

# GENESIS

The Quarterly Magazine of St. Ignatius College Preparatory, San Francisco, Spring 2017





SI Director Ted Curry '82 staged *The Music Man* for the spring musical. The two casts included 37 students, 30 crew, four student musicians and technical director Patrick Musni '85. Costumes were created by, at right, Sara Ritchey (in yellow), who also created the costumes for SI's 2004 production of *The Music Man* along with Jane Hugan (standing behind her). On March 24, members of that cast (also pictured at right) returned to SI to see the play and meet with current cast members after the show. Pictured are Madison Kelleher '07, Reeza Esmero '07, Greg Callaghan '04, Aubrey Muñoz '04, Meredith Cecchin Galvin '97 and Gina Perlite '07.







# GENESIS

## A Report to Concerned Individuals

Volume 54, Number 1 Spring 2017

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**Below:** From left, William Zellerbach, Martin D. "Pete" Murphy '52, Brother Leonard J. Sullivan, S.J. '44, and Sarah Giffen. These two former board members and former librarians all served to guide the SI community throughout the years.

## First Words

I had the great fortune in the 1980s of studying *The Divine Comedy* for six weeks in Siena and Assisi thanks to a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. One key lesson I learned from that masterful trilogy is the importance of guides. Dante had three of them on his journey — the first being Virgil, the author of *The Aeneid*.

Recently, SI has gained new guides in our president, Fr. Eddie Reese, S.J., and the 18 men and women on the newly constituted Board of Trustees. They are leading us into the new millennium with new ventures, such as the Fr. Sauer Academy — the free middle school that will start in August on our campus — and the Compass Campaign, which will help middle class families afford to send their sons and daughters to SI.

As we look to the future, we also pay attention to the past and to the recent passing of four previous guides — two former board chairs and two librarians.

Sarah Giffen, who served in SI's Wilsey Library for more than a decade, died Feb. 7. Br. Leonard J. Sullivan, S.J. '44, SI's librarian (and more) between 1954 and 1974, passed away a day later.

We also saw the Feb. 4 passing of William Zellerbach, the chair of SI's first board of regents, and Martin D. "Pete" Murphy '52, who died Feb. 8. Pete chaired the regents in the 1990s and was among the first lay members of the Board of Trustees — the ownership body of the school.

Remember the days when your teacher asked you to write a research paper? That's when librarians became your best friends. They showed you where to look and how to distinguish among sources of information. With all the buzz surrounding "fake news" and "alternative facts," that skill is more vital than ever. They also encouraged you to read and, thus, learn on your own outside the classroom and grow in expertise and wisdom.

William Zellerbach also helped SI grow when, in 1966, Fr. Harry Carlin, S.J. '35, asked him to lead SI's first Board of Regents and champion the cause of raising \$8.1 million

to build the Sunset District campus. Instead of guiding students, Mr. Zellerbach guided SI's Jesuits, few of whom had experience in construction or finance.

Pete Murphy did the same for Fr. Sauer and Steve Lovette '63 back in the 1980s and 1990s, when SI grew in two additional ways by going coeducational and by expanding the campus. Thanks to Pete's guidance and wisdom, SI raised \$25 million between 1989 and 1994 — a critical juncture in our history.

SI has succeeded over the years because, like Janus, we look behind and ahead. We are guided by our past in order to make our way into the unknown — one where robotics, self-driving cars and nanotechnology will be just as valuable to us as Virgil was to Dante.

This lesson is best exemplified by two recent events at SI. In March, SI hosted the first regional robotics conference ever held in San Francisco. A month later, the school welcomed a statewide Latin convention that brought young classics scholars to the school to celebrate the lessons and literature of the past. (Look for more on the latter in the summer *Genesis*.) Our world cries out for solutions rooted in the ancient wisdom of Virgil and in the STEM creators already in our student body.

As I was leaving McGucken Hall late one evening, I ran into another set of guides — men and women who advise Jennifer Gaspar-Santos, our director of technology and innovation. Jennifer knows that schools, which are in the business of guiding students, need advice from the best and brightest outside our walls in order for us to serve our students as best we can.

I'm grateful to this committee, as I'm grateful to so many of our parents and alumni who have proven to be tremendous guides to SI's students. They all reinforce the lesson that our job is to create a more just world. This isn't an easy task, but it is one our students can handle thanks to the community that surrounds, challenges, inspires and guides them. — *Paul Totah '75*



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Dr. Lionel Metz '98 is part of three generations that includes five doctors. Thanks to a scholarship in the name of his father — Dr. Leon Metz, Jr. — that legacy has gone past the bounds of family to include Dr. Meron Haile '06 who received that scholarship at SI and who is now a resident in ophthalmology in SF. [Page 10](#)

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**On the Cover:** Scholar-athletes [Aleah Jayme '17](#) and [Taylor Spaulding '17](#) represent the idea of cura personalis — care for the whole person. They are pictured at the site where once stood Sutro Baths, a place where San Franciscans went for restoration and enjoyment. For more on these talented Ignatians, see page 10. [Photo by Paul Totah '75.](#)



## 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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## Fr. Sauer Academy Update: Ready to make history with the first class



**ABOVE:** Karen Hammen is interviewing students and teachers for the new free middle school to open in August at SI.

On the first day of school this August, 30 sixth graders will make history when they join the ranks of SI's Wildcats for the inaugural class of the Fr. Sauer Academy, a full-scholarship middle school open to low-income families.

Karen Hammen, the Academy's director, has spent the past few months interviewing teachers and students and helping parents understand that their sons and daughters will find a welcoming home on the SI campus.

Making her work possible is the broader SI community, which has raised \$1.2 million for the first year of the program, with nearly \$375,000 of that coming from the paddle-raise portion of the Fathers' Club Auction including a matching \$100,000 gift from the family of Tom Klein and Kate Kelly.

Other help has come from civic agencies that believe in the message delivered by SI President Eddie Reese, S.J., who noted last October "that the best way out of poverty is through education."

Hammen has met with representatives of the Booker T. Washington Community Center, the Boys and Girls Clubs of San Francisco, Seven Teepees, the 1st Tee Foundation, and Collective Impact. "These groups want children and families to know about this opportunity," said Hammen. "It's truly awesome to see the hopefulness and excitement of people from these community centers as well as from parents and students. This is important because we need people to be our ambassadors, our boots-on-the-ground, to help us recruit students."

To answer questions and show off the new academy, which will be housed in the West Campus Extension off the Columbus Piazza, Hammen held information sessions and tours in March and April and conducted interviews and tests throughout April.

"Right now, I'm answering questions from parents who want to know about transportation and what support will be available to their sons and daughters who may be academically behind so that they can be prepared for success at SI in high school. I know from my years in primary education that students grow and learn best when parents and educators work as a team. That's a cardinal truth as an educator, and my job is to address the questions and concerns from parents as I craft a new program."

Hammen has already hired a math teacher and will soon hire another for language arts. She expects to have her first class of 30 students selected by the end of June. She also plans to reach out to members of the SI community who can serve as mentors and tutors. "I want to find people who can partner with us to make the vision of the Fr. Sauer Academy a reality." ∞

## Compass campaign helping to guide SI through new ventures

The Compass Campaign has proven to be an apt name for SI's current fundraising efforts. "We're definitely on a journey," said Vice President for Advancement Joe Vollert '84. "We started with a goal of raising \$50 million in five years for our scholarship endowment, and we've added to our journey along the way, both regarding partners and destinations."

One recent partner was Burton DeMartini '35, whose estate earlier this year left SI a gift of \$876,000. Mr. DeMartini, who died Nov. 23, 2014, was the youngest of five brothers who had each attended SI on full scholarships.

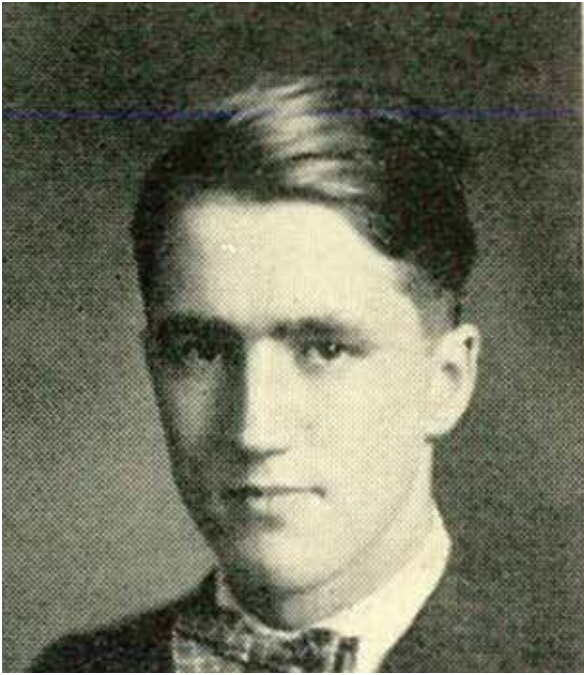
In gratitude, Burton's eldest brother, James DeMartini '27, began the James J. and Catherine A. DeMartini Scholarship in honor of his parents. Over the course of his life, he gave \$840,000 to the scholarship, including an estate gift of \$240,000.

"In all, the DeMartini brothers have donated \$1.7 million to their family's scholarship, making it possible for 17 students to attend SI each year," added Vollert.

That gift has helped SI raise nearly \$17.8 million in the 18 months since the school launched the Compass Campaign. "Back then, our path was fairly straightforward," said Vollert. "We wanted to raise our scholarship endowment from \$50 million to \$100 million to help all students afford an SI education. Along the way, we added a new goal to the campaign — the creation of Fr. Sauer Academy, and that has given us a new challenge, as we will need to raise \$22 million over the next seven years to help launch our new middle school."

To date, SI has raised \$1.2 million toward this tuition-free school, giving Vollert confidence in the success of the Compass Campaign, one that has morphed into a way for SI to fund all of its strategic goals in the years to come.

"We live in a world where we need to be agile, flexible and nimble as we adjust to the school's needs,"



**ABOVE:** James DeMartini from the 1927 yearbook. He and his family have donated \$1.7 million to SI over the years.

said Vollert. “Some of those needs we can foresee and some will be unexpected.”

Key to moving forward are more estate gifts similar to the ones left by the DeMartini family. “These gifts are key to ensuring SI’s future, as we hope in the coming years to be able to distribute \$5 million in tuition assistance — \$1.5 million more than we currently offer. In addition to funding low-income families, our endowment should help middle class families more robustly so that we have a broad spectrum of economic diversity. I hope people choose to stay in San Francisco when they see that they can afford an SI education thanks to financial aid. Frankly, we’re not there yet, and our endowment campaign is critical to that vision.”

Even though Vollert will long be retired by the year 2055, he has a vision of the school’s bicentennial. “Wouldn’t it be wonderful to endow SI fully by our 200th anniversary? That would take \$600 million. That’s an ambitious goal, but what a great gift to leave to future generations of Ignatians. And while this is a lofty goal, I have faith that we can achieve it. After all, how can you not love supporting Jesuit education?” ☞

## Tuition increase to help SI transition to full-cost model

SI’s tuition will go up \$1,490 for the 2017-18 school year, from \$21,290 to \$22,780 as the start of a multi-year transition to return to a full-cost tuition model.

Currently, the cost of educating students at SI exceeds the tuition charged by the school by \$5,200 per student. “As a result, we are giving families with

the means to pay full-cost tuition some assistance that they do not need,” said SI President Edward Reese, S.J. “They receive, in effect, an artificial tuition break, which, ironically, impairs our ability to provide financial aid.”

Along with the tuition increase, financial assistance will also increase from \$3.9 million awarded to 22 percent of SI families to \$4.2 million next year. “Those who can afford our tuition increase won’t be affected by this move,” said Fr. Reese. “Those who currently receive assistance will continue to do so just as we expect more families will need assistance with this tuition increase.”

One goal of the Compass Campaign, he added, “is to bring our endowment to a level that will allow us to help those families in the middle. They are the ones currently being squeezed on all sides by the high cost of living in one of the most expensive cities in the world.” In the past 10 years, financial assistance has increased from \$1.3 million a year to \$3.9 million, an increase of 200 percent.

Before the Great Recession, SI adhered to a full-cost tuition model. However, because of a spike in the need for financial assistance that has not subsided and the continued upward pressure on expenses for budget items such as security, technology, learning center services and wellness, tuition does not cover the actual cost of education.

Moving to a full-cost tuition model “will help our efforts to raise scholarship dollars,” Fr. Reese added, as the resources of our supporters will go towards the school’s strategic needs, including growing the Scholarship Endowment Fund, rather than filling budget holes.

Another challenge the school faces is to act prudently by cutting costs whenever possible without sacrificing the top-quality education offered. “One thing we will not cut is teacher pay, as we need to offer a livable wage to our dedicated faculty who are faced with the enormous challenge of affording Bay Area rents and mortgages. We also need to continue to attract the best teachers, and this comes at a cost. We are looking at every expenditure to see what we can reduce or eliminate as we are sensitive to the strain any increase in tuition means to most SI families. We hope the increase in financial assistance helps our families.”

Some people have speculated that the tuition increase for the high school came about to pay for the new middle school. “That’s simply not true,” said Fr. Reese. “The two schools will be financially separate, and no money will cross over from one school to the other. Like so many Jesuit schools around the world, we are committed to ensuring access to a Jesuit education to all families. In doing so, we need to maintain appropriate levels of tuition and tuition assistance. If you believe in Jesuit education, now is a great time to support our Scholarship Endowment Fund. ☞

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## Summer of Love Auction spreads groovy vibes and helps students afford an SI education

If you walked into the Fathers' Club Summer of Love Auction last March 4, you might have wondered if you were experiencing a flashback to your days listening to the Grateful Dead at Winterland.

The transformation of the school into the Haight Ashbury, the Panhandle and Winterland happened thanks to the psychedelic magic of Gary Brickley '71, whose production company rolled a flower-power painted Volkswagen Beetle into the student center, decorated the area with posters of '60s bands and built a towering superstructure in the McCullough Gym reminiscent of Woodstock.

Brickley even had bartenders serving drinks in groovy sets designed like magic buses to greet the 650 guests who came dressed wearing flowers in their hair, bell-bottom pants, sandals and other '60s-themed clothing (including a white rabbit and Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band suits).

The enthusiastic crowd also delivered more than \$1 million to the SI Scholarship Fund, including nearly \$400,000 for the new Fr. Sauer Academy for middle school students that will start on campus in August.

Auction Chairman Ed Wynne '84 even found some parallels with his event and the watershed moment in 1967.

"Fifty years ago, the corner of Haight and Ashbury was the epicenter of a pivotal time in the history of San Francisco and the nation," he noted. "That moment changed the world, just as SI does with each graduating class thanks to the Scholarship Fund. The students who graduate from SI will, I know, pay it forward as the future leaders who will come to future auctions to support meritorious students of modest means."

Two ironic moments happened to punctuate the event for Wynne. The first came when the City of San Francisco turned down a permit request for promoters to stage a Summer of Love gathering in Golden Gate Park. "Those protesters used the same image we used for our event," said Wynne. "The City's denial meant that our auction was the best way to celebrate the 50-year anniversary."

The second event happened midway through the auction when the generator that powered the high-voltage event failed due to a heavy rainstorm. "Fortunately, Gary knew something was wrong before we lost power completely and had called in for a second generator that brought us back to life. That gave people a chance to catch up with their friends and take a break while I was losing my mind about the whole auction unraveling. Thankfully, it turned out to be a blessing."

The blessings also happened when guests raised their paddles to donate to the Fr. Sauer Academy. "When Fr. Reese announced the start of the Academy at the President's Cabinet Dinner, it was clear to me that the Fathers' Club should support this endeavor. Then Tom Klein stepped in with a \$100,000 matching gift followed by four people who donated \$25,000 each to lead the way. Those who gave at all the levels showed their belief in Fr. Reese's leadership and in the Fr. Sauer Academy."

Wynne also thanked those who donated wine, including Martin Ray Winery, Young's Market and Michela Abrams, the widow of former Fathers' Club officer Alan Abrams. "Before his death, Alan did so much to raise the level of the wine portion of the auction," said Wynne. "Michela donated special bottles from Alan's collection, and the proceeds went

to create a scholarship in Alan's name. That was a meaningful part of the evening for me."

Helping the evening go so smoothly were auctioneers Bob Sarlatte '68 and former Fathers' Club Auction chairs Dave Fleming and Steve Sirianni '84. Joining them on stage was the '60s Summer of Love Band, which performed during the live auction.

Wynne praised his wife, Amy, for "being my companion during this journey and providing me with ideas and encouragement. She also led Ignatian Guild volunteers in designing the centerpieces and helping with decorations." He also praised Brickley "for his unparalleled creativity and imagination."

For Wynne, the event gave him a deeper appreciation for SI. "I was impressed with the spirit of support, devotion and willingness to contribute that permeates all levels and aspects of our community. People volunteered without asking and helped both financially and physically. It was an incredible experience that I will never forget."

Fathers' Club President Will Bischoff added that "the Fathers' Club Auction is the biggest event that the Fathers' Club puts on every year, and it takes an army of volunteers from the community to make it happen." He praised Wynne for "his drive and diligence in an effort to make this year's auction such a tremendous success. Ed had a vision of what he wanted the auction to be, and he made it a reality." Bischoff also thanked Auction Vice Chair Dave Hollister, Second Vice President Gordy Brooks and the Auction Operating Committee for focusing on all of the details that make such an event possible. "All of these guys gave so much of their time and energy. It was a pleasure to work with so many great people in our community." ☺





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# *Cura Personalis:*

## *Healthy Body. Healthy Mind. Healthy Spirit.*

For the past few years, many of the spring editions of this magazine have featured health-related stories. Perhaps it's the call of the season, when I see more people venturing outside to jog and restart their diets. This edition is no different, as you'll find stories here related to the health of bodies, minds and spirits.

The idea that health should be considered in a holistic and integrated way isn't new to us, both because of where we are — New Age California — and who we are. We are Ignatians who practice *cura personalis* and preach, through our actions, the message of care for the whole person.

Fr. Ross Jones, S.J., the rector of St. Ignatius College Riverview in Australia, wrote in the December edition of his school's alumni magazine that the first Jesuit to refer to *cura personalis* wasn't Ignatius but Jesuit General Fr. Wladimir Ledóchowski, S.J., in 1934. Despite this relatively recent entry into the Ignatian lexicon, the term has stuck and has come to define Jesuit education.

"If we claim our style of education is holistic," Fr. Jones noted, "then it means we must attend to the spiritual, the moral, the physical in addition to the intellectual formation of those given to our care.... The care of which we speak begins [in our schools], and we would like to believe it is part of our fabric here. But it ought also be a mantle that extends to all as we move beyond this campus."

At SI we practice *cura personalis* in our frosh cura groups, in our sophomore Wellness program, in our junior Stewardship Week and in our senior Kairos retreat program — and this is just a small sampling of what we do to address all the needs of our students and help them carry forward what they have learned.

Those featured on the following pages do what Fr. Jones so eloquently urges when he calls for this mantle of care to extend beyond our walls. Dr. Lionel Metz '98, an orthopedic surgeon at UCSF, cares both for his patients and for future generations of Ignatians through his family's scholarship fund, which helped Dr. Meron Haile '06 when she studied at SI. She is now following in the footsteps of Dr. Leon Metz, Lionel's father and the person for whom the scholarship is named, by studying ophthalmology.

Dr. Brian Feeley, another orthopedic surgeon at UCSF, cares for SI's football players as our team doctor and has brought several SI students to do research at UCSF and helped advance their careers in medicine.

Anne Magill is still transforming tragedy into healing. She suffered the loss of her daughter, Grace, who would have graduated with the class of 2007 had she not taken her own life in her sophomore year.

Anne launched the Grace Magill Project at the Edgewood Center to help teens throughout the Bay Area, and she took part in an award-winning documentary, *Motherland*, which brought her and other grieving mothers to Africa where they met people who also suffered tremendous loss.

Another former SI mom, Carole Mahoney, was so inspired by Anne's work that she and her colleague launched Project Grace. Since its inception, it has brought grieving parents to 15 countries to meet others who have experienced loss. This shared suffering heals and transforms as each learns how to endure from the other.

Carolyn Vinnicombe '09 also promotes *cura personalis* by teaching busy people how to cook healthy meals that involve few ingredients and little preparation time. She does this through her blog and YouTube channel and as a side job from helping her family's company, which is also in the business of selling healthy meals.

Vinnicombe knows that encouraging people to expand their diet to include non-traditional fruits and veggies will translate into farmers planting more diverse crops. Her work, then, helps to improve the planet, just as Dr. David Rentz '60 does through his study of insects and ecosystems in Australia. He has seen the devastation of climate change and pesticide run-off that is right now killing the Great Barrier Reef and causing drought even in the rainforest in which he lives. His books, he hopes, will help future entomologists as they continue his research.

How else do we stay healthy? By feeding our spirit. Paul Beaudry '90 does that as a celebrated jazz musician and as a goodwill ambassador whom the State Department has sent around the world to perform. That experience has helped him launch a new program he calls Intentional Collaboration to help people create bridges other than musical ones to resolve conflicts and build consensus.

Another way to feed the spirit is through adventure and play, and Kevin Yip '06 and Taylor Smith '06 have figured out a way to spread this brand of joy. They launched Blueboard, which lets companies reward stellar employees by letting them choose from a list of fun activities, including skydiving, kayaking, taking music lessons and traveling abroad.

"We have the coolest job in the world," added Smith. "We're helping deserving, hard-working people across the country do awesome things with friends and family. That gives us meaning."

And that, ultimately, is what SI hopes to do — achieve something awesome by empowering our students to care for their whole selves and then broaden their circle of care, one wide enough to include the entire planet. — *Paul Totah '75*

*Pictured are seniors Aleah Jayme and Taylor Spaulding, both scholar athletes and exemplars of what SI means when the school speaks of cura personalis — care for the whole person. Both took part in the Tenderloin Immersion last summer and each competed these past two years at the state cross country finals. Both also compete in track and field. Taylor received the Wildcat Award and the Most Improved Award in cross country and has volunteered more than 200 hours of community service. He is a member of the InSignis leadership team and is taking four advanced placement courses this year. Aleah spoke about social justice at the Arrupe Solidarity Leadership Summit and is a member of many clubs. She received three cross country awards over the years, including the program's top honor last year. She is also taking two advanced placement courses.*











# The Metz family ensures a medical legacy

Dr. Lionel Metz '98 is part of three generations that includes five doctors. Thanks to a scholarship in the name of his father — Dr. Leon Metz, Jr., a noted ophthalmologist — that legacy has gone past the bounds of family to include Dr. Meron Haile '06, who received that scholarship while a student at SI and who is now a resident in ophthalmology in San Francisco.

For Lionel, both legacies — the one stretching back to his grandparents and ahead to Meron — is profoundly moving. “My family is tremendously proud that students benefit from my father’s scholarship,” he noted from his office at UCSF, where he is on the faculty as an orthopedic spine surgeon. “It is wonderful to see young people go on to study medicine and pursue their dreams. If our family’s scholarship has helped in some small way with that, then we are glad. That’s why we established the scholarship.”

Lionel is also happy that the legacy extends to another person of color in the case of Meron, whose family comes from Ethiopia. Both he and Meron are proud to serve as role models for children of color.

“When I did my spine surgery fellowship at Washington University in St. Louis, I got in the elevator along with a young African American boy who looked up at me and asked, with a tone of astonishment: ‘You’re a doctor?’ His jaw dropped in disbelief, almost unaccepting when I said yes.”

Dr. Metz still gets that reaction each week when he drives to Children’s Hospital Oakland, where he spends half his time. “There are young boys and young men who have never interacted with or met an African American male doctor or surgeon, and the more exposure they have, the more they will realize that this is a profession that they too can pursue, if they so choose.”

His road to medical school was paved, in part, by his maternal grandfather, Philip Nicholas; by his parents, Leon and Allison; and by his sister, Marilyn Jones, doctors all.

Their story began when Philip immigrated to Nashville, Tenn., from Jamaica, in order to study at Meharry Medical College. He later brought over his wife and two daughters. After completing medical school and his residency in obstetrics, he went on to establish the joint department of OB/GYN at Meharry. He served as vice chairman of the department for 17 years and was dean of admissions for Meharry’s School of Medicine for 15 years.

His daughter, Allison Eleanor Nicholas, also studied medicine at Meharry, where she met and later married a fellow classmate six years her senior — Capt. Leon Metz, Jr., the son of a Louisiana sugar cane farmer. Leon, a graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge, had entered the Army in 1959 as a second lieutenant after completing ROTC, and he had spent six years in the service before enrolling at Meharry.

“We tell a story that our mother tutored our father in medical school,” said Lionel. “That might have been his ploy to get closer to her. My mom always said that he was older and more mature than the other students and thus was more persistent in pursuing her.”

After graduating from medical school in 1969, Leon and Allison moved to San Francisco, where they both completed medical internships at Letterman Army Medical Center at the Presidio of San Francisco. Leon went on to specialize in ophthalmology and was chief of the department for five years. He retired as a full colonel in 1983 after 23 years of active duty service before establishing a successful private practice in San Francisco. The Doctors Metz had four children — Marilyn, Leon III '96 (now an accountant), Lionel '98 and Laurence '01 (an exercise specialist and athletic trainer).

Their sons attended Stuart Hall and SI, and their daughter, Marilyn, went to Convent of the Sacred Heart and University High School. All the sons excelled at sports and earned Sportsman of the Year honors from Stuart Hall. Leon III and Lionel also took piano lessons and won awards at various recitals. Over the years, both Leon Jr. and Allison served terms on SI’s Board of Regents.

In 2000, Leon Jr. passed away after battling prostate cancer for many years. “He was a revered ophthalmologist and beloved father and husband,” said his wife. “In honor of his unfailing dedication to his family and his life’s work, we founded the Leon B. Metz, Jr. MD, Memorial Scholarship Fund to help provide the gift of an SI education to students in need of financial assistance.”

In 2002, when Meron entered SI, she was awarded that scholarship. She met Allison at several lunches sponsored by SI to introduce scholarship recipients to their donors, and that’s where she learned that Allison was a dermatologist at Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco. (She has since retired.)

Inspired by his parents’ success, Lionel served as senior class president and excelled at sports at SI, where he played football and served as captain of the track team, learning from coaches who would become mentors — men such as Steve Bluford '84, Joe Vollert '84 and Brian Richter.

He also went into medicine because of his parents. “I never had to wonder if it was possible for me to become a physician. I needed only to have the interest and the will to see it through.”

Lionel studied biochemistry and molecular biology at UC Davis, graduating summa cum laude in 2002. Before going on to medical school, he spent a year doing lab research with Jeff Lotz, Ph.D., on intervertebral disc regeneration. At UCSF, he was named both a Pathways to Discovery Fellow and a Regents Scholar — one of the highest honors a medical student can achieve. There, he fell in love with orthopedic medicine and the varied set of skills surgeons need to help patients. He deals with the complexities of spine anatomy and uses surgical techniques that involve both coarse and delicate medical maneuvers around the spinal cord.

Now an assistant professor at UCSF, he spends one day each week researching ways to assess risks involved in orthopedic surgery. He recently completed a study of 30,000 patients and found “risk factors that may predict perioperative complications. Patients who have been institutionalized in nursing homes, who are of an advanced age or morbidly obese or who are dependent on others for daily living have increased risk — all of which makes sense. Knowing this ahead of time, we can deploy extra resources. We can put them on a floor with a higher nurse-to-patient ratio, and we can schedule their surgeries earlier in the week so they won’t have to recover over the weekend when staffing is more limited.”

Dr. Metz also sees tech sector workers with high rates of neck and low back pain and disc degeneration from their many hours sitting in front of a computer. “That’s why I encourage people to use sit/stand desks and to vary their position every 45 minutes or so.”

At 36, he has already seen major changes in his profession, especially with pediatric scoliosis treatment that no longer involves body casts, and with new ways to help people who progressively lean forward and hunch over as they age. “We can correct this with surgery and improve the quality of life in adult patients who exert so much energy just trying to stay upright that they can’t do their daily activities.”

Both at UCSF and at Washington University in St. Louis, where he spent a year on a spine surgery fellowship, Dr. Metz has worked with giants in his field including Dr. Sigurd Berven, Dr. Lawrence Lenke and Dr. Dan Riew. “They were amazing and set my trajectory.”

He is heartened by the changes successful surgery can make in a patient’s life. One man, an immigrant from England, wrote to thank him, noting that “this past year has been so different from the 15 years preceding. I can exercise and hike without sickening pain and sleep through the night without feeling that I have played 80 minutes of rugby.”

“When I learned how quickly he recovered and how his life has changed thanks to surgery — that was a profound moment for me. So, too, was the first time anyone called me ‘doctor.’ When I heard that title back in my first year of residency, I felt an increased sense of duty to my patients. I knew I would need to give my all in every instance to live up to that title.”

Dr. Metz hopes to stay at UCSF, work toward full professorship, continue his research and become a leader in the field of spine surgery.

“Looking back, I recognize how incredibly blessed I am to live in the best city, in the best state, in the best country in the world doing exactly what I want to do. If I had a billion dollars, I would still want to do spine surgery. I love taking care of patients.”







**A.** Dr. Lionel Metz '98, an orthopedic surgeon at UCSF, is one of five doctors in his family that includes his grandfather, both parents and his sister.

**B.** Dr. Meron Haile '06 received a scholarship at SI named for Dr. Leon Metz, Jr. She now is following in his footsteps by studying to be an ophthalmologist to help improve vision throughout the Bay Area, including underserved communities in the East Bay.

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## ***Meron Haile '06: Continuing the legacy***

Dr. Haile, like Lionel Metz, also feels fortunate to be where she is, and she thanks the Metz family for helping her get there. "I met Dr. Allison Metz at several lunches at SI, and she took me to the symphony after one of our meetings," said Haile. "But I lost her contact information and didn't see her again until late 2016 at a funeral. I told her I had been looking for her for years to thank her, as I'm grateful to her for the education her family's scholarship allowed me to receive. And knowing that her husband was an ophthalmologist, I feel as if we have come full circle."

Dr. Haile and her sister, Yeshi Haile '05, are the daughters of Tekle Haileselassie and Tsehay Hailemekot, both immigrants from Ethiopia. (Tekle, their father, died in 2015 from lung cancer after a career working for MUNI. Tsehay spent most of her career working at CPMC in reception and as a support assistant.)

While a student at Katherine Delmar Burke School, Meron lived with her family in a one-bedroom apartment. "It didn't quite compare to the Pacific Heights mansions many of our classmates lived in, but we loved it just the same," she noted.

At 7, Dr. Haile was diagnosed with diabetes and soon began a regimen of checking her blood sugar, regulating her food intake and giving herself insulin shots. "My relationships with my doctors, whom I saw frequently, had a big impact on how I grew up."

At SI, she performed in school musicals and served as a team captain for Dance and Drill. Even though she wasn't certain she would be a doctor then, she was pleased to meet Allison Metz "as it felt as if I was being helped by someone from within my own community. We are now linked, too, by certain experiences common to people of color in medicine."

Dr. Haile went on to study social and cognitive neuroscience at Harvard and medicine at UCSF, where she graduated in 2014. After a yearlong internship at Huntington Memorial Hospital in Pasadena, she went on to CPMC for her residency, which she will finish in 2018.

She chose ophthalmology as her field because procedures "such as cataract surgery can change the socioeconomic status of patients more than almost anything

else. People come to a clinic legally blind, unable to find work, and after 20 minutes, their lives are completely changed."

In the summer of 2011, Dr. Haile visited Ethiopia for the first time and did research related to eye infections. "It felt amazing to learn among Ethiopian doctors, as they have far less technology than their American counterparts and rely almost exclusively on their expert clinical examination skills. Unfortunately, they see patients at the end-stages of treatable diseases after extensive and sometimes irreversible damage has occurred."

Dr. Haile spends much of her time working at Highland Hospital, the county hospital for Oakland, which she calls "very gratifying but a tough place to work, as patients sometimes wait two and a half hours for a routine glaucoma check. It's infuriating, and we really need more physicians and support staff for this population with advanced and complex ophthalmologic conditions. Some are able to accept this as the nature of the county system, but as a physician of color, I feel a personal responsibility to go above and beyond for my patients in Oakland. That being said, in spite of the long wait times, we provide great care that they could not receive anywhere else."

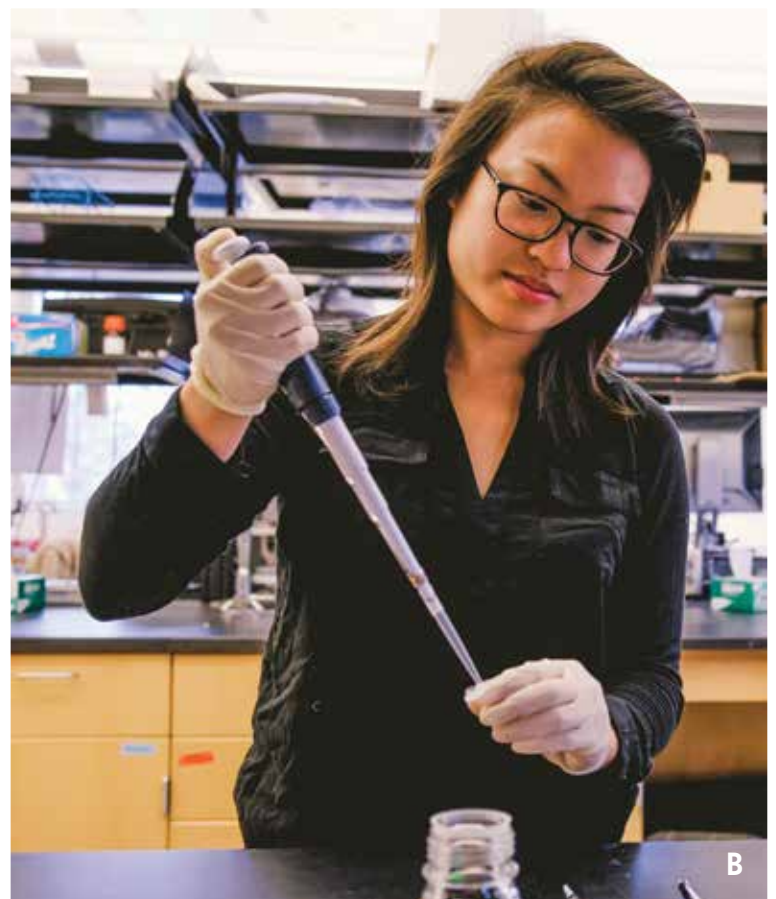
In her work, she experiences the challenges and opportunities of her immigrant clientele on a daily basis. "I had an elderly Chinese patient in the emergency room who didn't speak English and was too hard of hearing to use the translator phone. Although her son didn't speak English, he did speak some Spanish. So I, an Ethiopian-American doctor, spoke Spanish to a Chinese patient's son who translated that into Cantonese for his mother. That could have been a scene from a movie, and Highland Hospital may be the only place you'll see that happen."

In addition to being thankful to the Metz family for her scholarship, Dr. Haile also is grateful to her parents for sending her and her sister to great San Francisco schools. "They sacrificed so much to prioritize our education, so we must put it to good use. They are also a perfect example of immigrants who have contributed enormously to this country, and they inspire me to serve my community here in the U.S., in Ethiopia and anywhere else my expertise may be of use." ∞











# Mentoring the next generation of healers

You can find SI's biggest fan at most football games. He's there without fail, watching games that he says are more exciting and unpredictable than any college or professional contest.

Dr. Brian Feeley, an orthopedic surgeon at UCSF who specializes in sports medicine, stands on the sidelines in case of injury.

He's also a fan of another SI contingent — alumni who have worked with him over the years doing research at UCSF.

Those graduates — Chantal Nguyen '13, Georgina Lai '15, Allison Sheu '15 and Dr. Andrew Figoni '01 — earned Feeley's admiration for their professionalism and ability to “reason through problems,” he noted. The three women, he added, learned that skill in Marla Bottner's Sports Medicine class at SI. “Marla asks students to figure out what is going on, just like we do in the practice of medicine. She asks students to uncover the anatomical cause of pain and then suggest treatment options, both for the long and short term. She teaches her trainers to think like physicians, even at a young age.”

Dr. Feeley has had a chance to see Bottner in action for the past five years, as she goes to most games as SI's head athletic trainer. “Marla is one of those mythical people in San Francisco whom all athletic trainers know,” said Dr. Feeley. “She is incredibly well respected. Everyone speaks highly of her.”

He recalled working with her on a treatment plan for one football player who suffered a sprain to his medial collateral ligament. “I respected the way Marla spoke to him, his coaches and his parents. She wanted him to get back on the field but was even more concerned with his long-term health. She was firm in her conviction to maintain his safety, and she explained everything in a way that he and his parents could instantly understand.”

His respect for Bottner led him to speak in her sports medicine class, and there he found students whom he knew would succeed in his lab where they would go on to study how specific stem cells react to muscle injuries. “For the past two summers, I have been able to offer two to three internships in orthopedic research. For each of those summers, those slots all went to SI students.”

He praised Nguyen, Lai and Sheu for “making great leaps and for coming in with a solid base of knowledge. They contribute to the lab now as undergrads, continuing their research.”

Lai is enrolled in a nursing program at Simmons College in Boston, and Sheu is pursuing a double major in business administration and biology at Cal. Nguyen is a senior biology major at St. Bonaventure University and will soon pursue her medical degree at the George Washington University of Medicine and Health Sciences in Washington, D.C.

Working with Dr. Feeley, Lai dissected mice to study muscle injuries in the shoulder to determine ways to speed muscle recovery for athletes who suffer injuries. She froze muscle segments in liquid nitrogen and then made thin slices to analyze tissue.

Dr. Feeley, Lai noted, gave her feedback she needed to advance and supported her when she, along with Nguyen and Sheu, presented to fellow lab workers. “All three did a wonderful job in their presentations,” said Dr.

Feeley. “Like many SI students I know, they are comfortable speaking to older professionals and peers and can make eye contact better than most adults can.”

He praised Lai for her ability to “pick up scientific method well and contribute to projects for the past two years despite coming in without any lab experience,” Dr. Feeley said. “Allison, a student at Cal, worked at Lawrence Livermore Lab the year before and has shown increased independence. In addition, Nguyen and Sheu are authors of abstracts that will be presented this spring in national research meetings.”

All three young women, Dr. Feeley added, “made great leaps and offered significant contributions to the lab research. I've seen young people do the work without understanding quite what they were doing. These three understood and knew background information to determine why they were doing the research.”

The opportunity to work at UCSF “had a profound effect on why I chose to be where I am,” said Lai. “Both Dr. Feeley and Marla have been inspirations. Both gave me tangible experience. Here you are, working with an orthopedic surgeon who is established in his field and who is giving high school students the opportunity of an internship at a place with the best facilities and technologies.”

Nguyen echoed Lai, noting that working with Dr. Feeley “in one of the top academic institutions nurtured my love for science. It showed me that the art of learning transcends the confines of classrooms and can be made tangible through basic science and clinical research, both of which ultimately improve the lives of others.”

She has learned “to be more dynamic in critically analyzing, proposing and presenting hypotheses based on a series of observations. I've been so blessed to be under Dr. Feeley's wing, and I have been inspired to take the fruits of this experience into my own independent research ventures at St. Bonaventure and beyond.”

Sheu added that working with Dr. Feeley “accelerated my learning in research and science. He has such a depth of knowledge in his own field and is able to explain, with interest and passion, the general healthcare field to students. I'm so grateful I was able to meet him after his presentation in Marla's sports medicine class and have learned so much through the opportunities he's given me.”

Dr. Feeley's passion about teaching, Sheu added, “is demonstrated each time anyone asks a question, even when it was a mere high school student like me. He took the time to break down concepts in understandable ways. Beyond giving me an interest in science, he cemented my desire to pursue medicine.”

For his part, Dr. Feeley describes working with SI students as a joy. “I won't sugarcoat it,” he noted. “I've worked with other schools, and the experience is not nearly as rewarding. SI offers opportunities for everyone. That leads to well-rounded and well-spoken student-athletes who are fun to work with on the field and talented interns who are great to work with in the lab.”

Dr. Feeley now has the opportunity to continue working with another SI grad — Dr. Andrew Figoni — on the field. Last year, Dr. Figoni did a sub-internship at UCSF in sports medicine and recently received his MD. He will spend the next five years working at UCSF as an orthopedic resident, and he will also take his turn on the sidelines at SI games in case he is needed. ∞

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**A.** Dr. Brian Feeley outside his UCSF's Mission Bay medical center, where he has worked with several SI grads over the years.

**B.** Chantal Nguyen '13 worked at a molecular biology and biochemistry lab at St. Bonaventure University, where she isolated a set of eukaryotic genomic DNA for next-generation sequencing.





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# Legacy of Grace Magill '07 lives on through shared grieving and healing

Grace Magill, who would have graduated from SI in 2007, died from suicide on Jan. 1, 2005. She was 15 years old. For her parents — and for all parents of deceased children — there is simply nothing worse.

Her mother, Anne, calls Grace's death "the most horrible tragedy ever for our family," but also notes one irony — some good happened in the wake of her death, including the creation of programs, scholarships and a building named for a young woman who was so filled with love.

"Her energy and enthusiasm live on," said Anne. "Her spirit each day gives us inspiration and guidance."

In the years following Grace's death, two programs were born with the aim of healing parents and teens — the Grace Magill Project at the Edgewood Center for Children and Families and a separate program with a similar name called Project Grace based in Marin.

In addition, Anne was included in and helped raise funds for a remarkable movie — *Motherland* — that, in 2009, won the Audience Award at SXSW, the Sebastopol Documentary Film Festival Jury Prize and the California Independent Film Festival's Best Documentary award.

At the time of Grace's death, midway through her sophomore year at SI, her mother was serving as board chair for Edgewood. "After Grace died, my first instinct was to help everyone else rather than turn inward," said Anne. "I was deeply concerned with those around me and wanted to help her friends get through this terrible tragedy."

Anne and her husband, Jim, directed donations to Edgewood and created the Grace Magill Project to evaluate how schools could do a better job of creating an environment that supports a holistic approach to emotional, social, physical, intellectual, occupational and spiritual well being.

They chose not to have the Grace Magill Project replicate the suicide prevention work of other organizations. Instead, they crafted a school-based program whose focus included educating students, parents and teachers and eliminating stigmas associated with mental illness; building peer-to-peer support; and understanding, recognizing and responding to signs of mental illness. In 2007, representatives from the Grace Magill Project worked with SI to help craft the framework for what would later become the Wellness program.

Anne's advice for parents who think their child may be suicidal is simple. "One of my biggest regrets is that I did not look Grace in her eyes and ask her if she was in so much pain that she wanted to end her life. I believe that people who are considering suicide need to have their pain acknowledged and to know that someone else can try to imagine a pain so great that the only way to end it is through suicide. I advise others not to be afraid to talk about this subject. Don't worry about the risk of 'giving someone the idea.' Believe me. Someone contemplating suicide already has the idea in his or her head."

Edgewood is in the midst of expanding the Grace Magill Project, especially with a change in clientele. "Edgewood has historically seen kids from high-needs families and neighborhoods — often foster care children who are struggling with mental health issues," said Nancy Rubin, Edgewood's CEO. "In the past five years, we have expanded our scope to include children from all social and economic backgrounds," including teens like Grace who could benefit from the project's efforts.

While Anne was launching the Grace Magill Project, she was contacted in 2006 by East Bay filmmaker Jennifer Steinman who was looking for mothers whose children had died. Her hope was to take them on a service trip to South Africa and document their experiences in a film that became *Motherland*.

"At this time, all of Grace's classmates were applying to college, and I was approaching 50," said Anne. "I was having a hard time when I received Jennifer's email, and I wondered what I would receive, metaphorically, from Grace for my birthday. After I was accepted to go on the trip, I learned the first meeting for those going was Nov. 12 — my birthday. That crazy coincidence, to me, was what Grace had sent me."

Steinman was inspired to make *Motherland* when her friend had lost her son in a car accident. She also read *Race Against Time*, which recounts the story of the

AIDS epidemic in Africa. "I was so deeply moved by the notion of [South Africa being] a 'nation of mourners,' that I was motivated to do something — anything — to help the world heal," said Steinman.

For Anne, the film highlights the different styles of grief in the U.S. compared to most of the world. "Everyone in South Africa has lost one or two family members, and so they talk openly about it and help each other. Death is not a stigma, and no one turns away from grief. Most people in the U.S. don't deal well with pain, grief or loss. We become isolated."

In the South African district of Oudtshoorn, the six American women and six crew members went to the township of Bongoletu, where they stayed with a woman who had lost a child. They worked in a daycare center, led activities for at-risk teens and took care of physically challenged children.

"The volunteer work we did exposed us to the grief of others, which helped us begin our healing process," said Anne. "Jennifer shot more than 80 hours of film, and when we returned, she asked me to help produce and raise the money to complete the project. I experienced a different type of healing when we took the film to festivals and met people around the country who felt this was the most authentic film they had seen about grief."

After the film was made, some people wondered, "Why go abroad to find healing?"

"The answer is that there's something amazing about immersing yourself in another culture, especially in one that has suffered so much as South Africa," added Anne. Carole Mahoney and Catherine Bowen Stern, co-founders of Project Grace, have discovered this truth every time they lead trips of grieving parents abroad as a way of carrying forward the good they saw in *Motherland*.

Carole knew of Anne through her son, Brendan '07, who was one of Grace's close friends. Catherine knew Anne through their husbands, who worked together.

"Grace's death was hard on all of her friends, including Brendan," said Carole. "It is still a tragic memory after all these years."

Both Carole and Catherine helped raise funds for *Motherland* on Mothers' Day 2007, and both served on the board of the Center for Attitudinal Healing, a peer support center in Marin County. "We found *Motherland* such a powerful experience that we hoped to replicate it."

Since 2007, Project Grace has organized 15 trips to countries such as Greece, Turkey, Mexico, Nicaragua and Tanzania. The trip to Nicaragua, which was co-sponsored by Seeds of Learning, proved the largest, with 18 making the journey. (Todd Evans, the founder of Seeds of Learning and a bereaved father, has accompanied Project Grace on each trip to Nicaragua.)

Carole and Catherine earn no salary for their work, but they do raise money to help people who can't afford the \$2,500 fee for the trips. They also offer two trips each year, one just for mothers who have lost children and another for anyone who has lost a loved one. "We want those in grief to bring their stories of their children and immerse themselves in a culture that is more accepting of loss and grief. Many of our participants find that they became pariahs in our society after their children had died. They are told to move on with their lives and get over their grief. That is both insulting and unhealthy."

Those who go on the trips benefit from sharing stories of their loved ones with the larger group. After a morning work session and an afternoon rest period, participants gather before dinner. "Everyone gets a day to share her story," said Carole. "We dedicate the following day to that loved one. Some people bring cremains and spread ashes. All those who attend wear photo buttons of their loved one, and some share those buttons with the people we meet. In Nicaragua, we added our buttons to the foundation of the facility we were building."

Carole's daughter, Erin Mahoney '09, attended one trip to Tanzania and found that "the act of being witness to the life of someone who has died is a powerful one, for it allows us to continue with that person's memory and it transforms that loss into a source of compassion for others."







- A. Anne Magill was featured in the movie *Motherland* that brought mothers who had lost children to Africa to meet others who had suffered loss.
  - B. Carole Mahoney, whose son was friends with Grace Magill, was so moved by *Motherland* that she began Project Grace to continue the work of bringing grieving parents to meet with those in developing nations who also suffered loss.
  - C. Erin Mahoney '09, Carole's daughter, took part in one trip to Tanzania, where she worked with children in the Matonyok orphanage.
  - D. Anne Magill and her daughter, Grace.
- 

In Tanzania, Erin assisted the participants in building a goat shed and installing a solar light for a woman who was raising her late daughter's children.

"That goat will provide her with milk to sell, and the solar light comes with a power pack that allows her neighbors the opportunity to charge their cell phones," said Erin. "We also were able, just for a few moments, to hold her grief and relieve her of her emotional weight, just as we would offer to hold a child. This empathy is the core piece of our service — to offer to hold the weight of someone's burdens, if only for just a moment, to listen and to validate." What follows, added Carole "is that those who go on these trips become wounded healers and a community of grievers. They find their circles get bigger and tighter and they aren't abandoned just because they are grieving."

Carole gets the same questions that Anne received about why the service trips aren't done in the U.S. "We like our trips to cause a little discomfort," said Carole. "Flying on a plane with strangers breaks people open. Once you are in Tanzania, you can't say that this isn't working and go home. You have to commit to the journey. And when you ask yourself, 'What's the worst thing that can happen?' you realize that, 'Oh yeah. It already happened.'"

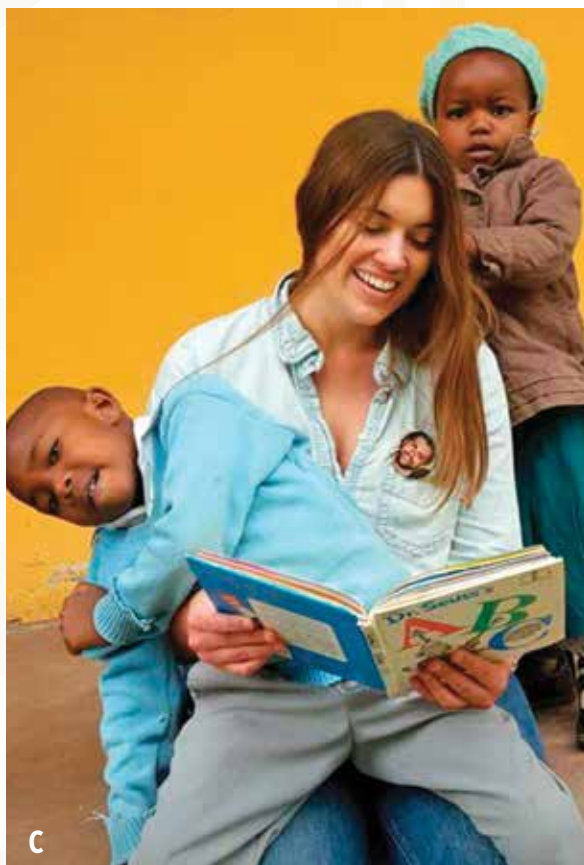
Those who attend the Project Grace trips find that, in contrast to their communities in the U.S., open mourning is an accepted part of healing. "People

in Greece have vessels to hold their tears," said Carole. "They believe that if you don't cry, the spirit dries up and goes away, so it's important to keep the tears flowing. Also, widows wear black for years. One mother who went on our trip lost her 10-year-old to a brain aneurism. She shaved her head because she wanted to let people know that she had suffered a loss. She told me that she didn't feel as if she could wear an armband or dark clothing, so she cut off her hair. She wanted some identifying feature that told people she was a grieving mother."

Another woman told Carole that "it was important for her to get out of herself and realize that everyone suffers. The trip helped her and others build new and positive memories around the loss. We saw women move from telling stories about their children's stays in hospitals to the goofy and wonderful things their children used to do when they were alive."

Grace's name can be found on the Grace Magill Arts and Science building at Katherine Delmar Burke School, several trees and benches and a number of educational, art and theater scholarship programs.

But for Anne, it's the success of both Project Grace and the Grace Magill Project that matters the most. "It's fantastic that Edgewood and Carole and Catherine carry on these programs. They are a testament to Grace's legacy." ∞







# *Carolyn Vinnicombe '09 shows just how easy it is to cook quick and healthy meals*

You come home after a long day of work. You're tired — too tired to cook a complicated meal and too tired to think about shopping for ingredients you're missing. Instead, you pick up a phone and order out.

Carolyn Vinnicombe '09 can show you a different path, one that she believes is healthier for you and the planet. She hails from three generations of family members involved in the food business, and she knows that meals can be simple to prepare and healthy to eat.

She shares her recipes and cooking tips on [carolynspantry.com](http://carolynspantry.com), on her Instagram feed and through her YouTube channel, where she offers step-by-step video instructions to prepare vegan and vegetarian meals. Her recipes have been published by *Prevention Magazine* and on the websites of Forks Over Knives, Whole Foods and wellness activist Kris Carr. Thousands also follow her work on social media.

All of Carolyn's recipes are plant-based and gluten-free and require only 30 minutes or less, 10 ingredients or less and one bowl or one pot.

"I work 60 to 80 hours a week, but I love to cook," she said. "I don't think meals should take you hours to prepare."

They are also delicious, thanks to her familiarity with flavor and spices. That tradition began with her parents, Mike and Rita Vinnicombe, who earned a reputation as innovators in the growing organic and natural foods market after starting Bright People Foods in 1998. They took a bet on a small brand they believed in — Dr. McDougall's Right Foods — and put their savings and hard work into the company, growing it into a leading national brand.

Carolyn joined the company as the manager of sales and marketing after graduating from the University of Pennsylvania. (She also has two sisters who are SI grads. Michelle '06 is pursuing an MBA at UC Davis, and Paige '16 is a student at the University of Texas in Austin, where she rows crew, coached by Mara Allen, her former SI coach.)

She found herself immersed in the world of cooking by watching her parents experiment with new recipes at home and taste-testing them in her family kitchen. She also earned money during summer months by working on production lines in their South San Francisco warehouse, and she represented the company on her own at 16 at a natural food show in Chicago.

Last year, when her parents expanded to new quarters in Woodland, Carolyn stayed at the family's San Mateo home with her sister. "I would cook for Paige every night while she was still at SI, and she started to like my food more and more," said Carolyn.

Based on her success with vegan and vegetarian cooking, she created a blog in the summer of 2016. Later, with advice from Richie Gordon '07, she began posting video onto her YouTube channel of herself preparing recipes.

Despite working long hours at her family business, she still finds time both to cook every night and to post her recipes online. "I love to cook, and I want to share my healthy recipes with people who are just as busy as I am."

Her websites allow her to connect to an ever-widening circle of fans. "They motivate me when, at 11 p.m., I have to decide between going to bed or posting another entry. I read comments from people who tell me I have changed the way they eat and helped them save money. That's really cool."

Carolyn takes issue with people who argue that, given the rise of home delivery services, people should leave cooking to expert chefs at restaurants. "Cooking your own meals is better for you than ordering out. It allows you to connect with your family and the earth around you. The process can be meditative, and the end result is healthy food in 20 minutes. That has been our whole idea as a food company as well. We always saw ourselves as partners in cooking fresh meals."

Like most foodies, Carolyn believes in preparing meals using local, in-season ingredients. In addition, she touts the "Forks Over Knives" philosophy, one that favors plants over meat, espoused by John McDougall, MD, who began the Dr. McDougall's line of foods.

She also believes in learning "how to use a few ingredients rather than buying too many ingredients that stay in your pantry too long. Food waste is a huge problem worldwide. Also, by purchasing foods that are new to you, you encourage the planting of a variety of veggies and grains. Try something new, like millet or teff or amaranth, and you will help create a market for producers who right now are just planting rice, corn and soybeans. Even if you eat one vegetarian or vegan meal a day, it will have a huge impact."

Carolyn didn't start out "as little miss perfect vegan. I ate a traditional diet and thought I could eat all I wanted. Then I noticed that I felt lethargic. Doctors told me I was normal, but that didn't set well with me. Feeling 'normal' shouldn't involve aches and pains and digestive issues. I discovered that by making simple alterations to my diet, especially eliminating sugar and dairy, I could make some symptoms disappear. Now I feel healthier than ever because I mainly eat plants and got rid of processed foods."

For all of her food passion, "I try not to hit people over the head with lectures about the environment. Instead, I want to show them that cooking is accessible. People just need a little hand-holding to discover how easy it is to make delicious food that is sustainable."

She especially hopes to convert people her age. "Most of my friends don't know how to cook or where to begin learning. There's a lot of mysticism surrounding the kitchen that makes people think they don't belong there unless they cook perfectly, but that's not what cooking is all about. I hope my recipes invite people into the kitchen so they can see just how easy and amazing vegan-friendly meals can be." ∞

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- A. Carolyn Vinnicombe preparing a meal for her YouTube channel.
  - B. Carolyn's beet and parsnip soup is both vegan and gluten free.





# David Rentz '60 receives awards, both honorable and Ig-Noble, for his study of Australia's insects

What bugs David Rentz '60? People who question the value of studying insects. They wonder why anyone would focus so much attention on creepy crawlies like cockroaches, crickets and katydids.

The reason, said Rentz, is that the natural world is filled with insects that are wondrous and beautiful — including some species of cockroaches — as well as others that pose tremendous dangers, such as tiny invasive ants that blind their victims as well as mites that can destroy bee colonies that pollinate plants that grow our food.

For his years of research, Rentz, was given in 2013 the Order of Australia award as he has made the land down under his home and area of study since moving there in 1977.

He is an expert in the insect order known as Orthoptera (grasshoppers, katydids, cockroaches, mantids and walking sticks), but he is best known for the Ig® Nobel Prize he received in 2011 for discovering in the 1980s that certain jewel beetles were so drawn to a specific kind of beer bottle that they tried to mate with it. (The Ig® Nobel Prize, according to its website, is awarded to achievements “that first make people laugh and then make them think.”)

The paper he published on this discovery was picked up by local radio and TV stations before the story spread like locusts over the airwaves. It even made its way onto an Australian postage stamp. “It was a small observation my colleague and I wrote up in a short note,” said Rentz from his home in Kuranda, Queensland, where he moved after retiring from his job in Canberra.

Those beetles were drawn to a brand of beer that used a bottle with a dimpled bottom. “Those dimples reflected the light in a way that made them a super charger for these beetles. We put out other beer bottles, but nothing offered the same attraction.”

Also attracted to the bottles were small ants that pulled the beetles to the ground to dismember them before eating them. “Some of the bottles had little bits of beetles left in them.”

Rentz's fascination with insects began at age 6 when he visited his grandmother's summer cabin in the Russian River town of Rio Nido. “I still remember crawling around with mayonnaise jars picking up grasshoppers and catching butterflies in a net she made for me. I was hooked at a very early age.”

Later, Rentz joined the Student Section of the California Academy of Sciences in Golden Gate Park, where he studied alongside teens such as Peter Raven '53, seven years his senior. Raven went on to teach at Stanford, where he and Paul Ehrlich developed the theory of coevolution. Raven later went on to international prominence as director of the Missouri Botanical Garden and was the first recipient of SI's Spiritus Magis Award in 2006.

While volunteering at the Academy, Rentz heard that the place to study entomology was UC Berkeley, where he later earned his bachelor's and doctoral degrees before working at the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia for five years. He spent two years back at the California Academy of Sciences before he was offered a job at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization in Canberra, about a three-hour drive southwest of Sydney, to work in the Australian National Insect Collection.

He and his wife spent the next 25 years in Canberra, where he published papers and books on Australian insects. He discovered that, unlike some of their American counterparts, Australian farmers were not interested in widespread spraying to kill insects. “They are interested in what lives on their land and they aren't out to kill insects. Instead, they work with and study nature. If you can't tell the difference between a robin and a sparrow or a grasshopper and a katydid, then there's no hope. You need to know when a new species comes in that causes trouble.”

Over the years, entomologists have helped farmers predict outbreaks of locusts and grasshoppers, which can grow so large in numbers “that they will eat the bark off trees, even palms, and every bit of green in an area while laying eggs that can last for years.” Farmers still use some pesticides, “but they keep that to a minimum because of the food standards.”

Entomologists are also on the lookout for three species of ants that have come to Australia on shipping containers or in luggage. “A couple of them will devastate us

if they get a foothold, which they seem to be doing. One ant, which is a fraction of a millimeter long and that you can barely see, is a ground-dwelling ant that occurs in the millions. None of the 20 species of native ants can compete with it. This invasive species eats other insects and lizards. The ants fall into rivers to form rafts that float downstream to colonize new areas. They also climb onto birds and mammals and go straight for the eyes. Their bites blind the animals, which starve because they can no longer find food. We are trying to figure out how to stabilize or eliminate these ants through biological controls.”

Efforts to control pests in the past haven't worked so well, as with the cane sugar beetle. Growers released cane toads, native to North America, hoping they would eat the beetles. “That was wrong-headed from the start, as those beetles live underground for most of their lives and fly off as soon as they surface. Sadly, everything that eats a cane toad or its tadpoles is poisoned except for one or two species of snakes. Cane toads are also great predators and eat everything that lives above ground from small lizards on down. They are spreading to other areas and eliminating mammals that eat them, including certain marsupials.”

Australian officials are now on the watch for other invasive non-natives, such as the verroa mite that has devastated the American honeybee industry. “If that mite makes its way into Australia, it will destroy our bee industry, and that threatens more than the production of honey, as bees are important pollinators.”

After his retirement, Rentz and his wife moved to the warmer climes of Kuranda in Queensland, in the northeast corner of the continent. “We have cassowaries, wallabies, brush turkeys and cockatoos that wonder by our home. We feel as if we are living in a zoo, but we're the ones inside a cage.”

Like many other scientists in Australia, Rentz is also seeing first hand the effects of climate change. “Here we are living in a rainforest, yet we're in the middle of a drought. Also, the oceans are very warm, well over 30 degrees centigrade. I work with two doctoral students who are studying one island in the Great Barrier Reef, and they tell me that much of the northern reef is already dead and covered with green algae produced both by the warming oceans and the runoff of pesticides and fertilizers used in the farming of sugar cane along the coast. Once word spreads, tourism operators will lose money, and tourism is the number one money spinner in northern Australia.”

Now, at age 74, he is thinking about the greatest good he can do in his retirement. He has written three books designed to help people learn more about the insects that he has studied nearly all of his life. “Those who come after me can take my books and use them as a foundation on which to build.”

One of his books discusses the 93 species of cockroaches found in Australia that range from 5 millimeters to 6 centimeters in length. “Australia may be a unique place for cockroaches, and not all are ugly looking. Some are so colorful that most people mistake them for beetles. And of the 1,000 species of cockroaches in the world, only a few species are found in kitchens. They are a vital part of the ecosystem as they help plant material decompose, and they provide food for lizards and birds.”

The most colorful insects Rentz has studied have made their way into his wife's line of work. “In addition to teaching physical fitness, Barbara is a fashion designer. She ran a modeling agency that she called Phase Mode, named after a genus of katydids called Phasemodes. Some of the dresses she has designed are based on the patterns and colors found in katydids.”

Rentz has also dedicated himself to the arts. He produces a radio show that airs the music of the 1920s and '30s. His fascination with those musical decades started while he was a student at SI frequenting a store called the Record Exchange. Since 1978, he has presented a show called Hit Parade of Yesterday on Australian community radio. He now produces from home his two-hour show, which is broadcast by 27 stations across Australia. “Some of this old music was recorded before the radio was widely used,” he added. ∞

**If you want to read more about Dr. Rentz, check out his blog at [www.bunyipco.blogspot.com](http://www.bunyipco.blogspot.com). To listen to his web-streamed radio show, go to <http://artsound.fm/> at 4 p.m. Friday, Sydney time.**

**A.** Dave Rentz and his wife, Barbara, at a conference of the Orthopterists' Society in China in 2009.

**B.** *Segestidea queenslandica*, a katydid at 4 inches, one of the largest in Australia and named by Dave. “It was surprising that such a large insect had gone unnoticed by science until relatively recently,” he noted.

**C.** *Ingrischagraecia iterika*, another katydid named by Rentz.





# Paul Beaudry '90 creates musical harmony with his jazz diplomacy and Intentional Collaboration

Paul Beaudry '90 has done more for diplomacy than most diplomats. A jazz musician and producer, he has toured dozens of countries since 2000 with several world-renowned jazz artists. Through the U.S. Department of State, he has also performed with his jazz quartet and met with audience members and other musicians.

Based on the success of his musical efforts, he has developed a program that he calls Intentional Collaboration, which brings the best of the music world into areas of conflict to promote dialogue and healing.

The New York-based jazz musician has also produced several albums for other artists and recorded three CDs on his own that include many original compositions.

He has collaborated and toured with jazz greats such as Steve Turre, Wylliffe Gordon, Allan Harris, Winard Harper and Eric Lewis, and he currently leads his own quartet — Paul Beaudry and Pathways.

Beaudry, who is also on the faculty at Teachers College at Columbia University, first listened to jazz on his father's radio. "We always had some kind music playing in the house, from Sinatra to Duke Ellington, with some classical thrown in as well," said Beaudry.

He learned the piano, trumpet and drums and performed with his middle school band and at SI, where he played drums for the SI orchestra and pep band.

Beaudry was impressed by the great education he had at SI, "from the high quality English classes to the emphasis on service outside the classroom. SI is one of the top schools in the Bay Area if not the state, and my teachers pushed us to be the best we could be. SI taught us to bring to the community as much as we could and mean something to the world."

He went on to study computer science at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where he received a full scholarship. He also switched to the electric bass because "living in a dorm, I had to play something quieter than my drums and trumpet," said Beaudry. "I didn't want to make any enemies."

He also listened to more jazz, including Miles Davis, Dave Brubeck and Ahmad Jamal and eventually made the transition from an electric to an upright bass. Before graduating from Cal Poly, though, he studied at Cal State Northridge and U.C. San Diego to see if he could break into the music business in Southern California. He returned to Cal Poly "as I didn't want to leave my bachelor's degree unfinished."

His musicianship earned him a fellowship to the Aspen Music Festival and School. He went from there to the Berklee College of Music in Boston and later to Queens College in New York, earning, respectively, a second bachelor's in classical composition and a master's degree in jazz performance. He learned to arrange, compose and produce while switching between piano and bass.

He has made New York his home and base of operations since 2000. He has played throughout the U.S. and, in 2004, started performing internationally with Wylliffe Gordon and Steve Turre, with initial tours in Helsinki, Istanbul, Athens and Paris.

Three years later, he began performing abroad through the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, which sent a jazz quartet in which he was performing to the Middle East. There, Beaudry found himself in a region opposed to U.S. politics.

"We had to be on our best behavior. Our purpose was to establish a personal connection with the people we met. Governments, laws and alliances may change, but the culture of any country will outlast everything else. Our hope was to give people a real view of what Americans are and see for ourselves what life is like for people in other countries."

In one performance in Jordan, one audience member stood up and shouted when he realized that the U.S. State Department had sponsored the event. "He called us blood-sucking capitalists. We didn't know if he had a bomb on him. Our

bandleader simply told him that we were there to connect as people. He sat down and listened to us perform. We met him afterwards and had a great conversation and real fellowship with him."

Music is the perfect medium to make fellowship happen, Beaudry said, "because sound and music predate language and evoke physical and emotional responses that happen even before thought takes place. When a musician and audience experience the same song, they have no barriers. It's even more powerful when you dance in the same room or sing in the same church. Then you become part of one thing. It may be a cliché, but it's true: Music is the universal language."

His travels and education have also taught Beaudry another central truth, that "people around the world share three things in common: music, math and love, and the best music includes both math and love."

Since his first State Department trip, Beaudry has continued to work as an unofficial ambassador. After he started Paul Beaudry and Pathways in 2009, he traveled to Latin America in 2010. He has since played in 37 nations in Europe, Central Asia and Latin America, sponsored both by Jazz At Lincoln Center and the State Department.

Audiences in these countries experience a bit of America just by seeing the racial make-up of Beaudry's band. "Our saxophone player and piano player are white, I'm mixed and the drummer is black. That helps those abroad see our band a certain way, and they treat us more warmly than if we were entirely white. People know what African Americans have gone through."

Beaudry's band released a self-titled debut CD in 2010 and another album, *Americas* in 2012. His third album is about to debut. He also recently released a program he calls Intentional Collaboration to encourage dialogue and compassion among people from disparate cultures. "When you collaborate with someone, whether it's playing music on stage or negotiating a business deal, you first have to examine your intentions. Do you want to build consensus or simply prove you are right? You need to build upon the premise that you have compassion for others as well as yourself."

Given the diverse groups with whom he has performed, Beaudry has studied what combinations work best. "Diverse teams outperform homogenous teams, unless that diversity is forced upon a group. Everyone has to be on board, and then you find better results. If you're open to wide perspectives and are willing to grow, then it's easier to compromise."

Intentional Collaboration also involves paying attention to the different ways people communicate and perceive — visual, auditory and kinesthetic. "Once you identify this for yourself and your partners, then you need to alter your communication mode to meet the perception style of the person you're talking to. At the end, you need to evaluate your success and, if necessary, make adjustments."

Beaudry has given one seminar on Intentional Collaboration and is working on a website and further seminars to help create bridges similar to those he has built as a musician. "I'm used to collaborating with artists on stage, and I've seen that musicians make connections easily because we are willing to throw prejudices out the window. High-level jazz musicians are dedicated to our music, and we'll do whatever it takes to make a great performance happen."

He also works to create collaboration on the basketball court, where he coaches his 13-year-old son's team. "Ironically, I've had some ecstatic moments on stage, but even more coaching my son's team."

For more on Beaudry's efforts, go to [www.intentionalcollaboration.com](http://www.intentionalcollaboration.com) and [paulbeaudry.com](http://paulbeaudry.com). ☞

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**A.** Paul Beaudry switched from drums to stand-up bass while in college in order not to make enemies playing in close quarters.

**B.** Beaudry and the group he founded, Pathways, has played in dozens of countries around the world on tours funded by the U.S. Department of State. He is pictured here in Livingston, Guatemala, where he taught students musical lessons.





# Kevin Yip and Taylor Smith, both '06, preach rewards beyond the gift card

Kevin Yip '06 and Taylor Smith '06 say they have the coolest job in the world. They may be right, especially as it's one they created for themselves. It's also a job that has provided thousands of people experiences that they will never forget.

Both Yip and Smith are co-founders of Blueboard, a company that makes it easy for companies to reward employees by giving them opportunities to explore passions and interests ranging from kayaking in the San Francisco Bay to staying in a Moroccan oasis resort. Customers include local tech firms, such as Pinterest, GoPro and Eventbrite, as well as traditional companies, including Chick-fil-A and Otis Elevators.

While rooming together after college and working long hours, the two came up with the idea for the company. "We put on 20 pounds and felt mentally and physically exhausted all the time," said Yip. "My girlfriend wasn't talking to me, as I was spending so much time at work covering for a colleague who had just left. At the end of a project, my boss thanked me by handing me an American Express gift card. That actually made me feel less valued and more of a commodity."

Both wondered what companies could do, instead, to reward employees. They realized that "companies need to separate recognition from compensation," said Smith. "Your salary is what you get for completing the job you were hired to do. Recognition is the company saying 'thank you' for going above and beyond your responsibilities. Gift cards aren't the answer."

Instead, companies can go to Blueboard and make a range of experiences available to employees at various price points. For \$150, companies can offer employees the choice of feeding sharks at an aquarium, enjoying a kayak adventure, doing a GoCar tour or renting a bike to ride across the Golden Gate Bridge.

At higher price points, anything is possible, from skydiving lessons and an all-expense-paid James Bond adventure to an unforgettable desert retreat in Marrakesh. "A lucky employee and her husband flew first class for a stay in Morocco, where they toured a market in Marrakesh in a Land Rover," said Yip. "They spent several nights at an oasis resort in the middle of a desert and enjoyed camel rides, star gazing and sand surfing."

Another lucky employee made use of Blueboard's concierge service, which tailor-makes adventures for employees, such as an Austin man who is an audiophile. "We arranged for an after-hours visit to a high-end audio store in town," said Smith. "He met with a private salesperson, and his company paid for the best speakers he could find. He wrote to us about how fortunate he feels sharing beautiful sounding music with his children. This guy wanted something right in his own backyard that is unique. And that's what's important — we make people's wildest dreams come true, and this man will be thankful to his company forever."

Other adventures include — among hundreds — skydiving, guitar lessons, hiking the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu, taking lessons to perform stand-up comedy, learning how to blow glass, kayaking in Bodega Bay and touring the Galapagos Islands.

"We also search for great packages and for providers with character," said Yip. "Clay Bonavito, for instance, is a phenomenal skydiving instructor at Bay Area Skydiving in Byron. He has done 15,000 jumps and has invented some of the parachute equipment in use today. He cares more about his sheer love of the sport and for the safety of his customers than he does about maximizing profit by packing as many people into a plane as he could and by charging a ton of money. We look for people just like Clay."

Yip, Blueboard's COO, and Smith, the company's CEO, first met when they were in third grade in an all-Japanese basketball league in San Mateo. "Three of the five players had to be Japanese, and we are both half Japanese," said Yip.

They lost touch after basketball but reconnected the morning of the first day of their SI freshman year, when they both boarded the Peninsula CYO bus. "That was the start of our friendship," said Smith. "We caught an extra hour of sleep for the next year and a half riding in together."

Both excelled at sports at SI, with Yip competing in pole vault, basketball, football and lacrosse. Smith played basketball and baseball and also found a home in the band room playing drums and piano for orchestra leader Nick Sablinsky '64.

In their senior year, they took part in the San Francisco immersion experience, led by former SI physics teacher Mac Cannady. They painted schools, worked at St. Anthony's Foundation and fell in love with service work.

They parted ways for college, with Yip majoring in economics and Chinese at UC Davis and Smith studying industrial engineering and operations research at Cal.

That's where Smith saw a big blue bulletin board on Sproul Plaza that had all sorts of advertisements for local adventures and activities with little tabs of phone numbers and websites for people to tear off. "That later became the genesis of Blueboard, as we wanted the company to be a digital representation of that sign," said Smith.

They had the idea for their company after college when they lived in an Inner Sunset apartment on 11th Avenue along with SI classmate Chris Blake '06. "We saw ourselves falling into a routine, working 12 hours a day, drinking beer and gaining weight — rinse and repeat every day," said Yip. "We made a pact, all three of us, to pick a hobby and commit ourselves to do something at least once a week for six months. Taylor took singing lessons, I studied the martial art of Krav Maga, and Chris took guitar lessons. We found that each week we looked forward to our activity. We talked about what we were doing and had more energy. Now, with Blueboard, we want to challenge people to leave their comfort zones."

The company went through several iterations before becoming a place that now serves 60 companies who buy packages of rewards for their employees. By 2018, Yip and Smith hope to grow that customer base to 100 companies and expand beyond their 15 employees who now work on Minna Street in San Francisco's SOMA District.

For all the company's success, it almost never launched. "We took 80 meetings looking for venture capital support," said Smith. "Finally, we saw one VC on LinkedIn with whom we had one mutual connection — Mr. Cannady, who had led our SI immersion trip. At the meeting, when we mentioned our former physics teacher, our eventual backer said, 'Oh, you mean Kegstand Mac.' The two men had been friends at SCU, and that helped our meeting begin with a different tone."

That VC is part of the Renren Network, a Chinese social networking service. "They bought into our company's vision and mission, which is to get people out and about," said Yip. "We see ourselves as the network that creates opportunities for experiences and joy, and the more that happens, the better the world will be. When we explained our philosophy to the CEO of Renren, he told us that he wanted to go surfing and skydiving with us."

"We have the coolest job in the world," added Smith. "We're helping deserving, hard-working people across the country do awesome things with friends and family. That gives us meaning." ∞

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A. Kevin Yip (standing at right) and Taylor Smith (third from left) lead a team that crafts rewards and experiences for hard-working employees of other companies.

B. Taylor Smith (right) came up with the name for Blueboard by looking at the big bulletin board at Cal, where he studied, that served as a place to advertise services and items for sale.

C. One Blueboard recipient, Heidi, chased the Northern Lights, a reward she received after her employer, Delphix, contacted Blueboard, which put the vacation together for her. Yip and Smith also arranged for Cate from Nimble Storage to sail over waves off Costa Rica.



## Chelsea Walker-Mao '97 returns to SI to teach yoga as part of SI's Wellness Program

Chelsea Walker-Mao '97, who teaches yoga, Pilates and mindfulness meditation in both community and private settings, has taught yoga to SI students for the past two years.

She began when her classmate and SI Wellness teacher Jenene Slatt '97 invited her to teach yoga to sophomores. Walker-Mao, who trained in India in 2004, has taught young children, teens, athletes, seniors and pre-natal and post-natal women.

"I had such a great time with the sophomores last year that I happily agreed to teach again this year," she noted. "The students were very receptive to both the challenging parts as well as the ending relaxation during each session. I was thoroughly impressed with their maturity and respect while trying something out of the ordinary."

Yoga, she added, "is an ongoing, transformative practice of self-care and self-study. It helps to create mental stillness and calm, a place from which to reflect on one's experience, habits, fears, hopes, strengths and weaknesses. It allows us to approach challenges with more awareness, attention and compassion. It's also always accessible."

Walker-Mao points to the market built around yoga and mindfulness, including special clothing, props and spaces. "These are all wonderful supports, but I most enjoy keeping things simple in order to help people



realize that all they truly need is the presence of mind to pay attention to their breath, body, mind and heart. Essentially, you can do yoga anywhere and at any time."

She believes that "everyone can benefit from mindful movement. That is why I enjoy

teaching it so much, whether in studios or non-traditional places like schools and corporations. It helps on so many levels and is relevant throughout all of life's stages." ∞



SI's Cancer Awareness Club staged its annual **RELAY FOR LIFE** in the Cowell Pavilion in March when rain brought the group indoors. These students and many more raised money to support cancer research while honoring loved ones with cancer.





**ABOVE:** Stefan Mayo '89 (left) and his daughter, Solia Mayo '20 (center), were among the Gable Heart Beats crew to return to SI to screen students for possible heart conditions.



**ABOVE:** The juniors pictured above went to Alemany Farm as part of SI's annual Stewardship Week. Their classmates volunteered throughout Golden Gate Park, Ocean Beach and the community garden adjacent to SI.

## Two former SI dads, Sal Rizzo & Frank Verducci, serve SI and San Francisco's poor

Both Sal Rizzo and Frank Verducci saw their children graduate from SI years ago. Both put in their time in the Fathers' Club — Rizzo as president and auction chair and Verducci as a board member.

And they aren't finished. For years, they have continued to serve the Fathers' Club and the Christmas Store — run both by SI and the Dominican Sisters of San Rafael through St. Dominic's Church — by donating tons of produce and the 24-foot truck needed to haul the produce and everything else that SI students gather each year.

Last December, for example, Rizzo's firm, The Grant J. Hunt Company, donated 420 5-pound bags of potatoes, 336 5-pound bags of oranges, a like number of 5-pound bags of apples and 400 3-pound sacks of onions.

Rizzo, who works as vice president of marketing for the Oakland-based company, began donating shortly before his children came to SI. (Sal and his wife, Linda, have four children — Sal '02, Natalie '04, Michela '07 and Sofia '09.) His company also donates all the produce used in the annual Joey Alioto Crab Feed organized by the Fathers' Club.

"It all started in 1998 with a phone call from my friend Fred Tocchini '66," said Rizzo. "He asked me if I could help, and I asked him, 'How many boxes?'" Since then, every year Verducci rents a large truck, drives to Oakland to pick up the pallets of produce and then returns to SI to pick up boxes of food and toys collected by students.

Both men continue to serve the Christmas Drive for the same reason: They find joy in helping the poor, and by doing so, they carry on the lessons handed down to them from their parents.

"My kids are long gone from SI, but I still help out because anyone can write a check," said Verducci. "If I can donate my time, which is more valuable than dollars, that means more



From left, Frank and Monica Verducci and Salvatore '02 and Sal Rizzo at the Grant J. Hunt Company warehouse that supplies produce for the Christmas Drive.

to me. I always set that day aside to give back to the community. It's a great cause, helping people less fortunate than I am."

Verducci, who began driving for the Christmas Store as far back as 1996, also serves in a larger context. His two sons include Andrew '03 and Frank III '00, a lieutenant commander in the U.S. Navy stationed in Jacksonville, Fla. Verducci works to send more young men and women to the Naval Academy, which his son attended, and this year assisted 11 SI students and other San Francisco teens with their applications.

Rizzo's belief in service also has ties to the military. During World War II, his father, Sam, served in Italy where he met Olga, whom he would later marry. "Her wedding dress was made from parachute nylon," said Rizzo. "Just

as they left the church after their wedding, the announcement was made that the war in Europe had ended."

His parents, Rizzo added, taught him by "giving unconditionally despite having so little. All they did was take care of their family. They are my single biggest inspiration."

Rizzo serves, he added, because "it's a thrill to give to people you don't even know. That's what warms my heart. Why do I donate to SI? There's still a need. I also realize how fortunate I am. How much is enough in our lives? If you're a certain kind of person, you find the time to give back to your community. That's your responsibility. What else is there in life than helping others? There's no greater gift." ☞





**LEFT:** Dean Kamen, the inventor of the Segway, and Carmen Chu, SF's assessor-recorder, greeted students at the competition. **RIGHT:** Moderator Don Gamble with SI's team.

## SI hosts SF's first regional robotics tournament and Segway PT inventor Dean Kamen

When SI hosted 41 schools to compete in robotics at the Sunset District campus in mid-March, many found an intriguing coincidence in the name of the host organization.

**FIRST** — For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology — the organization that sponsors robotics competitions, has held events in Silicon Valley and in Sacramento in past years, but never before in San Francisco.

The event was also a first for Don Gamble, one of three moderators for SI's team. He was named Volunteer of the Year for the region for spending hundreds of hours over the past few months to organize the event.

The competition was also the first time SI's robot decided to turn upon and attack its student-creators in a brief moment of hilarity. During the autonomous portion of the event, members of SI's Team 5924: The Cat Machine, loaded their robot with whiffle balls that were meant to be fired into a nine-foot-tall target. (Fitting with the steam-punk theme of the competition, the target was made to look like an old-fashioned boiler.)

"When the buzzer sounded, SI's robot turned a little too far and began firing directly at the drive team students who were standing behind a Plexiglas wall," said Gamble. "But that's part of the learning curve. We adjusted

the programming so that it wouldn't aim at its creators for the next match."

The event featured three schools from Turkey as well as high school teams from California, Hawaii and Arizona, all of whom were greeted by SI President Eddie Reese, S.J. As gracious as Father Reese was, the following speaker, Dean Kamen, was like a rock star to the budding engineers. The inventor of the Segway PT and president of the DEKA Research and Development Corp., Kamen founded FIRST in 1989. His robotics organization now serves more than 300,000 people in more than 60 countries.

Students lined up to take selfies with Kamen and to meet the man who transformed their lives. "He has given students a chance to learn real-world engineering and immerse themselves in hardcore problem-solving scenarios in a hands-on way," said Gamble. "SI's students, for example, gained a tremendous amount of knowledge in the fields of mechanical, software and electrical engineering this year."

Gamble's students, in turn, shared their knowledge, as FIRST stresses cooperation as much as it does competition. This year, SI students worked with middle school students through the Chinatown YMCA, and they have plans to work with students at the Fr. Sauer

Academy, Youth SF, St. Thomas the Apostle and AP Giannini to teach them skills and support them as they start their own robotics teams.

Assisting Gamble as team moderators were math teacher Brian Murphy and Spanish teacher Pedro Cafasso. "These are invaluable men who made for a great team," said Gamble. "None of this could have happened without them, as it takes a lot of work during the build season and going into the regionals."

Gamble also praised the students on his team for making it to the quarterfinal stage of the playoffs, where they lost to the eventual championship alliance that included two-time world champion Bellarmine College Preparatory, which took SI under its wing last year when Gamble first launched the program.

"In 15 years as an educator, I've never before seen this level of collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking," noted Gamble. "I'm grateful to the students, their parents and our mentors for the countless hours they spent. My two daughters, 4 and 6 years old, were in the stands mesmerized along with many other children who now realize that they can be engineers one day and that it can also be quite fun and extremely cool. FIRST likes to say that robotics is a 'varsity sport for the mind.' It truly is." ∞



## Brother Douglas Draper, S.J., celebrates a half century at SI

Brother Douglas Draper, S.J., who first came to SI Oct. 12, 1966, to assist Dean of Students Leo Hyde, celebrated 50 years at SI last year.

Soon after he took over as dean in 1969, students not only from SI but also throughout the city knew that there was a new sheriff in town — one whom they learned to respect thanks to his fairness and wisdom.

When he stepped down from that post in 2008, he was by far the longest-serving dean of students among all U.S. Jesuit high schools. Since then, he has continued his service to the school as moderator of the Fathers' Club, as a proctor for absent teachers and as minister of the Jesuit community.

On May 4, the SI community will celebrate Brother with a tribute party. Go to [www.siprep.org/alumni](http://www.siprep.org/alumni) to RSVP.

In January, he sat down with *Genesis* Editor Paul Totah '75 for a conversation about his many years serving the young men and women of SI.

### **Q. Brother, what changes have you seen at SI since you first started working at the Stanyan Street campus?**

**A.** Certainly things have changed dramatically over the past 50 years. I was only 26 then, just a few years older than the boys. In those days, their paths seemed set, from the classes they took to the colleges they attended, with almost all going to USF, SCU, SFSU or Cal. I don't know if they were as studious then as now, especially as today's students have so much technology as part of their lives. I'll say, "The assignment is on Canvas," and they get right to work. I never see a discipline problem in class as teachers give good assignments, and students are eager to excel and learn. Of course, while technology is a good thing, I miss the speech classes we once offered.

### **Q. What was the transition like from Stanyan Street to the Sunset District campus?**

**A.** We came to the new school in 1969, and that's when I was named dean of students. I felt we cheated the student body that first year on 37th Avenue as we ended the day at 1:10 p.m. The gym wasn't completed at that time, and we didn't have a student center then as we have today. But the kids rallied around, and I think they became better people.

### **Q. You witnessed another transition in 1989 with the advent of coeducation.**

**A.** SI was always a good school in my estimation, but coeducation made it better because of the girls. It taught the young gentlemen that women are real people and

bright people who are worthy of a Jesuit education. Coeducation changed the character of SI for the better, as the young women brought their talents and gifts to us to develop our school into a better place.

### **Q. What style of discipline best described your tenure as dean?**

**A.** I told every class that SI serves three purposes. It develops spiritual life and values, it encourages educational talents, and it offers lifelong friends. Because SI is a community that asks students to be Ignatian 24 hours a day, I didn't set out to play cops and robbers. I explained to students that going to the Circle at night or acting like hooligans at Catholic school dances was not the way to proceed. To me, discipline means acting in a manner that befits a responsible adult. You have to have limitations to what you can do. I tried to teach students the value of self-control and setting boundaries.

When I was young, I was faithful to prayer, but my prayer was always a prayer of petition. "Please God, get me through this meeting," or "Please let the seniors be accountable." Now I say a prayer of thankfulness for the young people who have become a fabric of my life. Over the years sitting in the Dean's Office, I heard so many stories of why young people were drinking or acting out. Many young people came from tough situations at home. Behind me was a picture of Christ with a prodigal on his shoulder. I thought about that picture and often asked myself, "What would Christ do in this situation?" I didn't throw that many kids out of school because we made a commitment when we accepted a student to try to have him or her learn from mistakes.

### **Q. As you look back over the past half century, what thoughts come to mind?**

**A.** I look back on 50 years with love and laughter. Students have taught me much about love and life. I was an only child, and now I feel as if I have many brothers and sisters. One alumnus who passed away taught me what it means to die with grace and dignity and that death isn't something to fear but merely a change. I've prayed for that grace all my life to face death with the same composure.

I also have come to realize that the good one can do should be done now, as we pass this world only once. If you give yourself completely to what you're supposed to be doing, you will be rewarded, and that will be eternal life. But I'll have friends wherever I go.

### **Q. Let's chat about the students you had to suspend or expel. Are they ever grateful for the punishments you meted out?**



**A.** I see former students whom I disciplined at class reunions. They will tell me that I kicked them out or suspended them for this or that reason, and that the punishment taught them a lesson. Sometimes it made them realize that they had to deal with a deeper issue, such as alcoholism. Others kid me about the detentions they received for being late but add that the time they spent after school did teach them self-discipline.

### **Q. Today, however, few students know of your past role as dean.**

**A.** Students still stand up when I enter a classroom, but they see me as a nice person, not someone to fear. Also, as fewer Jesuits are in the school, I believe it is important that they see my collar. Students see me as someone interested in their total well being and not just as a disciplinarian. I try to learn as many of their names as I can.

There are many children of former grads who ask how their fathers were as students. I joke with them by saying, "I hope you take after your mother."

### **Q. How long do you see yourself working at SI?**

**A.** I'm 79 now, and God has given me good health all these years. My life has been with young people — they keep me young and alert — and I'd like to continue serving them as long as I can. I think I can do that for years to come. Every Monday, I pray the rosary with a group, and we pray for the well being of our students, for God to keep them safe and for us to be good role models for our students.

For years, I have served as minister of the Jesuit community, taking care of the temporal needs of our house. When I'm no longer able to do that, I'll spend my days praying for the needs of the Church, for the Jesuits and always for SI. ∞





Members of the SI community gathered for the MLK Day March in January.



**LEFT:** Students who took part in the BSU Student Arts Showcase. **BELOW:** From left, Korrie Taylor, Leya Elias and Henry Davis.

## BSU Student Arts Showcase features diverse talent

Black History Month usually asks students to recall the accomplishments of African Americans throughout history. For members of SI's Black Students Union, February also offered the opportunity to showcase their own talent.

Students organized a BSU Student Arts Showcase they called "Black Excellence" Feb. 25 in the Carlin Commons before a crowd of 200. Students sang, performed poetry

and spoken word pieces, danced, showed a documentary film and performed stepping — a form of percussive dance.

Past BSUs have also staged similar showcases, noted BSU Moderator Chris Delaney. "The tradition continued this year, and we hope that it inspires future BSU members to continue the legacy."

Delaney, along with fellow BSU Moderator Darius White, supported the students along with members of the African American and Latino Parents Association (AALPA), Magis Director of Enrichment and Outreach Ana Hernandez and Office of Equity and Inclusion Director Matt Balano.

Students took on the task of organizing the event, led by BSU co-presidents Korrie Taylor '17 and Henry Davis '17 assisted by Leya Elias '17 and Teirah Bolden '17. "We were inspired by watching students perform at the December Pasko event," said Davis.

Elias noted that the showcase provided "a venue for all the talent we have here. There are so many gifted students in the school, including members of the BSU."

For Bolden, the event helped "show that there are more to Black people than the negative stereotypes you see on TV. There's depth in our community that goes well below the surface."

Taylor expressed both joy and surprise by the number of people who attended the event, especially given the early RSVPs. "Seeing all

the people who came to watch our acts made me both proud and happy," she noted.

Student performers and presenters included Taylor, Elias and Davis, as well as Jazara Metcalf '18, Sierra Brown-Bourne '17 (reading a poem by Angelica Chukwudebe '17), Devin Mallory '17, Dakari Moore '17, Alena McGrew '18, Amirah Battle '19, Campbell Simmons '17, Ezme and Monzy Fierro '20, Maya Peterson Bailey '16, Faith Bailey Peterson '20, Jalyse Owens '20, Brianna Floyd '20, Layia Bolden '19 as well as members of a gospel choir and a stepping dance troupe. Renelle Mallone '19 of Skyline High School joined in for a praise dance performance.

"We wanted to provide a space for students to do some amazing things before a wide audience," added Davis, who first suggested the idea to BSU leadership and who sang "Open Your Eyes," that night.

The students who organized the event learned first hand the skills needed to stage a successful show. "We learned how to promote the event, how to organize groups and how to arrange for catering and for decorations," added Davis. "This will all come in handy next year when we're in college and faced with similar tasks."

Taylor saw a linkage between the BSU showcase and traditional BSU events that honor famous African Americans. "We still remember the poems of Maya Angelou, and we hope this generation remembers the poets they heard at our showcase. We are creating a legacy by giving students a voice today, one that will be celebrated, we hope, in future Black History Months."

Magis Director Ana Hernandez was pleased, too, "as I witnessed how the lowerclassmen in the BSU were inspired by the juniors and seniors. I know they will follow in their footsteps." ∞







**ABOVE:** Members of SIPAC (parents of SI's Asian American students) and members and moderators of the Asian Students Coalition met for their annual Lunar New Years lunch in February in South San Francisco. **RIGHT:** Some of the members of ASC who marched in the Chinese Lunar New Year's Parade.

## James DeGraw '18 lends a green thumb to the DeMarillac Academy and the coast of Maine

James DeGraw '18 sees himself connected to nature both through service and schooling. A candidate for Eagle Scout, he spent part of last year building a living wall at the DeMarillac Academy for his service project, and he spent the entire fall semester on a Maine farm taking high school courses while also feeding animals, harvesting crops and learning about surrounding ecosystems.

DeGraw had the idea to do a living wall at the DeMarillac Academy in part because his mother volunteers there and because he spent part of his sophomore retreat at that Tenderloin school.

Last spring, when he saw photos of living walls on Pinterest, he thought about applying that technique to the DeMarillac Academy, as "there wasn't a lot of greenery in the entrance," he noted. He decided to buy letters that spelled out DMA, the school's initials, and then purchased succulents and soil to create the display.

He also bought lumber to build two benches and vases into which he planted lemon trees to spruce up the school's entry. DeGraw also supervised teams of scouts to help build the benches and do the planting.

His main experience with nature, however, came in August when he took part in the Maine Coast Semester at Chewonki, a program in which 45 students live together while taking classes, working on a farm and learning ecology and environmental science through field trips.

DeGraw heard about a similar program from a friend who studied in the Bahamas, and he found the Maine program online.

"I loved it, including the Thursday field trips where we would learn about the coast of

Maine," he noted. "We studied intertidal pools, sandy beaches, salt marshes, streams and fields. We did more than merely read about these places. We got out of the classroom to draw our own conclusions."

SI's counselors helped DeGraw transfer credits and do supplemental coursework to help him graduate on time. "I'm grateful to SI for that, as the program helped me make the connection between myself and the natural world. I saw the human impact on land and saw myself and others as integral to the natural world and not as far removed as I first thought."

The program, he added, didn't help him decide on his college major or career, "but it did help me have a conversation with myself about what my mission in life is. It also helped me to mature. When you live with 45 students, you can't walk away from problems. You have to form relationships and learn to get along."

DeGraw only returned home for a week in Thanksgiving before the program ended on Dec. 18. He and the other students had little downtime, as they spent their weekends studying, hiking, clamming or learning about issues surrounding the farm.

For his free hours on Sundays, he fed the horses, cows, chickens, pigs and sheep that lived there. "Feeding the animals and then seeing cattle being taken away for slaughter helped me understand just where my food was coming from. So, too, did the experience of digging up potatoes that ended up on my dinner plate at night. All of this helped me realize the connections I have to the natural world and the impact humans have on the land."

DeGraw has also established himself as a leader in the Theatre Department, where he

has served as stage manager and assistant stage manager for several musicals.

His willingness to try new activities comes from his attitude that asks, "Why not? I have a great opportunity to go to Maine. Why not? I have a chance to help a school in the Tenderloin. Why not?" ∞







**TOP:** Dance instructors Meredith Cecchin Galvin '97 and Emily Shick '10 co-directed the spring dance concert in early March. Photos by Pedro Cafasso.  
**ABOVE LEFT:** SI LIVE, the school's comedy sketch troupe, offered its annual

satirical show in January, moderated by Michelle Wynn and Sean Lawhon '87.  
**ABOVE RIGHT:** Students performed in January's annual Piano Recital, directed by Gillian Clements, in the Doris Duke Wall Choral Room.



# SPORTS WRAP

## PHOTOS BY PAUL GHIGLIERI



### GIRLS' BASKETBALL

**Coaches:** Mike Mulkerrins assisted by Gus Gomoziyas; JV: Erin Joo and Magge McCarthy; F: Rick Murphy assisted by Sean Mulhern.

**Records:** V: 20-10 (4-6 league); JV: 15-9 (5-5 league); F: 15-4 (6-2 league).

**Highlights:** Placed in the open division of CCS playoffs and advanced to the semifinals of the NorCal tournament before losing a heartbreaker to St. Mary's Berkeley 68-60. Fell one game short of the NorCal Finals and a chance to play in a state final. Went 3-0 in the High Sierra Invite in Reno. Won the West Coast Jamboree preseason tournament going 3-0 in the Amber Division and beating Sheldon of Oregon in the finals 46-41.

**Awards:** First Team, All League: Ayzhiana Basallo; Second Team: Maggie Burke; Honorable Mention: Alyssa Downs.

**Graduating Seniors:** Ariana Abdulmassih, Ayzhiana Basallo, Maggie Burke.

### BOYS' BASKETBALL

**Coaches:** V. Rob Marcaletti, assisted by Jamal Baugh, Kareem Guilbeaux and Alejandro Thomas; JV: Paul Bourke assisted by Steve Murphy; FA: Bryan Thomasson; FB: Tim Egan.

**Records:** V: 10-4 (2nd place in league); 23-7 overall. JV: 8-6 (3rd Place WCAL); 15-8 overall. FA: 5-9 (5th place) 11-10 overall. FB: 10-4 (3rd place in league) 16-5 overall.

**Highlights:** The 'Cats started off the season 15-1 before losing to Bellarmine (14-0 in WCAL) by 1 point. SI beat Mitty (Open Division

Champs) and St. Francis three times, ending its 16-game home winning streak. In the opening round of the CCS Open Tournament, SI was



given its highest seed ever in the Open Division with a #2 seed. The team finished in third place in open and was given a #1 seed in NorCals D3 and lost in the semifinals one game away from going to the state championship. The future looks bright as the 'Cats have 80 percent of the varsity team returning next year.

**Awards:** First Team, All WCAL: Darriion Trammell, Brandon Beckman. Second Team: Matt Redmond; Dennis Carter Award Winner: Simon Zacks.

**Graduating Seniors:** Daniel Begovich, Arjun Gujral, Nico Maclean-Vernic, Simon Zacks.

### GIRLS' SOCCER

**Coaches:** V: Carlos Escobar assisted by Jaclyn Kurtela and Brooke Bruneman; JV: Brian Rhodes assisted by Libby Rappolt; F: Jan Mullen assisted by Daniel Brown. GK Coach Krysta Jenkins.

**Records:** V: 13-7-3 (3rd place); JV: 7-2-6 (3rd place); F: 14-2-2 (1st place).

**Highlights:** Qualified for CCS; earned semifinal berth. Rode an 8-match winning streak spanning from late December to mid January including six shutouts. Beat Archbishop Mitty 1-0 on JB Murphy field on a late goal by frosh Katrina Avila.

**Awards:** Fr. Arrupe Award: Daniella Siniora; Magis Spirit: Brianna Bilter; Jan Mullen Award: Lizzy Wagner; First Team, All League: Brianna Bilter, Lizzy Wagner; Second Team: Alyssa Castillo, Lauren Frohan; Honorable Mention: Claire Dworsky. Forward of the Year: Lizzy Wagner.



**Graduating Seniors:** Lizzy Wagner, Alyssa Castillo, Brianna Bilter, Olivia Gervais, Natalie Orsi, Eleni Carwin, Deirdre Heavey, Vanessa Barnard, Daniella Siniora and Olivia Dutton.

### BOYS' SOCCER

**Coaches:** Alan Downey, assisted by Steve Cordova; JV: Cody Meza assisted by Nick Harb; F: John Stiegeler assisted by Patrick Cody.

**Records:** V: 13-0-1; WCAL Champions; CCS Open Division Champions; JV: 8-4-2, 3rd Place; Frosh 4-4-4 4th Place.

**Awards:** First Team, All League: Mike Bertiglia (also Defender of the Year) and Dominic Galletti; Second Team: Dylan Penn, Sean Bilter, Jonathan Bow; Honorable Mention: Dylan Kenneally.

**Graduating Seniors:** Mike Bertiglia, Aodhan Downey, Dominic Galletti, Jonathan Bow, Dylan Penn, Dylan Kenneally, Ethan Henessey, Haley Fiske, Ryan Serrato, Myles McGrillen, Darragh Buckley and Alessandro Gadaldi.





## Boys' Varsity Soccer Team enjoys unbeaten season and two crowns in league and CCS

BY ANNE STRICHERZ  
SPORTS EDITOR

In pre-season play for the boys' varsity soccer team, Head Coach Alan Downey felt battered and bruised. His squad had lost five of six games, including a 4-1 defeat by Marin Academy, and saw the exit of star goalkeeper Nathan Kushner after he suffered a broken leg.

The regular season, however, gave proof to the old saying that soccer is "a beautiful game" as the team went undefeated through post-season play to finish with both the league and CCS open division crowns. Along the way, the boys made history by scoring 58 goals, more than any other team in the history of the WCAL, a feat that Downey believes no other school will match.

The only slight blemish on the team's record was one tie in a 13-0-1 season that ended with a 5-2 win over Carlmont at SCU's Buck Shaw Stadium for the division title.

Downey credits the team's success, in part, to the rough pre-season. After losing to Marin Academy, "we had a strong, passionate and stormy team discussion that day. From that point on, this team moved in the right direction. Though we lost our next game 1-0 to Carlmont, I sensed a change in mindset."

Co-captain Dominic Galletti '17 agreed. "The struggle we faced at the beginning of the season and our ability to turn it around made this season so memorable. As we rode the bus back to SI after our 4-3 victory over Pioneer in the CCS semifinal game, I learned that we would play Carlmont in the final. I shouted 'Rematch!' Sharing that news with the team was one of my favorite moments of the season. We knew we were ready."

"We were very hungry and determined to win both titles," added co-captain Dylan Penn '17. "The early losses set a fire under us and made us stronger as a team. We refused to let any other team beat us. I still remember when Dom said that would not lose in 2017."

Playing alongside Penn and Galletti were 10 other seniors, five of whom had played for Downey on the varsity squad since their sophomore year.

Like many SI teams, coaches honor their senior student-athletes in the final home game by starting every senior on the squad. "The seniors were special to me for various reasons," said Downey. "My son Aodhan is a senior, and I coached a number of the boys since they were in second grade. I also coached some of the team in Gaelic football. That's why Senior Day was my favorite moment of the season."

For that final game, SI took on Valley Christian. "We wanted to win the league undefeated and to score six goals to break the all-time scoring record," added Downey. "Our seniors made that happen."

Downey credited the team's success to its offensive style, one that emphasized "attacking courage and slick passing through the thirds of the field."

Forward Aodhan Downey '17 scored a hat trick with his three goals, with Penn scoring the goal that broke the 21-year-old record. "There was an unwritten agreement between us," added Galletti. "We each had to do our job, and we trusted that the guys on the field and the guys on the bench would do theirs. We knew if we played our best that we could achieve this goal."

For Penn, the joy of the "beautiful game" came from the "camaraderie both on and off the field. Our team was tight, and our friendships and this experience will last a lifetime. I am going to miss playing with such a great group of guys."

**BELOW:** The boys' soccer team after its victory over Carlmont for the CCS championship in the Open Division.



## The brothers Mulkerrins and John Duggan '59 inducted into the CYO Hall of Fame

Three SI grads were inducted into the CYO Hall of Fame on March 25 at St. Emydius for their dedication to Catholic youth sports. The surprise only is that, given how busy their lives are, they volunteered so many hours in service to boys and girls through the years.

John Duggan '59, the owner of Original Joe's, SI Athletic Director John Mulkerrins '89 and head girls' basketball coach at SI Mike Mulkerrins '91 (and John's brother) each puts in long hours at work. Each also believes in the value of coaching and supporting upcoming generations of students.

A graduate of St. Paul's School where he played basketball and baseball, Duggan began coaching at his grammar school while a junior at SI. He had the time, as a bad back kept him from trying out for his high school teams.

He was offered the job at St. Paul's after earning a reputation as a little bit of a troublemaker. "I almost got kicked out of the school grounds for climbing into the schoolyard to play handball and basketball after hours," he noted. "The athletic director there was having problems finding a baseball coach and offered me the job."

Duggan continued coaching at St. Paul's throughout his college years and then found work assisting playground directors. Later, after working in the investment industry and marrying into the family that owned Original Joe's, he continued CYO coaching for one year at St. Emydius and for about two decades at St. Stephen's starting in 1982.

He left CYO coaching to help with the girls' basketball team at SI for many years and also coached at City College. He returned to St. Stephen's for one year for a special reason. After his close friend Dan Linehan '83 passed away, he promised he would coach Dan's daughter, Siobhan, to honor her father's memory. He coached her at St. Stephen's last year — she is now in her first year at SI — and he stayed put, continuing to coach the kindergarten, third grade and fifth graders in basketball.

He does it "because I have a passion for and a love of sports," he said. "For years I've tried to teach the correct way to win and lose. I want to build confidence in young athletes who may not be the best players."

He also teaches his players how to play as a team "by understanding that you don't become a team until everyone contributes as much as he or she can." He also enjoys seeing young people grow from hesitant third graders to skilled eighth graders as they master the fundamentals of their sport.

Coaching, he added, also helped him relax. "I was involved in the investment business and worked on commission in a competitive setting. I did have the ability to leave work at



2:30 or 3 p.m. and was able to give kids skills and values that they will have with them the rest of their lives. That alone served as a great stress reducer. Now that my son and daughter run the restaurants, I look forward to being on the hardwood as much as I did when I was in my 20s. It's my home away from home."

The Mulkerrins brothers also had their start as grammar school athletes. At St. Cecilia's they played soccer, basketball and baseball. Both coached at St. Cecilia's while at SI and continued while studying at SFSU, assisting Pete Franceschi, the athletic director at their alma mater. Both John and Mike served as the girls' athletic director for many years. Mike also coached for two years at St. Brendan's, and John, while teaching junior high math for 5 years at Holy Name, served as the school's athletic director and coached basketball.

Both men, along with St. Brendan's teacher Dave Lopez and Franceschi, also ran the CYO boys' soccer league for a number of years. They would start their weekends at 6 a.m. and end at 6 p.m. working to line fields, patch potholes, set up nets and referee games.

The brothers volunteered long before they had the chance to coach their own children. "John and I were young guys who loved to work hard and loved sports," said Mike. "We felt that if we were lucky enough to stay in San Francisco and raise our kids here, we would

want someone who cared as much as we did to serve as their coach. Luckily, there are many people who want the youth of the city to have a good playing experience."

Both men hope that students at Catholic grammar schools opt to play CYO sports as well as club sports. "That way, they get to know their classmates on the field as well as the classroom," said John. "It all comes back to developing relationships. That's why CYO is so important."

Both men also have a chance to work with students as part of their day jobs. Mike is a Park and Recreation Supervisor for South San Francisco as well as an SI coach, and John spends long hours serving SI's athletes.

"We are honored to be inducted along with Mr. Duggan and the many SI grads already in the CYO Hall of Fame, including Bob Drucker '58, one of the first inductees," added Mike. ☞

**ABOVE:** From left, are Mike Mulkerrins, John Duggan and John Mulkerrins at the CYO Hall of Fame Dinner on March 25 at the St. Emydius Gym. Photo by Marla Bottner.



The Class of 1967 celebrated its 50th anniversary reunion at the Golden Diploma Mass March 26 at SI's Orradre Chapel. Former SI President Tony Sauer, S.J., who began teaching this class when he came to SI in 1965, delivered the homily.



## Andrea Wong '12 turns pro golfer to compete in Europe and the Middle East

Andrea Wong '12 has joined the ranks of a select few SI athletes, such as San Diego Chargers' quarterback Dan Fouts '69 and Giants' farm team pitcher Matt Krook '13, by turning pro.



A standout golfer at SI and at UC Davis, Wong recently started competing in the Ladies European Tour this April. She will play throughout Europe, Asia and the Middle East until December thanks to her success in a qualifying tournament in Morocco, where she turned in a score of 63, 9 under par, in one of her five rounds.

"Everything worked right that day," she said. "I felt relaxed and was making my putts."

Wong is used to things working right for her since she first picked up the sport at 6 years old. In those days, both she and her twin sister, Alexandra '12, took dance and music lessons along with golf. "Then my father asked us to pick one thing to focus on when we turned 12, and we both chose golf," said Wong. "It was something fun we could do together."

At SI, both sisters made the varsity team all four years and helped the Wildcats earn league and sectional championships each year. Both made the All-WCAL and All-CCS first teams, and Andrea earned three league medalist honors.

"As their coach, I admired the leadership qualities of both sisters as our team captains," said Julius Yap '74. "They served during a stretch where the team went six straight years without a loss in the WCAL. Their work ethic was a wonderful example to their younger teammates, which allowed the program to succeed long after their graduation. They were an honor to coach as well as teach."

Alexandra went on to study Public Policy at Princeton and chose not to pursue golf. Andrea attended UC Davis where she was named Big West Freshman of the Year and made the All-Big West First Team three times. She also was the university's first regional champion after a 6-under 65 round. She made the NCAA Finals

three times in her four years, and in her junior year, Davis named her its Student Athlete of the Year. She later went on to become the Big West Champion of the Year.

Wong also excels in another arena — service work. She serves as an assistant coach for the Davis golf team and worked with First Tee, a youth development golf program in San Francisco first as a participant and then as a volunteer. In addition, she helps inner-city youth through the Future Foursome Program and volunteers with Camp Kesem for youth whose parents have cancer. She led the public relations and marketing branch of that group to help raise funds and communicate with families.

She hopes to begin making money by winning tournaments abroad, especially as the experience will cost her \$80,000 for travel, lodging and entry fees. To save money, she will share a room with a fellow competitor.

"Luckily, the competitors are also friends. Travel partners tend to be supportive, as golf is a gentleman's game. You get pumped when your friends win, and there's no real animosity."

There is, however, a strict workout regime. Wong does circuit training five days each week, a habit she began at SI through Coach Steve Bluford '84 and his weightlifting course. "Keeping our bodies in the best possible shape is important for golfers," said Wong. "That gave me an advantage in college, as I had the endurance to play 36 holes in one day."

SI prepared her, too, for academic success and gave her a passion for service. "Coming out of SI, I was well equipped for Davis. I'm grateful that now I can realize my childhood dream of playing professionally and one day qualifying for the LPGA so I can compete in the U.S." ∞

**LEFT:** Andrea Wong. Becky Gmahling Photography.





**ABOVE:** SI alumni and friends gathered in March for the Arizona/New Mexico Chapter event, which included a trip to see the Giants play during spring training. **RIGHT:** Comedian and actor **Al Madrigal '89** spoke at the Downtown Business Lunch and announced the creation of a scholarship in honor of former SI Principal Mario Prietto, S.J. to go to a Latino student interested in comedy. He is pictured here with many of his classmates who attended the talk, held at the Julia Morgan Ballroom in the Merchants Exchange Building.



## Elisa Santos '10, Miss San Francisco Chinatown, readies herself for a career in law

Elisa Santos '10 isn't one to give up. The second runner-up in the Miss Chinatown USA Pageant, Santos is used to persevering after hitting a wall.

Always stellar in math and science at SI, she graduated from UC Davis with a degree in biochemistry and molecular biology. (If that doesn't sound hard enough, she also minored in Chinese language and literature.)

In her sophomore year in college, she interviewed for the Miss Hong Kong pageant, as she was born in Hong Kong and holds dual citizenship.

"I've wanted to compete in that contest since I was a little girl, but I didn't do that well," she said.

She faced her next challenge after graduation. "I decided then that I didn't like the career path math and science were taking me." With mounting college debts, she found a job as a paralegal at Gunderson Dettmer, a boutique law firm. She is now studying for the LSAT and is planning to attend law school.

At 24, she knew she had one last shot to become a pageant queen, as the Miss Chinatown USA cutoff age is 26. "I know I can't compete in the pageant and study law, so the time was now," she said.

Judges selected her as one of six contestants from California. Another six contestants came from out of state after winning their local competitions. Of the 12 contestants, the top two were crowned Miss Chinatown USA and Miss Chinese Chamber of Commerce.

Santos earned the Miss San Francisco Chinatown crown thanks to her written application, her face-to-face interview, a

question-and-answer session and the talent portion — a great accomplishment considering this was her first pageant.

The experience gave her the opportunity to meet the leaders of San Francisco's Chinese community and to befriend the other 11 contestants. "They are amazing women who come from California, Seattle, Chicago, New York, Houston and Hawaii. After going through the process, I understand why so many people encouraged me to do this. It was worth the effort."

Santos and her cohort "entered the private spaces of the family associations — an experience not open to the public — to learn about the history of Chinese immigrants who came here during the Gold Rush. We were welcomed with open arms."

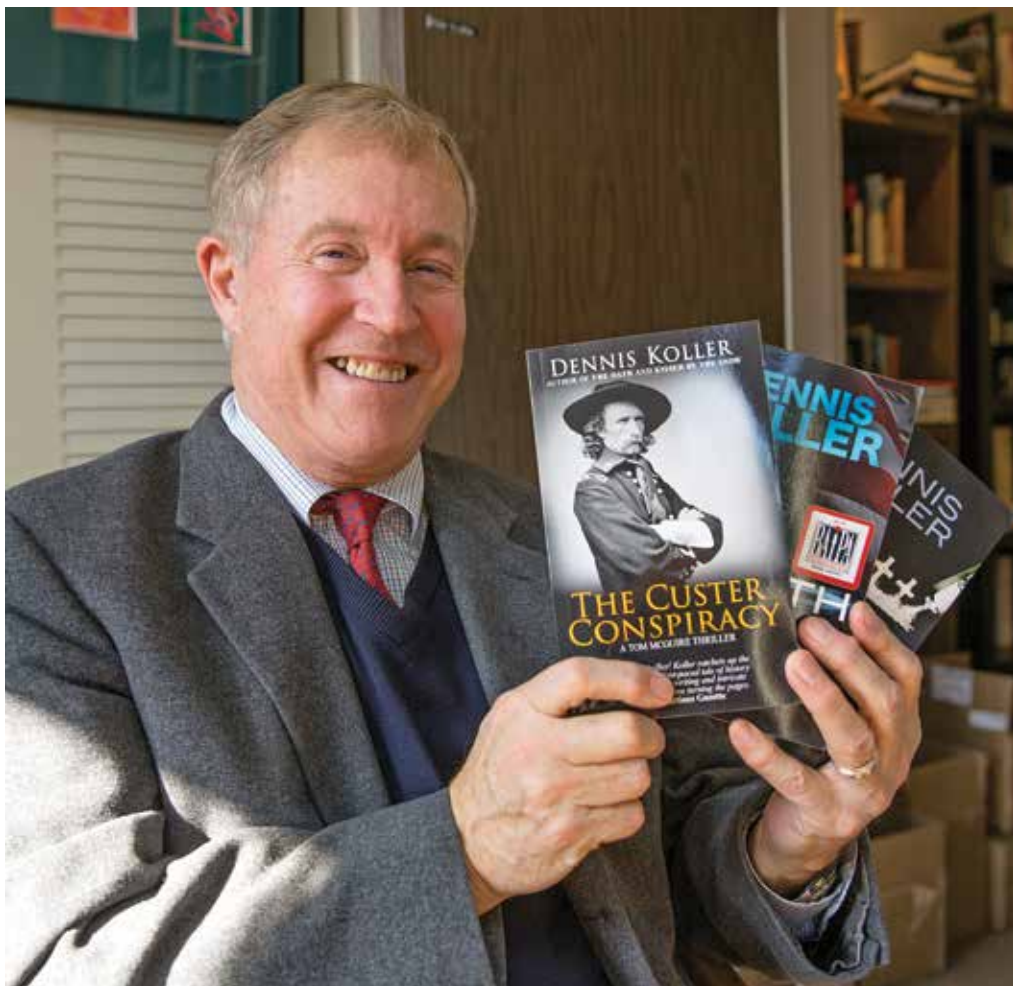
The contestants also met Mayor Ed Lee and Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf, and they visited many places around Chinatown, including the Chinese Hospital and the On Lok senior center. "I recalled visiting On Lok as a sophomore at SI," said Santos, whose last name stems from her family's immigration to the Philippines, where they adopted a Filipino surname.

"Going there reminded me of the principles I learned at SI of being a woman for others. The pageant also stresses service to the community even after the parade is over. I have so many events lined up. It's just like the senior Kairos retreat, too, as we are called to be with and for others. It's an extension of my culture, as I'm connected to my broader Chinese family and try to serve my community as best I can." ☞



**ABOVE:** Elisa Santos was crowned in February and was part of the royal court for the Chinese Lunar New Year's parade. Photo by David Yu.





## Dennis Koller '62 pens trio of books about SF cop

Dennis Koller '62 likes to joke that he literally jumped ship to become an author. In a way, he did, as he served as executive director of the S.S. *Jeremiah O'Brien* for four years before devoting himself to the first of his three novels.

That novel, *The Oath*, sold 8,000 copies since it was published in 2013 and was named Fiction Book of the Year in 2016 by the Bay Area Independent Publisher's Association. His second book, *Kissed by the Snow*, earned fourth place in another contest, and his third novel, *The Custer Conspiracy*, sold more than 3,200 copies in two months and earned a coveted review by *Publishers Weekly*.

All three books are part of a series Koller calls Tom McGuire Thrillers, as each involves the same Irish American San Francisco policeman, a fictional character based in part on stories told to Koller by his classmate Ed Kenney '62, who served as an SFPD homicide inspector.

"These aren't designed to be great literature," said Koller. "In fact, I'm proud of these books because they are fast-paced entertainment with just a little bit of a philosophical bite."

That philosophy came, in part, from Koller's parents, who were friends with Catholic Worker co-founder Dorothy Day. "She often stayed at my house when she visited San Francisco," said Koller. "I always thought she was saintly, as she was an extraordinarily calm woman who would sit in an over overstuffed chair dressed like a nun and speak with my father about the poor."

At St. Mary's College, Koller enjoyed the Great Books Program, where he studied in seminars with no more than 24 students. "Thanks to the Greek I had at SI, I could read *The Odyssey* in its original language."

Inspired by SI English teacher John Becker, S.J., Koller taught English at St. Mary's High School in Berkeley before teaching at Thomas Aquinas College, where he also did fund raising. He continued working in development jobs at St. Mary's College, Menlo College, the CSU Maritime Academy and the Charles Drew University for Medicine and Science before serving as executive director of the S.S. *Jeremiah O'Brien* — a Liberty Ship from World War II docked in the San Francisco Bay and open to tourists.

After reading a story about American POWs held in North Vietnam during the war, he had the idea for his first novel, *The Oath*.

"Soldiers take an oath to defend their country against enemies both foreign and domestic," said Koller. "I pictured one former POW who believed that those who went to North Vietnam during the war amounted to domestic enemies. My character then begins, in his mind, living up to his oath by killing people whom he believed to be traitors."

The book has gained popularity with current and former members of the military. "Many veterans with whom I spoke said that the book should be sold in military exchanges around the world, as the novel contains lessons to be learned."

To hone that book, he brought early chapters to his former mentor, Fr. Becker, who taught at Brophy College Preparatory until his death in 2008. "He made some great suggestions, which I found gratifying, as I enjoyed writing for him when I was a student in his class on Stanyan Street."

For his second novel, Koller tackled something he calls the longest war ever fought by the U.S. — the war on drugs. He tells the story of rogue FBI agents who lace cocaine with anthrax in order to kill both dealers and users.

The idea for *The Custer Conspiracy* came from a trip he and his wife made to Little Bighorn for the 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Custer's Last Stand.

"I saw under glass a copy of a New York Life Insurance policy on the life of General Custer for \$5,000. It made me ask why an insurance company would do this for a person always at risk of being killed. Then my conspiratorial mind started working."

The book, Koller said, "is really about the arms race that began shortly after that battle. The U.S. Army went from single-shot rifles in 1876 to, 20 years later, battleships able to launch 5-inch shells across Manila Bay. Arms sales exploded in those intervening years. All that led me to wonder what really happened to Custer during that battle."

Each of the books is a page-turner thanks to Koller's structure. The Custer book, for example, is 359 pages with each chapter no longer than four pages. "That helps my readers stay up all night to finish the book."

His novels take eight months to write, typically, and he plans to continue cranking them out. "I'd like to write at least another 10 books," he noted. "There are so many things you can write about."

To read more about Koller's books, check out his website at [denniskoller.com](http://denniskoller.com).

**ABOVE LEFT:** Dennis Koller's latest book, *The Custer Conspiracy*, weaves a story of intrigue surrounding the Battle of Little Bighorn and the growth of the military industrial complex.

## Genesis Editor Paul Totah '75 translates Gospel of Luke into poetry

BY TIM REARDON '86  
SI ALUMNI DIRECTOR

When I first saw an early draft of Paul Totah's *The Gospel of Everyone: A Poetic Retelling of the Gospel of Luke*, I read it cover to cover in one sitting. I took notes on some of my favorite passages, but otherwise continued to turn pages as if this was my first experience with these characters and with this story. It wasn't suspense that pressed me forward. The book isn't a page-turner in that sense. It is, after all, a poetic vision of the most celebrated story ever told — the story of Jesus Christ. However, even as a lifelong Catholic and churchgoer, I was frequently surprised and continuously captivated by Totah's unique

adaptation of Luke's original account.

Of course, reading this book in one sitting was a pleasant mistake.

Although I enjoyed Totah's accessible, modernist, free-verse approach to the gospel, the collection of first person accounts from both familiar and obscure New Testament characters is meant to be savored. Some poems actually have a lyric sense to them, like those found in Edgar Lee Masters' *Spoon River Anthology* or perhaps in the best works of Robert Browning. Other poems read more like something from T.S. Elliot: difficult, but poignant, and always with an ironic sense of humor. And still with others, Totah uses dramatic monologue to explore myriad voices, always resisting the urge to let his own voice sneak into the narrative — except in the form of his rich imagery and the palpable

ache for terse and layered language that is present in all of his poetry.

When Totah describes his process, he explains, "I used a different technique to write *The Gospel of Everyone* — the practice outlined by St. Ignatius of Loyola in his *Spiritual Exercises*. I let my imagination create back-stories of the people in Luke's account — mainly the minor players who appear once or twice and never again. I tried to tell the story of Jesus from their points of view. My hope was to lift these stories out of lifeless iconography so that readers could imagine real people in settings not far removed from our own."

The epigraph for this collection of poetic biblical memoirs is from T.S. Elliot's "The Journey of the Magi," a poem written from the point of view of one of the wise men. And, like Elliot, Totah explores the thoughts and voices of some of the most memorable inhabitants of the gospel. From Herod and Judas to Mary and Elizabeth, we are privy to the confessions of both sinners and saints. From the most powerful voice of Jesus himself to the smallest voice of the tax collector, the diminutive Zacchaeus, we come to know these characters from a fresh perspective, all the while being enchanted by the music of Totah's verses.

Although this poet is masterful in his handling of James and Peter and John, his poems from the points of view of the more obscure New Testament figures are where he feels free to paint with more daring brushstrokes, and the results are, at times, sublime. Take, for instance, this passage from "Jairus' Daughter":

*I felt buried in peace and saw what would happen next:  
The roots entering my tomb, seeking food from my flesh  
my bones sprouting new limbs, green and alive  
that would rise to the light and dance in the wind.*

A passage from his final, untitled, post-resurrection poem captures the hope that eventually converted me into the kind of reader who knows to slow down and appreciate these poems as individual works of art, expertly woven together to reveal a master poet's Biblical dream:

*He made us feel at peace, seeing him whole and holy,  
his skin glowing with a shine full of morning and candlelight.  
We knew death could only sting for a flash of a moment.  
Later, we would look like him, smiling and alive.*

Luke is a really good writer. So is Totah. ∞

From *The Gospel of Everyone*:

### Peter

All night long we flung our nets onto the dark water,  
pulling in only two small fish,  
not even a breakfast for the three of us.  
We had borrowed money to buy this boat.  
We feared we might never pay it off. Then, when dawn came,  
we rowed to shore where a crowd on the beach  
listened to a man we had never seen before.  
We hopped over the side and yanked the boat to our mooring.  
He stepped in and asked us to row him out a bit.  
We could have cared less about this man,  
our backs on fire from the night's work,  
but curiosity got the better of us.  
Sitting there, listening to him,  
I started laughing at his hard nonsense.  
It's no more possible for me to forgive an enemy  
than to lend him more than he desired.  
My desire was to go home, lay down, have my wife  
rub my neck and shoulders and repair the nets while I slept.  
So when he asked me to row out again for more fishing,  
I was ready to throw him into the water.  
I didn't. Again, curious, amused, we rowed.  
When he told us to throw out our nets, we did.  
Then the sea itself began to writhe, alive with fins and tails,  
fish fighting to leap into nets we thought would break from the weight.  
We struggled to bring them in and yelled at our cousins to come  
and help with this catch that spilled onto the planks  
and piled almost to the oarlocks.  
We rowed the best we could  
with this swirling mass of scaly flesh dancing all around us.  
I knew we could pay our debt and more; stories would be told  
for years about this haul, and, I realized, about this man  
sitting still in the boat watching me the whole time.  
When we finally dragged the boat on shore, he took me aside  
and told me to leave everything: the fish and money,  
the fame and stories, my children and wife, and follow him.  
My partners heard too. We looked at each other,  
still giddy, smelling of fish, laughing at ourselves  
as we said yes and walked away from what we knew  
towards a world, we imagined, where each day  
would hold a new miracle.

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# 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.

**1948 Fr. Jim Torrens, S.J.**, has a new book out: *Yearning for You, My God: A Companion for Praying the Psalms* (Twenty-Third Publications).

**1955 Gov. Jerry Brown\*** was named Californian of the Year by the *New York Times*.

**1958 Michael Carroll's** grandson, Michael J. Carroll, is a Navy Seal with Seal Team 5. He recently returned from his second deployment in Iraq. Michael is pictured below at the class's St. Patrick's Day luncheon.



**1959 John U. Fry** was appointed in 2016 for a yearlong term on the Santa Cruz County Civil Grand Jury. He is chair of the Cities and Counties Committee, a member of the Special Districts Committee and a member of the Grand Jury Panel. John's volunteer work will allow him to be a voice of the citizens of Santa Cruz County to ensure honest and efficient government, to see that public officials are performing their duties legally and responsibly and to oversee the judicious expenditure of tax revenues.

**1962 Ray Allender, S.J.\*\*,** former SI superior, was featured in *National Catholic Reporter* and *America* magazine on the sanctuary movement.

**1964 Alan Saunders** will be serving his 37th year as a coach in the NFL with the Cleveland Browns as their senior offensive assistant for the 2017 season.



**1968 The class of '68** held its regular Friday the 13th get-together at the Gold Mirror in San Francisco in January. For more information contact **Dave Bisho**, who takes on the job of organizing the event, at [bisho@bisho.com](mailto:bisho@bisho.com). / In August 2016, **Jerry Hobrecht** retired from the City of Vacaville after 26 years of service, including 12 years as the assistant city attorney and 14 years as the city attorney. Jerry previously worked as a deputy city attorney for San Jose and as a city planner for Campbell. Jerry earned a law degree from U.C. Davis in 1983, a master's in urban planning from SJSU in 1978, a master's in history from U.C. Davis in 1976 and a bachelor's in history from U.C. Davis in 1972. / For a lifetime of leadership in clinical and digital mental health, **Dr. Ricardo Muñoz\*** was named a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) as part of the Section on Psychology. He was honored for his distinguished contributions towards

the prevention of major depression and the development of Internet interventions to improve mental health worldwide. He is a depression prevention and treatment researcher and currently serves as a distinguished professor of clinical psychology at Palo Alto University.

**1969 Chronicle** reviewer **Walter Addiego\*** interviewed Martin Scorsese on his Jesuit film, *Silence*.

**1970 Sean O'Reilly** has a new book out: *God Has Skin in the Game*, published by The House of a Thousand Suns.

**1971 Gary Brickley and Erika Brickley '08** recently ran the 2016 NYC Marathon. This was Erika's first road marathon and Gary's seventh. Additionally Gary has completed three 50-mile trail runs, four Quad Dipseas, seven Double Dipseas, seven 6-hour distance classics and the Pikes Peak Marathon. Father and daughter are members of San Francisco's oldest running club, the Dolphin South End Runners. Gary was recently featured in the *Nob Hill Gazette*.



**1973 Robert Lawson** is a professional fishing and hunting guide, offering fly fishing and golf trips in Fall River, Calif.



**1975 Genesis** Editor **Paul Totah\*** saw the publication of his book, *The Gospel of Everyone: A Poetic Retelling of the Gospel of Luke*, by Wipf and Stock Publishers.

**1976 Jon Leonoudakis\*** has a new baseball program featured on Amazon Prime called *The Sweet Spot: A Treasury of Baseball Stories*. / **Bill Quinlan\*** discussed his long career as actor and director with the *Toledo Blade*.

**1977** Tony-Award-Winning director **Bartlett Sher\*** will bring *My Fair Lady* back to Broadway.

**1978** Guerra's Quality Meats opened a new business, Guerra's To Go, in February, to serve prepared meals. Their family includes **John Guerra\*** and his children **Joseph '12** and **Paula '09**, and Paul (Riordan '71) and his children **Maggie '01**, **Katherine '03** and **Gabriella '15**. The deli and butcher shop has employed many SI grads over the past 30 years.

**1985 Mike Farrah\*** was featured in the *New York Post* in a story titled "Husband needs a miracle to save him before Valentine's Day" after accidentally throwing out \$1,000 of his wife's clothing in a recycling bag. / **Jeff Hanak\*** and his restaurant Nopa made the semifinalist list for the 2017 James Beard Award.

**1986 Greg Suhr '76\*** and **Greg Rocca '77\*** praised new Pomeroy Center Banner of Love honorees Nicole and **John Ring\*** in a promotional video for the center.

**1990** Jazz musician **Matt Renzi\*** performed March 5 with his band Three Yard Mile at Maybeck Studio for the Performing Arts.

**1993 Gretchen Henderson\*** helped launch the Unstitched States project. She invited people to contribute a quilt square to create a work of inclusivity and solidarity.





**1994** Above: Several classmates had a mini reunion in Oakland as several live or work in the East Bay. Pictured are **Anthony Yuson, Brendan Chan, Gus Ejercito, Marky Enriquez, Jake Manalo, Jenny Chan, Fred Balcomb, Justin Young, Mike Kudemus** and **Mark Tandoc**.

**1996** **Jennifer Chang** joined the faculty at UCSD in the fall of 2016 as Head of Undergraduate Acting. She continues to pursue her professional work as an actor and director.

**1997** **Adam Jacobs\*** left Broadway's *Aladdin* to join the show's touring company, which will play throughout the U.S., including a stop in San Francisco. / **Regan Tacorda** married **Michelle Yuson** in a beautiful and heartwarming ceremony at the Ruby Hill Estate in Pleasanton on Dec.



31. Those who attended, including bridesmaids **Tiffany Basilio** and **Chrissy (Flores) Emmons**, co-best man **Jeff Luna**, family, friends and a total of 26 proud St. Ignatius alumni, made it a night to remember. Other attendees included **Alan Ajoste, Anup Radhakrishnan, Cheryl Palarca, Christine Yick, Daniel Pak, Ed Pan, Jasmine Vergara, Nicholas Newlin, Phillip Dimapilis, Ruth (Vera) Cedro, Stephanie Terada, Sylvia (Bucoy) Esmundo, Tiffany Lam, Anthony Yuson '94, Kristin Tacorda '99, Ryan Tacorda '93, Arvin Tacorda '92, Jon Tacorda '90, Rob Esmundo '89, Ray Manalo '92** and **Dennis Kwan '96**.

**2002** Top of next column: **Julie Casey** married Stan Hong in November in the Presidio of San Francisco. / **Noëlle Formosa** married Zachary Bocian on Dec. 31 at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in San Francisco. Monsignor **John Talesfore '78** officiated. Proud dad **John Formosa '66** walked his daughter down the aisle. The wedding party included Noëlle's sister and matron of honor, **Camille Mitchell '98**, and classmates **Alessandra Billante** and **Julene Bruschera**, as well as Zac's friends **Andrew Pelosi '00** and **Tim Faye '01**. Other SI grads in



attendance included **Phil Bazzano '66, Dan Cahill '66, Jay Leite '66, Tim Lavelle '66, Kelly Veach '67, Mike Taheny '69, Frank Murphy '92, Noëlle's brother Fred Formosa '94, Matt McCarthy '94, Kelly (Phair) McCarthy '94, Ann Marie Taheny '94, Greg Marques '94, Brian Murphy '94, Marc Bruschera '96, Renee (Taheny) Gawrych '97, Danielle McDonnell '98, Jim Murphy '98, Chris Murphy '98, Andrea (Mei) Smith '98, Katie (Taheny) Kearns '99, Alex Miller '99, Diane (Chiolo) McKie '00, Sean Phair '01, Jenny Lo-McCaw '01, Jackie (Taheny) Grosu '04** and **Samantha Miller '05**.



**2003** This past May 20, 2016, **Fiona Shannon** married Niall Sheeran in Palm Springs. Groomsmen included Fiona's brothers **Sean Shannon '97** and **Kevin Shannon '02**. Bridesmaids included Niall's sisters **Claire Sheeran '16, Ciara Sheeran '18** and **Caitlin Sheeran '21**. **Lisa Bonino '03** also served as a bridesmaid. Many more alumni from the class of 1992 through 2013 were also in attendance. / **Anna Szarnicki** recently completed her graduate degree in nursing at Columbia University and is working as a psychiatric nurse practitioner with Janian Medical Care providing psychiatric outreach services to homeless New Yorkers.

**2004** **Caroline A. Robinson** was recently named associate producer of the critically acclaimed Disney XD series, *Star Wars Rebels*. She joined Lucasfilm one year ago after seven years in production management at DreamWorks Animation.





**2005** Lt. j.g. **Nicholas Brady** married **Jeannine Yap '07** on Nov. 5 at the Immaculate Church of the University of San Diego. The wedding party included bridesmaids **Julia Klein '07** (Maid of Honor), **Jessica Alejandrino '07**, **Mike Mace** (Best Man), **Marcel Thompson**, **Zac Lee**, **Eric Kathrein**, **Joel Schow '11**, **Tony Brady '96**, **Matt Brady '99** and **Brandon Yap '17**. They danced the night away at Admiral Baker Golf Course with family members **Angela (Puey) Brady '99** and **Steve '68**, **Emmet '01** and **Owen McDonagh '02**, along with classmates **DiMarco Hoskins**, **Trevor Lambright**, **Jeremy Lobo**, **Julianne Louie**, **Gustavo Manzanares**, **Chaz Morales**, **Matt Smith**

and **Katie (Jeung) Thompson**. / **Darren Criss\*** was cast in the new FX series called *Versace: American Crime Story*. He and his brother **Chuck Criss '03\*** also launched a new music project called Computer Games. He also appeared in a crossover episode for *Supergirl* and *The Flash* and will appear in the film version of *Speech and Debate*. / **Kate Fehlhaber\*** was interviewed by **Cate Scott Campbell '00\*** for her podcast on science and art. / **Bridget Tarantino** married **Matt Bergstrom** on Oct. 22. Their wedding party included **Kate Bergstrom '07**, **Ashley Tarantino '02**,



**Courtney Tarantino '98** and **Zach Salin**. Celebrating with the couple were classmates **Kristina Kern**, **Anna King**, **Jane Zatzkin**, **Jess Morse**, **Erica Cerles**, **Gina (Balestrieri) Igwe** and **Dan Hemphill**.

**2007** San Francisco's Rec and Park praised **Ryan Kelly\*** for his volunteer work to the Dominican Republic, where he donated baseball equipment.

**2008** **Keelin Woodell\*** is appearing on the big screen in *The Bye Bye Man* and her brother, **Colin Woodell '10**, starred in *Long Day's Journey Into Night* (as Edmund Tyrone) at the Geffen Playhouse with Alfred Molina and Jane Kaczmarek. The *LA Times* praised Colin for his stellar performance.

**2009** ABC 7 profiled the recovery of SFPD's **Kevin Downs\*** who had been shot in the line of duty. Kevin was also honored at the Triple I (Irish, Italian, Israeli) luncheon in March.

**2012** **Greg Davis\***, representing Princeton's U.S. Training Center, was the first American rower to finish fourth at the Crash B World Ergometer Championships in Boston in February. Greg finished with a time of 5:50.2 behind a Czech rower, a Belarus Olympian and a Cuban Olympic rower. Greg's time was 2 seconds off his personal record of 5:48, both extraordinary times on the world level. Greg then left for the Olympic Training Center at Colorado Springs for high altitude training. He wore his SI Crew St. Patrick's Day Shamrock unisuit during the event.

**2013** The Baseball America website reported on Giants' farm team standout **Matt Krook\*** who is now playing for the San Jose Giants. / **Kevin Sullivan\*** at Cal and **Kevin O'Connor '12** at St. Mary's played against each other in rugby. / **Elyse Vincenzi** was crowned Miss San Francisco 2017. She will represent San Francisco at various community events and fundraisers and at the Miss California competition in June. She is also an ambassador for the American Heart Association and for the Children's Miracle Network.

**2014** **Quincy Mann\*** was praised for launching Students Seeking Change in Educating and Nurturing Diversity, a student-athlete group aimed at taking Lehigh's athletic leadership to the next level.

**2015** **Sydney Raggio\*** was named to the All West Coast Conference team for her work with St. Mary's basketball team.

**2016** **Griffin Burke\*** set a record in the 200 backstroke at Fairfield University.

**2017** A team of five students took part in the annual SLAC regional DOE High School Science Bowl competition, coached by SI physics teacher Kristina Boyce. The students have a strong interest and proficiency in math and science and were among 30 high school teams competing from the Bay Area. **Emily Isip\*** served as the student leader. She introduced this opportunity and recruited the rest of the team including **Ayushi Tandel**, **Emma Schmiede**, **Alex Lo** and **Airol Ubas '19**. / **Ariana Abdulmassih\*** was nominated for McDonald's All-American Basketball Team. / Lacrosse player **Catriona Barry\*** was named player of week by *U.S. Lacrosse Magazine* in March. / Dartmouth highlighted **Mallen Bischoff\*** as a new volleyball recruit. / Cal-Hi Sports named **Anne Crouch\*** to its Second-Team, All-State volleyball team. / **Nick Menchero\*** was named to the *Mercury News'* All-Bay Area football team. / **Will Sweeney\*** signed to play football for Stanford. / **Mei Tam\*** spoke in March at a TedX Youth Conference held at SHC on the topic of "The Invisible Minority." / **Kyle Wilkinson\*** advanced to the quarterfinals of the San Francisco City Golf Championship in March.

**2018** **Madie Augusto\*** threw a no-hitter for SI softball in February. / **Sophia Boosalis\*** received five national art awards for her printmaking, drawing and illustrations from the Alliance for Young Artists and Writers. Her twin brother **Andrew Boosalis\*** was selected as a Young Arts Foundation Merit Winner in classical music (percussion) and also received a merit award from the National Young Arts Competition. / **Brandon Hing\*** received honors after a weekend at the University of Pacific's annual performance of Mahler at Pacific. After auditioning last fall, he was selected as one of 40 high school students from 150 applicants from all over California.

**2019** Cal-Hi Sports named **Jaedon Roberts\*** to the state football all-sophomore team.





# Red & Blue Campus Crawl

## Saturday, June 10, 2017

All Alumni (*age 21 and older*) are invited to join us for an evening at the Prep! Bring a guest and enjoy campus tours, Alumni Restaurateurs' Tasting Pavilion, Alumni Craft Brew Beer Garden and dancing.

\$90 per person / \$60 young alumni (Class of 2006 and younger)

For more details, visit [www.siprep.org/alumni](http://www.siprep.org/alumni)



## Births



**1995 Will Gray** and his wife, Vanessa, a daughter, Elle Leigh, born Dec. 30, 2016, in Roseville, Calif.



**1998 Michelle (Melka) McVeigh** and her husband, Brendan, a daughter, Marie, born Dec. 13, 2016. She joins big brother Allen.



**1999 Agnes Dziadur Caron** and her husband, Matthew, a daughter, Emma Teresa, born May 15, 2016.

# St. Ignatius College Preparatory SUMMER PROGRAMS 2017

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## Kevin Starr, state historian

Kevin Starr, the former California state librarian and a University Professor at USC, died Jan. 14 at the age of 76.

He attended SI for only one year before entering the seminary, but he always considered himself close to his former SI classmates. In his later years, he proved instrumental to gatherings of grandparents of SI students who wanted to learn more about ways of helping the school.

In the spring 2010 edition of Genesis magazine, he noted that “we all need to be students of history — not to forecast our future or to worship it, but to live in the contingencies of our time. We are on a pilgrimage in history, and to be fully human, we must have in some dimension of ourselves an historical awareness. The lesson of history is that you can’t live without it. We’re all part of an historical process, in a world that is suffused and structured by time. Without studying history, we are not fully human, and society will be unable to flourish.”

Social science courses at SI, he noted, help students today “realize that they are in a long line of graduates and that the global and local are fused. By studying SI’s history, they really are studying Jesuit history, which is the story



of the Reformation. You can’t separate the global and local.” ∞

## In Memoriam

1937 John F. Monaghan  
1937 Louis V. King  
1942 Robert J. Meagher  
1944 Warren J. Mitchell  
1944 Donald T. O’Connor  
1944 Br. Leonard Sullivan, S.J.  
1945 Frank P. Gibson  
1945 John Thomas (Tom) Kelly  
1947 John “Jack” J. Galvin  
1950 Herbert C. Haskins  
1950 Anthony R. Marvier

1952 Martin D. “Pete” Murphy  
1953 Robert E. Collins  
1953 John F. De Martini  
1953 George R. Fegan  
1953 James J. Grady  
1954 Thomas McCormack  
1956 Richard P. Doyle, Sr.  
1956 Emmett F. Harrington  
1956 Eugene (“Skip”) Semenza  
1956 John R. Stone  
1957 Philip Lellman  
1957 Nicholas G. Leonard  
1957 James T. O’Connor  
1957 John “Jack” Rudden  
1958 John A. Meany  
(1958) Kevin Starr  
1959 Peter J. Ackenheil  
1961 Benson Lee  
1962 Fergus Flanagan  
1962 Thomas O’Connor  
1963 William (Bill) J. Kelly II  
1966 Anthony (Skipper) T. Hoke  
1968 Daniel P. Riordan  
1971 Michael B. Feeney  
1972 Michael A. Cilia  
1972 Paul J. Korn  
1975 Denis (Dennis) R. Cashman



# 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

*Register at [www.siprep.org/alumni](http://www.siprep.org/alumni)*



## Sarah Giffen, SI librarian

BY CHRISTINA WENGER  
DIRECTOR OF THE SI LIBRARY

In November of 2015, Sarah Giffen, reference librarian for SI's Wilsey Library, emailed her coworkers to let the community know that her doctor had diagnosed her with a recurrence of ovarian cancer to her lungs.

Direct as always, she wanted us to know the facts rather than hearing second-hand stories. One particular paragraph from that email stands out. She wrote the following: "I would like three favors from y'all. First, keep me in your prayers. Second, and I mean this tactfully, please don't tell me stories of friends [or] relatives who died from this disease or any warrior [or] fighter metaphors. I am just sick. Third, I am totally available for laughs, high fives, fist bumps, etc., anything to do with fun. It helps me better than anything else."

This paragraph rings with her personality. Sarah, funny, curious and rich with passion, died in the early morning of Feb. 7, 2017.

Sarah taught our community much. She loved working with students, helping them find books, teaching them how to access good

information in our databases and, more than anything, encouraging them through their tough times. She had a knack for building rapport with teenagers; she called them her "little pumpkin pancakes," while taking the time to learn their favorite sports teams and the names of their dogs.

She knew each student — and all of them come through the library — as an individual. This love stretched to her coworkers, too. Sarah and her husband, Cliff West, so often had an extra place or two set at their table for us, especially when she learned that we may be struggling through life in some way. Eating at that big table in her dining room was joyful and healing. She modeled generous love.

She taught us how to accept her challenges with style and sass. When she lost her hair to chemotherapy, she rocked a series of fantastic scarves; when her hair grew in after a change in medication, she chose to let it stay gray in a punkish fauxhawk. Her outfits were always impeccable, jewelry matching her scarves, and she wore heels even if she felt a little wobbly. The students and community knew she was sick — she wanted them to know the honesty of sickness — and she showed us how to live with disease.



The greatest lesson I personally learned from Sarah as her coworker and friend was how to die. She really lived until the end, cracking jokes, keeping up on the details of the lives of the many people she loved, reading everything she could get her hands on, talking to and about God and enjoying football, her friends, her family and time. Grace and gratitude: blessings she left us.

Please keep Cliff West, Sarah's husband, and their daughters, Laura West Fischer '09 and Sydney West '09, in your prayers as they learn to live without Sarah's physical presence. Sarah may no longer be around, but we will live and die better because we have known her. ∞

The 2016–2017 **ANNUAL FUND CAMPAIGN** ends June 30. Please consider a gift to this important program that allows SI to continue to provide today's Ignatians with an outstanding Jesuit education in state-of-the-art facilities. Every gift, no matter the amount, will make a difference and also help boost the alumni participation rate. **THANK YOU!**

To make a donation today, visit [www.siprep.org/giving](http://www.siprep.org/giving) or use the enclosed envelope.



# CALENDAR

## MAY

4 Brother Draper Tribute (Commons)	6pm	18 Fathers' Club BBQ (Commons)	5:30pm
6 International Food Faire	4pm	19 Faculty In-Service (Holiday)	
9 Ignatian Guild Meeting	7pm	19 Alumni Golf Tournament	noon
10-13 Spring Pops (Bannan)	7pm	20 Senior Prom	
10 Affinity Groups & Magis Senior Celebration	6pm	22 Senior Class Holiday	
11 Ignatian Guild Installation Mass & Luncheon	11am	24 Performing Arts Star Banquet	6:30pm
11 Transition to College (Orradre Chapel)	7pm	25 Transition Liturgy	
12 Portland Chapter Happy Hour		26 Awards Assembly	
12 SIPAC End-of-Year Party	6pm	29 Memorial Day Holiday	
15 Returning students receive financial assistance notifications		30-31 Final Exams	

## JUNE

1 Final Exams	
1 Baccalaureate Mass (St. Ignatius Church)	7:30pm
3 Graduation (USF Memorial Gym)	10:30am
10 Red & Blue Campus Crawl	5:30pm
12 High School Summer School & camps begin	
19 Middle School Summer School begins	

## Martin D. Murphy '52, former regent and trustee and Christ the King recipient



Few individuals have shaped the course of SI more than Martin D. "Pete" Murphy '52, former chair of SI's Board of Regents and, in 1998, one of the first non-Jesuits to join the Board of Trustees.

A third-generation San Franciscan, a descendant of the California Pioneers and a partner in the law firm of Tobin & Tobin, Mr. Murphy died Feb. 8 at the age of 81.

Since joining the Board of Regents in 1978, Mr. Murphy proved instrumental in helping SI become one of the leading schools in the state. He assisted with the transition to coeducation in 1989, in raising money for the Genesis III Building for the Future campaign that improved the campus significantly and in guiding the school through the growth of its endowment and admissions outreach throughout the Bay Area.

He and his wife of 51 years, Joanne, also received numerous honors for their support of Catholic institutions. Mr. Murphy received the St. Thomas More Award as an 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, which he received in 1995.

In addition to chairing SI's Genesis III campaign, Mr. Murphy also led capital campaigns for St. Brendan School's parish center and the USF School of Law's library. He also served as president of seven Catholic organizations as well as a director of the Knights of Malta and the Society of California Pioneers.

After attending Notre Dame des Victoires, Mr. Murphy matriculated to SI where he played baseball and basketball before continuing to SCU, where he met longtime friend Anthony P. Sauer, S.J., who would later serve as SI president. After graduating and before studying law at USF, Mr. Murphy served as a lieutenant in the U.S. Army for two years.

Long after his service on SI's boards ended, Mr. Murphy continued to support the school as a Planned Giving Ambassador. To honor this great Ignatian, SI named the pavilion of the new gym in his honor.

Mr. Murphy's family and countless friends knew him as a man of enormous humility, generosity, loyalty and humor. His sons Marty '84, John '86 and Pat '91 recall that their father rarely passed on the opportunity to laugh at himself or to make others laugh and often joked

that he carried classmates through school and was both a great natural athlete and a dead-ringer for Brad Pitt.

SI's Vice President for Advancement Joe Vollert '84, whose father, Joe Vollert '52, also befriended Mr. Murphy at SI and at SCU, noted that "the San Francisco Catholic community has lost its favorite son, and SI has lost one of our iconic leaders. Pete embodied our faith's call to service as chair of the Board of Regents when we transitioned both our student body and campus to include young women, something that not only transformed SI but also San Francisco forever. He will always serve as a model of Christian leadership."

Steve Lovette '63, who retired from his post as vice president for advancement, added that Mr. Murphy would typically greet people by saying, "Hi! Pete Murphy, local prominent attorney — more local than prominent." He would then offer a hearty laugh. During the Genesis III campaign, I would meet Pete downtown, and it would take forever to walk two blocks on Montgomery Street. He seemed to know everybody and would stop to give them a moment of his time, including a kind word or a corny joke. We were always late to appointments, but people didn't care. They knew Pete and they knew why. Goodness, sincerity, integrity and honesty, and throw in a good measure of humor. That was Pete."

Fr. Sauer, who eulogized his classmate at St. Ignatius Church on Feb. 16, noted that Mr. Murphy "gave his wisdom and counsel as chair of the regents and long-time member. I don't know if he — graduate of an all-male high school and university — was for or against SI going coeducational, but he saw the vision and its purpose and thoroughly embraced the concept throughout his most successful tenure. In all that time, he was always charismatic, charming and fun."

Donations in Pete's memory may be made to the Martin D. "Pete" Murphy Class of 1952 Scholarship Fund or the charity of your choice. ☞

**ABOVE:** Martin D. "Pete" Murphy with his wife, Joanne, at the school's sesquicentennial celebration in 2005.





## IGNATIAN GUILD EVENTS

TOP: January's Ignatian Guild Retreat. TOP RIGHT: Grandparents Day at SI. RIGHT: In January, the Guild held its annual Mother-Student Communion Breakfast.



WE CAN'T HOLD BACK THE CLASS OF 2018 ANY LONGER!



SAVE THE DATE  
**SEPTEMBER 30 &  
OCTOBER 1, 2017**

*All proceeds benefit the SI  
Scholarship Fund.*

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