, started to share their talents of singing or playing an instrument. The sense of community and inclusion I experienced around this campfire of strangers was empowering. The love people had for one another showed me how a group of strangers could come together without judgment and embrace each other.

### FIONA SICORD '17

Jerusalem Farm was a major culture shock to me because of how simply we lived, having no technology, taking only two-bucket showers during our week and eating only vegetarian food. This helped us take into consideration the conditions in which other people live and think how we can be of service to them. I learned from Jerusalem Farm that we should live based on prayer, simplicity, community and service. These cornerstones transformed our lives on the service trip just as they help transform the lives of people in need. ∞



## Casey Elder '17 knows who needs your used electronics

Casey Elder '17 wasn't all that happy after her parents turned one of her closets into a graveyard for old laptops, Kindles and cell phones.

After looking for a charity that might want the still useable equipment, both she and her parents hit a dead end. That's when Elder decided to start her own charity, Giving Machines, which earned a 501(c)(3) status earlier this year.

She had hoped to collect 100 devices in 100 days; after a slow start, she ended up with 278 devices in 50 days. After getting them wiped clean to protect donors' privacy, she sent them to schools in Washington, D.C., Baton Rouge and San Francisco.

When she started her efforts last spring, she was at first discouraged by the few responses to her requests for donations. She tried Nextdoor.com with little luck before taking a break for finals. She redoubled her efforts over the summer by soliciting friends and family, and the devices started pouring in.

Her cousin, Constance Thayer, a teacher in D.C., received some of the equipment for her kindergarten students as did a friend of Thayer's who teaches in Baton Rouge in a school that had lost everything to the recent floods.

When Elder reached out to San Francisco's Sutro School, where she had volunteered for her community service hours, she was told that Marina Middle School was in need of electronics. She sent them 10 of the devices, splitting the others between D.C. and Baton Rouge.

Students at those schools were so delighted to receive the items that their teachers sent videos to Elder showing students' reaction as the boxes were opened and the electronics emerged. "The kids were happy and smiling and waved to me, thanking me for these gifts," said Elder. "It made me happy knowing that young people would be using this equipment to enhance their education. Many of these students take standardized tests on computers without having access to them at home. Their



familiarity with computers will help them improve their scores."

Next year, with Elder at college, Gunnar Bachmann '18 will take over Giving Machines to spread the electronic wealth and breathe new life into old machines.

Go to [givingmachines.org](http://givingmachines.org) for more information or email Elder at [givingmachines@gmail.com](mailto:givingmachines@gmail.com) for inquiries or donations. ✉



**FALL HIGHLIGHTS:** Fall at SI included the annual hair drive by the Cancer Awareness Club. Girls donated locks of their hair to help make wigs for people with cancer who have lost their hair, and boys (and several teachers) had their heads shaved to show their solidarity with those doing battle with cancer.

**ABOVE RIGHT:** SIPAC (parents of students in the Asian Student Coalition) held the annual Pasko event. Pictured here are all the students and adults who entertained the audience.

**RIGHT:** David Bernstein '80, Airbnb's chief accounting officer, spoke at a gathering of the Finance Club.





**RIGHT:** Elizabeth Alexander (center, seated) asks students to keep track of what they spend, devise budgets and calculate costs they will face in the future.

## Finance class teaches students practical life lessons

In college, Elizabeth Alexander took all the advanced math courses she needed for her major, but never once did she find a class that covered the basics — like how to balance a checkbook.

After she graduated from college, she spoke with a financial advisor. “He helped me figure out how I can go to grad school without student loans,” she noted. “He made my life so much easier.”

She realized students in her yearlong Introduction to Finance class at SI experienced the same gaps in education that she had and would benefit from real-life lessons. She then revised her curriculum to cover how to create budgets and pay taxes, how to determine the best way to build credit scores and how to shop for credit cards.

Students also learned about all the hidden expenses involved in owning cars and homes and learned how to build stock portfolios. They also dove into the realm of business ethics.

For one project, students had to calculate the cost of everything they bought in a one-month period. “We’re going to college soon, and it was good to know how much we spend and how much we should be spending,” said Michael Liebes ’17. “I was surprised at how much I spent on food, partly because I had a couple of dinners for my family that I paid for.”

Nick Zabit ’17 realized how much money he was spending on transaction fees at ATMs. “The project pointed out where I should be more mindful and not just blindly spend.”



For another project, students were given one of a variety of personas, each with a different job and a different salary. “We had to calculate how to budget our expenses in order to live within the bounds of our paycheck,” said Luis Alfaro ’17.

“That was a reality check for us, as we are funded by our parents,” added Elizabeth Wagner ’17. “We had to figure out how to save 30 percent of our income in order to retire, and that meant we had to manage our expenses, which is especially hard for those who want to live in San Francisco.”

Throughout the project, Jaxon Snipes ’17 saw how a person living in Ohio had fewer expenses than someone in San Francisco. “Rents in the city are so high. I realized that right out of college, I might want to live somewhere outside the Bay Area and save some money before moving back to San Francisco. For so many, life after college means living with parents again.”

Alexander also asked students to determine all the expenses associated with adopting a puppy. Hall Peters ’17 saw just how much that was “when you figure in medical fees, grooming and food. We learned that dogs aren’t cheap. If you want a dog, you need to adjust other expenses in your budget accordingly.”

For a credit card project, Camryn Whisenant and her classmates compared four different credit cards to see which offered the best rates and rewards. “We figured out what card we

would most likely use in college, and we learned why it was important to build a credit score.”

Students also subscribed to newspapers such as the *Wall Street Journal* and presented on current events. Whisenant reported to her classmates about the fall in a company’s stock price and unsuccessful mergers among several companies.

They also heard from a variety of guest speakers, including SI’s Vice President for Finance and Administration Ken Stupi ’78, Financial Aid Director Theresa Bayze, Melissa Kelleher Lewis ’95 (a communications manager at Genentech) and Eric Ludwig, COO and CFO of Glu Mobile.

“I worked to find guest speakers from all backgrounds and companies, to help students see a wide range of possible paths and careers,” said Alexander.

The variety of business models “gave us a glimpse into how these different companies worked,” said Casey Merryman ’17.

For Hall Peters ’17, the value of these speakers was “seeing the personal paths they took to get to their jobs. It’s intimidating thinking about becoming a CEO of a company, but when you learn about the paths these men and women took, it seems more feasible.”

“I feel so lucky to teach these students,” added Alexander. “They have impressed me with their desire to learn, their camaraderie and teamwork, and with their creativity and ownership of the material.” ∞





## Fall Performing Arts

The fall semester at SI saw scores of talented students acting in the fall play, *Rumors* (above), directed by Ted Curry '82, the winter instrumental concert (right), conducted by Gillian Clements, and the Winter Choral Concert, *Acqua*, conducted by Tony Asaro, SI's new choral director. See page 2 for photos from the dance concert. Students also performed in the Playwright Festival, which featured the works of Neil Simon, who also wrote *Rumors*. *Rumors* photo by Pedro Cafasso.





## Math whiz Madie Wang '18 adds up the victories in math competitions

For Madie Wang '18, math is the door leading to art, science, service and beauty. "For every unexplainable thing people can see, there's always math behind it," she noted.

She should know. One of the best math prodigies in SI's history, Wang has scored so well on math exams that she earned a trip to MIT to take part in a prestigious competition and now ranks as one of the best student mathematicians in the nation.

Last February, she took the American Math Competition (AMC) 12 and received a certificate of honor for being an American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) Qualifier — something only 5 percent of the 350,000 test-takers achieve. To pass the test, she had to answer 25 math questions during a 75-minute exam.

As one of the 300 highest scoring girls on that test, she won the right to compete at MIT this past September in the Math Prize for Girls competition.

To expand her mathematical knowledge, she attended the Ross Mathematics Program Summer Camp last summer — a six-week course in number theory hosted by The Ohio State University that accepts only 60 students worldwide.

"Those were the best six weeks of my life," she noted. "The people there were so crazy good at math, and I made such great friends. We laughed and cried about proving quadratic reciprocity. At times, we would be stuck on a problem for eight hours, but after three more hours, we would get the answer, sometimes at 5 a.m., and feel proud. Our counselors — college students and grad students — pushed us to do our best but also made sure we did the work ourselves, so our pride came from knowing we achieved something on our own. Sometimes, though, after working for hours on a proof, the counselors would find a small discrepancy and we would die inside, but the process helped us improve greatly."

At MIT she took part in a 20-question math exam that lasted two and a half hours. She also met Stephen Wolfram, the creator of Mathematica and the Wolfram Alpha answer engine, and gained experience for another competition — the USA Math Olympiad, which invites 300 of the top math students in the world to compete each year. "That's the next level up, and I hope to earn a spot there this year," Wang said.

After moving with her family to San Francisco from Chicago in the fourth grade, she went on to attend A.P. Giannini Middle School, where she took part in the Mathcounts competition. "I fell in love with math competitions in the 7th grade,

and my teammates became my best friends," she noted. "We had a great time together pushing each other to do our best. Some people think math is scary, and some problems do look scary, but when you expand them and break them down, the mess of numbers can become simple and elegant equations and solutions."

At SI, Wang is working to expand the Math Club to encourage other students to enter national competitions and see the value of math. "Science is an extension of math, and everything can be built upon it, including language. One of my best friends is Angela Yang, who has already published several novels. I see us as opposite sides of the same coin as we complement each other with our passions for writing and math. When I write an essay or compose a musical piece on the piano, I use the principles of math, which is just logic. Its principles show themselves in the natural world, such as Fibonacci's sequence in the seeds of a pinecone."

A junior now, Wang is taking SI's top math course — AP Calculus BC. Next year she plans to enroll in a college course in linear algebra. She hopes to test out of physics so that she can enroll directly in AP Physics next year. On her own, she is preparing for AP tests in statistics, computer science and Physics 1.

"Madie is exceptionally gifted in mathematics and has a true passion for the subject that is rare to find in a student her age," said SI math teacher Michael Jackanich, who taught Wang in her sophomore year.

Madie's freshman teacher, Maricel Hernandez, praised Wang for her "innate aptitude for mathematics. Her understanding of the abstract concepts and her interest in the subject are promising for the future of women and women of color in STEM."

Math Club moderator Katie O'Reilly added that "it's important that our students have access to national and international competitions, as they expose our students to new levels of mathematics and help them form communities around shared interests. I believe that many of our students have the ability to learn higher-level math, if only they find the right environment in which to practice."

She praised Wang for her combination of "natural mathematical ability and a genuine passion for the subject. In leading the Math Club this year, she has chosen, in a very Ignatian way, to share her love of mathematics with her peers. At her young age, she is already a scholar and a teacher. I imagine she will accomplish great things in the realms of math and science."

Wang is now preparing to compete in the Chemistry Olympiad by taking the ChemWOOT course from the Art of Problem Solving

website, and she is working to improve her AIME score to make the USA Math Olympiad. "I also want at least 15 SI students to take the AMC this year. As president of the Math Club, I want to spread the message that math can be both fun and rewarding."

After graduating from SI, Wang hopes to attend MIT and study computer programming and robotics "so that I can increase awareness of STEM for women and assist in innovation that may change the lives of people." ∞



**ABOVE:** Madie Wang's success at the American Math Competition last February ranks her as one of the top math students in the U.S. She has since taken part in competitions at MIT and at The Ohio State University.

## Long may they run, part II: SI cross country athletes of the 1970s



*This is the second of a two-part story. The first part appeared in the summer 2016 Genesis. The author is a writer and editor at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in San Francisco. He is the author of Citizen Lawmakers: The Ballot Initiative Revolution and an environmental history of the Bay Area, which he hopes to publish in 2017. He lives in San Francisco.*

**BY DAVID D. SCHMIDT '74**

### 1972 Cross Country and 1973 Track

Chris Cole, Mike Porter and Dan Graham, who graduated in 1972, were a hard act to follow. Brian Woodhouse ('73) moved to Marin and transferred to another school. John Hourihan '74 caught pneumonia in March and never came back to running. By September, we had lost five of our top seven from '71. Only John McVeigh '73 and Brendan O'Leary '73 returned. Tony Fotinos '73 moved up from JV. Patrick McVeigh '74 (John's brother), Nelson Meeks '74 and myself moved up from the soph team.

Coach Terry Ward '63 worked us relentlessly. In Golden Gate Park he found an excellent simulation of the biggest hill at Crystal Springs — Strawberry Hill, in the center of Stow Lake. He had us run two miles from SI to Stow Lake, run full tilt up the hill seven times, then run back to SI.

Despite our best efforts, when we ran a center meet (a race with more than half a dozen schools competing) at Crystal Springs on October 26, just two weeks before our league championship, St. Francis took 3rd, 4th and 5th places, all in under 16:00. Our top three — John McVeigh, O'Leary and myself — lagged behind in 16:15 (12th), 16:38 (15th) and 16:39 (16th).

When the starting gun fired at the WCAL varsity championship at Crystal Springs on Nov. 10, 43 runners charged down the hill at breakneck speed. Coming back up the hill to the 1-mile mark, four had already broken from the pack — John McVeigh and the top three from St. Francis. Seven more followed, about 50 yards behind, including Brendan, myself and two more from St. Francis.

I struggled to stay with that pack, but one by one, they pulled away. Nearing the finish, it was just me and a St. Francis runner, battling ferociously for 10th place. In a final, agonizing sprint, I beat him by two seconds, in 16:44. St. Francis' top three all finished in 15:59, ahead of John McVeigh in 4th (16:03), O'Leary in 7th (16:29), Fotinos in 12th (17:03), Meeks in 14th (17:13) and Pat McVeigh in 18th (17:26). St. Francis won with a score of 26; SI was second with 47.

The only consolation was that our freshmen (the class of '76) won, led by John Morrissey (2nd), Brendan's brother Denis O'Leary (5th), Paul Solari (6th), Tom McCabe (8th) and Bill Cremen (12th). They edged out St. Francis by 40 to 33.

In Spring 1973, track season gave our seniors a last chance to beat our WCAL rivals, and John McVeigh and Fotinos made the most of it. In the league meet on St. Francis' old dirt track in Mountain View, Tony won the mile in 4:25.4, followed by John McVeigh in second in 4:31. John rested a bit, then somehow summoned the stamina to win the two-mile in 9:36. Tony went on to win the mile at the Region 1 Championship in 4:25.2. At the CCS Championship a week later, he surprised everyone by running a phenomenal 4:16.4 to take second against the Bay Area's top milers.

### 1973-74: A Tough Year

During the summer of 1973, I didn't run much due to nagging injuries. In September I won the first meet of the cross country season, at Golden Gate Park against Lowell. But my legs tightened up painfully the next day and I was unable to race for the rest of the season.

Coach Ward took the team to Crystal Springs for three center meets in October. They got faster each time, with their best showing on October 25. Pat McVeigh led the varsity in 16:34, followed by Chris Nowak '75 and Denis O'Leary in 16:38, Nelson Meeks (17:26), Keith Suhl (18:13) and Tom Flageollet '74 (18:42).

The trouble was, St. Francis' top five all finished ahead of McVeigh. So when we returned for the league championship two weeks later in a pouring rain, we knew we had no chance of winning. But then it got worse when the St. Francis team put on their track spikes. The trails were slick with mud. While everyone else had to slow down to avoid slipping, the St. Francis

runners forged ahead, ripping up the slushy surface as they went, making it even more slippery for everyone behind them.

It was a rout. St. Francis swept the first six places, followed by four runners from Serra. Every finisher after that was covered with mud from falling on the slick trails. Of SI's varsity, only Pat McVeigh finished in the top 15. On the bus ride home, everyone was wet, mud-spattered and dejected.

Our awful showing continued into the 1974 track season. I ran a personal best of 4:34 in the mile in March, but was still beset by injuries and had to sit out half the workouts. At the league meet, again on St. Francis' dirt track, none of our varsity runners placed in the top three in the mile or two-mile, so our season was over.

It was a disappointing end to my four years of running at SI. A few days later I started again with a few slow miles. After a week or two, I ran the Bay to Breakers and finished 77th, in a lifetime best 41:46 for 12 kilometers. I found that as long as I did no sprinting, I was fine. If only I had known this a year or two earlier!

### The tradition is passed on

As I headed to Santa Clara University to start college in September 1974, Coach Ward began working his varsity runners relentlessly once again. St. Francis' best runners had graduated, and it would take years to rebuild their varsity. In the WCAL championship at Crystal Springs, Serra took the title, but SI was a respectable second, led by Dan Lavelle '75 in 15:56 (7th — but faster than the winner in 1972), Nowak in 16:02 (10th), Morrissey in 16:05 (11th), Pat Linehan '76 in 16:23 (14th) and Denis O'Leary in 16th. SI was coming back.

SI's runners of the 1960s and early 70s passed on our distance running tradition to those who came after us, in an unbroken chain that continues today. It would be 16 years before SI won another WCAL varsity cross country championship. Jim Hannawalt '78 worked out with Mr. Colombat at the Polo Fields in Golden Gate Park during vacations and Sundays in the mid-1970s; as a senior, he won the 1977 WCAL Championship at Crystal Springs in 15:27. In 1980, Terry Ward left SI to coach track and cross country at Bellarmine, where he had the longest streak of varsity cross country championships in WCAL history, from 1981 to 1989. SI finally ended his streak in 1990.

For many of us, running became a way of life. After two years running at Skyline Community College, John McVeigh and Fotinos joined Patrick McVeigh and me at SCU in September 1975. Together, we were the founding members of SCU's cross country team, and since we





only had three additional runners, it was like a reunion of SI's 1972 varsity team.

Brendan O'Leary joined the San Francisco Fire Department and ran for their track team in his 30s; John McVeigh became a CHP officer and ran for their team. Brendan recalls that they once competed in a steeplechase, "but all I saw was John's back." Tragically, John died in 1993 at 38 on duty when a truck smashed into his CHP car. Patrick McVeigh lives in Boston but returns to run the Dipsea Race in Marin County every year. I ran USATF cross country races in the Bay Area in 1996-97 and 2003-08, until a torn meniscus in my knee sidelined me for good in 2009. However, I still ride my mountain bike on some of the same trails. In 2014, after Chris Cole turned 60, he won the 6-mile Pacific Association USATF Cross Country Championship in his age group, "Super Seniors," right back where he had started running 46 years earlier — in Golden Gate Park.

Cross Country: As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, trails without end, amen. ∞

**OPPOSITE PAGE:** John McVeigh '73 led the fall 1972 SI Varsity Cross Country Team and the Track Team's distance runners in Spring 1973. Tragically, he died in 1993 while on duty as California Highway Patrol officer, at age 38.

**ABOVE:** SI distance runners in a dual meet at Bellarmine College Prep in spring 1974: Dave Schmidt '74 (the author) is in the lead followed by Chris Nowak '75, John Morrissey '76 and Patrick McVeigh '74.



## Claire Dworsky '18: SI's first female football player

Claire Dworsky '18 made SI history Aug. 27 when she became the first woman to join SI's varsity football team and the first to score points after she kicked three successful PATs in the Wildcats' 56-20 win over Clovis East High School. She was also the first girl to play in a Bruce-Mahoney game at Kezar, where she also contributed to SI's win over SHC.

Given her personal history, this achievement is barely a footnote for her. Born in an orphanage in Kazakhstan, Dworsky suffered from rickets and malnutrition.

"I was really sick when my parents adopted me and brought me to San Francisco," said Dworsky. "The orphanage didn't expect me to be able to walk or even stand because my legs had stopped working. But the amazing American medical system and my parents' hard work got me back my legs. For me playing sports is a gift from God. I'm grateful every day that I can walk, kick a ball and enjoy my life."

*Genesis* readers may be familiar with Dworsky, too, as she has been featured three times, twice for taking first place in the Admiral Callaghan Essay Contest and once for her moving essay about her trip to China as part of the Yale Young Global Scholars Program in her junior year.

In grade school, she won the Kids' Science Challenge studying the difference between grass and artificial turf and the effect of pollution in water runoff.

A soccer athlete since she was 3, Dworsky had years of experience putting the ball where she wants it. She considered playing football when she was a young girl. Her father always made time for them to go out for a catch, and her mom's car "always had a few balls rattling around in the back," she noted, so practice was always near.

A soccer coach along the way noticed how Dworsky was kicking goals from long distances and suggested that kicking field goals might be next.

"I asked my parents to take me out to the football field after a soccer game last year, and I was able to hit kicks consistently from 30 yards out," Dworsky said. She then asked SI varsity football coach John Regalia '93 for a tryout.

"He told me I would have to learn the playbook, lift weights, learn a defensive position and attend all the practices." In her first game, she added, she felt the pressure. "The first time I stepped up to kick, my knee was shaking. But you get used to it. You learn to trust yourself and to trust your team, including your line, to protect you. Honestly, being a girl isn't that big a deal. For me, being on the team is all about skills and being willing to work. Our football team's mission statement is 'a relentless pursuit of competitive excellence,' and that means a lot to me. I love my teammates like brothers."

Football, she added, has made her "a stronger soccer player and a better person." She hopes to continue in the years to come, though she acknowledges that "playing at the college level is super challenging. There are a few women who have played. I would love to try."

Dworsky is no stranger to contact sports. "Soccer is certainly one. It gets physically rough. There is aggressive play and no pads, so playing football isn't completely unfamiliar. The boys are a lot bigger, faster and tougher, so we try to keep me out of most tackling drills. I've been knocked down and it hurts, but everyone supports you and helps you up."

She plans to study engineering and medicine in college and work with disabled vets, athletes and children. "Mobility makes such a huge difference for quality of life. I know, as I couldn't walk as a young girl."

*Part of this story first appeared in Catholic San Francisco; reprinted with permission. Photos by Paul Ghiglieri. ∞*





## Girls' varsity tennis team makes school history by taking first in Northern California

The girls' varsity tennis team had their most successful season in the program's history, taking first in NorCals, though the victory came with some drama.

This year, half of the 14 players on the girls' varsity team knew they couldn't make the Nov. 19 NorCal championship if the team went that far. Some would be busy taking the ACTs and others would be out of town with family. Still, the team voted to enter the NorCals even if shorthanded, knowing they would lose a few matches by default.

Fortunately, rain was on the side of the Wildcats. It poured on Nov. 19, leading the California Interscholastic Federation to postpone the title game two weeks because of Thanksgiving, allowing the full SI contingent to compete. At the Blackhawk Country Club, SI went on to defeat the number-one seed Monte Vista of Danville 4-3 for the historic victory.

"I'm proud they made the decision to play," said Coach Craig Law '84. "I credit the senior leadership and the captains with setting a great

example for the younger players. I was glad everyone had the chance to experience the NorCal championships."

Law noted that all the girls were talented players, and no one superstar stood out. He praised Captains Nicole Conte '17, Lily Jack-Schimmel '17, Anna Roy '17 and Katya Tabachnik '17 as well as Elizabeth Benham '17, Tiffany Boudagian '20, Rori Carlin '19, Audrey Gaitley '18, Natalie Hartwell '17, India Houghton '20, Hailey Lancaster '18, Genevieve McCloy '18, Gabriella Perich '20 and Lily Westover '18.

Along the way to the NorCal crown, the team turned in a 25-2 overall record and finished 9-1 in league play to tie for the WCAL crown with St. Francis. The girls later finished second in CCS play behind Los Gatos.

The WCAL named Roy and Boudagian the Doubles Team of the Year and Tabachnik earned Singles Player of the Year honors for a fourth year in a row. Freshman Houghton also won the league singles title in the league tournament.

### Girls' Tennis

**Coaches:** Craig Law '84 (V) assisted by Ed Grafilo and Stephanie Moriarity; Jana Klein (JV) assisted by Mary Graber and Jocelyn Sideco.

**Records:** V: 25-2 overall, 9-1 in league (1st place); JV: 15-2 overall, 10-0 in league (1st place).

**Highlights:** WCAL Champions, CCS Finalist, NorCal Champions.

**Awards:** All league first team: Katya Tabachnik and India Houghton; second team: Anna Roy, Tiffany Boudagian and Lily Jack-Schimmel; honorable mention: Hailey Lancaster. WCAL doubles team of the year: Anna Roy and Tiffany Boudagian; WCAL player of the year: Katya Tabachnik; Magis Award: Nicole Conte, Lily Jack-Schimmel and Katya Tabachnik; Brother Lee Award: Anna Roy.

**Graduating Seniors:** Elizabeth Benham, Nicole Conte, Lily Jack-Schimmel, Natalie Hartwell, Anna Roy and Katya Tabachnik ∞





## Girls' varsity volleyball enjoys best season ever with second place NorCal finish

Few people expected the girls' varsity volleyball team to have its most successful season in school history this year. First year coach David Huan, however, was one who did.

"I ran into last year's coach in front of SI early in the season, and he told me that he knew the team would be exceptional," Huan said.

Assistant coaches Marietta Flynn Huan (David's wife) and Scott Mar also helped the SI squad — ranked second in the state — finish second in the league, second in CCS and second in NorCal play. That sort of finish may seem second-tier to some, but for each of these title matches, SI fell to Mitty, which was ranked first in the U.S. by MaxPreps.

SI's quality play led to an open division placement for both CCS and NorCals. "Had we played in DIII, there aren't too many teams that could have beaten us given the way we were playing by the end of the season," added Huan.

The team, which finished 32-9 overall, lost only to Mitty, Notre Dame Belmont, Campolindo, Edison, Kahuku and Redwood. They came back for revenge wins against Notre Dame and

Campolindo and upset perennial favorite SHC after falling 0-2 to win in five sets. "The last was a special moment for the girls, especially to beat SHC in their home gym" said Huan.

An instructor with McGraw Hill's GiftedAndTalented.com, Huan is quick to call his girls both gifted and talented, especially after SI beat national powerhouse Assumption High School of Louisville, Ky., at the Durango Fall Classic in Las Vegas.

A 16-year veteran coach who also runs the Red Rock Volleyball Club on the Peninsula with his wife, Huan was impressed with how the Wildcats stayed competitive against tough teams, including Campolindo. "That win and the victory over SHC really defined the season for us," he noted.

In CCS play, SI swept San Benito and Notre Dame before losing to Mitty. In NorCals, SI beat Pitman (Turlock) 3-1 before facing Campolindo inside SI's McCullough Gymnasium in front of a packed student cheering section — perhaps the largest school turnout for any volleyball game. SI won the first set 25-22 and lost the second

18-25 before coming back strong 25-15 and 25-20 to seal the win.

SI also finished without a single defeat at home, another first for the girls' varsity volleyball program.

Huan praised senior captains Isabella Lagarza, Mallen Bischoff and Anne Crouch. Other standout players included Sierra Tyson '19, Skye Daval-Santos '18, Rose Holscher '18, Delaney Peranich '11, Rhea Innumerable '18, Sarah Nunes '18, Corley Doyle '18, Jeneiah Ignacio Soy '18, Katherine Anderer '18, Hope Hagan '18, Megan Lewis '18, Keely McCarthy '17, Elizabeth Fleming '19, Megan Lucey '19 and Emily McCarthy '19.

"We needed every one of these girls on the team to do consistently well to carry us," added Huan. "Given the number of juniors and sophomores on the team, we'll be even better next year."

### Girls' Volleyball

**Coaches:** David Huan (V) assisted by Marietta Flynn Huan and Scott Mar; Jennifer Curtin (JV) assisted by Nicholas David; Katie Marconi (F) assisted by Isaac Strong.

**Record:** V: 32-9 overall, 4-1 league; JV: 20-4 overall, 6-3 league; F: 23-2 overall, 8-1 league.

**Highlights:** JV and Frosh were WCAL co-champs with SHC on both levels. Varsity finished ranked 23rd nationally on Max Preps and second in NorCal.

**Awards:** All league first team: Anne Crouch and Isabella Legarza; second team: Elizabeth Fleming; honorable mention: Mallen Bischoff and Keely McCarthy. Fighting Spirit Award: Isabella Legarza; Competitor Award: Anne Crouch; Coaches' Award: Mallen Bischoff.

**Graduating Seniors:** Anne Crouch, Isabella Legarza, Mallen Bischoff and Keely McCarthy. ☺

For the NorCal semifinals, SI bested Campolindo in front of a packed Wildcat cheering section. Photo by Carlos Gazulla.





# SPORTS WRAP

PHOTOS BY PAUL GHIGLIERI



## Girls' Water Polo

**Coaches:** Meg Summa (V) and Jill Murray (V); Kaitlin Shorrock Chen (JV) and GP Panawek (JV).  
**Records:** V: 1-5 in league, 6th place finish; 11-11 overall; JV: 3-3 in league, 4th place finish); 7-9-2 overall.

**Highlights:** In league play, the 'Cats defeated Notre Dame Belmont 12-9 and again during WCAL playoffs 17-13. In the second round of the CCS Tournament, the 7th seeded Wildcats defeated Menlo High School 8-5 before losing to Soquel in the quarterfinals.

**Awards:** All league first team: Allison Schaum; second team: Phoebe Freitag, Alex Baumgarten; honorable mention: Lindsey Merrigan. Wildcat Award: Allison Schaum; Coaches' Award: Phoebe Freitag; Impact Award: Emma Schmiege.

**Graduating Seniors:** Phoebe Freitag, Lucy O'Haire, Allison Schaum, Emma Schmiege.

## Boys' Water Polo

**Coaches:** Randy Reed and Jon Sibley (V); Joe White and Jack Vincelette (JV); Emily Potter (F). 7-18 and 0-6.

**Records:** The team qualified for CCS/CIF, earning an 8th seed and making it to the quarterfinals before losing to eventual CCS Champions SHP. SI finished 5th overall.

**Awards:** All league second team: Alexander Lansill and Kyle Leung; honorable mention: David Wall Jr.; CCS/CIF second-team DII Alexander Lansill; honorable mention Kyle Leung and David Wall Jr. Team MVP: Alexander Lansill; Most Inspirational: Noah Zovickian; Most Improved: Alexander Peterson.



**Graduating Team Captains:** Kyle Leung, David Wall Jr., Noah Zovickian, Henry Healy, Stephen Bird, Mark Hymowitz.

## Boys' & Girls' Cross Country

**Coaches:** Nicholas Alvarado assisted by Elizabeth Alexander, John Dalhz, Sara Prendergast and Jeffery Mendenhall.

**Record:** Boys: Varsity: 3rd; JV: 3rd; Soph: 3rd; Frosh: 4th. Girls: Varsity: 3rd; JV: 1st; Frosh/Soph: 2nd. CCS Div III Boys Team Champions; CCS Div III Boys Individual Champion: Nick Hollister; CCS Div III Girls 2nd Place.

**Awards:** All league first team: Katie O'Dea;



second team: Nick Hollister and Caroline Worthington.

**Graduating Seniors:** Alexander Paras, Aziz Wong, Nick Hollister, Nizar Sweileh, Reilly Cannon, Taylor Spaulding, Aleah Jayme, Alexandra Donati, Alyssa McGrath, Emilia Janiczek, Hannah Walsh, Kiley Dyke, Maura McInerney, Megan Chan.



## Football

**Coaches:** John Regalia (V) and SJ Petteruti (JV), assisted by Reggie Redmond, Chris Saunders, Chris Crowley, Zac Schuller, Julian Gunter, Chris Dunn and Nick O'Shea; Owen Maguire (F) assisted by Tim Caraher, Ira Finley and Jorge Jimenez.

**Record:** Varsity: 4-6 overall, 2-5 in league.

**Highlights:** Varsity scored a season high 56 points in a victory over Clovis East in the season opener and enjoyed a comeback victory against Marin Catholic as the 'Cats scored 22 points in the 4th quarter to win 31-28. SI won in the Gil Haskell Trophy game against Riordan 21-7 and the Bruce-Mahoney game against SHC 42-21.

Claire Dworsky became the first female SI player to score in varsity competition, as she was 3/3 and 2/2 in PATs vs. Clovis East and Sacred Heart.

**Awards:** WCAL Wide Receiver of the Year: Nick Menchero; Sophomore of the Year: Jaedon Roberts; all league first team: Patrick Brosnan, Dan Hagan, Rusty McDonough, Nick Menchero, Andre Truoccolo; second team: Jack McKeon, Jaedon Roberts, David Woodruff; honorable mention: Mark Biggins, Charlie Dallape, Charlie Katz, Kiaran O'Keeffe and Jack Sykes. J. B. Murphy Award: Will Sweeney; Most Outstanding Backs: Patrick Brosnan and Nick Menchero; Most Outstanding Lineman: Andre Truoccolo;



Journeyman Player of the Year: Remo Tocchini;  
 Team Captains: Dan Hagan, Jack McKeon (2  
 seasons); Will Sweeney (2 seasons).

**Graduating Seniors:** Luis Alfaro, Peter Bonomi,  
 Aidan Brady, Patrick Brosnan, Charlie Dallape,  
 Daniel Hagan, Jake Joseph, Joe Lofton, Niko  
 MacLean-Vernic, Kieran Manning, Gabe  
 McCaffrey, Rusty McDonough, Jack McKeon,  
 Nick Menchero, Carson Roberts, John Ryan, Will  
 Seward, Will Sweeney, Jack Sykes, Tanner Thiel,  
 Remo Tocchini, Andre Truoccolo, Burke Wynne



## Field Hockey

**Coaches:** Haley Sanchez (V) and Jackie Ocaña  
 (JV) assisted by Caitlin Beatty and Lauren Totah.

**Records:** V: 8-3-1 (2nd place in league); 12-6-2  
 overall; JV: 8-2-2 (2nd Place).

**Highlights:** In league play, the 'Cats defeated  
 Mitty two times this season, a first in program  
 history. The varsity finished second in  
 league, the highest the program has ever  
 finished. The JV squad defeated St. Francis  
 for the first time ever. The varsity received  
 the highest seed they have ever had in the

CCS tournament but fell to Mitty in the  
 quarterfinals.

**Awards:** BVAL Co-Senior of the Year: Olivia  
 Dutton; Co-Junior of the year: Georgia  
 Madden. All league first team: Cassie Fell,  
 Kerry Flannery and Sophia Ladwiniec; second  
 team: Sofie Sirianni; Casey Elder. Wildcat  
 Award: Megan Larson; Outstanding Attacking  
 Player: Olivia Dutton; Outstanding Defensive  
 Player: Casey Elder.

**Graduating Seniors:** Emma Krauss, Megan Larson,  
 Megan Kohmann, Casey Elder, Kerry Flannery,  
 Olivia Dutton, Jessica Barry and Marin Pollak.



## Girls' Golf

**Coaches:** Julius Yap (V), Anne Stricherz (JV).

**Records:** V: 5-5 (third place in league); JV: 5-3  
 (second place in league).

**Highlights:** Third place in league tournament.  
 Grace Bettis and Camilla Chung qualified for  
 CCS final tournament.

**Awards:** All league first team: Grace Bettis; all  
 league second team: Camilla Chung; honorable  
 mention: Amanda Schwabe. Wildcat Award:  
 Rachel Niemira; Medalist Award: Grace Bettis;  
 Most Improved Award: Camilla Chung. ∞



## Rob Hickox & Soccer Alumni

Men and women who played soccer at SI returned to  
 J.B. Murphy Field for their annual alumni soccer games  
 against the varsity squads. Earlier, veteran soccer and  
 track coach **Rob Hickox '72** (pictured above right  
 with John Stiegeler '74) was inducted into the Soccer  
 Old Timers Organization's Hall of Fame Nov. 20 at the  
 Basque Cultural Center. The past recipient of the CYSA  
 District 1 Merit Award and the CIF Central Coast Section  
 Coach's Honor Award, Hickox has worked at SI since  
 1977. At the ceremony, he praised former colleagues  
 and coaches, including some who were in the audience  
 that night, including Fran Stiegeler, S.J. '61, John  
 Stiegeler '74 and Terry Ward '63. He also recalled one  
 1982 playoff game that earned mention in the *Guinness  
 Book of Records* for lasting 4 hours, 56 minutes, with  
 16 overtime periods. "The game was called due to  
 darkness," said Hickox. "When we played our rematch  
 two days later, we won in the last few minutes." ∞





## A gathering of alumni

**Reunion Season:** Aside from a sleigh-full of Christmas parties (too many to picture here except for one) grads gathered for reunions. From upper left, clockwise, the classes of 2006, 1956, 1971, 1951, 1981 and 1976 reunions and the 1975 Christmas party.









## Book Review: Alex Gerould's *The Valley of the Shadow of Death*

BY TIM REARDON '86  
SI ALUMNI DIRECTOR

In the tradition of Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood* and Joseph Wambaugh's *The Onion Field*, Alex Gerould '83 has written a heart-wrenching true crime story, which takes readers on an emotional odyssey into the dark corners of urban madness. *The Valley of the Shadow of Death* recounts the shocking home-invasion murder of four members of NFL star Kermit Alexander's family in 1984 Los Angeles.

The retired All-Pro cornerback for the San Francisco 49ers lost his mother, sister and two nephews in the inexplicable massacre, which prompted a massive police investigation and subsequent media frenzy.

Gerould, a professor of criminal justice at San Francisco State University with more than 20 years of experience in the field, has worked extensively with law enforcement agencies locally and internationally. He and fellow criminal justice professor Jeffrey Snipes write with Alexander both the story of Alexander's horrific suffering and the sordid tale of mid-'80s, crime-plagued South Central Los Angeles.

From the Rollin 60s street gang, an affiliate of the infamous Crips, to iconic figures like Police

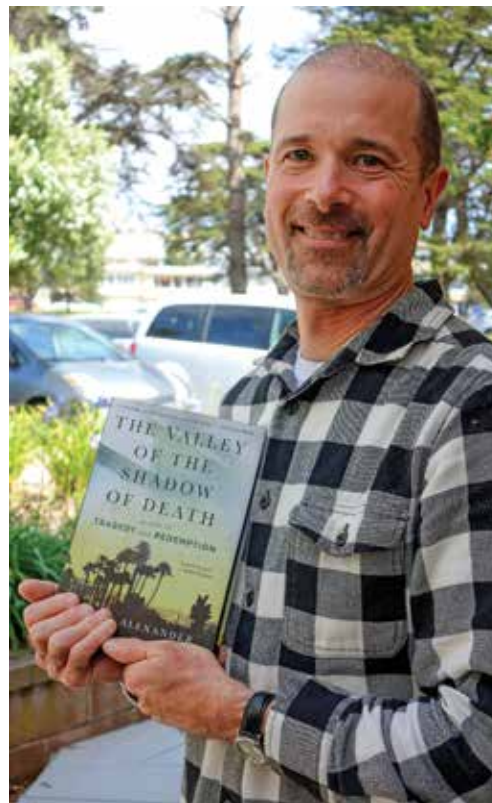
Chief Darryl Gates and Mayor Tom Bradley, readers are submerged in the murky waters of LA's criminal justice system as they watch Alexander try to keep from drowning in the mounting confusion.

When he gets no satisfaction from the LAPD, he ventures out on his own, wandering the streets and shaking down petty criminals as he tries to find leads and some kind of closure to his complicated tragedy.

As the police investigation unfolds, and the LA District Attorney eventually assembles his case, Alexander finds little solace in the futility of the crime.

The final chapters describe Alexander's quest for redemption. His guilt and confusion lead him down several paths over the course of the story, but his decisions near the end reveal a man who has fought his personal demons and understands the human necessities of family, selflessness and love.

Like the best of contemporary true crime, Gerould's *The Valley of the Shadow of Death* reads like a great novel, packed with complex characters, nuanced themes, unexpected turns and a protagonist who doggedly pulls the reader along on his tortured journey of self-discovery. ☺



### Alumni and alumnae return to SI for Thanksgiving hoops

Former basketball players came to SI the Tuesday before Thanksgiving to play the varsity boys' and girls' teams. The evening proved to be an exciting preview of the season for both programs.





## Cate Scott Campbell '00 champions an education without limits



### BY CATE SCOTT CAMPBELL '00

I have always been interested in many things. I was reminded of this a few weeks ago when I visited San Francisco to honor my 8th-grade teacher, who had recently retired.

“The thing about you, Cate,” she said, “was that you loved to perform. But you also loved having your hands in a lot of things.”

She was right. And luckily, even as a 14-year-old, I knew this about myself. Which is why I also knew that I wanted to go to SI, even though others had encouraged me to go a smaller school, where I might more narrowly focus and decide what one thing I wanted to be when I grew up.

At SI, I didn't have to decide just yet. During my school weeks, I studied calculus, spoke French, sang with the Chamber Singers, served in the Service Club, danced in Dance Workshop, played violin in the orchestra, edited *The Quill* and pole-vaulted. On weekends, I performed in the musical, led cheers at games, attended Junior Statesmen of America debates, worked with elderly Dominican sisters and pole-vaulted some more.

I didn't realize it at the time — probably because I was so busy — but by immersing myself in so many different pursuits at SI, I was laying the foundation for the multidisciplinary career that I have now.

Embracing this idea, however, took some time. Remember those people who had encouraged me to pick one thing to be when I grew up? There were so many that it occurred to me they might be right.

“Follow your passion,” they said, as if that passion had to be boxed inside of a single, one-word answer.

I tried, for a while, to pursue one thing. Though, as is the case when you do anything that isn't true to you, I wasn't very good at the “one-thing” thing. After SI, I attended Northwestern University, where I majored in theater, but I soon added a second major in English and wrote a musical about astronomy. While earning my MFA in acting through a partnership between UC San Diego and the La Jolla Playhouse, I tutored math on the side and literally snuck into science labs to learn through observation. (No specimens were harmed in the process, I promise.)

I moved to Los Angeles after graduation, and between auditions and acting jobs, I launched 11 Betties, a nonprofit website that blended STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) and pop culture with the mission of making math and science more accessible to all, particularly young women. With the initial funding 11 Betties received, I produced and directed a short film called *How I Do Math*, in which I interviewed 12 women and girls about the unique ways in which they learn.

Making *How I Do Math* helped me see that I had been following my passion all along — my passion for intersections that occur in the unexpected places where my curiosity leads me and in the gathering together of pieces, especially ones that seem as if they might not fit, to create a new and interesting puzzle.

I currently work as a content creator, which is an efficient way of saying that I do whatever needs to be done to make compelling media of all kinds. I write, direct, produce, perform, interview and assemble. I'm passionate about merging creativity and STEM, especially in ways that are interesting to millennials and teens. My hope is that someone will watch something I've made and say this: “There really is no limit to what I can explore, do or be.”

Much like when I was a student at SI, I have my hands in numerous projects. I created *Tutored*, a digital scripted series that follows the friendship of a teen girl and her geometry tutor. I'm entering production on a new short film called *Math Brain*. I regularly contribute

to brands large and small, including a column about the custom-built career path for *Forbes*. I also host a weekly podcast called *The Limit Does Not Exist*, with cohost Christina Wallace. I describe it as a podcast for human Venn diagrams. In case you were wondering, the title of our show is both a phrase from calculus and a line from the movie *Mean Girls*.

Our guests are individuals who have found ways to integrate multiple interests into unique careers, such as Danielle Feinberg, a computer science major who now lights Pixar films, and Marquise Stillwell, a former financial analyst who is helping to build the Lowline, the world's first underground park in New York City. Another is Emileigh Barnes, a poet who designs content for 18F, our government's digital services agency. They are all quite successful at not picking one thing.

A year or so ago, I got together with my SI classmate and good friend Taryn Ching '00, who works in HR and is brilliant at it. I asked her how she would sum up all of my varied interests.

“Oh, that's easy,” Taryn said. “Dynamic skill set.” That has a nice ring to it, doesn't it? I told you Taryn was smart. She went to SI, after all.

We were taught that “from those to whom much has been given, much is expected.” I was certainly given much at SI, including all of the pieces I needed to start compiling that dynamic skill set. I learned how to problem-solve in geometry, how to collaborate in the spring musical, how to lift others up through community service, how to be precise in the orchestra, how to see all sides of an issue as I took part in debates and how to focus on the task at hand on the pole-vaulting runway.

That's why I choose to pick more than one thing — not only because I enjoy it, but also because finding ways to use each of these skills I've learned (as often as possible, in order to create as much positive change as possible), makes me feel as if I am giving in proportion to what I've been given. And, thanks to SI, that's a lot.

*Cate Scott Campbell is an actress, writer and STEM advocate who creates story-driven content with smarts and style for millennials and Generation Z. She lives in Los Angeles and still knows the quadratic formula by heart.* ∞



**ABOVE:** Cate Scott Campbell. Photo by Mandee Johnson.

**LEFT:** Cate, actress Ava Penner and cinematographer Alyssa Brocato on the set of *Tutored*. Photo by Caroline Cook.



## SFPD's Kevin Downs '09 survives shooting

All Officer Kevin Downs '09 recalls seeing before he was shot in the head was the flash of a muzzle from a gun fired 10 feet from him.

That he is lucky to be alive is an understatement, as bone and bullet fragments came within a hair's breadth of ripping apart a major artery in his brain.

When he walked into Friday Morning Liturgy for a Veterans' Day Mass last November at SI, it seemed even more of a miracle, given how little he could do following the shooting when his right arm and leg were paralyzed and swelling around his brain brought on painful headaches.

He has regained most of the use of his right arm but still has no control of his ankle, foot or calf muscle. "My hamstrings are weak, and the quickness and fine motor skills of my right leg are lacking," Downs noted. "There's still a lot of rehab I have to do, but I'm pleased with my progress."

Downs' name may seem familiar to *Genesis* readers, as he was featured in the magazine in 2013 for the charity he founded — Ranchin' Vets — which places veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan with ranches to help them gain skills and ease back into civilian life while coping with PTSD.

The son of Phil Downs '73, a retired sergeant with the SFPD, and the brother of Phil Downs, Jr. '99, a former Marine second lieutenant who had served in Iraq, Kevin knew early on that he wanted to follow in his father's footsteps while also honoring the path his brother took.

He entered the Police Academy in April 2015 and graduated the following November. "I wanted to be part of the brotherhood, especially seeing my dad on the job and hearing the stories he had to tell. The SFPD is a family, and being a police officer struck me as a rewarding career."

Less than a year on the job, while patrolling with his partner and a cadet on the night of Oct. 14, Kevin got a call about a mentally disturbed person acting erratically at the Big 5 at the Lakeshore Plaza Shopping Center on Sloat

Boulevard. Later, police would identify the person as Nicholas McWherter, 26, of Pacifica.

Downs' car and one other raced to the scene. When they arrived, Downs saw a person jogging in front of him. "I didn't think anything of him, as he didn't seem disturbed. Then a security guard came around the corner and pointed at him. That's when he began running from us."

Downs made a U turn and drove east on Ocean Avenue just north of Everglade. He drove past McWherter as the squad car behind Downs blocked the suspect's retreat. "As I got out of my car, he came at me at a dead sprint, firing three shots from 10 feet away. All I saw was the muzzle flash. It felt as if a baseball bat had hit me in the head."

Downs fell and tried to get back up. "I did get up on my knee, but my right ankle gave out, and my right arm and hand were weak. I pulled out my firearm but couldn't raise it. That's when I yelled to my partner that I was hit."

While Downs' partner rendered first aid, the other police car gave chase as the suspect fled over a fence of a nearby home.

That's when 250 SFPD officers began a perimeter search that lasted for more than an hour. "He came out of the bushes near 28th and Vicente when the searching scared him out. He fired five more shots at officers who returned fire, mortally wounding the suspect."

The gun used to shoot Downs was a .22 caliber revolver, and one bullet that struck the top of his head hit hard enough to leave an entry and exit wound and create a divot in his skull. Throughout the ordeal, Downs never lost consciousness. "I didn't know how bad I was, but I didn't think I was going to die."

He did, however, think about the pain this would cause his wife, Corey, who now runs the Ranchin' Vets charity. "When I was shot, I said an expletive out loud about the suspect and thought to myself that my wife would be pissed about this. I can't believe how strong she was. It's not easy going to the hospital to see your husband who had been shot in the head."

He spent the next four days in the ICU at San Francisco General Hospital and more than two

Officer Kevin Downs, left with his former SI football coach John Regalia '93 at the Veterans' Day liturgy.

weeks at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center for rehabilitation. Throughout his hospitalization, the San Francisco Police Officers Association paid the hotel fees for Downs' family to be near him. "The POA took care of everything and made my recovery so much easier. They let me focus on getting better rather than worry about the well being of my family."

Much of the paralysis Downs experienced was due to the swelling on his brain. As the swelling diminished, he began to regain use of his right arm and leg. Doctors left several bone and bullet fragments in his brain, as the risk of removing them was too great, given how close they are to the main artery.

As the ambulance took him from SF General to the South Bay, dozens of his fellow officers lined the Silver Avenue overpass to salute him as he drove under. Along the way, dozens of SFPD motorcycle cops escorted him to Santa Clara, where they were joined by a contingent of motorcycle cops from San Jose and Santa Clara.

Downs received hundreds of letters from people throughout the U.S. sharing their prayers for his recovery. "Especially at a time when police are not the most favorite people in the world, it was wonderful to receive the love from so many. I'm just glad no one else got hurt. I'd hate to see one of my guys go down. I consider myself lucky and blessed if the worst thing that comes out of this is a bad haircut and a bum leg. I still can't do math, but that's nothing different than before the incident."

As news of Downs' shooting spread, the donations to Ranchin' Vets began coming in. SFPD officers are allowed to donate a part of their paycheck to a charity of their choosing, and their donations, along with other gifts, brought in \$80,000 to help veterans. "Strangers I never met sent in money. It was moving to see the outpouring of financial support for this good cause that has helped a dozen vets so far.

While a student at SI, Downs' wore number 54 on the varsity football team. To honor him, this year's varsity squad added a decal with Downs' number to their helmets.

"I was honored that the football team was wearing my number," Downs noted. "I didn't expect the outpouring from the community. Everyone wanted to do something in one way or another for my family and me. It was a great honor to have the team wear my number on their helmets."

Later, at the Bruce-Mahoney football game, the Fathers' Clubs of both schools held a 50-50 raffle, with proceeds going to Ranchin' Vets.

On the Monday morning after Downs was shot, the entire SI community prayed for his recovery. "We offered our morning's prayer for Kevin, his wife and family and all law enforcement members who serve our community as Kevin does," said SI President Edward Reese, S.J. "We prayed for Kevin at our recent student liturgy and will continue to pray for him." ∞





## Jorge Hernandez: SI/SHC friendship & rivalry in Iraq

SI and SHC grads often run into each other in San Francisco and give each other friendly ribbing over the decades-long rivalry between the two city schools.

When Capt. Jorge Hernandez '04 of the U.S. Marines, met Lt. Joe Estalilla, a 2009 graduate of SHC, they were on less-than-familiar turf when they found themselves in Baghdad's Green Zone as roommates during Hernandez's deployment in Iraq between November 2015 and May 2016.

"After we met, I asked him where he was from," said Hernandez. "When he replied that he was from San Francisco, I asked him what school he had attended. After he told me he was an SH grad, I kidded with him that I needed to find a different room."

The two got along despite the rivalry, even though their different shifts prevented them from socializing much.

Hernandez did meet another SHC grad — Lt. Col. Dominic Neal '93 — at first through video conferences and phone calls. Neal, Hernandez' superior, was stationed in Kuwait while Hernandez was in Iraq. Later, during a week in Kuwait, Hernandez visited Neal and spent an evening having dinner and talking about old times. "I found out that he had competed against my brother in track and field back in high school."

Fortunately, Hernandez didn't have too many war stories to tell. He did experience the breaching of the perimeter walls in the Green Zone by thousands of protestors and having to coordinate safe transportation back to the US embassy.

Earlier, while stationed in Maryland, he did help one Marine who suffered injuries from an IED. "He was in a coma for quite some time, but now he's back on his feet leading Marines and trying to do the best he can with the injuries he suffered. He continues with physical therapy as he deals with speech impairment and memory loss." Hernandez offered this Marine support as well as the others under his command, even after they left the military and needed help navigating the red tape of the Veterans Administration. "I would step in and see what needed to be done. I

would always remind my men that if they ever felt they didn't get the support they needed, I would help share their burden."

That often means spending long hours after his shift following up with phone calls and writing emails. "A lot of my job is done after hours," he noted.

Hernandez entered the military by following in the footsteps of his two brothers — William '94 and Franklin '02. All three went to Holy Name and SI before matriculating to the Naval Academy. William is still serving in the Marine Corps and Franklin, who left the Academy, is now a credit analyst.

After September 11, Hernandez's desire to enter the Marines redoubled. At Annapolis, he found a home in the school's Latin American Studies Club and in the boxing ring. He boxed all four years and won all three of his intercollegiate matches.

He made it into the Marines despite the long odds. Of the 970 in his class, only 300 seniors were selected. After officer training in Quantico, Va., and military police training in Missouri, Hernandez was stationed in Japan for two years. At age 24, he found himself supervising a staff of 120 Marines and 50 Japanese security officers. "It was overwhelming at times, but I relied on the structure and on my time at SI when I was placed in positions of leadership on the football field. The character development that I experienced at SI laid the foundation that has helped me throughout my military career."

He spent three years in Maryland where he trained to be a first responder in case of attack by weapons of mass destruction, including biological agents, and he met combat veterans "who told me stories of the challenge of returning to civilian life."

He then went to Camp Pendleton, where he is currently working as a company commander after returning from Iraq. "When I was in Baghdad, I always felt something might go wrong, even with the amount of security we were under. You definitely feel your Spidey senses going off."

Working with his Iraqi counterparts gave him hope for the country's turnaround. "These are good men who want to extricate their country from evil and have the best interest of the nation at heart."



He also worked with colleagues in the U.S. Army and other government agencies in Iraq and saw other systems at play. "That's when the concept of *magis* that I learned at SI kicked in. Everyone does things differently, and you have to be open to the greater good to help Iraq move forward." ∞

**TOP LEFT:** From left: Jorge, Franklin and William Hernandez at Franklin's wedding in Maryland.

**ABOVE:** Capt. Jorge Hernandez and Lt. Col. Dominic Neal from SHC.

**BELOW:** During the Thanksgiving break, Fr. Reese opened SI's doors to the SFPD and the U.S. Park Police for a K-9 training exercise. The Patrol and Bomb dog teams were sensitized to school environments in preparation for times when they are needed to track down individuals or dangerous substances in school settings. This is part of a long partnership between SI and Bay Area law enforcement agencies; previous opportunities have included SFPD's SWAT Team, who used the SI pool for their swim tests and the classrooms to practice tactical building searches. "These types of exercises may save a life one day," said Fr. Reese, who, in years past, has served as a chaplain to the Phoenix PD, the San Jose PD, the Arizona Highway Patrol and the Arizona Office of the Federal Marshall's office.







Tom Brandi '63 (center with Christ the King medal) and his football teammates who ranked first in the country for 19 straight wins in the early 1960s.

## Tom Brandi, Esq. '63 receives Christ the King Award for service to SI's Law Society & beyond

At a Nov. 20 Mass at SI, the Alumni Association gave the Christ the King Award — the highest honor SI bestows upon a graduate — to Thomas Brandi, Esq. '63, for his many years of service to society and to the school.

Below is the citation read during the Mass.

### BY TIMOTHY REARDON '86 ALUMNI DIRECTOR

In the book *David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants*, Malcom Gladwell writes, “Much of what we consider valuable in our world arises out of one-sided conflicts. This phenomenon occurs because the act of facing overwhelming odds produces greatness and beauty.”

Today, we honor Thomas J. Brandi '63 as the recipient of The Christ the King Award, the SI Alumni Association's highest honor. And so we set aside a few moments on this Sunday to pay tribute to the scrappy kid from the Sunset who has led a life battling giants and has, indeed, produced his own brand of greatness and beauty in the world.

Tom's greatness comes from his work ethic and his tenacity. As his longtime friend Mark Allan '64 puts it, “Tom's a bulldog. He played ball like a bulldog, and he works like a bulldog.” Mark goes on to say, almost in wonder, “I don't even know when the guy sleeps. He's the most competitive person I've ever met, and there's nobody I admire more.”

On the other hand, Tom's beauty comes from his courage and his compassion. He has made a career out of standing up to the powerful and looking out for the disadvantaged. Tom and his wife, Carol, give tremendous support to Immaculate Conception Academy. The director of mission advancement there, Tim Szarnicki '04, provides some insight into Tom's character when he says, “Tom answers the call for us. He's a model for having courage in one's

convictions and for making the world beautiful through serving others.”

Tom Brandi was born in San Francisco on April 16, 1945, to Attilio and Evelyn Brandi. His Italian father was a shipyard worker, and his Slovenian mother was a secretary at Bank of America. Of his mother, Tom says, “She was the brains of the family.” She had the opportunity to attend college but was told by her father that college wasn't for girls. Her desire to attend and her disappointment in not being able to are two of the reasons why Tom's multiple scholarships are in place — to make sure that young women and young men in the city do have the opportunity that his mother was denied.

He grew up on 38th Avenue with his brother, Bob, and attended Holy Name School. Most of the kids in the neighborhood played sports year round, and they all knew the playground director, Phil Vukicevich, who was a mentor to Tom growing up. Phil would later become the head basketball coach at USF.

When Tom got to SI in the fall of '59, he would meet two more mentors, legendary SI coaches: Vince Tringali (football) and Jim Keating (baseball). These two men taught Tom simple but profound lessons: “Always do your best and never quit.”

While Tom was a varsity athlete, he played on an undefeated football team and on teams that earned back-to-back baseball championships. “My coaches taught us to figure out a way to win,” he says. “Those lessons carried through to me as a student and as a lawyer.”

As a student, Tom credits English teacher Fr. John Becker, S.J., for much of his success in the classroom. As a high school sophomore, Tom didn't necessarily appreciate Becker. In fact, he simply described the honors English class as “uncomfortable” and sophomore year as the hardest academic year of his life — including law school — but the discipline required to be on the

high side of Becker's bell curve would serve him well for the rest of his life.

Perhaps the seeds for Tom's verbal wizardry also had roots in Fr. Spohn's physics class. As classmate Tom Kennedy describes it, Spohn was so organized that when he knew he was going to be absent, he'd tape record his lecture for the boys to listen to at their desks. On one such occasion, the class was listening to the recording, and about 20 minutes into the lecture, Spohn's voice stopped for a moment before he shouted, “Shut up, Brandi!” And Kennedy says, sure enough, Tom was talking at the time.

He would later receive a baseball scholarship to San Jose State after earning all-league honors in his senior year and hitting a game-winning homerun in the *San Francisco Examiner* all-star game, during which he wore his SI uniform for the last time.

In his final year at San Jose State, he applied for law school and was still waiting for the results while playing a spring baseball game at USF. After the game, he was approached by his old coach Phil Vukicevich, who was now the head basketball coach of the Dons. “You're in,” he said to Tom about USF Law School. “And by the way, I called a contact over at Hastings, and you got in there too.”

The Jesuits were happy that he decided on USF, and his meeting with Vukicevich reminded Tom that the old neighborhood was still a part of his life even as he was on the cusp of graduating from college. Perhaps former SI Alumni Director John Ring '86 put it best when he said, “I worked with Tom setting up the SI Law Society, and I've always seen him as an inspiration for every middle class kid who ever went to SI. He grew up in the Avenues and worked hard to become one of the best trial attorneys in the country, yet he never forgot his roots.”

He even taught and coached for a time at Aptos Middle School, which must have served



him well when he became a professor at USF Law School, where, in 2011, he was selected as the Hon. Ira A. Brown Adjunct Professor of the Year.

There simply isn't enough time to discuss all of Tom's honors, but some are worth noting today. In 2004, he was named California Trial Lawyer of the Year by the Consumer Attorneys of California. Since 2004, he has been voted every year as one of the top 100 Super Lawyers in Northern California in all specialties of law, and was thrice named to the top 10. Tom is one of a distinguished group of attorneys who has been listed in Best Lawyers in America for 20 straight years. He has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the San Francisco Trial Lawyers Association, and last month, at a ceremony at the Italian Athletic Club, Tom was inducted into the Trial Lawyers Hall of Fame.

Like his awards, his notable trials are too numerous to list, but Tom's eyes still light up when he recounts his representation of the

young widow in *Peterson v. Wellington Puritan Mills* — a case that perhaps symbolizes his ability to champion the underdog by using all the skills he attained through his education to represent the average person against the big corporation.

This tendency is perhaps even more evident in Tom's work with the Slovenian Church. His mother was Slovenian and grew up on Potrero Hill. Many years ago, they had constructed the Church of the Nativity to serve the community there. Some years back, it was put on a list for closure by the Catholic Church. Members of the community reached out to Tom for help. Well, he didn't just write letters. He got on a plane to Rome and met with the Church hierarchy. Church of the Nativity was subsequently removed from the list and thrives to this day thanks to Tom's efforts.

Simply put, he's just that kind of guy. As longtime friend Bob Sarlatte '68 puts it, "His loyalty and humility are unmatched. Whether

he's helping a friend with a legal matter or working creatively and tirelessly for the annual Tringali Scholarship Lunch, the man understands the true meaning of friendship."

Baseball great Tommy Lasorda once said, "You give loyalty, you'll get it back. You give love, you'll get it back."

And so it is that we gather today to celebrate Tom's loyalty and his love, and perhaps most especially, his courage. He says that every day his son, Rico, teaches him the meaning of courage, and it can certainly be said that Tom has paid it forward. And his family — Carole, Christopher '88, and Rico — can be so very proud of his grand achievements.

On behalf of the school, the SI Alumni Association and the trustees, thank you for being a loyal and humble friend of SI and a role model for future Ignatians. ∞

## Lincoln Center Director Bartlett Sher '77 honored with Spiritus Magis Award



Bartlett Sher '77, the famed Broadway director who received the Tony Award for directing *South Pacific*, received SI's Spiritus Magis Award Nov. 19 shortly before his production of *The King and I* took the stage at the Golden Gate Theatre.

Sher, who once directed plays and musicals at SI, is the third person to receive the Spiritus Magis Award, which was inaugurated at the end of the school's sesquicentennial year of celebration in 2006 to honor extraordinary achievement in public service; the arts and letters; science and medicine; and the Church. (The first Spiritus Magis Award recipient in 2006 was Dr. Peter Raven '53, former director of the Missouri Botanical Garden; the second, in 2007, was Peter Casey '68, co-creator of TV's *Frasier*.)

On hand for the award were two of Sher's former colleagues — longtime director Peter Devine '66 and veteran art teacher Katie Wolf, who has designed sets for SI's shows for decades.

At a reception before *The King and I*, Devine and Wolf presented Sher with a mask that he had made for SI's production of *The King and I* in 1977. (Bart also played several roles in that musical, staged in Mercy High School's theatre.)

Following that presentation, SI President Eddie Reese, S.J., read the text of Sher's Spiritus Magis Award, which follows:

This evening, I'm pleased and proud to announce this year's recipient, Bartlett Sher '77, one of SI's bright lights on Broadway.

His honors and achievements are numerous: He received the Tony Award as best director

of a musical for *South Pacific* in 2008 and was nominated for five other Tonys for best director, including his revival of *The King and I*, which we will soon see tonight. He also received the Drama Desk Award for *Fiddler on the Roof* and numerous other awards.

Currently the resident director at the Lincoln Center Theater in New York, Bart had served as the artistic director at Intiman Theatre in Seattle, which also received a Tony under his leadership. Prior to that, he served as artistic director at the Hartford Stage in Connecticut and the company director of Minneapolis' Guthrie Theater.

He has shared his talent, too, as a director of several operas, including the *Barber of Seville* at the Metropolitan Opera in Lincoln Center and *Le Comte Ory* by Rossini.

For all this, the high point in his career, we hope, were his years directing at St. Ignatius, including a remarkable production of Studs Terkel's *Working*.

Most importantly, Bart is a loving father of his two daughters and a model of generosity and Ignatian leadership to those with whom he works, especially the numerous actors whose careers he helped immeasurably.

We are blessed to know him, and honored to have him as one of our nation's leading storytellers.

Thank you, Bart, for all you have done for SI and for the world of theatre, which reminds us just what it means to be human beings trying to make sense of and to celebrate our lives. ∞

**ABOVE:** Katie Wolf, Peter Devine '66 and Fr. Reese were on hand to honor Bartlett Sher '77 (second from right) before a performance of *The King and I* at the Golden Gate Theatre. Photo by Marielle Murphy '93.

# keeping in touch

\* If you see an asterisk after a name, go to [www.siprep.org/news](http://www.siprep.org/news) to read even more.

**1933 Salvadore Ignoffo**, a pharmacist licensed in California, was born Dec. 31, 1916, and just turned 100. He celebrated with family and friends on New Year's Eve. The long-standing owner of the Ace Drug Company, he served patients in the Richmond and Sunset Districts of San Francisco and trained many pharmacy students to become pharmacists. He also mentored pharmacists who worked in community pharmacies. He continues to be active and only recently retired from pharmacy practice. He is a master bridge player and enjoys going on cruises.

**1957 The class of 1957** is having its 32nd annual SI/SH/Riordan luncheon Feb. 17 at Original Joe's in San Francisco. To RSVP, contact **Don McCann** at (415) 924-4358 or at [donmccann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:donmccann@sbcglobal.net); or contact **Ed Rothman** at (415) 334-2173 or at [ejrhr@aol.com](mailto:ejrhr@aol.com).



**1959** After **Rich Andrews'** memorial service in September, friends (pictured above) gathered, including some former members of the 1958 championship football team. From left are **Vince Quilici '59, Cliff Vattuone '60, Jean Ashton '59, Mike Chase '60, Greg MacInnis '60, Joe Boehle '59, Dave Favro '59, Ron Cook '59, Frank Falzon '60, John Heilmann '59** and **Jim Gross '59**. / **Dan Flanagan Jr.\*** was honored for his work on the Navy Memorial.

**1962 Dennis Koller\*** has a new book out called *The Custer Conspiracy*.

**1964** As he begins to wind down his insurance career, **John Tastor's** passion is increasing his commitment to affordable housing advocacy. John (below) has joined the Board of the Housing Leadership Council of San Mateo County and participated in his fourth Carter Work Project for Habitat for Humanity last August in Memphis, where he worked on the same house with President and Mrs. Carter, Garth Brooks and Trisha Yearwood. In March he will return to Vietnam to work on a HFH Global Village project.



**1966 Fr. Robert Christian, OP\***, was interviewed on Vatican Radio for his ecumenical efforts.

**1967 Philip Povey** is presently living in Verdi, Nev. He retired from law enforcement after 46 years and is currently

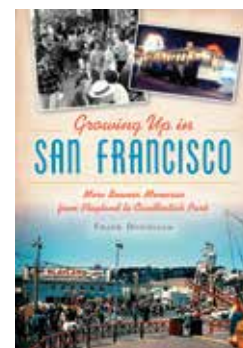
manufacturing hand-held firefighting tools and enjoying his 10 grandchildren.

**1969 Ron Lagomarsino,\*** who directed *Chester Bailey* at ACT, was on hand when his show won Outstanding Premiere and Outstanding Production from the Theater Bay Area Awards. / **Stephen Lancot\***



received the St. Thomas More Award at the group's Red Mass. He is pictured here with **Matthew Graham '73** (right), president of the St. Thomas More Society of San Francisco.

**1970** Local historian and author **Frank Dunnigan** recently had two new books published by The History Press: *Growing Up in San Francisco: Boomer Memories From Playland to Candlestick Park* (192 pages/100 photos), which is a sequel to his 2014 volume *Growing Up in San Francisco's Western Neighborhoods: Boomer Memories From Kezar Stadium to Zim's Hamburgers* (also 192 pages/100 photos), plus *San Francisco's St. Cecilia Parish: A History* (224 pages/120 photos), celebrating the January 2017 centennial of the well-known Parkside District church and school. All of these books are available at local book retailers, as well as through online vendors. Both BookShop West Portal and the history website Western Neighborhoods Project ([www.outsidelands.org](http://www.outsidelands.org)) offer copies autographed by the author.

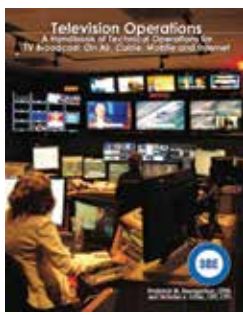


**1975** A host of SI grads organized and starred in October's Italian Heritage Day Parade, from Parade President **Frank Billante** and Parade co-chairs **Jim Fanucchi** and **John Warda** to Grand Marshall **Paul Tonelli**

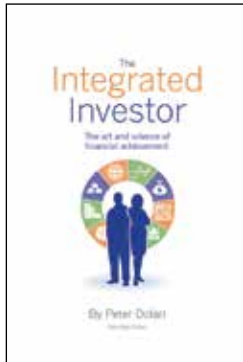




'76 and Queen Isabella **Alexandra Cotroneo '13**. / **Nick Grbac** co-authored a text published by the Society of Broadcast Engineers — *Television Operations: A Handbook of Technical Operations for TV Broadcast, On Air, Cable, Mobile and Internet*.



**1976 Peter Dolan** currently serves in his seventh year as trustee for Regis University in Denver. He is past chairman of the endowment and currently serves as chairman of the finance committee and vice chairman of the board of trustees. Peter is a founding partner of Plaza Advisory Group, a wealth management firm in St. Louis. He and his wife, Anne, have two sons. Ryan is a graduate of Regis University and Sean is a graduate of St. Louis University. In 2014, Peter wrote and published the book *The Integrated Investor: The Art and Science of Financial Achievement*, which aims to share essential ideas learned through years in the industry in a way that interests and informs a broad audience.



**1977 Members of the Class of 1977** along with **Ed Reidy '76** did a day of service in Pacifica at a convent and hospice operated by Mother Teresa's



order, the Missionaries of Charity. It was led by **Lou Kolenda** and **John Sullivan** and supported by **Greg Rocca** and other members of the class.

**1985 Mike Farrah\*** served as a field producer for the documentary *Class Divide*, that premiered on HBO.

**1991 Sean Pate** married Christy Clark in Tiburon on Sept. 3. The best men



were brothers **Bryan '93** and **Keith '95** along with groomsman **Albert Thuesen III '91**. Also pictured are their sisters **Melissa '97** and **Natalie '01**.

**1994 Dr. Lizette Ortega Dolan**, middle school director at Park Day School, was invited to attend the final Hispanic Heritage Month Reception, hosted by President Obama and his wife, on Wednesday, Oct. 12. Lizette is honored to be recognized for her efforts as a Latino educator, activist and change-maker. She brought her husband, Matthew James Dolan, and their two children, Lucas (10) and Lilliana (8) along for this monumental achievement.

**1995 Gabe Saucedo\*** is the new head soccer coach at Skyline College; he also serves as a staff coach for the San Francisco Elite Academy.

**1996 Adrian Gonzales** was hired as new head women's tennis coach for Mission College in Santa Clara.

**1998 Dylan Nicole de Kervor** was recognized by the National LGBT Bar Association in their Class of 2016 "Best LGBT Lawyers under 40." The award recognizes her role in drafting and enforcing the nondiscrimination protections of the civil rights provision of the Affordable Care Act (Section 1557). As the subject matter expert and team lead on sex discrimination, the provisions she was responsible for overseeing have been touted as the "most significant affirmation of the rights of transgender individuals of equal treatment in health care and health insurance that has existed anywhere in the law." Dylan is currently an attorney with the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice in Washington, D.C., and holds a J.D. and M.S.W. from Cal.

**1998 Trello Vice President Brian Schmidt\*** weighed in on robo-advised investing on Bloomberg.com.

**2000 Ryan Kushner\*** led the only American team to summit an 8,000-meter peak in Pakistan this year. / **Michelle Victor,\*** who works IT at Amazon, wrote in *The Oracle* about finding healthy solutions for her PTSD, which she experienced after someone held her at gunpoint after stalking her.

**2002 Jennifer Lawrence** married Hanley Bonyng in September at the Ballard Bay Club in Seattle. The wedding party included the bride's sisters, **Amanda Lawrence '04** and **Brenda Lawrence '07**, and





**Corey Pallatto HUGHAN, Dave Lacampagne '03** and **John Ferrel '03, Tristan Handeland '03** served as the wedding officiant. SI grads also in attendance included the bride's brother, **Nicholas Lawrence '09**, cousin **Diana Lawrence** and classmates **Laura Handeland '03**, and **John HUGHAN '03**. / **Peter Osborne\*** found a new use for Cal's bleachers at his Mission Rock Resort.

**2003** **Marianne Armenta** and **Colin Daly** were married in Berkeley on April 30. Pictured are **John Flaherty, Ivan Quiteño, Joey Armenta '07, Kevin Cronin '01, Elaine Harris '04, Courtney Anderson '99, Caitlin**



**Callaghan '99, Erin Spiers '07, Peter Byrne '01, Elizabeth Gress '02, Rebecca Armenta '01, Noreen Byrne, Katherine (Watts) Fitzgibbon '04, Patrick Fitzgibbon, Zach Lapping, Ryan Clifford, Viola Or, Maura Brosnan '01, Dave Cedarblade, Justin Ohanessian and Eric Loughridge**. / Google's Lead for Sustainability **Kate Brandt\*** promoted a circular economy at the SXSW Eco conference in Austin. / **Jennifer Anne Nedeau**, the daughter of Janet E. Nedeau and Christopher A. Nedeau of San Francisco,

was married Aug. 27 to Austin Frederick Helm, son of Christine A. Helm and Thomas F. Helm of Greenfield, Wis. The Rev. René Iturbe, a Roman Catholic priest, performed the ceremony at Notre Dame des Victoires church in San Francisco.



**2004** **Katie McGovern** married Rod Koborsi June 16 at Sts. Peter and Paul



Church in North Beach (the same church where her parents, **Ed '75** and Tina, were married nearly 33 years ago). It was an intimate ceremony officiated by **Msr. John Talesfore '78**. Two days later, they renewed their vows and exchanged rings at Vine Hill House in Sebastopol surrounded by 160 family and friends. Michael

Schimaneck escorted the canine ring bearers Henry and Frank during the processional.

**2005** **Darren Criss\*** hosted TV's live production of *Hairspray* and was featured in a *San Francisco Chronicle* story about his show at Feinstein's at the Nikko Hotel following his LA tour of *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*. He was also interviewed by KTVU's **Mike Mibach '94** during his San Francisco tour of the show. / Scripps College alumna **Kate Fehlhaber\*** and her team of fellow graduate students and postdoctoral scholars at UCLA won the Society for Neuroscience Next Generation Award 2016 at the organization's annual meeting in San Diego. The students founded the neuroscience education website, Knowing Neurons, which explains complicated ideas about the brain clearly and accurately using powerful images, infographics and animations. / **Colleen McHugh** received the 2015-16 Excellence in Public Service Award from the Department of Urban Studies and Planning of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The annual award recognizes a recent graduate of MIT's Masters in City Planning program for outstanding achievements in the public sector. Colleen earned her master's degree with a certificate in urban design from MIT in 2013. This award honors her accomplishments as a resilience planner with the New Orleans Redevelopment Authority (NORA) in post-Katrina New Orleans, where she currently works in the office of the mayor. / **Allison Pheatt** married Brian Skinner ('04 Valencia High School and '08 Stanford University) on Aug. 6 at the Christian



Brothers' Mont La Salle Chapel in Napa. The Maid of Honor was fellow SI classmate **Francesca Christopher**. Also in attendance was **Charles Glover**. The wedding was a beautiful affair, and guests enjoyed the love, merriment and beautiful venue as they danced the night away. / **John Roman\*** was praised by the San Francisco Bar Association for his service to the Homeless Advocacy Project.

**2007** The *Christian Science Monitor* interviewed **Alex Trembath** on wind and solar energy.

**2010** **Samantha Corrales** is serving with the Peace Corps in Indonesia teaching English. Here she is with her 11th grade class.





**2012 Nicole Saguid Camacho\*** delivered the commencement address at Loyola University in Chicago. / **Katie Harp** graduated from Dominican University with a degree in biology and a minor in chemistry. She is working for SI's Advancement Office while applying to medical school. / **John-William McGovern** graduated cum laude from Yale in May 2016 with a bachelor's degree in economics. He also played lacrosse for Yale all four years. He now works for Morgan Stanley Investment Banking in the company's San Francisco office.

**2013 Rachael Garrison** played volleyball for the University of Puget Sound, where she earned North West Conference honors. She finished the season as the NWC leader in digs with 530. She had four games of 30 or more including a season high of 45 in Oregon on Nov. 4. / **Andrew Vollert\*** was named Big Sky Newcomer of the Year and made AP's All American football team for his success on the field for Weber State University in Ogden, Utah.



**2014 Candy Janachowski\*** helped Harvard soccer win the Ivy League title.

**2015 Jackie Ocaña** served as an assistant field hockey coach at SI for the fall 2016 season. / **Sydney Raggio\*** was named Muscle Milk Student-Athlete of the Week for her prowess on St. Mary's basketball team.

**2016 Jamie Chen\*** received the Crestmoor Neighborhood Memorial Scholarship. / Golfer **Samantha Gong\*** is excelling on the greens for USF.

**2017** SI's volleyball captain **Anne Crouch\*** was praised by Cal-Hi Sports for her volunteer work at St. Peter School's volleyball camp.

**2019 Connor Simpson\*** reviewed a cookbook for the *Marin IJ*.

## Births



**1999 Dominic Comolli** and his wife, Erin, a son, Mason Dominic (left), born Sept. 18, 2016. Mason joins big sister Madison. / **James Huddleston** and wife, Lindsey, a daughter, McKenna Helen (right), born Feb. 24, 2016. / **Juliet Ruby Palarca** and her husband, Jade Tito, a son, Tāmati, born May 10, 2016.



**2001 Nick Leone** and his wife, Ashli, a daughter, Kristen Elizabeth (left), born Oct. 6, 2016. / **Jennifer Passanisi Rosko** and

her husband, Alex, a son, Ryan (right), born on Nov. 6, 2016.

**2002 Angela (Passanisi) Clifford** and her husband, **Kevin Clifford**, a daughter, Makenzie Passanisi (right), in August. She is the second grandchild to both **Gerald Clifford '69** and **Tony Passanisi '75**. She joins big sister Micaela. ∞



## In Memoriam

Go to [www.siprep.org/memorial](http://www.siprep.org/memorial) for obituaries for these individuals.

1940 Howard F. Herning, M.D.	1953 Robert W. (Bob) Goodwin
1940 Michele (Mike) Pisani	1954 Rev. Lorenzo J. Palafox, S.J.
1941 William H. Shea	1954 John T. Parker
1943 Alexander F. Hollett	1955 Thomas A. McGrath
1944 Daniel P. Casey	1956 Hugh J. Ross
1944 Francis X. Ramirez	1961 Robert W. Gillin
1945 Claude J. Boyd, Jr.	1962 Fergus Flanagan
1946 Bernard P. Hagan	1969 Jose S. Aguilar
1947 Seamon J. Molkenbuhr, Jr.	1972 Richard D. Holl
1949 Stephen W. Schulte	1975 Dennis Cashman
1950 William B. Helmer	1985 Timothy G. Pult
1953 George Fegan	1993 Jennifer J. Stancil

### Nelia Riccetti-Schubert, longtime costumer, dies at 91

Nelia Riccetti-Schubert, who worked in the SI theatre department designing and making costumes for 63 shows spanning two decades, died Nov. 13 at the age of 91.

"Nelia designed the most beautiful costumes for our shows," said former SI director Peter Devine '66. "I was blessed with two great costumers during my time as director: Jean Wolf from 1973 to 1979 and then Nelia Shubert from 1980 through 1999. Mrs. Schubert started with *My Fair Lady* in 1980 before designing for *Cabaret*, *Cyrano de Bergerac*, *Mack and Mabel*, *Camelot*, *Nicholas Nickelby*, *Elephant Man*, *The Secret Garden*, *Evita* and *South Pacific*. She continued all the way through *Man of La Mancha*."

Mrs. Schubert was, according to Devine, "a special gift in my life. She had so much joy, passion and love for the children. She always wanted them to love their costumes, so sometimes she would make another costume if she sensed someone was not happy with one. She gave special attention to details and the extra touches that made her work so magnificent. For *My Fair Lady*, she personally sewed every Ascot costume, fashioned every lady's hat, and made an entire other set of elegant gowns for the embassy ball sequence for a cast of 75. She designed and sewed every single costume for *Camelot's* cast of 80."

Devine also praised Mrs. Schubert's wisdom. "She often would alert me to children who were going through particularly difficult times because she would listen to their sorrows with great compassion. She always took some of the sewing home with her. Off she would drive in her scooter with bags filled with material for costumes that she would stay up until the late hours fashioning."

Meredith Cecchin Galvin '97, SI's dance instructor who wore many of Mrs. Schubert's costumes while an actor at SI, also recalled how she "dressed us all with love and care. I recall her notes on boxes in a mixture of Italian and English and what a sweet woman she was."

She is survived by her son, Sergio Schubert '81, who noted that his mother "loved her time working at SI and with the Loyola Guild more than anyone will ever truly comprehend." ∞



Jean Wolf (left) & Nelia Riccetti-Schubert.

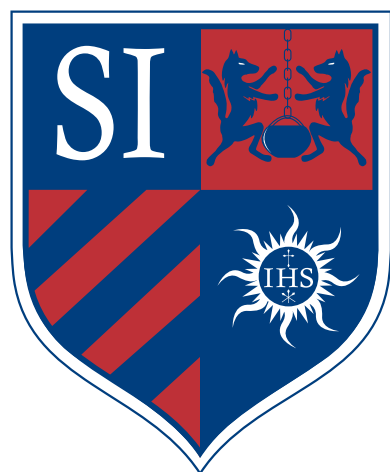


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# Alumni Golf Tournament

Friday, May 19, 2017

## TPC Harding Park

99 Harding Road San Francisco

18 hole scramble • 9 Hole Young Alumni Option • Dinner and Awards Ceremony

*Send questions to [bmcgovern@siprep.org](mailto:bmcgovern@siprep.org)*

*save the date*

# Red & Blue Campus Crawl

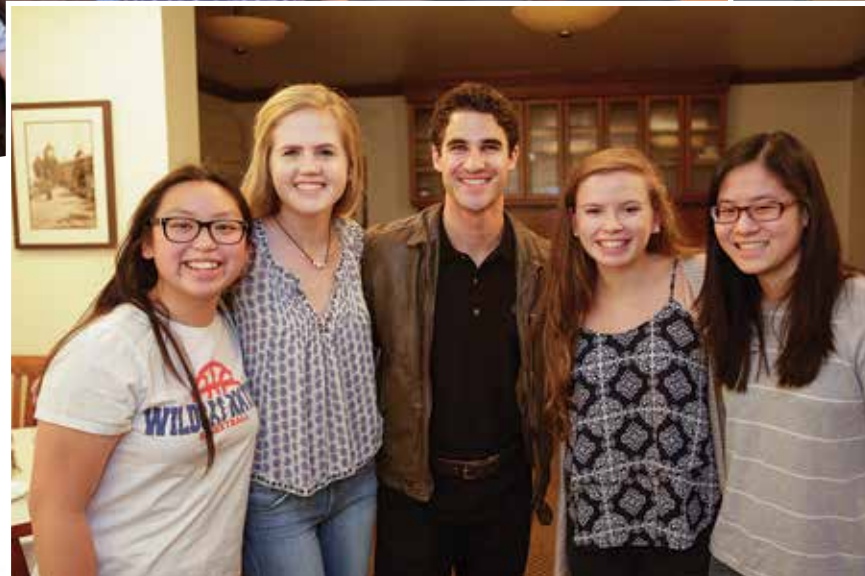
Saturday, June 10, 2017

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All Alumni (*age 21 and older*) are invited to join us for an evening at the Prep! Bring a guest and enjoy campus tours, an Alumni Restaurateurs' Tasting Pavilion, an Alumni Craft Brew Beer Garden, music and dancing.

Questions? email [slaveroni@siprep.org](mailto:slaveroni@siprep.org)





**Alumni Snapshots**

**TOP:** Last October saw the annual Tommy Bahama Dan Linehan Golf Tournament at Gleneagles Golf Course. **ABOVE LEFT:** Alumni working in the tech sector gathered at Pedro's Cantina in November. **ABOVE RIGHT:** Alumni who played for former SI & NFL coach Gil Haskell '61 were on hand at Mission Rock Resort. Gil, center, is pictured with the trophy that bears his name; it is awarded to the winner of the SI-Riordan football game. (It stayed with SI this year.) Pictured with him are, left, Riordan coach Kevin Fordon and SI coach John Regalia '93. **LEFT:** Darren Criss '05, star of stage and screen, took part in a Q&A at SI with his former SI director Peter Devine '66. He is pictured here with SITV students, who interviewed him. **BELOW:** The Admiral Callaghan Society, along with SFPD's Kevin Downs '09 (see story, page 60), attended the Veterans' Day Mass in Orradre Chapel and enjoyed a reception following Mass.





# CALENDAR

## JANUARY

5-6 Faculty Retreat, no classes	
7 Entrance Examination	8:30am
9 School Resumes	8:20am
10 Class of 50-51 Basketball Champion's Lunch (Original Joe's) noon call Mic Kelly at 650-697-9376 to RSVP	
10 Bruce-Mahoney Basketball Games (TBA)	6&7:30pm
11 Ignatian Guild Meeting (Faculty Dining Room)	6:30pm
12 "Joey Alioto" Crab Feed	6pm
16 Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday & Parade	10am
18 Soph/Junior Parents Financial Aid Night (Commons)	7pm
19 SIPAC General Meeting (Wilsey Library)	6pm
20 Performing Arts Assembly	9:30am
21 Financial Assistance Information Day (new applicants)	10am
22 Ignatian Guild Women's Retreat	9am
23 Community of Concern for Freshman Parents	7pm
23-24 & 26-27 SI Live (Bannan)	7pm
27 Piano Recital (Choral Room)	3pm
28 Winter Semiformal Dance	8pm
30 Varsity/JV/Frosh spring sports tryouts begin	

## FEBRUARY

2 ALAS Applicant Evening (Commons)	6:30pm
5 Mother Student Communion Mass (Commons)	9am
6, 13, 27 Student Leadership Night (Student Activities Center)	6pm
6 Financial Assistance Application due for new applicants to SI	
7 Parent Spiritual Exercises (Adult Ministry)	8:30am
8 Downtown Business Lunch (Julia Morgan Ballroom)	11:30am
10 High School Summer School Registration opens online	6am
11 SIPAC Chinese New Year's Luncheon (TBD)	1pm
13 Ignatian Guild Meeting (Faculty Dining Room)	6:30pm
16 SIPAC General Meeting (Wilsey Library)	6pm
15 Sophomore Parent College Night	7pm
20 Presidents' Day, no classes	
21 Faculty Inservice, no classes	

22 Frosh Challenge Day	8am-3:30pm
22 PreACT Testing Day (sophomores)	8am
23 BSU Applicant Evening	6:30pm
24 Mother/Daughter Night (Commons)	6pm
25 Alumni Crew Classic (Lake Merced Boathouse)	10am

## MARCH

2 Solidarity Dinner (Commons)	6pm
4 Fathers' Club Auction (McCullough Gym)	5:30pm
6 Financial Assistance Application due for returning students	
6 Regular Summer School registration opens online	
9 SIPAC General Meeting (Wilsey Library)	6pm
9-11 Spring Dance Concert (Wiegand)	7pm
14 Ignatian Guild Meeting (Faculty Dining Room)	6:30pm
15-16 Midterms	
17 Quarter Break	
17 Admissions notifications for Class of 2021 go out	
22 College Night (Soph/Junior parents & junior students)	7pm
22 Fathers' Club Lenten Reflection (Orradre)	6:30pm
24 Mother/Son Night (Commons)	6pm
25 Grandparents' Day (Student Center)	11:30am
25 Junior Prom	
26 Golden Diploma Class of 1967 Mass & Reception	10am
27 Faculty In-Service, no classes	
TBA Bruce Mahoney Baseball (AT&T Park)	

## APRIL

1 Spring Musical (Bannan)	2&7pm
5-7 Spring Musical (Bannan)	7pm
6 SIPAC General Meeting (Wilsey Library)	6pm
7 Father/Student Dinner (Commons)	6pm
8 Spring Musical (Bannan)	2&7pm
11 Ignatian Guild Meeting (Faculty Dining Room)	6:30pm
13 Easter Break Begins	
15 Alumni Baseball Game (Marchbank Park)	TBA

15 Alumni Lacrosse Game (JB Murphy Field)	TBA
21-22 California Junior Classical League Convention (all campus)	
24 Classes Resume	
26-27 Cabaret (Wiegand)	7pm
29 Cabaret (Wiegand)	7pm
27 Callaghan Society Dinner (Commons)	6pm
29 Class of 1957 Reunion (SI Faculty Dining Room)	10am

## MAY

6 International Food Faire	4pm
9 Ignatian Guild Meeting	7pm
10-13 Spring Pops (Bannan)	7pm
10 TriClub & Magis Senior Celebration	6pm
11 Ignatian Guild Installation Mass & Luncheon	11am
11 Transition to College (Orradre Chapel)	7pm
12 SIPAC End-of-Year Party	6pm
15 Returning students receive financial assistance notifications	
18 Fathers' Club BBQ (Commons)	5:30pm
19 Faculty In-Service (Holiday)	
19 Alumni Golf Tournament	noon
20 Senior Prom	
22 Senior Class Holiday	
24 Performing Arts Star Banquet	6:30pm
25 Transition Liturgy	
26 Awards Assembly	
29 Memorial Day Holiday	
30-31 Final Exams	

## JUNE

1 Final Exams	
1 Baccalaureate Mass (St. Mary's)	7:30pm
3 Graduation (St. Ignatius Church)	10:30am
10 Red & Blue Campus Crawl	5:30pm
12 High School Summer School & camps begin	
19 Middle School Summer School begins	



## 2017 Downtown Business Lunch with Actor, Comedian & Writer Al Madrigal '89

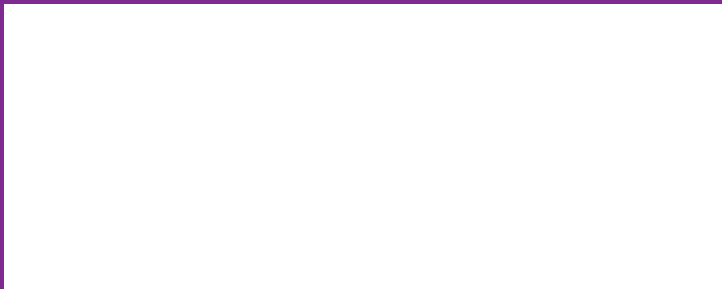
Wednesday, February 8 | Julia Morgan Ballroom  
465 California Street, 16th Floor

11:30 No-host Cocktails; Noon 3-Course Lunch with wine \$110

Sponsored Tables of 10: \$2,500 includes premium seating and program and *Genesis* listing. Donations will go to student clubs.

Go to [www.siprep.org/businesslunch](http://www.siprep.org/businesslunch) to purchase your tickets.

Al was a regular correspondent on *The Daily Show with Jon Stewart* and co-founder of the All Things Comedy podcast network. He has appeared on *The Late Show with Craig Ferguson*, *Conan* and *Jimmy Kimmel Live* and co-starred in several network sitcoms, including NBC's *About a Boy*.



**FATHERS' CLUB AUCTION**  
**MARCH 4, 2017**