

# GENESIS

The Quarterly Magazine of St. Ignatius College Preparatory, San Francisco, Spring 2018

SOCCER 'CATS MAKE HISTORY  
WITH NORCAL CROWN







More than half the student body took part in the National School Walkout March 14. The student-led event included participation from San Francisco Mayor Mark Farrell '92, Board of Supervisors President London Breed and District 4 Supervisor Katy Tang. To read the story on the walkout, go to page 31.





## A Report to Concerned Individuals

Volume 55, Number 1 Spring 2018

### Administration

Rev. Edward A. Reese, S.J. President

Mr. Patrick Ruff Principal

Mr. Joseph A. Vollert '84 Vice President for Advancement

Mr. Ken Stupi '78 Vice President, Finance & Administration

Ms. Marielle Murphy Bos '93 Director of Advancement

### Editorial Staff

Mr. Paul J. Totah '75 Director of Communications

Ms. Anne Stricherz Sports Editor

Mrs. Nancy Hess '05 Layout & Design

### Jesuit Community

Rev. John T. Mitchell, S.J. '58 Superior

Brother Douglas Draper, S.J. Minister

GENESIS (USPS 899-060) is published quarterly by St. Ignatius College Preparatory, 2001 37th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116-1165. Periodicals Postage Paid at San Francisco, CA, and at additional mailing offices.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to GENESIS, 2001 37th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116-1165.

CONTACT US: You can send an e-mail to [ptotah@siprep.org](mailto:ptotah@siprep.org) or reach us at (415) 731-7500, ext. 5206. You can also read the issue on our website at [www.siprep.org/genesis](http://www.siprep.org/genesis).

ST. IGNATIUS, mindful of its mission to be witness to the love of Christ for all, admits students of any race, color and national and/or ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs and activities generally accorded to or made available to students at this school. St. Ignatius does not unlawfully discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and/or ethnic origin, age, sex or disability in the administration of educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs and athletic and other school-administered programs. Likewise, St. Ignatius does not discriminate against any applicant for employment on the basis of race, color, national and/or ethnic origin, age, sex or disability.

If you wish to receive the online version only, send an email to [ptotah@siprep.org](mailto:ptotah@siprep.org) to be removed from the mailing list or write to us at 2001 37th Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94116.



## St. Ignatius

### Board of Trustees

Gregory Bonfiglio, S.J.

#### Chair

Justice Peter J. Siggins '73

#### Secretary

Mr. Joe Allanson '81

Amanda Alvarado-Ford, Esq.

Ms. Maureen Clark

Dr. Antonio Cucalon III '75

Ms. Sheryl Evans Davis

Dr. Mary Wardell Ghirarduzzi

Mr. Brian Heafey '86

Ms. Heidi LeBaron Leupp

Niall P. McCarthy, Esq. '85

Ms. Michele Meany

John T. Mitchell, S.J. '58

Mr. Timothy P. Pidgeon '74

Edward A. Reese, S.J.

Alicia Donahue Silvia, Esq.

Timothy Alan Simon, Esq. '73

## First Words

In late February, when San Francisco's new mayor Mark Farrell '92 visited the Gleneagles Golf Course, which is managed by Tom Hsieh '83, it wasn't to try out a new putter. Mark came to praise the expansion of a jobs program, one started in 2015 by his predecessor, the late Mayor Ed Lee.

Named for a labor union leader, the Mario De La Torre Training Academy is an eight-week program that gives at-risk city residents construction and landscaping skills and eventual membership in Laborers International Union of North America — Local 261. Those in the program go from living below the poverty line to making up to \$80,000 each year. Gleneagles, in turn, benefits from work around the golf course while Academy members get on-the-job training.

"Throughout the years, some changes at SI were met with skepticism," said Hsieh. "But most of those changes turned out for the best. The same is true with the Training Academy here at Gleneagles. Those who were against it in the beginning are now happy for its success."

I tell this story because it is emblematic of so much that goes to the heart of what it means to be an Ignatian.

Years ago, SI's Vice President for Advancement Joe Vollert '84 and I collaborated on a new tagline to replace "Educating the youth of the Bay Area since

the Alumni Association, and he serves so many in the city by operating a hidden gem — the Gleneagles Golf Course. Like so many others, I am fortunate to count both Tom and Mark as friends and proud to see the good they have accomplished for so many in the public/private partnership that is the Training Academy.

Some may wonder, by the way, why only three SI grads have served as mayor of San Francisco despite our long history in the city, one that dates to the Gold Rush. I have an answer for that: You can typically find SI grads in key behind-the-scenes support roles that allow for dynamic change to occur. In other words, they lead by serving.

I think of Alfred Cleary, a 1900 grad of SI who was the city's first chief administrative officer and who helped Mayor Angelo Rossi root out corruption in City Hall between 1930 and 1938. The grandfather of former Board of Trustees Chair Mark Cleary '64, Al Cleary helped with the engineering of the O'Shaughnessy Dam at Hetch Hetchy and the Bay Bridge. I also think of Mike Farrah '85, a senior advisor to Mayor Gavin Newsom; Mike Nevin '61, who ran the Youth for Kennedy organization; Ed McGovern '75, a key staffer to Mayor Art Agnos; Gabrielle (Kaho) Gaetani '96, a former aide to Sen. Barbara Boxer; Michelle Los Banos-Jardina '96, a foreign service officer



From left: Ed McGovern '75 served under Mayor Art Agnos; Leah Pimentel '00 is a former vice chair of the SF Democratic Party; Mike Farrah '85 worked for Mayor Newsom, while Tom Hsieh '83 partnered with the city for an innovative works program; and Alfred Cleary (SI 1900) helped clean up City Hall as the first Chief Administrative Officer for San Francisco.

1855" — a simple statement that lacked both poetry and panache. We finally came up with "San Francisco's Jesuit School Since 1855: Courage to Lead; Passion to Serve." The first part speaks to the of context of time and place; the second part reflects SI's mission statement and challenged students to discern how to create a better world.

The pairings of leadership and service are natural ones. We saw them come together when Supervisor Farrell was voted in as Interim Mayor of San Francisco by the Board of Supervisors. Farrell has said that he is committed to serving as a caretaker mayor; he has not filed to run in the June special election and later announced that he would leave political life after his service. He accepted the call to lead in order to serve a city he loves and to tackle the tough issues of homelessness, crime and the growing divide between those who can afford to buy \$1 million fixer-uppers and the working poor who struggle to pay their bills.

Tom Hsieh embodies the virtues of leadership and service too, as he is a leader for his SI classmates and for

at the U.S. Department of State; former SF Supervisor Sean Elsbernd '93, now working for Dianne Feinstein; former vice chair for the city's Democratic Party Leah Pimentel '00; and so many more. These men and women are true servant/leaders who embody the SI motto of AMDG, one that links us to all Jesuit institutions.

We also will mark, soon, the end of the fourth term of Gov. Jerry Brown '55, a man who brought the state back from financial ruin and who has become a leader in the battle against climate change. He will be retiring to his Northern California ranch, where, I suspect, he will find time to continue the practice of meditation he learned while a member of the Society of Jesus and continue leading by example, showing what it means to be a contemplative in action.

True servant/leaders, I think, are courageous, humble, empathetic, self-effacing and willing and able to learn from their mistakes. I am grateful that SI continues to develop people of character such as these.

— Paul Totah '75

# Contents

GENESIS: Volume 55, Number 1, Spring 2018



**Above:** Gary Brickley '71 designed a pixel-perfect recreation of the Saturday Night Live set for the annual Fathers' Club Scholarship Auction, which netted more than \$1 million to benefit students receiving tuition assistance. [Story on page 6.](#)

## FEATURES

- 8 CONTEMPLATIVES IN ACTION: STORYTELLERS & INNOVATORS
- 10 [Adam Greenberg '08](#) designs intelligent greenhouses to feed a hungry world
- 12 [Brian Hurley '99](#) puts his own imprint on the book publishing industry
- 14 [Tara Lai Quinlan '94](#) finds effective ways to fight terror
- 16 [Ava Mar '18](#) helps pioneering company give teens control over marketing
- 16 [Jill \(Corey\) Robertson '07](#) helps others spin their stories on The Moth's stage
- 18 Retired cop [Brian O'Neill '83](#) now flying high as pilot and author
- 20 [Kevin Carroll '72](#) shares the value of gratitude in a new book
- 20 [Michael Shymanski '09](#) writes in Portland after publishing lit journal from Spain
- 22 [Nevin Kelly-Fair '15](#) walks the red carpets of Cannes thanks to his new film
- 24 [Gabby Capili '10](#) turns her life into art on the big and small screens
- 26 Accordion maestro & author [Lorenzo Lucchesi '19](#) provides both words and music

## DEPARTMENTS

- 49 Keeping in Touch      51 Births
- 54 In Memoriam      55 Calendar
- 54 [Bernie Simpson '54](#), star athlete, former basketball coach & English teacher

**On the Cover:** The varsity boys' soccer team won the league, CCS and NorCal crowns. *USA Today* named the team the third best in the U.S. Photo by [Paul Totah](#).

## DEVELOPMENT

- 6 [Fathers' Club Scholarship Auction](#) brings in big laughs & even bigger bucks

## SCHOOL NEWS

- 28 [SI ACE teachers](#) celebrate 25 years of innovative Notre Dame program
- 31 Students take part in nationwide walkout to lobby Congress for school safety
- 32 [Roger Reese](#) doggedly pursues his dream of bringing joy to SI
- 33 [Michelle Cheung '19](#) shows that excellence isn't limited to one discipline
- 34 [Boy Scout](#) projects help veterans, restore trails and go beyond borders
- 36 [Ainol Ubas '19](#) blends passion for service and science in outreach beyond SI
- 37 Poet, actress and volunteer [Erin Valoroso '18](#) receives four-year scholarship

## SPORTS

- 39 [Sports Wrap](#)
- 40 **COVER STORY:** [Boys' soccer](#) celebrates historic season

## ALUMNI

- 41 A season of honoring [SI alumni and former coaches](#)
- 42 [Mark Farrell '92](#) takes the reins of City Hall as SF's new mayor
- 44 Parting the veil with words on the wind, by [Tony Del Zompo '84](#)
- 46 Coach [Tim Halloran '75](#) helps his team succeed on the court & in life
- 48 [Ari Boosalis '15](#) survives Antifa attacks at Columbia to advance free speech



## 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:*

Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Stecher '62  
Ambassadors  
Mrs. Eugenia Allender  
Mr. & Mrs. John F. Azevedo '59  
Mrs. Maryann Bachman  
Mr. Jeffrey M. Bainbridge '74  
Mrs. Ruth L. Beering  
Mr. & Mrs. David C. Bernstein '80  
Mrs. Helen Bernstein  
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas E. Bertelsen, Jr.  
Mr. Thomas G. Bertken '50  
& Ms. Sheila McManus  
Mr. and Mrs. Neil Bianchini '50  
Mr. & Mrs. Carl F. Blom '55  
Mr. & Mrs. Gus Boosalis  
Mr. Louis M. Brizzolara '42  
Mrs. Marion Broeker  
Mr. & Mrs. John Cahill '62  
Mr. & Mrs. Gregoire Calegari  
Mr. & Mrs. Clark N. Callander '76  
Mrs. Margaret Carroll  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael P. Carroll '58  
Mr. & Mrs. Chris J. Cesena '78  
Mr. Michael Cetinich '71  
Mr. & Mrs. Samuel R. Coffey '74  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Comolli  
Mrs. Lillian Corriea  
Mr. & Mrs. Paul J. Corvi '77  
Mr. & Mrs. Kevin K. Coyne '67  
Mr. Hal Cranston  
Mrs. Marites Cristobal Coulter '94  
Mr. Virgilio B. Cristobal '93  
Mr. & Mrs. Salvatore Curcio  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Delagnes '65  
Mr. Leonard P. Delmas '47  
Mr. & Mrs. Randall DeVoto '68  
Ms. Christine H. Dohrmann  
Mr. & Mrs. Philip J. Downs, Sr. '73  
Ms. Mary Driscoll  
Mr. & Mrs. John Duff  
Mr. Frank M. Dunnigan '70  
Mr. Patrick E. Dwyer '63  
Mr. and Mrs. Frank L. Eldredge '76  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Enright '76  
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Enright  
Mr. & Mrs. John A. Espiritu  
Mrs. Myrtis E. Fitzgerald  
Mr. & Mrs. Jack J. Fitzpatrick '60  
Mr. & Mrs. John J. Gibbons '37  
Mr. & Mrs. Gary P. Ginocchio '68  
Mr. & Mrs. Richard L. Giorgetti '66  
Mr. Christopher Glaub '82  
Ms. Nanette Gordon  
Mrs. Lois Grant\*  
Mrs. Linda Grimes  
Mr. William Hall '68  
Mr. & Mrs. Brian J. Heafey '86  
Mr. & Mrs. Michael Heafey '82  
Mr. & Mrs. James P. Horan '60  
Mr. & Mrs. John P. Horgan III '63  
Mr. Frank J. Howard, Jr. '75  
Mr. Philip Johnson  
Mr. & Mrs. Daniel M. Jordan '77  
Dr. Peter E. Kane '51  
Mr. & Mrs. Albert Keane '68

## Fathers' Club SNL Auction brings in big laughs while topping \$1 million to benefit SI's Scholarship Endowment Fund

More than a few people told Dave Hollister in private that he was a little crazy for taking on the enormous job of chairing the Fathers' Club Scholarship Auction.

They were partly right. It turns out he was both wild and crazy as he did his best imitation of Steve Martin during the auction, which recreated both the set and the characters of *Saturday Night Live*.

Though Hollister did admit the experience was "like riding a rocket sled," he also said the job was "more satisfying than I ever imagined it could be. I loved rallying people to work for a great cause while also having a great time."

The host of volunteers and auction-goers helped raise more than \$1 million to help SI's Scholarship Endowment Fund and make possible an SI education for scores of young people who would otherwise not be able to enroll at the school.

They also illustrated Hollister's core belief. At the gift-giving parties, he told donors that the auction "is all about fun, fellowship and fundraising. If you create the first two, the third will happen."

Hollister came up with the SNL theme as the show has been a favorite in his household for years. (He and his wife, Rachel, are parents of Claire '16, Nick '17, George '20 and John, a fifth grader at Town School for Boys.) He also relied on his family for advice regarding faculty participation, and that led to assistant principal for formation Chad Evans being tapped to play the Church Lady. "Chad was a one-take-wonder," said Hollister. "He did a promotional video for us and walked on stage in character to say grace."

Gary Brickley '71 came on board for his 17th year as production designer. Knowing that the SNL set in New York was one-of-a-kind, he realized it would have to be custom fabricated at his shop. After studying online images, Brickley called the SNL designer at his Brooklyn scene shop. "Unfortunately, no drawings or dimensions of the set were available," said Brickley, who then used standard dimensions for stair and door height to recreate the set. "The set was simply pixel-perfect," said Hollister, who also praised Ted Curry '82, director of SI's fall plays and spring musicals. "I couldn't have done it without him. He orchestrated all the moving parts of the show and made it flow so well."

Hollister also thanked auction vice chair Matt Niehaus, underwriting chair Gordy Brooks, wine chair Gene Domecus and graphic artist Regan Mahoney. "These men are perfect examples of what it means to be part of the Fathers' Club. They are guys who just step up when needed."

Other dads who helped make the auction a success included Will Hunsinger, Nathaniel Chichioco and Eric Ludwig. "Will was here for four days straight helping organize volunteers for setup," said Hollister. "It was so great to have Will, a new freshman dad, work with auction setup veterans such as Dan Casey,

Paul Eggert and Jay Hanley. And Nathaniel and Gary did a superb job on the online auction."

He also thanked Fathers' Club President Dave Churton '77. "As a former auction chair, he knew the process in and out and was a true partner. "I could pick up the phone, ask him for something, and he would take care of it. For example, I needed additional wine on short notice, and he made it happen with a donation from Tom Klein of Rodney Strong. This was in addition to a generous wine donation from Clay Fritz '90 of Fritz Winery."

Churton, in turn, praised Hollister, calling him "an excellent auction chairman who is committed to SI's scholarship program. He built an incredible team and produced an evening that was one of the most successful auctions ever."

Though this was a Fathers' Club event, Ignatian Guild members pitched in, including Guild President Staci Fleming, Rachel Hollister and Meena Sidhu, who organized the fabrication of the TV-themed centerpieces.

Much of the success of the night happened thanks to auctioneer Franco Finn, whose day job is to hype up crowds before the Golden State Warriors take the court. He helped generate excitement for packages that included a Formula One Grand Prix trip to Austin, a dinner with Mayor Mark Farrell '92 at City Hall and two dinners with SI Principal Patrick Ruff that brought in \$80,000.

As for next year, Hollister has this advice for Niehaus, who will chair the 2019 auction. "Do what I did: Surround yourself with people who are enthusiastic and who believe in the mission of the school. When I first took on the job, I thought, 'How on earth will I be able to do this?' It turned out that I shouldn't have been asking that question. It wasn't me doing everything. So many people graciously offered their help. I could not have done the auction without them. That's the magic of the Fathers' Club." ∞







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

- Mr. & Mrs. Brian S. Kearney '62
- Mr. Francis J. Kelly III '75
- Mrs. John Kotlanger
- Mr. & Mrs. Leo Paul Koulos '51
- Mr. & Mrs. Charlie Krystofiak '69
- Mrs. Jean Y. Lagomarsino
- Mrs. Lida Lalanne
- Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Lawson '69
- Mr. George D. Leal '51
- Mr. & Mrs. Henry Leidich
- Mr. & Mrs. Dean Levitt '76
- Ms. Gretchen Lintner '74
- Mr. & Mrs. Romando J. Lucchesi
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lundgren
- Mr. & Mrs. Edward E. Madigan '50
- Mr. John M. Mahoney '65
- Mr. & Mrs. Jerry R. Maioli '60
- Mr. & Mrs. James C. Magill, Jr.
- Mr. & Mrs. Donald Mancini
- Mr. Jean H. Marrot '47
- Mr. Michael Marrot
- Mr. R. Brian Matza '71
- Dr. & Mrs. Loring W. McAllister '55
- Mr. & Mrs. David McAuliffe '58
- Mrs. Bernice McCabe
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael McCaffery
- Mrs. Mary McCarthy
- Mrs. Joan E. McGuire
- Mr. James R. McKenzie '79
- Dr. Allison E. N. Metz
- Mr. & Mrs. David C. Mezzera '64
- Mr. & Mrs. Matthew F. Miller '86
- Mr. & Mrs. Frederick J. Molfino, Jr. '87
- Mr. & Mrs. James J. Monfredini '65
- Mr. John D. Moriarty '51
- Mr. Daniel R. Morales, Ph.D. '47
- Mr. and Mrs. John Mullaney, Jr. '61
- Mr. Jeffrey J. Mullins '67
- Mr. & Mrs. Charles T. Murphy '61
- Mr. & Mrs. Leo J. Murphy '65
- Mrs. Martin D. Murphy '52\*
- Mr. Charles G. Nan '79
- Mr. & Mrs. Marston Nauman
- Mr. & Mrs. J. William Newton
- Mr. and Mrs. Kelly Norman '98
- Mrs. Bernice O'Brien
- Ms. Mavourneen O'Connor
- Mr. Charles L. Ostrofe '49
- Mr. & Mrs. Eugene C. Payne III '65
- Mr. Claude Perasso, Jr. '76
- Mr. & Mrs. Timothy P. Pidgeon '74
- Mrs. Diana P. Raggio
- Mrs. Dante M. Ravetti
- Mr. Edward J. Reidy, Jr. '76
- Mr. & Mrs. Kevin M. Reilly '83
- Rev. Vincent Ring
- Mr. & Mrs. Gary L. Roberts '75
- Mrs. Kathleen C. Ryan
- Mr. & Mrs. Timothy Ryan
- Mr. & Mrs. Bruce L. Scollin '65
- Mr. Americo Silvi
- Mrs. Caroline Smith
- Mr. & Mrs. Darwin K. Tejada '79
- Mr. & Mrs. Michael A. Thiemann '74
- Mr. & Mrs. David A. Thompson '66
- Mr. & Mrs. Robert M. Tomasello '67
- Mr. & Mrs. Paul D. Tonelli '76
- Mrs. Elizabeth L. Travers
- Mr. J. Malcolm Visbal
- Mr. & Mrs. William Vlahos '83
- Mr. & Mrs. Joseph A. Vollert '84
- Mr. & Mrs. James A. Walsh '40
- Mr. William Welty & Ms. Kathryn McGovern
- Mrs. Robert H. Wiebusch '51
- Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Worner '68
- Mr. & Mrs. Sheldon Zatkun
- Anonymous Donors (23)
- \*Former Ambassadors







## CONTEMPLATIVES IN ACTION: STORYTELLERS & INNOVATORS

Diligent readers of this magazine will recall that the school's theme for the year is "contemplatives in action" — something that Jesuits and their students strive to become. The winter edition featured stories of our award winners — our exemplars — who represented the action part of the equation, and graduates dedicated to the contemplative life of the mind.

Here we offer another pair to illustrate the theme — innovators and storytellers. This new pairing suggests that we have innovators on the "action" side of the equation and storytellers on the "contemplative" side. Truth be told, the lines are muddy. After all, the storytellers featured here certainly think long and hard before creating their books or videos, but they are truly contemplatives in action as they bring their works to life and share them with their audiences.

Likewise, the innovators you'll meet are people who dream before they act, and that, of course, is the secret sauce that makes any endeavor successful — the imagination and contemplation that inspires and fuels their creativity.

Our innovators include Adam Greenberg '08, CEO of iUNU, which offers a system of AI software and sensors that will quite literally help greenhouse growers feed the planet. The best metaphor for his system is that it is a face recognition device for plants so that growers know when to add water, nutrients or pesticides, even from remote locations, to optimize production.

Brian Hurley '99 is a senior editor at Emeryville-based Callisto Media, which has turned the publishing paradigm upside down, reverse-engineering books by using data mined from online booksellers and other sources. He also feeds his artistic side with his own small press that turns out quality books.

Tara Lai Quinlan '94, who teaches law at the University of Sheffield in England, is working with those on the front lines in the fight against terrorism to promote innovative ways to prevent attacks from occurring. Police tell her that busting heads and racial profiling just don't work as well as partnering with communities, and she advocates for the police to be community guardians rather than warriors.

Ava Mar '18, who is wrapping up her senior year at SI, is already working as the chief operating officer for The Ambassadors Company, started by one of her friends. The company recruits teens to test-market apps and other products. The innovative part of this is that teens are taking charge of the process and acting as entrepreneurs rather than clients.

*Jill (Corey) Robertson '07 (left) and Megan Jones co-hosted The Moth's storytelling venues at San Francisco's Public Works and in Berkeley before Jill moved to Southern California, where she is continuing to provide a stage for people to tell 5-minute stories.*

For our storytellers, few have more experience with the art of storytelling than Jill (Corey) Robertson '07, who is a producer for The Moth StorySLAM. She started telling stories herself and now creates a venue for others to share fascinating true stories about their lives. The best of those stories make it onto the radio and larger stages.

Brian O'Neill '83 has chosen writing as a third career. A retired member of the Tacoma Police Department, he now flies for Horizon Air. He returned to policing in a circuitous route by writing *City of Destiny*, a loose retelling of Shakespeare's *Othello*, set in a police station in modern-day Tacoma, which, in the 1980s, became the third most dangerous city on the West Coast, a distinction that's true to this day.

Michael Shymanski '09 created the literary magazine *fron//tera* while living in Spain. This work features prose and poetry in both English and Spanish as well as photography and other art. The pieces in the magazine, he hopes, explore ideas that build communities and transcend political and cultural roadblocks.

If you have ever struggled to find reasons in your life to be grateful, then Kevin Carroll '72 has a book for you. He wrote *A Moment's Pause for Gratitude* following an "Attitude of Gratitude" retreat, and he drew from more than 1,500 of his blog posts to create the first of three works exploring reasons why we should practice gratitude for our mental, physical and spiritual health.

Two award-winning young filmmakers have taken storytelling onto big and small screens. Nevin Kelly-Fair '15 walked the red carpets at the Cannes Film Festival thanks to his part in an award-winning short, and Gabby Capili '10 was nominated for an award for co-writing an animated film. Another film she created — one that tells the story of her Filipino grandmother — aired on public television.

Finally, Lorenzo Lucchesi '19 is already the author of three books and is working on more. His greatest storytelling, however, happens when this born entertainer plays his accordion and sings at North Beach restaurants entertaining crowds with his repertoire of songs.

If you have ever felt that you had a story in you or a new way of doing something, then I hope these men and women inspire you with their examples and successes. After all, this is why SI is in business — to teach our students to be creators, inventors, storytellers and filmmakers so that they might share meaning, hope and solutions with others. — *Paul Totah '75*



# MOTH







## HELPING INTELLIGENT GREENHOUSES FEED A HUNGRY WORLD

Adam Greenberg '08 quite literally had his lightbulb moment selling lightbulbs.

These weren't your off-the-shelf Home Depot bulbs. His company, iUNU (pronounced "you knew"), first gained renown after it opened for business in 2013 selling plasma systems that offered a spectrum of light wider than LEDs — a spectrum as wide as sunlight — to spur plant growth.

His customers, however, were more interested in the innovative software, cameras and sensors that iUNU sold alongside the plasma lights — a system that allowed greenhouse owners to monitor their crops remotely and adjust nutrients, pesticides and water to ensure efficient production.

"We learned to listen to our customers and uncoupled our two products," said Greenberg, whose company is headquartered in Seattle. "Now we're not even selling the plasma lights. We licensed out that product as we know we can't fight a two-front war. For a venture-backed company such as ours, cash may be king but focus is queen."

Greenberg knows that the world's farms and greenhouses already produce enough calories to feed the world. "Growing more food isn't the problem — it's distributing crops so that they reach people in the most remote deserts and in the coldest climates. Greenhouses can help, especially vertical farms that don't rely on dirt. You can create tasty, high-vitamin crops using just water and light."

The company's flagship product, Luna, is an artificial-intelligence computer system that learns over time as it measures the health of plants. "It's easy for growers to forget what a plant's leaves look like from day to day. Luna doesn't forget, just like monitors in hospitals don't forget as they track biometrics. What technology has done for the medical industry is what we're trying to do for greenhouses. This way, owners won't overwater or underwater plants or miss signs of infection or nutrient deficiency."

iUNU's success and promise — it has doubled sales annually since it began selling Luna — has attracted more than \$9 million from backers such as Reddit co-founder

Alex Ohanian, Initialized Capital and Joe Montana's Liquid 2 Ventures. The company's 30 employees are working to keep pace with the high order volume.

Greenberg hopes Luna "will be the best friend to greenhouse growers and help them be more efficient and impactful as they scale up."

He named iUNU after an early term for the Egyptian city of Heliopolis, the place where the Phoenix myth originated, because of that city's connection to the Egyptian sun god. He named the software Luna after the moon to show that the system works both night and day to feed the world.

The young CEO of iUNU first grew to love plants through his family, as his father is a botanist who still works in Bay Area greenhouses. "As a child, I also loved playing on Tank Hill and Twin Peaks. Being outside was my happy place, as I was surrounded by nature."

At SI he furthered his love for the environment in his senior year Nature/Nexus class, and he deepened his respect for multiple perspectives through his travels to other countries. He also credits his trip to New Orleans during an immersion experience to help rebuild neighborhoods devastated by Hurricane Katrina. "SI helped me relate to different types of people, and that prepared me for my job and my journey."

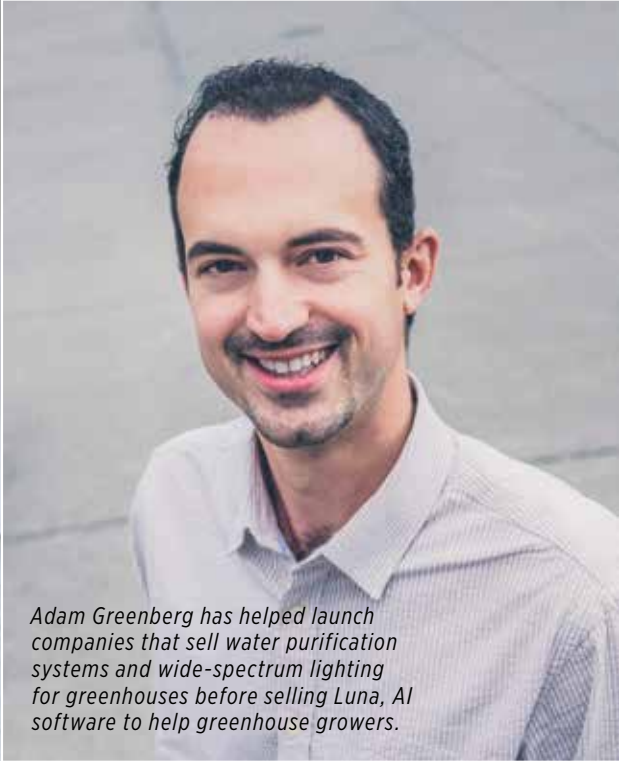
That journey first led him to co-found Pure Blue Technologies after he graduated from the University of Washington with a degree in environmental science. That firm focused on water purification systems and earned Greenberg notice from *Forbes Magazine*, which named the company as one of "30 under 30" to watch due to its innovation and success. He left the company to his partner after launching iUNU.

In the meantime, as Greenberg manages the scaling up of his own company, he also keeps in mind lessons learned while traveling the globe. "The happiest people I met were those who had the least amount of material goods. Seeing the world through their eyes helped me learn to focus on work that was meaningful and purposeful. What could be more important than helping to feed the world?" ∞





*Adam Greenberg '08 (third from right) and his team at iUNU sell software and sensors that help greenhouse growers monitor the health of their plants — even from remote locations. This “face-recognition for plants” is helping growers right now with the quality and quantity of greenhouse crops, which is essential in areas where climate and soil don’t allow for traditional farming.*



*Adam Greenberg has helped launch companies that sell water purification systems and wide-spectrum lighting for greenhouses before selling Luna, AI software to help greenhouse growers.*





## BRIAN HURLEY '99 PUTS HIS OWN IMPRINT ON THE BOOK PUBLISHING INDUSTRY

Book editor Brian Hurley '99 feels torn between two worlds — the realm of corporate book publishing, governed by marketing reports and consumer data, and the community of small-press publishers who serve artists that appeal mainly to those on the margins.

He doesn't mind being torn between these worlds, however, as he finds value in both. He works as founder and editor of the low-print-run Fiction Advocate imprint and as one of the original editors of Emeryville-based Callisto Media, which takes a hardline numbers approach to publishing — one that has paid off to the tune of millions in annual revenues.

His work at Callisto, where he serves as a senior editor, “can feel soulless if you look at it from the point of view of a pure artist. But our publishing model is a powerful and effective one.”

That model reverses the direction most authors and publishers take. Typically, writers begin with an idea for a book and then seek a publisher either before they write or after their book is completed.

Callisto, founded in 2011, uses a big-data approach that analyzes information about how books sell best online in order to reverse-engineer the publishing process.

It sounds complicated, but, as Hurley describes it, this formula is both clear-cut and profitable. “Based on our research, we know how much demand there is for a topic like ‘potty training,’ and how much revenue is being made on it.”

Hurley used that information to plan the book *Potty Training in 3 Days*. “I outlined the chapters and decided on its title, length, and price. Then I found a woman who is a potty-training consultant in Texas and paired her up with a gastroenterologist, an 85-year-old guy living in Larchmont, New York, who wrote the foreword. I learned way too much about potty training by taking notes on coasters while listening to him talk at lunch about spotting on underwear.”

The results paid off, and that book sells thousands of copies each month. “There’s only one book on potty training that sells better, but Amazon prefers our book. That’s what we designed it to do.”

Hurley has heard some blowback from critics of the process because “it isn’t author-driven. Instead, it’s market-driven, and it works.”

For his previous job, Hurley spent six years working for Oxford University Press in New York, where he specialized in books on linguistics. “After Callisto planned a book on English grammar, I called a linguist I knew from my previous job and pitched the book to him. Instead, he wanted to write a book for his podcast listeners. It took a couple of phone calls to convince him that he could do both. I told him that Callisto can give him the real estate on Amazon he needed to become the author of record on the topic, and he finally saw the light. I gave him his own ship to captain.”

Callisto pays its writers well, Hurley added. “I understand that despite being wildly successful, it does feel a bit soulless from an art point of view. That’s the paradox though. Do authors know what customers want best or does a team of engineers know best?”

To feed his artistic side, Hurley turned a blog he started in graduate school into a publishing company called Fiction Advocate. Thus far, his small press has produced eight books with a press run of up to 1,000 each, and he has more books planned for release in the coming months.

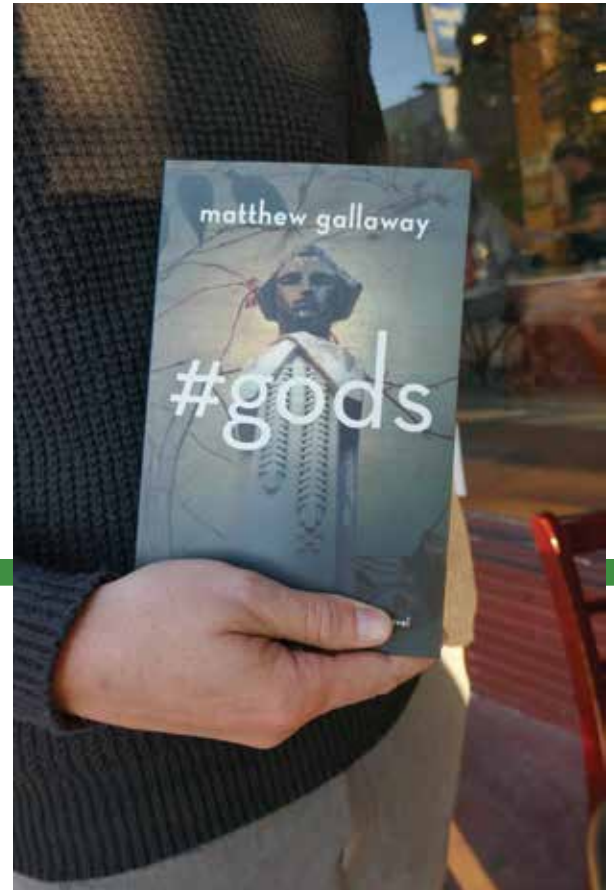
Hurley doesn’t use his press to publish his own work “as the world doesn’t need another straight white American guy’s perspective. It needs to hear from marginalized voices. That’s why over half of the upcoming books that we’re publishing are by women and nearly half of them are by gay writers. I still write my own pieces for about an hour a day, but I would feel a bit icky if I focused on promoting my own voice full time.”

Fiction Advocate’s selections have garnered praise from critics, including *#gods* by Matthew Gallaway, which author Mark Doten describes as “a mystery, an excavation of myths, an index of modern life, a gay coming-of-age story, an office satire, a lyrical fever dream, a conspiracy. One of the most ambitious novels in recent memory and



*OPPOSITE PAGE: Brian Hurley '99 works for an East Bay firm — Callisto Media — that has reversed the traditional book publishing model. Callisto starts with an idea for a marketable book, plans it and then goes in search of an author.*

*Brian Hurley also started a small press to publish books in the more traditional way. #gods by Matthew Gallaway came out to critical acclaim.*



a wild, possibly transformative addition to the canon of gay literature — it contains multitudes, and seethes with brilliance.”

Hurley’s love of literature began as a child when he found himself a proficient English student at Zion Lutheran School. “I don’t think I would have thought I was good at English had I not grown up as one of a handful of kids who did not speak a different language at home. I had a natural advantage in English, and in a weird way, that stuck with me and defined me.”

Because his father owned a religious supply store in South San Francisco and sold religious books, Hurley would on occasion accompany him to Christian booksellers’ conferences. At one, when he was about 9 years old, he found a book that retold Bible stories in 25 words. “I counted the words in one story and found 26 words. The author happened to be there, and my father told me to point the error out to her. When a new version of the book came out, she added my name as an associate editor.”

Hurley excelled at SI, where he served as valedictorian and enjoyed his studies with Peter Devine ’66 and Paul Totah ’75. “I loved writing poems about gnarled trees at the Botanical Garden in Mr. Totah’s class and wound up on the stage thanks to Mr. Devine.” Hurley starred as Don Quixote in *The Man of La Mancha* in Devine’s final show before he retired from directing.

After graduating from UC San Diego, where he studied with famed author Eileen Myles, he went on to Emerson College for a master’s in writing and publishing. He later worked for a small Chinese and Japanese language publishing company in Boston before leaving to serve for six years at Oxford University Press in New York, where he advanced from editorial assistant to associate editor specializing in linguistics. His association with editors of other disciplines created, in Hurley’s words “a Justice League of Academia. We came together regularly to discuss what books we should publish and engaged in serious discussions. Much of my work involved me having my feet up on my desk reading *The New York Review of Books* and looking as if I were

loafing. The company president would walk by and nod approvingly, as he knew we dove deep into various disciplines.”

Hurley met Michelle Lipinski, an editor of law books, through Oxford University Press. “We met on the softball team. She ousted me at second base, as she was better at that position.”

After the two married, they chose to move to San Francisco given their shared love of the city. “My parents are from the Midwest, and they never lost their sense of wonderment about SF. I grew up feeling blessed to be here. When my wife, who is from upstate New York, came to San Francisco for the first time, she fell in love. I told people it was easier to have her fall in love with SF than to have her fall in love with me.”

After their move, both applied for the same job at Stanford University Press, but Hurley’s wife beat him out one more time. When he began at Callisto, he was employee number 10 and brought his expertise to a start-up company new to publishing. “I was one of the only people who knew where the copyright page went.” With more than 60 employees and a second office in New York, the firm now hosts a family of imprints that includes Rockridge Press, Zephyros Press, Tycho Press, Temescal Press and Althea Press as well as a few others.

In an age of instant entertainment, books are more important than ever before, said Hurley. “They are vessels for the best and deepest ideas we have. They create connection and inspire empathy. Infographics, graphic novels and movies all tell stories, but I maintain that words are more effective than pictures. Authors can flip tenses, offer ambiguity and unlock a tremendous amount of power by using language well.”

Hurley recently left a side gig as the books editor for The Rumpus, an online literary community. “It was fun. All the New York publicists would send me their new releases. I still come home to a dozen new books every day. I’m swimming in books. I go to bed and wake up thinking about books.” ∞



## TARA LAI QUINLAN '94 FINDS EFFECTIVE WAYS TO FIGHT TERROR

When Dr. Tara Lai Quinlan '94 was a law student and wanted to know what truly worked in the fight against terrorism, she asked those with skin in the game — men and women in law enforcement in both the U.K. and the U.S.

She discovered that counter-terrorism experts in England were more effective than their American counterparts for one reason — they created partnerships with local communities.

“In the U.S. we declared a War on Terror and employed everything from profiling and wire taps to rendition,” said Quinlan, now a lecturer (the equivalent of an assistant professor) in law at the University of Sheffield in England, where she teaches “Criminal Law,” “Race, Ethnicity and Criminal Justice” and “Critical Approaches to Terrorism and Counter-terrorism.”

“Here in England, new programs sprung up in the wake of the bombings of July 7, 2005. Authorities tried out new programs to engage proactively Muslim communities to build partnerships to root out terrorism. Everyone, from counter-terrorism officials to investigators and police chiefs, claimed that this was far more effective than breaking down doors and busting heads. Through community policing, everyone wins.”

Quinlan and her former law professor, Deborah Ramirez, first partnered on a study funded by the U.S. Department of Justice from 2006 to 2008 that Quinlan carried forward as a doctoral student between 2012 and 2015. She is now turning her research into a book. “Throughout the interviews, I wondered why London chose partnership with Muslim communities while New York and many other U.S. cities didn’t. British authorities told me that you can’t profile or arrest your way out of terrorism. The old-school warrior mentality has gotten us into the jam that we’re in.”

She blames the current White House administration for slowing down policing reforms in the U.S. “Before President Donald Trump, there was bipartisan support in Congress to build partnerships with poor and minority communities to fight terrorism and other types of violence. What President Trump is doing is putting the brakes on these established efforts and returning to an adversarial policing relationship. This is despite the advice from police chiefs around the country who are united in saying this approach is ridiculous. They decry his language about banging heads against police car doors. It’s these chiefs who are telling us not to see police as warriors but as guardians, which is a safer and more effective stance.”

The step-daughter of Buzz Pujolar '62 and the niece of Martin Pujolar '67, Quinlan comes from a family of teachers — people she describes as “critically aware. My parents came to San Francisco, where they were shaped by progressive politics, including the student protests at SFSU. They wanted to be on the ground and in the scene.”

At SI, Quinlan led a student club called Bread Connection that collected food for soup kitchens and homeless shelters, and she volunteered for a suicide prevention hotline. She won the President Clinton Service Award for her efforts before going to Cal, where she majored in American Studies and Rhetoric and did a minor in ethnic studies.

Her thesis advisor at Cal, Dr. Stephen Hartnett, introduced her to tutoring at San Quentin, where she taught lessons in advocacy and oratory to inmates. She also interned with the San Francisco District Attorney’s Office and did an internship at the Washington, D.C., field office of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

After graduating, she took a job in the Oakland-based Sentinel for Fair Housing, where she worked between 1998 and 2001 on housing discrimination issues. “I would

send a black or Latino person and then a white person to rent an apartment to see if there was any discrimination at play. We found quite a bit, and that understanding of persistent and often subtle discrimination has impacted every other job I have had.”

Quinlan then chose to attend Northeastern University School of Law “as that school attracted people like me — those who wanted to work for the government or for non-profit organizations to change public policy.”

During the second week of classes, she witnessed on TV the 9/11 terror attacks. “I wondered if it would increase racial profiling,” and she spent many years looking at this in collaboration with Ramirez, an expert in criminal law and profiling.

After earning her law degree, Quinlan clerked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit for two years, where she saw how the legal system struggled with issues surrounding race and poverty. “I saw in the courts that race and poverty mattered. The odds were stacked against the little guy — against people of color and those who lived below the poverty line. I knew that systemic change in the U.S. would not come quickly.”

She witnessed that again firsthand working for a Manhattan employment law firm for three years. She was approached by employees of a high-rise — immigrants from the Caribbean who worked as security guards and who were fired after a new manager complained that he couldn’t understand them when they made announcements on the building’s public address system. However, they were replaced by Eastern Europeans with also spoke accented English.

Quinlan took their case to the EEOC, which found that the men had cause for discrimination and could file suit. “My firm was not inclined to take the case because it was not cost-effective. That stuck with me and increased my frustration with my profession. I had to look these guys in the face and tell them that while their government believes in them, we weren’t going to go forward. I recommended them to a colleague who helped them fairly settle the case.”

Around that time, Ramirez was awarded grant money from the National Institute of Justice, the research arm of the U.S. Department of Justice, to study counter-terrorism approaches in England, and she enlisted Quinlan to assist her. “Authorities in England were trying something so different, and we were excited by their success. Nothing like that was happening in the U.S.”

Their report gained attention, with excerpts published online by The Huffington Post, and that experience inspired Quinlan to try new paths. In 2009, she became general counsel for the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, where she worked in consumer rights advocacy. “Once again, I felt disillusioned with the inability to effect meaningful policy change.” In 2011, she left for England to earn a master’s degree in law and a doctoral degree in sociology, the first at Kings College London and the latter at the London School of Economics.

The University of Sheffield hired her in 2015, even before she finished her doctoral degree, given the importance and success of her research. “All my policing research is related to discrimination against the disadvantaged — from black, Muslim and poor communities to LGBTQ groups. My goal is to help make policing fairer and end profiling as the default. Clearly, community policing is the way forward.”

*For more information about Quinlan’s work, follow her on Twitter @QUINLANTL.*

*Tara Lai Quinlan, now a law professor in England, found that community-based efforts in the UK are more effective than techniques employed in the U.S. to fight terror.*









## AVA MAR '18 HELPS PIONEERING COMPANY GIVE TEENS CONTROL OF MARKETING PROCESS

Ava Mar '18 has two leadership roles, one at SI and one beyond the school's walls. In addition to serving as editor-in-chief of SI's yearbook, *The Ignatian*, she works as chief operating officer for The Ambassadors Company, which employs more than 100 teens to test-market apps and other products.

Mar joined the company two weeks after fellow teen Maxine Marcus launched the company from her home in Hillsborough in July 2016. Mar manages a team of student testers, called Ambassadors, nine of whom attend SI — seniors Caroline Dresselhuys, Christian Eidson, Katherine Palu, Mark Thomas, Mary Elizabeth Chatfield-Stiehler, Natalie Long and Nicole Cavan, along with Mar's sophomore brother Jackson and Ben Mann '17, now in college.

Marcus launched the company after working as a teen advisor and intern at BounceChat, the makers of SoundHound, a mobile personal assistant that Mar describes as "Siri on steroids." Marcus connects with potential customers at conferences and convinces them of the value of having a group of teens use and comment on the strengths and weaknesses of new products.

Mar manages the Ambassadors, reminding them of deadlines and keeping track of their notes. "Some students will write four sentences and others three pages worth of comments," said Mar, who then collects the data that she and Marcus analyze and assemble for their client reports.

Working with fellow teens, said Mar, "allows me to network and make connections both in person and online." Her work also gives her the chance to impress clients,

## JILL ROBERTSON '07 HELPS OTHERS SPIN THEIR STORIES ON THE MOTH'S STAGE

Jill (Corey) Robertson '07 produces shows that sell out 10 minutes after tickets go on sale. Not one of the performers, though, is a professional.

A producer for The Moth StorySLAM, first in the Bay Area and now in Los Angeles, Robertson helps people tell 5-minute open-mic stories in front of live audiences. Stories are judged, with winners moving on to GrandSLAM competitions at the Castro Theatre in San Francisco, the Regent Theatre in Los Angeles and other venues around the world. Still, the vibe is a friendly one, with audience members cheering those on stage.

"It's not like a comedy club, where you'll find hecklers," said Robertson, herself a gifted storyteller. "After one person froze on stage when she couldn't remember her opening line, someone from the audience shouted, 'You can do it!' There's tremendous sympathy for storytellers, as you could be next, and the audience is always willing to hold you up and support you."

The show's hosts choose storytellers by pulling names out of a hat. Those who come hoping to tell a story add their names to that hat after preparing a short piece based on a theme announced weeks before the event.

Those themes range from topics such as betrayal and courage to "hot mess," said Robertson, who told her first story in San Francisco five years ago during a bicycle and

beer festival called "Tour de Fat" that featured stories involving bikes. She was chosen to be one of four storytellers to perform that day, and she shared a tale of riding through Southeast Asia with her father.

After two years serving as a volunteer with The Moth, she landed a paid job nearly three years ago producing shows, first at Berkeley's Freight & Salvage and at San Francisco's Public Works before moving to Los Angeles, where she produces three shows a month.

She runs the behind-the-scenes operations, selecting venues, managing contracts, paying videographers, filing invoices and reporting back to headquarters in New York, which also organizes other shows, including Mainstage performances that bring back winning storytellers who tell 15-minute tales in large theatres. The GrandSLAM gathering at 1,400-seat Castro Theatre, for example, sells out quickly.

The Moth organization also hosts annual Mainstage events for five expert storytellers that run locally at the Geary Theatre, and it produces a public radio program that has ignited interest in the art form.

"Storytelling is so popular because it involves relating in vulnerable and intimate ways," said Robertson. "We're not speaking on a phone or posting a story on Facebook. Often, we're not the heroes of the stories we tell, which makes these stories



*Ava Mar joined The Ambassadors Company in 2016 and serves as its chief operating officer. The company employs 100 teens who test-market apps and other products.*

*To learn more about the company go to [ambassco.com](http://ambassco.com).*

“who are always blown away by how together and professional we are. I’m impressed by Maxine, too. It’s hard to start a company and market it. Even though we’ve only been around for a year and a half, we’ve gotten some great press coverage from *ForbesWoman*. Now I’m working to recruit more teens.”

The Ambassadors Company also evaluates innovative firms that go beyond phone apps. They took on MeUndies, and each of the evaluators received \$50 worth of free underwear to wear and test.

Mar makes between \$300 to \$650 per project, and the firm has worked on nearly 20 projects thus far with each taking between two and four weeks to complete.

She is proud of the professionalism of her Ambassadors. “That comes in large part from our living in Silicon Valley. This gives us a unique perspective, and most teens really enjoy doing the work.”

She recently went beyond app testing to participate in a study on the “consumption habits of teens that will help us promote our company to other companies. Most are surprised that teens rarely use Facebook and only sometimes use Twitter. We live in a world of Instagram and Snapchat.”

For Mar, the job is a perfect blend of her two passions — business and communications. She plans to major in the latter in college and then get a master’s degree in business. ∞

*Jill Robertson believes in the power of storytelling to transform both the teller and audiences.*

so endearing, and you quickly transform strangers into friends. That’s why so many people keep coming back every time we have a show.”

Stories, she added, “serve as bridges between cultures and windows into lives that are different from our own. One Muslim storyteller who grew up in Missouri told a story about a mosque in his town that was burned down. He shared his experiences, which included being told, ‘We don’t serve your kind here,’ in a rib joint. He also found a note of support and consolation in his mailbox from a non-Muslim neighbor. After his story, many in the audience were crying.”

Robertson, who has taught the art of storytelling at Diablo Valley College, tells potential raconteurs not to memorize their tales but to rely on bullet-point outlines. She also pushes them to subvert expectations. “One grandmother, who comes to the San Francisco shows wearing a belt that has photos of her grandchildren, once started her story by talking about wearing a homemade g-string and a see-through poncho on stage in North Beach. She is the master of flipping expectations.”

Robertson hates lines that have become clichés. “I cringe every time I hear, ‘and at that moment, I realized.’ Instead, I appreciate the non-verbal communication that happens onstage, watching tentative storytellers who begin slumped into themselves and then, as their stories progress, stand up straight and transform as they tell their



story, as one storyteller did when she spoke about stepping out of her shell and going to Burning Man.”

The experience, she added “is magical, watching these stories play out live. Nothing is curated. I can’t explain why these shows are as awesome as they are. Some are hilarious, other sad. Perhaps that’s why our unofficial tagline is ‘most likely to make you cry on BART.’” ∞



## RETIRED COP BRIAN O'NEILL '83 NOW FLYING HIGH AS PILOT AND AUTHOR

Brian O'Neill '83 has had three jobs in his life — author, police officer and pilot — that he sees related in strange ways.

Currently a pilot for SeaTac-based Horizon Air, O'Neill wrote a novel that brings to the forefront his former career as a Tacoma gang cop.

That novel, *City of Destiny*, is a loose retelling of Shakespeare's *Othello* set in modern-day Tacoma, which, in the 1980s, was so inundated with drugs, gangs and shootings that it became the third most violent West Coast city behind Los Angeles and Oakland, a distinction that is true to this day.

For O'Neill, all three jobs involve risk of some sort. "When you start writing, there are only so many good directions you can go. You can find yourself lost with a poor turn of phrase, with bad syntax or by betraying a character's true nature. The writing craft is easily as challenging as police work or aviation."

At SI, O'Neill played baseball but switched to lacrosse and served as team captain his senior year. "I tried to convince the Block Club to give us varsity status, but that did not go well. Because we had graduated so many seniors the year before, our core group of six or seven guys had to recruit both a team and a coach."

O'Neill's squad did well, however, defeating not only the handful of high school teams in the area but also Cal and Stanford. Their biggest loss, however, was to an all-star team of ninth graders from British Columbia. "They cleaned our clocks."

In his classes, O'Neill enjoyed English most, though calculus teacher Chuck Murphy '61 "gave me false hope that I could be an engineer. In sophomore year at the University of Washington, I realized my tutor was doing all my homework, so I threw in the towel and switched to English."

He funded college with an Air Force scholarship, which gave him a commission and a job after graduation. After a year in flight school in Mississippi, O'Neill returned to civilian life after Congress mandated a reduction in forces.

Since the airline industry wasn't hiring, O'Neill took a job with the Tacoma Police Department, inspired, in part, by stories told to him in his youth by a family friend. "He would come by on duty and tell police stories to me, my brother, Daniel '81; and my sister, Cynthia, who later joined the SFPD herself. I loved the stories and often pictured myself in the job."

He picked a tough time to join Tacoma's force as California gangs had recently moved into town, and drug crimes and drive-by gang shootings became the norm. O'Neill saw much of this first-hand as an investigator for the regional Gang Unit. "Sometimes, patrol cars would come back from the street with bullet holes. That's when I'd realize that you can't know everything about this job. Every day is a challenge."

At one point, when he and his partner were on patrol, a group of homeless men stopped their car to report that "some gang-bangers had kicked them out of an abandoned house. When we got there, we saw that the gangsters had set a fire to make an escape. Not all of them made it out, so my partner ran inside the building. The smoke was so thick that I couldn't see my hands in front of my face. Breathing in all those toxins could have been fatal, so I just held my breath when I followed my

partner in. All of us went to the hospital, except for the 18-year-old gangster. He was fine, of course."

Tacoma's gang problems eventually diminished in large part thanks to residents in high-crime areas who "finally banded together and said enough was enough. We tried to arrest ourselves out of the problem and failed. Working with the neighborhoods changed everything."

After an early retirement, O'Neill began writing a column for a local newspaper. "After a couple years, my editor suggested I should write a book. He got me thinking about all the words that I had already written and that maybe I did have a novel in me."

O'Neill took the advice to write about topics he knew and finished the first draft of *City of Destiny* in a coffee shop near his home in Gig Harbor. "In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Northern Pacific Railroad chose Tacoma to be the western terminus of a cross-country line. That earned it the nickname City of Destiny. Seattle got the terminus instead. There's a bit of irony there, obviously."

The novel, narrated by a detective named Michael Cassidy, tells the story of an African American police lieutenant named Orlando. The two, who represent Shakespeare's Cassio and Othello respectively, navigate bitter rivalries and new relationships while trying to keep a gang war from destroying the city.

"I wrote this book with the idea that everyone I knew, including my kids, could read it. Since sexual relationships were relevant to the story, it was challenging to include that intimacy without it being salacious. I'm not sure if I should be proud or ashamed of myself for doing what I consider a decent job."

The book, O'Neill hopes, "tells an authentic story about police officers. The profession has a stigma for its alpha male syndrome, but I saw plenty of camaraderie and compassion over the years. And I wanted the reading public to see that, too."

To get the book published, O'Neill hired an agent, but he had no luck selling it to a publishing house. Then, on a flight back from an interview for an airline job, he made small talk with the woman sitting next to him who turned out to be a publisher. "I was stunned, but waited almost two hours before I summoned the nerve to pitch my manuscript. She rolled her eyes, but I delivered my spiel, got her business card and sent her the manuscript. After the eleventh and final draft, it is now published. It's my overnight success story that took almost five years."

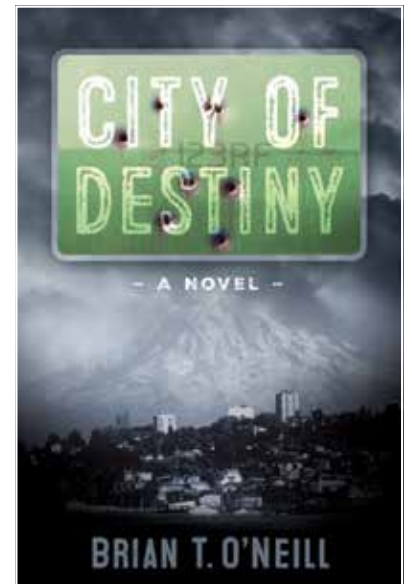
In 2017, O'Neill found a job with Horizon Air. "Being a pilot has been an ambition since I was a kid. It's also extremely challenging because you need to be on top of weather, aircraft systems, navigation and regulations. I feel responsible for taking people safely to their destinations. You're always riding a thin line, which is why it reminds me of being both a cop and a novelist. Having the chance to do all three makes me a lucky guy." ✍

*Brian O'Neill lives with his wife, Marta, in Gig Harbor, where he's working on Grit City, a sequel. He has two sons, Aidan, a Santa Clara University grad, and Nolan, a junior at SCU. To purchase or learn more about City of Destiny, visit [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/brianobooks.com) or go to [brianobooks.com](https://www.brianobooks.com).*

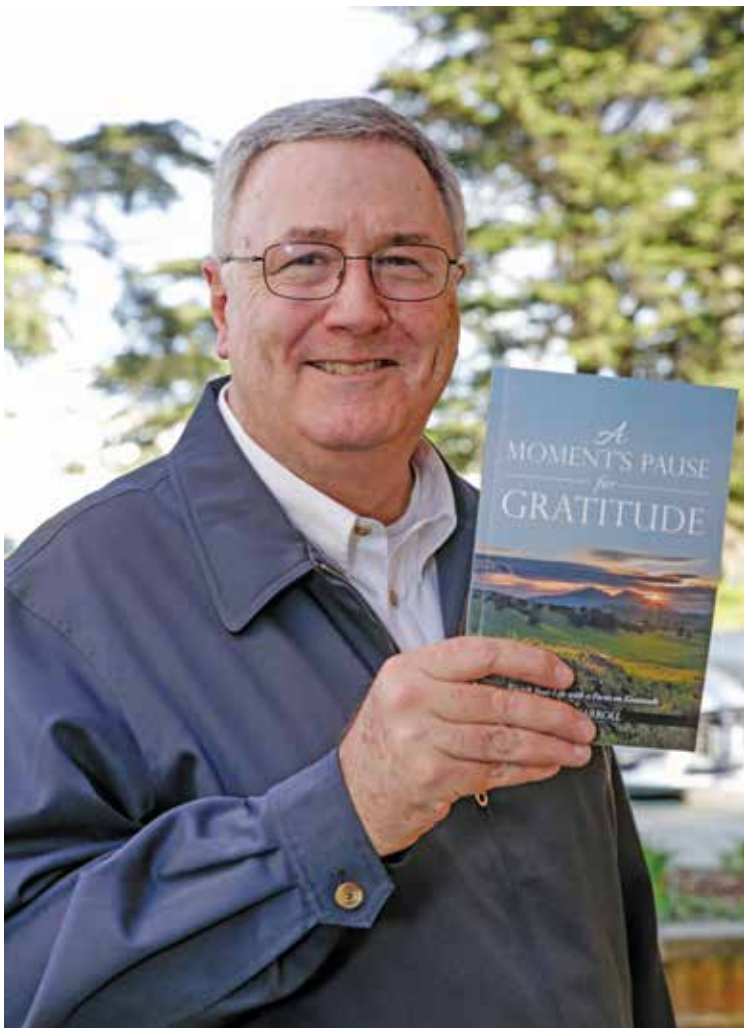


*Brian O'Neill spent years as a Tacoma cop on the gang task force. He used his experience to retell the story of Othello, setting his characters in a police station.*

*Brian's book, City of Destiny, gets its title from an ironic nickname for the city of Tacoma, which was called that as it was destined to be the terminus of a cross-country railroad line. Seattle, instead, became the terminus.*







## KEVIN CARROLL '72 SHARES THE VALUE OF GRATITUDE IN A NEW BOOK

A few years back, Kevin Carroll '72 began noticing that in order to read something with small print, he had to pull books further and further away "until my arms simply weren't long enough."

At that point, he gave in and got glasses that helped him read and to see the world more clearly.

He finds in this an apt metaphor for his new book, *A Moment's Pause for Gratitude*, which, he hopes, will help others learn to see the world so clearly that they discover new reasons to give thanks.

The book, published by Balboa Press last year, is selling well because most people recognize the benefits of gratitude. "Yet only half of Americans say they express gratitude on a regular basis," said Carroll, a retired high school teacher and administrator. "We know we should be grateful, yet we aren't."

Living life with gratitude "makes us healthier both physically and mentally," he added. "There is endless research that shows how gratitude reduces stress and depression. You don't even need good things to happen in your life to be grateful. You just have to look at life through a lens of gratitude."

He points to the death of his father, Tom Carroll '43, a recipient of SI's Christ the King Award and a celebrated battalion chief with the SFFD. "My father was in excellent health when he fell down the stairs in our garage, hit his head and died. Despite this tragedy, I felt grateful that he went quickly. Had he lived, he would have been in a vegetative state. He was good at caring for others, but not so good at letting others care for him. If he had to go through a lengthy dying process, that would have been tough for him and for the entire family."

Carroll began his blog in 2006 following an "Attitude of Gratitude" retreat at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos. (His brother, Tom Carroll, S.J. '68, now based in

## MICHAEL SHYMANSKI '09 WRITES IN PORTLAND AFTER PUBLISHING LIT JOURNAL FROM SPAIN

Michael Shymanski '09 likes to explore boundaries — and push past them. In addition to his travels overseas, he started a bilingual literary magazine called *fron//tera* while in Spain and created a website and literary community to explore ideas that build communities that transcend political and cultural roadblocks.

In addition to creating and editing the annual publication, he contributed a poem to it, one dedicated to his brother, Scott Shymanski '10, who served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army in Kuwait. "That poem was inspired by the lack of communication between us, as we did not see each other for three years."

Now living and working in Portland, the elder Shymanski is seeing his short fiction published by *Timber Journal* and *Clackamas Literary Review*, and he is working on the second edition of *fron//tera*, due out this summer. The first copy, produced by a staff of five, sold out of the 200 printed copies, and he expects the second volume to sell even more.

Shymanski excelled as a writer at SI, winning a city-wide competition in his senior year for a short story. He majored in English at USF, where he also completed his master's degree in education.

He put off his teaching career to travel abroad but first worked at a city restaurant to pay his way. He taught English to undocumented workers and served

as a translator for them before leaving for Chile for three months. "I wasn't content just being a tourist," he said. "I wanted to find a place where I could embed myself in a foreign culture."

He followed that trip with one to Spain, where he taught English to first and second graders in Madrid for two years. "It was a little insane at times but very fun keeping them stimulated."

He started *fron//tera* in part because he knew he wanted to write and connect with other writers. He chose the name as *frontera* means border in Spanish, and he wanted to represent the way literature breaks boundaries and crosses borders. "My generation is involved in so many conversations on race, identity and politics, and discussing these topics sometimes puts us in uncomfortable situations. Doing so, though, can help us thrive and learn."

The venture, he added, "proved a great way for me to explore contemporary writing, learn Spanish and launch a publication."

The first 175 submissions for the magazine were in English, and to attract Spanish writers, Shymanski went to bookstores in Madrid to meet local literati who gathered "to have small conversations and create community."

Rome, once served as director of that center.) “As I was driving down the hill on my way home, I was overwhelmed by gratitude and wondered how I was going to maintain that sense when I went back to work the next day.”

A month later, he started his blog by writing about events and people for whom he felt grateful. As of February 2018, he had written more than 1,500 posts, some of which dealt with family, and others touched on his 31-year career at St. Lawrence Academy and Church in Santa Clara, where he taught religious studies and served as campus minister, athletic director and pastoral associate.

After friends urged him to collect his blogs and publish them in a book, he selected his favorite 200 stories for what he hopes to be his first of three books. The next two are tentatively titled *Focus on Gratitude* and *Embracing Gratitude*.

While each story is a numbered chapter and can be read in any order, “the only number that has significance is chapter 43, which is about my father, who graduated from SI in 1943 and who wore badge number 43 as a fire chief.”

Carroll had encouragement early on from author Roland Merullo, the author of *Golfing with God*. “I wrote a blog post about the book, and Roland emailed to thank me. He also wrote about how most blogs are well intentioned but not well written. Mine, he told me, was an exception, and he also encouraged me to publish.”

After the book came out in 2017, Carroll was surprised by how well audiences received it. “My mother’s friends at her assisted living home are all reading it, and when I was invited to speak at Holy Name Parish, I sold all the 52 copies I had brought with me. Everyone likes something different about the book.”

In February, he participated in a video conversation on the topic of gratitude for the Department of Character Education at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics at Santa Clara University. “The Markkula Center helps individuals and organizations make choices that respect and care for others and apply ethical ideas to the very real problems people encounter,” said Carroll. “Those engaged in this work examine the obstacles to ethical action and develop tools to help people perform at their best, including developing a sense of gratitude.”

Carroll also uses his book as a way to teach others, as he includes reflection questions at the end of each story that invite readers to search for events and people in their lives that make them grateful. “Some people just need a kick in the butt to be more grateful.”

He gives himself the same kick in the butt each morning by sitting on the edge of his bed after he wakes up. “I’ll spend two minutes thanking God for all I have, including my family, my home and a good night’s sleep. I’ll ask God to help me find a way to make a positive difference for someone that day.”

His book can be found on Amazon.com. ∞

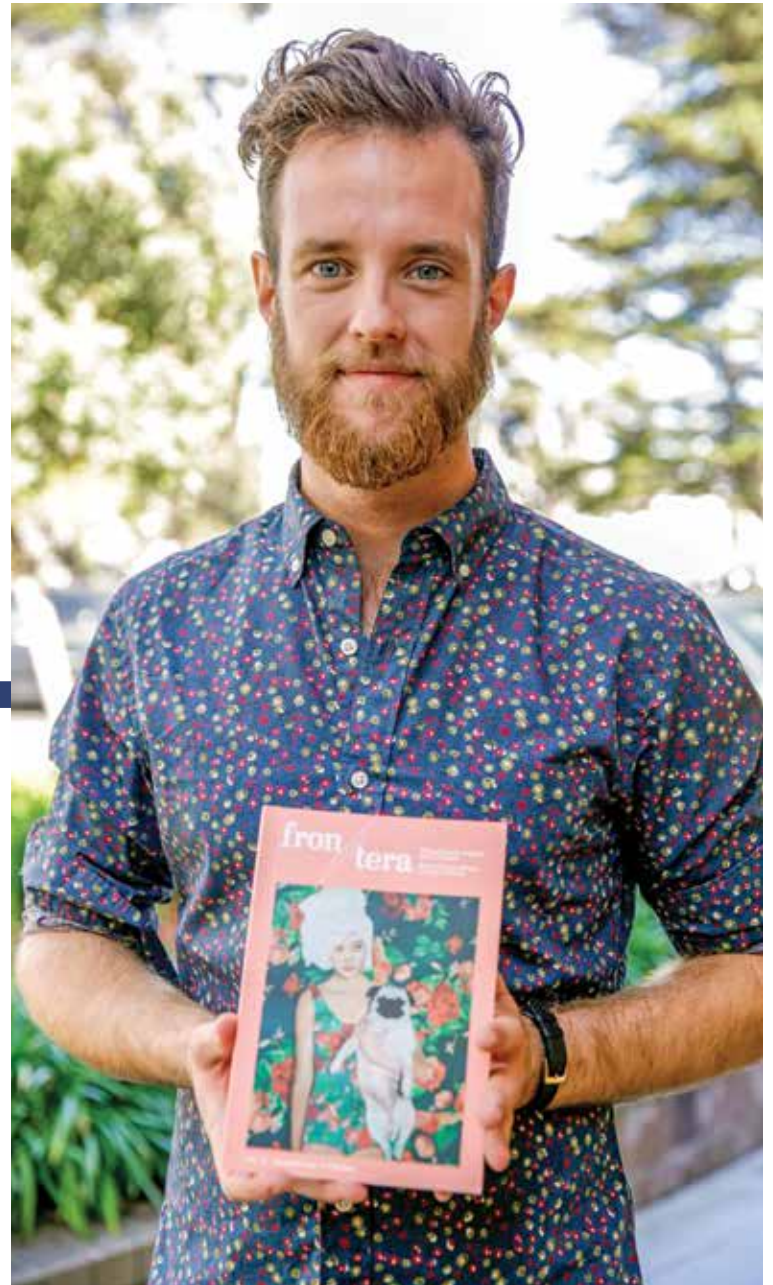
*Kevin Carroll started writing a blog that told stories about gratitude after he attended an “Attitude of Gratitude” retreat at the Jesuit Retreat Center in Los Altos. His book contains a collection of those blogs, ones that have inspired thousands of readers over the years.*

*Mike Shymanski, while teaching English in Madrid, gathered a community of writers to explore ideas on the frontier; the Spanish word frontera became the name of his first literary magazine.*

Because many of the readers are bilingual, some works appear in English and others in Spanish with no translation provided. “Initially we wanted to translate everything, but later decided that writing is often better left in its own language. Translation can sometimes detract from meaning and dull the sensation of a piece.”

Authors come from the U.S., Ecuador, Argentina, Australia, England, Colombia, Spain and Cuba. Shymanski. Several of the writers included in the magazine met for a reading on Sept. 2 in Madrid after raising nearly 2,000 Euros through a Kickstarter campaign to pay for printing. In addition to offering fiction, non-fiction and poetry, the publication also features drawings and photographs, all of which can be viewed online at [fronteralit.com](http://fronteralit.com).

In addition to his pride in the magazine, Shymanski is pleased with the community he helped to create. “Art can only grow through conversation and community. Both are essential to art. Literature has always been the voice of the people — a kind of pure voice where people say what they need to say in order to reflect the values of the time. Some great literature is timeless, but some speaks to a specific time and place. We can write about the boundaries of President Trump’s border wall and the dangers of fencing ourselves in. We can also do so in the context of knowing that this is a conversation we have had since the dawn of civilization.” ∞





*Nevin Kelly-Fair had a chance to meet and befriend celebrities at Cannes, including Barry Jenkins, the director of Moonlight, and Karen Allen, who starred in Raiders of the Lost Ark.*



## NEVIN KELLY-FAIR '15 WALKS THE RED CARPETS OF CANNES THANKS TO HIS NEW FILM

After Nevin Kelly-Fair '15 finished his sophomore-year finals last May at Fordham's Lincoln Center campus, he hopped on a plane to Cannes, donned a tuxedo and strolled the red carpet at the town's iconic festival to celebrate the screening of a film he and a handful of his classmates had made the previous year.

Not a bad way to begin a summer vacation.

Since starting at Fordham, Kelly-Fair has helped to create two dozen short films, one of which was featured at San Francisco's Roxie Theatre last summer. He is also working at Le Cinema Club, and this summer, he will continue working with independent filmmakers Ben and John Safdie on their next film, *Uncut Gems*.

At Cannes, he found himself elbow-to-elbow with movie stars. "I was at a party and danced with a woman who looked familiar," said Kelly-Fair. "I realized finally that she was Karen Allen, and she turned out to be the nicest person ever."

At the same party, he spoke with Barry Jenkins, the writer and director of *Moonlight*, last year's Oscar winner for best picture. "I learned that he had lived in San Francisco and that we had a friend in common. Later, I ditched the party with him to help him find a bathroom and escape the fans."

More than being star-struck, Kelly-Fair found himself inspired by people he admired. "I loved learning how their brains work."

His film that was chosen for the Cannes festival was *We Regret to Inform You*, which he had made with fellow Fordham students Emmi Shockley and Luke Momo. The team entered their film in the Campus Movie Fest contest that gives students five days to shoot and edit a short piece. After making the cut at Fordham, their film was selected by the Terminus Festival in Atlanta, where it won awards for cinematography, acting and directing and was chosen as one of 20 films to be shown at Cannes.

As a boy, Kelly-Fair enjoyed making short videos, and at SI he brought his acting and improv talents to SI Live, a sketch-comedy club that puts on an annual show. He also learned the art of storytelling in Bill Isham's class, where he made a video version of the short story "The Rocking-Horse Winner." The following year, "it all came

together for me in Peter Devine's class, where something clicked, and I saw that the narrative structures and techniques he was teaching could be used in film."

He learned even more from Chad Evans' religious studies class, which asked students to explore themes of spirituality, morality and theology in films. "That lit the fire in me a bit more and taught me that you can tell interesting stories that have multifaceted levels."

In college, he started the Fordham Filmmaking Club, now 50 members strong, who learn how to make quality pieces on low budgets. For one film, *Dead Dog*, the budget came to \$2 — the cost of a can of mushroom soup.

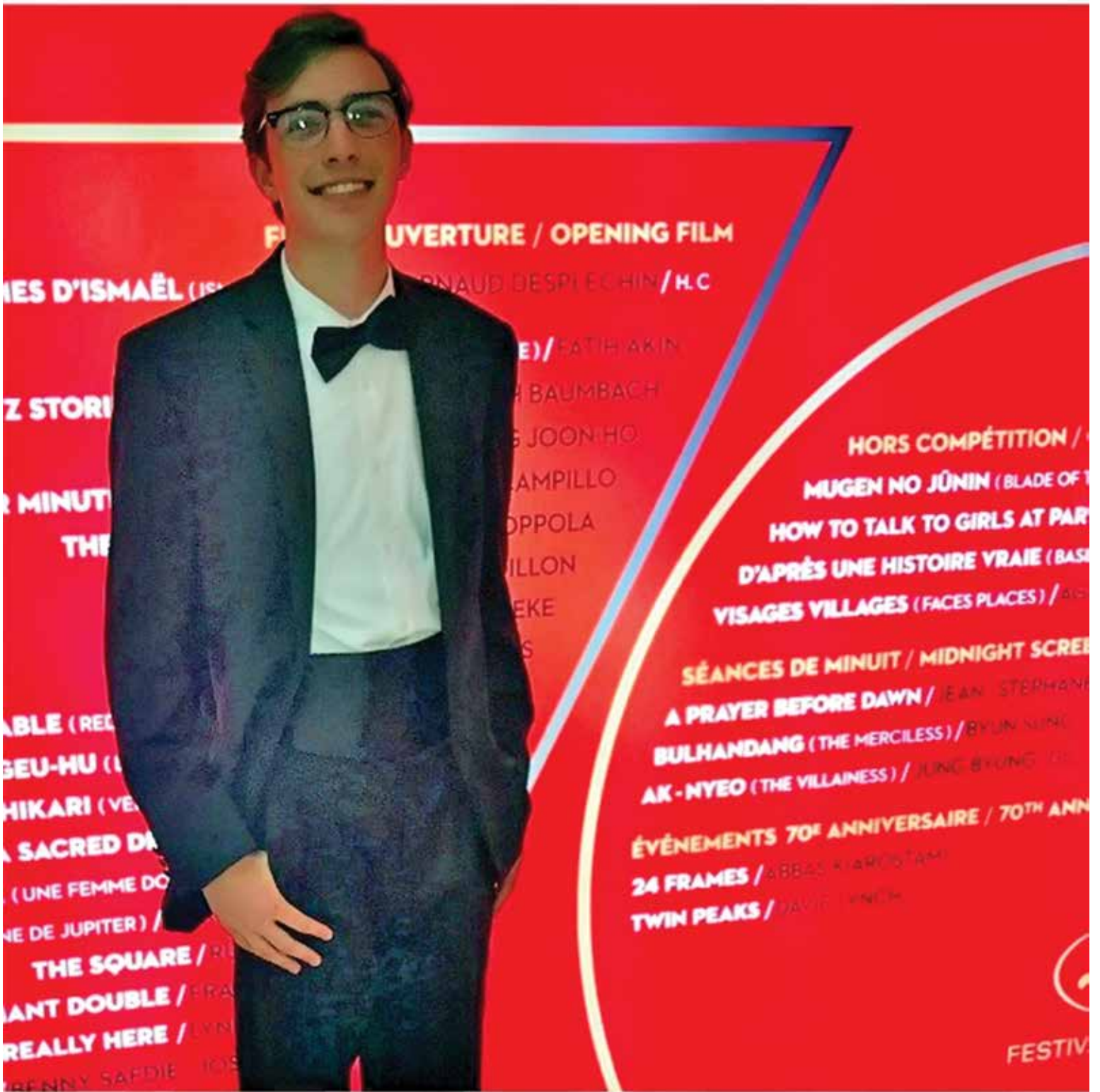
That film was selected by the Roxie Theatre for its Frozen Film Festival. "When I returned to San Francisco from Cannes, I wanted to show something locally and was fortunate enough to have *Dead Dog* shown there."

The dark comedy was based on an urban myth concerning a woman carting her deceased dog away from her New York apartment in a suitcase, only to have thieves steal it. In Kelly-Fair's film, a fight between two men turns fatal, and the murder victim ends up in a suitcase that is later stolen. "Viewers at different points experience anxiety or laughter as they aren't really sure what's happening."

His other films include *I <3 NY*, *Walk On By* and *The Last Playboys*, which was selected by the Princeton Film Festival. Kelly-Fair is also serving as an assistant editor on a documentary called *Free for All* about the changing roles of libraries, and he expects that film to be aired on PBS.

One of his new works that he finished last September is *Tetragrammaton*, which he describes as a spiritual exploration of the sin of omission. The Nassau Film Festival will screen that short along with *The Last Playboys* this May.

"I'm new to all this, and I'm trying to get better at it," he added. "The film community is amazing and filled with smart people with brilliant ideas. I'm still exploring different paths and trying to tell good stories through film. I hope people will continue to watch them." ∞





Gabby Capili's animated short *When We Were Young* (opposite page, bottom) was selected to be shown on KQED. Another film she worked on, *Winston*, was nominated for a Student Academy Award. The image at the top of the opposite page is one of her many stand-alone drawings.



## GABBY CAPILI '10 TURNS HER LIFE INTO ART ON THE BIG AND SMALL SCREENS

Gabby Capili '10 isn't quite sure what she'll do after graduating from art school this spring. Even though she co-wrote a film that won a nomination from the 2017 Student Academy Awards and had another piece air on KQED, she knows she can't be pigeonholed by the film industry.

"They are looking for people who are storyboarders or animators. If I had to pick one title for myself, it would be writer. But I'm not worried. Opportunities keep falling into my lap."

While studying at Valencia-based California Institute of the Arts — known by most as CalArts — Capili met fellow student Aram Sarkisian, and the two of them co-wrote the animated horror film *Winston*, which captures the tone of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell-Tale Heart." "Aram asked me to write letters from one brother to another in the voice of an insane man. We workshopped the story, piecing together the final dialogue from the letters I wrote."

In addition to being nominated for the Student Academy Awards, that film earned official selection honors at more than a dozen film festivals around the world. Capili was also nominated for best screenplay in England's Lift Off Season Awards.

One solo project also earned her widespread acclaim. *When We Were Young* tells the story of Capili's relationship with her grandmother, who took care of her and her 10 cousins. "When we were kids, we stayed with her after school or on weekends, and she helped impart to me my Filipino culture. Later, when I had returned from France, I lived with her and helped care for her. She is a proud immigrant woman who likes to do things by herself. I made sure she didn't hurt herself while cooking and cleaning, and we watched a lot of *I Love Lucy* shows together. I remember the stark difference between my childhood memories of her and her house and what I see now that she is 92 and on a walker. She was so active, especially at Christmas setting up decorations. Now the cousins come in and do that every year for her."

Capili first wrote a poem about being with her grandmother over the course of many years, and she later turned it into a short, animated piece that took a year to craft. "I spent three months trying to make the story marketable and then gave up on that idea in order to tell the story I wanted to tell from the start."

KQED liked the piece so much that it chose it for its series "Film School Shorts." Both *Winston* and *When We Were Young* can be found on YouTube, where together they have racked up over 15,000 views.

Capili first discovered her passion for art as a child. "Everyone draws as a kid, but I never stopped. I also began writing short stories at 6 and illustrating them to show to my parents."

She left art aside at SI "as my friends were not artistic, so I didn't think pursuing art was a smart thing to do." Only after telling one teacher, Roselva Lozano, that she would be studying marine biology in college did she discover how others saw her. "She asked me why I was pursuing biology when I should be doing art. That always stuck with me."

In college, she discovered Lozano was right, as Capili grew to hate her classes. When she asked her parents to help her transfer to an art school, they insisted she stay and finish one degree. "I switched to English, as I had enough AP credits to help me graduate early. I discovered, in a serendipitous way, that the ability to write helped me in my animation. Writing is a huge part of the industry I walked into, and I'm glad my parents had me finish my degree before art school as it puts me at an advantage."

After earning her bachelor's degree in English at 19, she spent a year in France before moving in with her grandmother and beginning her studies at CalArts.

As she plans life after art school, she no longer dreams of working at big animation houses such as Pixar. "Even though that studio is close to home, I don't think that's where I'm headed. I also don't feel pressure to find a job. I've never worried about it. Something will come my way even though I don't know what it is yet." ∞

"You're a coward," said he.

"And why?" said I.

"For quoting The  
Wasteland," said he,

"And not singing

The Love song of J. Alfred Prufrock."





## ACCORDION MAESTRO & AUTHOR LORENZO LUCCHESI '19 PROVIDES BOTH WORDS AND MUSIC

Lorenzo Lucchesi '19 is a polymath. A gifted musician, he is also a linguist and the author of three books with a fourth due out soon. In short, he is an anachronism and a paradox. He could have been happy living 40 years ago, and he is delighted to be alive right now.

Students and parents at SI know this 16-year-old as a virtuoso, as he performs in the SI orchestra playing bassoon parts on his accordion during the shows and strolling up down the aisles at intermission to entertain audiences.

He first decided to learn the accordion after seeing it on *The Lawrence Welk Show*, and he started playing in North Beach restaurants thanks to his father, Franco Lucchesi '79, his cousin and godfather Graziano Lucchesi (owner of Caffè Puccini), and Francesco Nozolino, the owner of Ristorante Franchino.

"The first time I played at a restaurant, I earned \$250 in tips even though I only knew two songs by heart: *O' Sole Mio* and *Carnival of Venice*," said Lucchesi. "I played those songs over and over. I was 10 and ecstatic."

Lucchesi said he put on weight early on "as the restaurants fed me lots of gnocchi. Francesco also liked it when I played, as he would hide his glass of Peroni behind my accordion case and fill it over and over for himself."

He ventured beyond Italian venues, playing polkas in German and Polish restaurants. "I got kicked out of one German restaurant because of one jealous waitress who didn't like all the tips coming my way. She convinced the owner that I had been begging for tips."

Still, Lucchesi persisted and built up a following and positive reviews that appear on Yelp and Gigsalad.com. He honed his tableside patter to cater to his audience and began learning languages other than Spanish and Italian, which he grew up speaking. "I could sing *Never on Sunday* in Greek, and I began studying Hindi, as many of my clients are Indian and are used to hearing accordion music in Bollywood films."

As he performs with the Sunset Youth Orchestra and for its Russian-born conductor, he has also learned some Russian. "I can play Red Army choir songs thanks to her," said Lucchesi, who is also taking voice lessons to be able to sing opera.

He can play piano and the harmonica, but the accordion remains his favorite instrument. "It's the only one that allows you to perform and still look at the faces of the people. A pianist looks at the keys and at the music and lacks that opportunity for engagement."

The accordion also becomes a way to connect with audiences "as about half of those for whom I play have old accordions stuffed in closets. Those instruments may have

been passed down through the generations, and accordion songs stir memories. Some will start sobbing when I play certain songs. One man celebrating his 75<sup>th</sup> birthday broke down when I played a polka number, as it reminded him of his family from the Midwest."

He has played for local politicians and celebrities, including Scott Weiner, Aaron Peskin, Helen Marchese Owen and Tony Serra, and he even snagged a signed autograph from members of the Blue Angels. "I was walking around North Beach when I tripped and fell. The guys who picked me up were wearing military uniforms, and they gave me a photo of themselves."

Hanging around places like Caffè Trieste led Lucchesi to start a new venture as a published author. "I've met poets who still identify with the Beat Generation. They buy a cup of coffee and sit all day taking up tables, preventing families from coming in and spending money. My book *The Battle for North Beach* explores this conflict."

After the self-published book sold 300 copies, Lucchesi wrote *American Advent* in which he explored why some lifelong Democrats voted for Donald Trump. His third book came after meeting Bradley Haynes and his wife in North Beach. "He saw me with my accordion and asked, 'Where's the party?' We spoke for a while, and I listened to his story about growing up as a child of African American parents in Detroit. We eventually co-wrote a book about his life. The title, *Diarrhea of a Black Man*, was his idea and came from a time when he told his wife that he wanted to keep a diary. She told him that he should keep a diarrhea instead and give audiences all the shit, the full story of his life," said Lucchesi.

He is working on his fourth book now, one about the Italians of Staten Island. "It's the most Italian place in the U.S., but the only borough of New York I haven't visited." For his research, Lucchesi is cold-calling residents with Italian surnames and convincing them to tell their stories for his book. "There are many Italian grandmothers who sit next to their phones waiting for someone to call them."

The favorite thing about being Italian, he added "is that we are hard-working people who take pride in our neighborhoods. We are known for our exquisite food and for our strong religious traditions. Being loved by an Italian family has affected me and inspired me to stay close to home, even in college."

Ideally, Lucchesi hopes to study linguistics at Stanford and ready himself for a possible career in government. "What I've learned throughout my life is that everything is within my reach." ∞

*Lorenzo Lucchesi plays his accordion at North Beach restaurants and other venues. He also is the author of several books, including *The Battle for North Beach*, which tells the story of various groups that visit or call that area home.*





## Seven SI ACE teachers celebrate a quarter-century of innovative Notre Dame program

Seven gifted SI educators say they owe their passion for teaching thanks to an ACE up their sleeves.

ACE — the Alliance for Catholic Education run by the University of Notre Dame in Indiana — is now celebrating its 25th year sending gifted teachers into under-served communities around the U.S. These teachers earn master's degrees in education while working for two years in under-served parochial grade schools and high schools.

The ACE alumni at SI include science teachers Matt Stecher '93 and Mike Santos, Spanish teacher Brian Rhodes, religious studies teacher Anne Stricherz, Fr. Sauer Academy Director Karen Hammen, and Academy teachers Connor Geraghty '09 and Deonna Smith.

In addition, a host of SI alumni also went through the program. The ones we know of include Jack Casey '08, Liz Watters '09 and Claire Collins '10, and there are most likely many more.

The program resembles the Jesuit Volunteer Corps in that it invites grad students to live in a spiritual community and to live simply while performing service. Unlike the JVCs, with whom ACE grads have a friendly rivalry, the program focuses solely on education.

Since its inception, 1,650 people have finished ACE training and another 200 are currently in the program. Notre Dame has also expanded ACE to include the Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program to train parochial school principals and other school leaders and licensure programs for educators to expand their training.

ACE also promotes educational research and advocates for policies that support Catholic education around the country, including school vouchers and tax credits for parents who choose to send their children to Catholic schools. ACE also assists networks of schools — called Notre Dame ACE Academies — in Arizona, Florida and Indiana, to help them advance in academics through shared resources. In addition, ACE works on behalf of Latino families to attract them to Catholic schools and serve them once they enroll.

Fr. Tim Scully, C.S.C., began the program at Notre Dame in 1993 when he put up a poster that read "Tired of getting homework? Give some instead!"

"He expected a couple of people to sign up for interviews," said Theo Helm, ACE's director of communications. "Instead, 200 people came to the first meeting and 35 became the first group to go into the field and teach in 1994.

Two years later, Helm joined the third ACE cohort along with Stricherz, who still keeps on her desk at SI her ACE medallion — one given to all graduates of the program.

Those who sign up for the program take classes at Notre Dame for two summers and then work for two years in an underserved Catholic primary or secondary school, typically working with low-income students.

For Helm, ACE supports one of the country's strongest institutions — Catholic schools. "The effect of these schools is beyond measure in that they form students to be well-rounded and grounded in their faith," he noted. "These students aspire to change the world for the better. Anything we can do to increase the reach of these schools is good for the Church and our nation."

Helm's own experience as an ACE teacher for middle schoolers in Mobile, Ala., "proved the most challenging and life-changing work of my life. It broadened my faith and put me in touch with people my age who were, and who still are, inspired to do good and serve children. It prepared me for all I've accomplished in my life."

He praised SI for hiring so many ACE teachers and for sending SI alumni to South Bend for training. "This speaks to SI's community, to the school's leadership and to the well of support SI has among its families, faculty and students."

The college grads who join ACE don't have to be Notre Dame grads, though many are, including Helm, Stecher, Santos, Geraghty and Stricherz. "Those who join are helping Catholic schools that are struggling because of the decline in numbers of clergy and religious who used to teach. We now call on young men and women to put their faith into action and reverse the decline in enrollment to prevent school closures. We also hope to expand school choice initiatives so that more families can afford to send their children to Catholic schools."

Catholic schools, Helm added, are among the leaders of cutting-edge education. "Some people who aren't involved in Catholic schools have an outdated notion of what goes on inside the classrooms. As we teach our fellows how to teach, tech comes up more and more, particularly in blended-learning classrooms that allow teachers to differentiate teaching so that they can reach students where they are. They know how to personalize instruction and switch among modalities of teaching."

### Anne Stricherz

Each of the educators at SI who graduated from ACE echo Helm as they speak about their experiences. Stricherz, who joined ACE in 1996, served at Our Lady of Prompt Succor Grade School in White Castle, La. She first heard about the program while competing on Notre Dame's crew. "I was a sophomore rowing in the two-seat when I heard that my partner in the bow was applying for this brand new program



that combined teaching as service. No one in the early years knew exactly what they were signing up for. We just knew the opportunity involved working in under-resourced Catholic schools in the Southeast and living in a prayerful community."

Stricherz teaches religious studies today "because of the formational opportunities that ACE offered. We had Mass every night and retreats in both the summer and midway through the school year."

Her experience mirrored that of her brother, who was a JVC alumnus. "He set a wonderful example for me of leaving to serve after graduating from college. ACE made sense to me, as my belief in the value of a Catholic education has always been strong."

ACE was also the ticket to helping her experience life in small-town, rural Louisiana. "The people were faith-filled, festive and rich in their Cajun culture and love of life. Mardi Gras isn't one day, but an entire season."

Coming from Notre Dame wasn't always an advantage for Stricherz, though. "LSU reigns supreme down in the Bayou. When Notre Dame came to 'Death Valley' the fall after my two years teaching, the Irish enjoyed a big and unexpected win. The taunting and teasing I took was all worth it, however. I am still in touch with many of the students and their families who helped me become the teacher I am today."

### **Matt Stecher '93**



Stecher joined ACE a year after Stricherz and served at St. Petersburg Catholic High School in Florida. As he approached the end of his senior year in college, he felt "drawn to doing some kind of service. When I heard about the ACE program, I thought it would be a wonderful opportunity to perform service, learn to be a teacher and, most importantly, give something back to the Catholic education system through which I came up."

Even though the program was new, "it was directed by amazing people with incredible energy and love for the values of Catholic education. I could not help being drawn into their work and feel so fortunate to have been included."

Stecher credits his ACE experience with teaching him how to teach, "which came mostly from making many mistakes. There was incredible support from my school community — people with whom I formed great friendships — and from ACE staff. I am still teaching today

because of my experiences with the program."

He enjoyed living in community and counted himself lucky "to have five amazing housemates. They were caring, supportive and forgiving. We shared so many experiences, including dinners and community nights. We celebrated Mass in our house (a converted convent), and we went to Devil Ray games. We went dancing in Ybor City and shared the highs and lows of learning to become teachers. It was rejuvenating to have this experience with other journeymen teachers."



### **Karen Hammen**

Hammen took part both in ACE's Teaching Fellowship program starting in 2004 and the Mary Ann Remick Leadership Program between 2014 and 2016. She taught both in Birmingham, Ala., and then in McAllen, Texas. She joined ACE "because I wanted to have a strong foundation in the art of teaching in Catholic schools and the opportunity to serve in under-resourced Catholic schools."

She signed up a decade later for the leadership program "to strengthen my vocation as a Catholic school educator and leader. I appreciated the approach of the program because it focuses on transforming Catholic schools by forming strong leaders."

Hammen enjoyed living in two distinct regions of the Southwest "where I learned about the people, communities and cultures. In both the Service Through Teaching Program and the Leadership Programs, I loved the deep

connections that I formed with my classmates and professors, who all shared a deep passion for the transformative education that Catholic schools offer students."

### **Brian Rhodes**

Rhodes also had two separate periods of training with ACE, the first starting in 2005 in San Antonio and the second, beginning in 2007, in Santiago de Chile. He was attracted to ACE thanks to his experience teaching in



Haiti. "I learned quickly that I knew nothing about teaching and wanted to get better." He heard about ACE from his brother, who was attending Notre Dame. "I applied straight out of college and got rejected, which was a blessing and then tried two years later after a stint in JVC, where I learned that I actually loved teaching and should try again with ACE. The second time around I got in."

Rhodes found it challenging to teach six classes five days a week. "It came with trials, including having my school close after my first year for financial reasons. Year two brought teaching new levels and a new curriculum."

He followed up his ACE program with CHACE — Chile ACE. "I wanted the opportunity to live in Chile, travel South America, go to World Cup qualifiers and speak Castellano every day. My time in Chile was so short and the forgetting of it so long."





**Mike Santos**

Santos, a Brophy College Preparatory grad, joined ACE in 2006 and served in East Los Angeles at Cantwell Sacred Heart of Mary High School. He applied in his senior year of college while finishing his degree in mechanical engineering. “I was struggling with the idea of vocation that was instilled in me in high school.”

He had worked the previous summer as an engineering intern and as a substitute teacher for a summer physics class at Brophy. “I looked forward to those days in the classroom more than anything. Later that year, at the career fair, I didn’t feel particularly drawn to any of the company tables except the one staffed by ACE.”

As graduation drew near, he had to choose among job hunting, ACE and the Peace Corps, which offered him a chance to teach high school math in East Africa. “I hoped to do post-undergraduate service for at least a year, so I decided to do ACE to fulfill that commitment and because it felt like the better fit.”

He also believed that ACE’s emphasis on community, faith and Catholic schools “aligned well with my own personal philosophies and background. ACE’s level of support on a social and spiritual level was much greater than similar secular programs.”

In East LA, Santos grew to know the community, “and I eventually felt that I became part of the neighborhood. I was so connected with the students and families that I decided to stay at the same school a year beyond my two years of service. I am still in contact with

many of my students. Just a few months ago, I attended the wedding of two former students who met as a result of me placing them next to each other on the seating chart. The communities around East LA will always hold a special place in my heart, especially the food!”



**Connor Geraghty '09**

Geraghty joined ACE in its 20th year in 2013 and taught fifth grade at St. Albert the Great School in Compton. He describes himself as “lost on what I wanted to do after graduation, but I had heard of ACE through former teachers like Anne Stricherz and Matt Stecher as well as friends and mentors in college. I liked that ACE was committed both to serving underserved schools and to helping teachers earn a master’s in education. I figured I would try out teaching for two years before finding my ‘real career.’ Five years later, I’m still in the classroom.”

Geraghty learned to count successes where they came. “I started a girls’ basketball team, and even though we didn’t win a single game, we went from scoring 0 points in our first game to 8 points in our last game, which felt like a huge victory for us.”

**Deonna Smith**

His fellow Fr. Sauer Academy teacher, Smith, joined ACE in 2015 and came to SI after a two-year stint teaching at St. Jarlath School in Oakland, which has since closed.

Smith felt called to work for educational equity, “and ACE was a program that

shared that mission. I know firsthand that representation matters. I wanted to be a part of the solution when it comes to making our schools work better for our most marginalized students. It is important for leaders in the field to have experience in the classroom, so I wanted to spend the beginning of my career teaching. The chance to work in Oakland as well was too hard to pass up.”

At St. Jarlath, Smith found the days “rewarding and transformative because that was the nature of the school.” After taking students from fourth grade up to see *Hidden Figures*, she watched as some cried “because they felt so motivated and encouraged. They had a sense that ‘we can do this too’ and ‘our time is coming.’ I’ll never forget their spirit of anticipation, pride and joy as they watched these women change history. The experience was palpable and one I’ll cherish always.”

Smith nurtured that spirit by creating a living museum on the Harlem Renaissance during Black History Month. “My students sang, danced and acted in an amazing show. We even had some mothers create costumes. It was a meaningful experience, especially because it was one of the first events that we had after we found out we were closing. We wanted to show that we were going out with a bang.”

To learn more about Notre Dame’s ACE program, go to [ace.ndu.edu](http://ace.ndu.edu). ☺







On Jan. 15, members of the Black Students Union, the African American and Latino Parents Association, SIPAC, the Asian Students' Coalition, the Association of Latino Students, the Fathers' Club, the Ignatian Guild and the Alumni Association, along with SI faculty and staff, met at the CalTrain station in San Francisco to take part in the annual **Martin Luther King Jr. Day March**.

On Feb. 24, Members of SI's Asian Students Coalition marched in the annual **Chinese New Year Parade** in San Francisco. The ASC has been an integral part of SI for five decades along with the BSU and the ALAS.

## Students take part in nationwide walkout to lobby Congress for school safety

When students across the country walked out of their classes on March 14 to protest gun violence and lobby Congress for stricter gun control legislation, about half the student body at SI joined them. (See photos on page 2.)

Standing by them were SI's administration, faculty and staff and several key alumni, including San Francisco Mayor Mark Farrell '92, who came just as students were returning to class to collect petitions and meet with student leaders, and Maggie Mattson '09, state executive assistant for Dianne Feinstein.

Mayoral candidate and Board of Supervisors President London Breed gave a speech, as did Supervisor Katy Tang, who represents District 4, which includes SI.

The real leaders of the day, however, were the students who planned the walkout and Friday Morning Liturgy the previous week — Chandler Crump '18, Gabby Schmidt '18 and Kelly Connolly '19 among them.

"The survivors of the Parkland shooting organized this nationwide event both to recognize and honor the innocent victims of the shooting and to emphasize that as students, we are educated, we are eloquent,

and we are tired," said Crump, who worked with the leadership team for two weeks to ensure the day's success.

Schmidt noted that she initially feared few students would join the walkout. "When I came to school that morning and saw people wearing orange, I knew people would take part. It was an amazing sight to see so many students leaving class to support an issue they cared about and to honor the victims, not just of Parkland, but also of Sandy Hook, Las Vegas, Columbine and all the other mass shootings that have occurred. I think everyone left feeling inspired and empowered to make change, and I want that to carry over into the weeks to come."

Connolly hopes that the petitions signed across the country will encourage Congress to pass stricter gun control laws. "For now, I simply hope that Congress sees the massive demonstrations and knows that we aren't going anywhere," she noted.

By having local politicians at the event, "we all really felt heard," she added. "As a teenager, it is difficult to be taken seriously in politics. The politicians who came treated us as if we

were equal to the adults around us. They didn't speak down to us and listened to everything we had to say to make this event so powerful and meaningful."

Schmidt hopes that "Congress passes legislation that will save lives. My cousins are 5 and 3. I do not want to see them killed in their kindergarten classes. I do not want to be at their funerals instead of their high school graduations. Congress needs to start taking action, or they will be voted out."

Crump left the event feeling "even more empowered about this important issue. I have never been prouder to call myself an SI student and live in California than I did today."

The leadership team also included Shannon Buckley '18, Elle Hagler '18, Joshua Cordoba '21, Hannah Fitzgerald '19 and Chris Baker '18.

Crump, Schmidt and Connolly also thanked social science teacher Kate Kodros, Community Service Director Jocelyn Sideco '95 and Sara Prendergast, a member of the Campus Ministry team, for their help in offering guidance and advice. ☺



## Roger Reese doggedly pursues his dream of bringing joy to SI

It's more than a touch ironic that the most popular Wildcat at SI is a dog.

Roger, a black lab owned by SI President Edward Reese, S.J., has been quickly adopted by most of the students who look forward to seeing him roam the school and fields along with Fr. Reese.

Roger Reese, as he is also known — he even has his own student body card — is a calming presence on campus to students who sometimes feel the stresses that come with adolescence and school work. This isn't by accident. Roger was trained by Canine Companions for Independence to be an assistance dog for people with disabilities but was released when a medical examination discovered that he suffered from arthritis in one elbow.

Even though Fr. Reese has had dogs at some of his past schools, he grew up having cats as pets. "I always wanted a dog, but my parents said no."

He adopted his first dog, Kimo, when he was a Jesuit at Loyola High School living in the school's dormitory along with student boarders, who enjoyed both the dog and a cat named Jack also owned by Fr. Reese.

"The dog loved all the boys, but the cat had favorites, and Jack would sleep only on their beds."

At night, when students were supposed to be asleep, Fr. Reese would let Jack wander the halls. "He would stop at the door where kids were still awake and whispering, as Jack wanted to play.

When Kimo, who was related to one of John Wayne's dogs, was pregnant, Fr. Reese's students asked him to wake them when she was about to deliver. "Kimo finally gave birth early one morning, but the students were so tired that I couldn't rouse them."

Even though he hadn't heard the term therapy dog, Fr. Reese did see firsthand the therapeutic effects of Kimo. "He would inevitably find a boy sitting by himself, go to him and sit waiting to be petted."

Fr. Reese kept one of Kimo's puppies, which he called Trouble. "And he was," he added.

When he moved to Phoenix to serve as president of Brophy College Preparatory, he adopted, over time, three dogs. "I would open my door, and they would run around campus and end up in someone's office. Those who came to the open houses at Brophy often chose the school because we had dogs."

At SI, Fr. Reese noticed that therapy dogs came on campus during midterms and



Roger made an appearance at the auction dressed as the pope to accompany his owner, Fr. Reese, who was dressed as Father Guido Sarducci.

semester finals to help relieve stress. He also saw dogs come with parent volunteers in the library. "I would invite moms to leave their dogs with me, and I'd even set out a water bowl for any visiting dogs."

He then heard about Canine Companions through Charlie Krystofiak '69, who brought his dogs to SI during testing days, and he asked Krystofiak to let him know if a dog became available through that program. Roger then joined SI's student body in September.

"Students at SI were drawn to Roger from the start," said Fr. Reese. "I got him, in part, for selfish reasons, as having a dog is a great way to introduce myself to the student body. Some kids even tell me that they need to borrow Roger for a minute for a little dog therapy. You can just see how students relax around Roger. The sixth graders at the Fr. Sauer Academy are big fans, and it's pandemonium when he goes to visit."

The experience has made Fr. Reese a proponent of Canine Companions, and he was pleased to see SI students form the first youth chapter of that organization. Some of the members raise puppies that will then enter the program and be trained to help people with disabilities. Chapter members even attended a graduation ceremony for dogs who completed their course of studies. Fr. Reese also lets the organization use Orradre Courtyard on Sundays to train their dogs.

Students also sing the praises of Roger. Maddie Wong '18 noted that she "loves seeing Roger when I'm in the hallway and having a stressful day. Roger will come walking along,

and I'll scream his name. He'll come over, I'll pet him, and it just relaxes me."

Marina Tonna '18 added that Roger "puts a smile on my face even if he's not even doing anything special." Angelika Johnson '18, likens Roger "to a vacuum, as he tends to eat up all the food on the floor, and that always makes me laugh."

Shanai Hayes '18 noted that "Roger is an interesting addition to the SI family. When you see him coming, you just start laughing. Either Fr. Reese is walking him, or Fr. Reese is looking for him."

Faith Peterson-Bailey '20 likes Roger "because no matter how bad a day people are having, he always seems to lighten their mood." Alena McGrew '18 added that she enjoys Roger, "because he's always available for cuddles."

When Siobhan Linehan '20 attends basketball games, she often finds Roger "sitting somewhere being the number one fan for the Wildcats." Finn Rollings '20 felt heartbroken after Roger's small toe was injured. "If Roger's all right, then I'm all right. I hope he gets better soon."

Mary Carol Phelan '20 loves hearing the sound of Roger's collar coming down the hall when she is in class. "When I see him in the halls, I instantly feel better and get less stressed about whatever it is that is bothering me at the moment." For Alex Ring '18, seeing Fr. Reese and Roger "helps us connect more to Fr. Reese, as all the students really love Roger. He brings people together." ☺

## Michelle Cheung '19 shows that excellence doesn't need to be limited to one discipline

It's hard to figure out what Michelle Cheung '19 isn't great at doing.

She has received accolades and awards for her singing, her skill playing the French horn and piano, her acuity as a mathematician and tech whiz, her deft hand as an artist and her fancy footwork as a dancer.

While her fellow students know her for playing in the SI orchestra and singing at liturgies, others have seen her perform on the stage as a member of the San Francisco Girls Chorus and, starting in 2012, as one of the founding members of the Young Women's Chorus of San Francisco.

Cheung sang during the inauguration of San Francisco Mayor Ed Lee and later during Tony Bennett Day at City Hall. That last gig earned her a cover photo in the *San Francisco Chronicle*. She and her chorus have worked with the San Francisco Symphony three times, including the *Deck the Halls* concert series.

She has also performed for the San Francisco Opera as a member of the Children's Choir, performing in *Carmen* at 10 and *Atilla* at 11. Two years ago, she performed as a soloist with the Fremont Opera.

Cheung had a chance to tour Skywalker Ranch when the Young Women's Chorus used that facility to record a CD there last year.

These are just the highlights of a long resume of musical hits for this young woman who got her start singing as a preschooler. "My mom saw how much I loved singing as a child and signed me up for the San Francisco Girls Chorus in the first grade," said Cheung, who also began piano and dance lessons at 3.

When three-time Grammy winner Susan McMane left SFGC as its director to form the Young Women's Chorus, Cheung went with her and soon became the leader of the section for her group. "That allows me to help others and bond with this tight-knit group of girls, most of whom I've sung with for six years."

Cheung has toured the East Coast, Canada and Europe with the chorus, including a memorable performance in Berlin. "The Boston Children's Choir surprised us by coming to cheer for us. They knew us from a trip to Boston, where we had performed with them. That was such an emotional concert, with all of us holding hands at the end. We could feel the electricity through our arms."

She also had the chance to stay with famed composer Karen P. Thomas at her Seattle home after her group won the right to have her compose a song for them.



Cheung's science and tech skills are equally prodigious. In middle school, Johns Hopkins University awarded her for her math skills. Now a member of SI's Robotics Club, she helped build the robot that the team used to compete this spring. She is also part of the California Academy of Sciences Teen Think Tank, a group that offers feedback to the Academy and other adults on new projects, and she took part in the Academy's Tech Teens program in past years.

She is the STEM Workshop Chair for TeenTechSF, which holds three big events each year, including the Civic Hackathon held at the

San Francisco Main Library, a two-day event where people come to pitch ideas for apps and inventions. The other two events, the Global Youth Summit and Spring Conference, are held at tech companies such as Google and Microsoft. She also serves as part of SI STEM Club's executive board and as managing editor for *Inside SI*, the school newspaper.

For Cheung, who hopes to study engineering or computer science in college, the worlds of music and technology overlap "as they both have math at their core. The way you think about music is the same way you think about the logic of math."

An award-winning artist, Cheung has studied at the ArtWorks Fine Arts Studio and posts her drawings and sketches onto her Instagram page. She also began training as a dancer when she was 3 and now is an intermediate jazz, ballet and tap dancer. Last year, she took on hip-hop and added that to her repertoire.

What connects all of her passions and talents is her desire to connect with others, whether the language be music, math, art or dance. "These all provide a connection beyond language and allow me to bring joy into the lives of people I know and those I meet for the first time. When audiences come to hear us sing or play in an orchestra, that creates and nurtures community and reminds me of why I do what I do. All of this had helped me make life-long friends around the world, and that has been the most special for me." ∞



Students from the Fr. Sauer Academy enjoyed outdoor education at the Catholic Charities CYO Camp and Retreat Center in Occidental in February.





## Boy Scout projects help veterans, restore trails and inspire work beyond borders



Liam Casserly, left, and fellow scouts were true trail-blazers on Strawberry Hill in Golden Gate Park. Right: His family helped restore a basketball court in El Salvador.

### LIAM CASSERLY '18

Liam Casserly '18 attained the rank of Eagle in the Boy Scouts thanks, in part, to a service project he completed in Golden Gate Park.

He's equally proud of a service project that did not count for his Eagle badge — one connected to his mother's hometown in El Salvador.

There, in the town of Santa Maria in the Usulután Department, about 73 miles south of San Salvador, Casserly and his family saw young people playing on a basketball court sorely lacking in just about everything.

"The cement court was cracked, the lines were faded, the hoops were awful and one basket even lacked a backboard," said Casserly. "If someone missed a shot, the ball would go over a fence into someone's yard. Just about everything was rusted."

When he asked about refurbishing that court for his Eagle project, he learned that it wouldn't count, as service projects needed to include other scouts who would follow Casserly's directions. "It was just too far for my fellow scouts to travel," he noted.

Instead, Casserly's family took on the task of repairing the court themselves. They donated money to the town's mayor — an old family friend — who purchased backboards, hoops and nets for two courts, and they plan to continue donating money to turn the basketball court into a showplace for the town.

On a recent trip, they saw kids playing basketball on the refurbished court. "Sometimes a crowd would form to watch, as the kids were so excited to play basketball. Some of the players had no shoes, as the town is very poor."

For his Eagle Scout project, Casserly turned to a more local site — Strawberry Hill, which lies in the middle of Stow Lake in Golden Gate Park. He and his crew carved a 168-foot trail up one side of the hill, clearing weeds and plants and stabilizing the trail with rebar and logs. They also added mulch to mark the trail and keep the dirt in place.

Given the scope of the job and the time involved, Casserly and his crew of scouts finished just under half the job before turning it over to fellow scout Chris Carlton '19, who finished the trail over the summer with another team of Scouts for his Eagle badge.

"I've gone at times after rainstorms to make sure the trail is intact, and it has held up," said Casserly. "I was impressed, too, that someone was walking the trail just as we were in the midst of building it."

Casserly has also become one of the key leaders at SI. He is ALAS co-president, a member of the Callaghan Club, a three-year crew athlete, an actor in the playwright festival and a passionate advocate for social justice.

For part of his service hours, he worked at the Salvadoran Consulate in San Francisco — the same place where his mother, Ellen, worked. He used his Spanish skills to assist



immigrants in the application process for renewing their temporary protected status.

Casserly also attended the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C., in his sophomore year and spent last summer at Jerusalem Farm in Kansas City as part of an SI service trip.

He comes from a long line of Wildcats, including his father, Patrick '72; his uncle Marty '73; his sister, Alaina '99; and his brother, Patrick '12.

Both parents are proud of their son's service work. Ellen is pleased that her son is connecting with his Salvadoran roots, and Patrick is impressed with his son's commitment to service.

"When I was at SI in the '70s, we didn't have immersion programs or a Community Service Program," said Patrick. "It's great that SI offers these programs now, as it involves students with their local communities and with the larger society."

### MATT MARIANI '20

Matt Mariani '20 organized his parish to fill 168 backpacks with supplies for homeless vets in large part because of his grandfather.

"He served in the Korean War, and I developed a special connection to the armed forces thanks to him."

The experience of helping vets reinforced his belief that "homeless veterans aren't





Matt Mariani organized the donation of 168 backpacks filled with supplies for homeless veterans.

people you should avoid. Some may suffer from addictions or other mental health issues. Some just have financial problems. For the most part, they need help once they leave the military, and these backpacks might give them a boost getting back on their feet.”

The project began when Mariani’s Boy Scout Leader Victor Sobrepena and Our Lady of Angels pastor Fr. Michael Mahoney asked Mariani to expand the parish’s Lenten outreach project. They asked him to raise funds at all

Masses during Veterans’ Day weekend and to find agencies that could use the backpacks. After speaking at each Mass, Mariani raised more than \$8,000 from parishioners and family friends.

They also asked him to organize the packing event, one that would involve many parishioners, as well as the Archbishop. The project will count for his Eagle Scout rank, which he hopes to receive in May.

On Dec. 10, more than 250 parishioners

came to stuff backpacks, and they were joined by Archbishop Salvatore Cordileone, who joined in the efforts. Two days later, Mariani and his parents drove a rented U-Haul van to the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital and to the Veterans Branch of San Mateo Human Services to distribute backpacks that contained toiletries, clothing, food, flashlights and \$25 Safeway gift cards.

“The agencies were grateful for the backpacks,” said Mariani, who earned praise in the press and from politicians for his generosity and vision. He received a commendation from San Mateo County Supervisor Warren Slocum Feb. 27 at the board’s monthly meeting.

To complete his project, Mariani faced two challenges. He ordered many of his supplies from the Dollar Store, which inadvertently cancelled his order. “They had to reorder everything close to Christmas, and we were worried that the items wouldn’t come by our scheduled packing day.” Luckily, the items did come in time.

His second challenge came when more than 250 parishioners showed up to help. Mariani found himself “having to be a lot of places at once during a very hectic day.”

Mariani, still a sophomore at SI, plans to study computer science and business in college and work as a software engineer. ∞



### GABLE HEART BEATS OFFERS FREE CARDIAC SCREENINGS FOR STUDENTS AND FACULTY

KTVU anchor Mike Mibach ‘94 interviewed Michelle Gable (second from right) and her two children, Matteo (11) and Grace (9), Feb. 3 at SI during the third annual Gable Heart Beats cardiac screening, held in the Cowell Pavilion. More than 200 students and teachers had free Echocardiogram and EKG screenings thanks to the Gable Heart Beats Foundation and the Peter Patrick Madigan Antonini Foundation (the latter named in honor of the late Peter Antonini ‘00, who died from hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, and the former named for Michael Gable, Michelle’s late husband and a friend of the class of 1989, who died from the same condition). Gable Heart Beats also partners with Holly Morrell at Heartfelt Cardiac Projects. Nearly all of the Gable Heart Beats board and team members are SI alumni, including Ralph Barsi ‘89, Stefan Mayo ‘89, Bill Taylor ‘82, Joaby Deal ‘92, Dan Burke ‘89, Graham Burke ‘89, Brent Deal ‘87, Mark Fassler ‘91 and John Pasha ‘89.



## Airol Ubas '19 blends her passion for service and science in outreach to SI and beyond

As a student at Mission Dolores Academy, Airol Ubas '19 was so shy that when she spoke, it was in whispers, and her teachers had a hard time hearing her.

Now in her junior year, she is one of the most dynamic leaders in the school.

She attributes the change to her seventh-grade science class. "That's when I came alive," she said. "Not even my shyness could mask my curiosity and passion for science. My hand was always up, and I began speaking with enthusiasm." She developed one experiment where she tested electrical conductivity by seeing how fast motors would spin when powered by various pieces of fruit.

Even that achievement would have shocked those who knew her background. Ubas' mother brought her three children to the U.S. from the Philippines shortly after her husband abandoned his family.

"My mother is partially deaf and didn't speak any English at first, so I had to be her translator whenever necessary." Ubas also helped her mother raise her younger siblings, and she kept an eye on them in school, even going so far as to serve as an unofficial aide for her brother's fourth grade teacher at MDA.

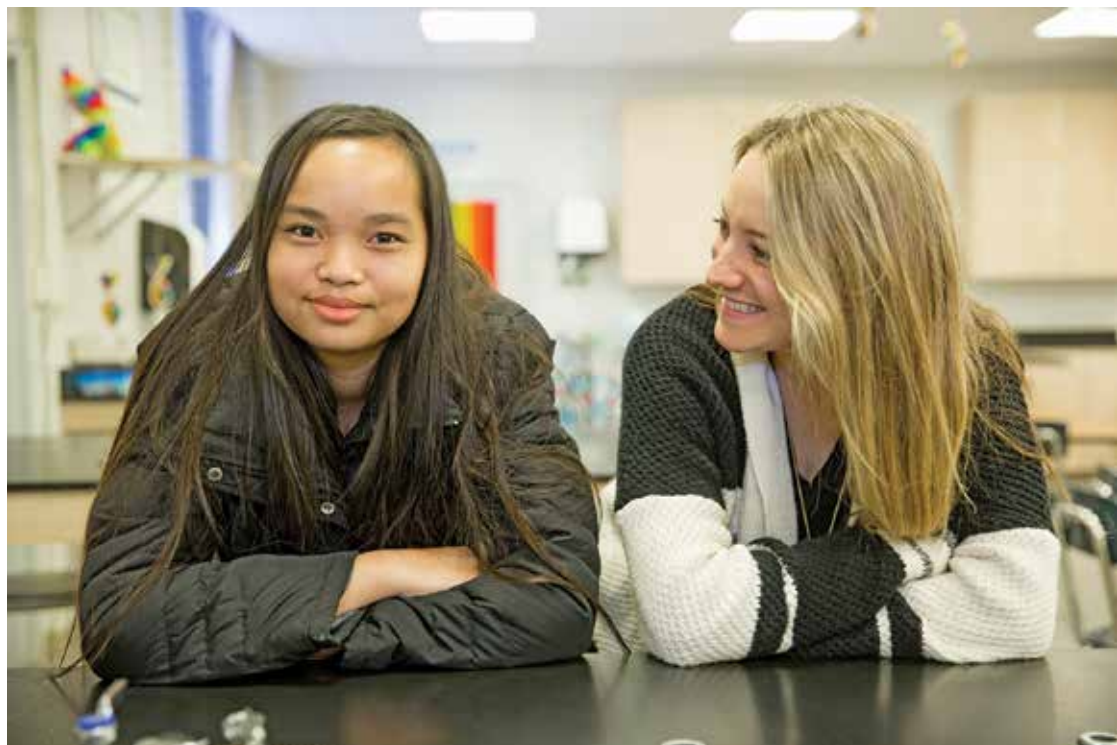
After enrolling at SI, she returned regularly to MDA after school and led the Science Enrichment Club for students in grades two through six. She hosted mini-science bowls and organized science project competitions, including an egg-drop project, where students had to design a container that would keep an egg from breaking after dropping it from a roof. She also taught lessons in DNA and plant and animal anatomy as well as lessons in sound and seismic waves.

"This program was my pride and joy," she noted. "I loved coming back to the school that inspired in me a love for science. It also helped me teach students how to advocate on various science topics."

At SI, Ubas does all of this and more. She serves as a teacher's aide for Kristina Boyce's biology and physics classes, and she is co-president of SI's STEM Club.

"Airol has a refreshing curiosity and enthusiasm for learning about science," said Boyce. "She wants to soak in all she can that's related to science. She is passionate about giving back and encouraging science literacy in her community."

Ubas has completed one science research course with Mike Ugawa and signed up for another course. For her first, she fingerprinted DNA through RFLP analysis, and for her



second, she is studying how gender-specific toys lead girls away from science, tech, engineering and math careers and classes. "I noticed the huge gap between males and females in STEM and was wondering what factors might come into play as well as how early this gap starts developing with kids. There aren't a lot of people who look like me in the STEM classes I took."

Those courses include a host of summer seminars at both Stanford and Cal, where Ubas studied topics that ranged from molecular immunology to sociology. Her passion for science has also led her to volunteer at the California Academy of Sciences, where she serves as a Teen Advocate of Science Communications, and at the Exploratorium, where she does science demonstrations for children and adults. She organizes games and dance flash mobs "so that I can engage as many people as possible, especially children. I want everyone to see that you can learn about science apart from textbooks."

She is about to extend her science education to the De Marillac Academy, a school in the Tenderloin, where she will teach engineering to middle schoolers.

Ubas' passion for science is matched by her commitment to social justice. Last year, she was honored by the St. Anthony Foundation, where she did twice as many core service hours as required by SI. At St. Anthony's, she helped organize the group's winter shelter

by distributing free clothing, by washing hundreds of trays and by cleaning and setting up mattresses. She arrived some mornings as early as 5 a.m. to clean the shelter. "It may not be the typical way for teens to spend their winter breaks, but it was the most amazing and memorable experience I've ever had."

Ubas also works with the Youth Leadership Institute and its Building Leaders in Innovative New Giving team to evaluate requests for funds and award money to groups that work to reduce school violence and racism and to promote equity. Within five months of joining the group, she was asked to serve as a board member representing San Francisco at regional events.

She also serves as an ambassador on the Arrupe Council, which coordinates all the social justice clubs at SI; she supports causes, approves new clubs and regulates all the fundraisers held each year.

She has racked up two awards at SI thus far — the Fox Religion Award in her freshman year and third place in the Voice of Democracy Scholarship competition, which is administered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. In her spare time, she serves as president of the SI French Club.

"She has a bright future ahead of her," said Boyce. "I'm excited to see what opportunities await her in college and beyond." ✍️

**ABOVE, FROM LEFT:** Airol Ubas and one of her biggest fans, science teacher Kristina Boyce.

## Poet, actress and volunteer Erin Valoroso '18 receives four-year college scholarship

When she was younger, Erin Valoroso '18 was one of those kids dragged by her parents from museum exhibit to gallery space.

Those trips through the museums paid off for Valoroso, who is a poet, writer and publicist, active with both *The Quill* and SI Live.

But it was her leadership and generosity as a volunteer with Breakthrough San Francisco that led to her receiving a four-year scholarship to the University of Puget Sound. Valoroso is the first student in the history of SI to receive this prestigious scholarship, awarded by The Posse Foundation.

Valoroso's passion for creativity stems, in part, from her parents, who, when they came to San Francisco from Hawaii, joined an artists' collective that incorporated indigenous Filipino history and modern art.

"It was cool growing up with parents who are artists," said Valoroso. "They took me to many openings and asked me to look deeper into the works displayed. At first, I resented it, as I was surrounded by art that I didn't understand and that I needed my parents to explain to me. Later, I found it cool seeing a world that not a lot of kids my age knew about. Often I was the only kid in these galleries, and that experience shaped my interests."

Valoroso's artistic expression comes through poetry. She serves on the editorial board of SI's literary magazine, *The Quill*, which also honored her for a poem she wrote in her sophomore year. That same year, she took second place at the Battle of the Beach poetry slam competition at Gateway High School. She is also a leader in SI's Slam Poetry Club, which made it to the semifinals last year in a regional competition.

She also writes and acts for SI Live, a sketch comedy club at SI modeled after Saturday Night Live. This past year, she spearheaded the publicity team that promoted the show to fellow classmates.

Her experience helping others began in middle school, where she received a silver Presidential Service Award for completing more than 100 volunteer hours. At SI, she continued her tradition of service both with Miss Unlimited — a pageant for girls with developmental differences — and at Breakthrough San Francisco, which helps students with limited educational opportunities attend college.

"I was volunteering, serving as a teacher's aide during the summer of 2017, when some of the administrators noticed me," said Valoroso. "They heard of my experience and later learned

what I was doing at SI. They thought I'd be a good candidate for the Posse Scholarship."

To apply for the scholarship, she went through a lengthy interview process. "It was more holistic, almost like a retreat," she noted. "We sat in groups and talked about life. It reminded me of my junior and senior retreats, and I was able to use some of the skills that I picked up on those retreats. My history of art helped too. I spoke about the designs I did for the SI Live t-shirts and my work as a poet and writer."

Eloisa Almaraz, program director for Posse Bay Area, praised "Erin's mature demeanor and thoughtfulness. Throughout her leadership journey, Erin emphasized community and relationship building. The well-rounded leadership qualities that Erin has explored as a young adult are the building blocks necessary for success in the classroom and in social settings. Erin has the potential to inspire people and create community."

Valoroso's college counselor, Anna Maria Vaccaro, added that "ever since she entered the doors of SI, Erin has been bursting with energy, advocacy and positivity. She continues to model for others the importance of being your own person. She is a woman of action, not just words, and those actions have propelled her to be a person who will elevate our consciousness and motivate us to rise up."

At Puget Sound, Valoroso plans to use her scholarship to study environmental science and anthropology and enter the school's Southeast Asian Studies Program. ∞



**BELOW:** Kelley Hashemi, a postdoctoral researcher at NASA Ames who specializes in aeronautical controls, spoke with STEM Club students Feb. 7 about careers in the aerospace industry and her work at NASA Ames. She is pictured in the center in blue.







**PERFORMANCES AT SI**

**TOP:** SI Live took the stage in Bannan Theatre in January.

**CENTER:** SI's singers, instrumentalists and dancers performed at the Fine Arts Assembly in January. (Photo by Bowerbird Photography.)

**RIGHT:** Audiences enjoyed the annual piano recital in February. (Photo by Carlos Gazulla.)





# SPORTS WRAP

PHOTOS BY PAUL GHIGLIERI



## Girls' Soccer

**Coaches:** Carlos Escobar (V) assisted by Jaclyn Kurtela and Brooke Bruneman; Brian Rhodes (JV) assisted by Libby Rappolt; Jan Mullen (F) assisted by Ileana Mercado.

**Records:** V: Overall 12-5-4; League 4-2-4 (3rd place); JV: Overall 6-8-3; League 4-5-1; Frosh: Overall 13-1-1; League 7-0-1 (League Champions).

**Highlights:** Frosh won 3rd league title in four years; varsity qualified for CCS 3rd year in a row; CCS quarterfinalist; only team in the league to take points off of league champs Mitty.

**Awards:** Fr. Arrupe Award: Sophia Marchesotti; Jan Mullen Award: Claire Dworsky and Sam Danison; All League First Team Lauren Frohan, Lexie Lotti who was also named Defender of the Year; second team: Claire Dworsky; HM: Caeley Goldstein, Audrey Schaffer.

**Graduating Seniors:** Sophia Marchesotti, Claire Dworsky, Helena Robinowitz, Sam Danison, Natalie Long.

## Girls' Basketball

**Coaches:** Mike Mulkerrins (V) assisted by Gus Gomozas; Bill Kelly (JV) assisted by Jen Curtin; Rick Murphy (F).

**Records:** V: 15-12; JV: 12-10; F: 15-4.

**Highlights:** Qualified for the CCS Open Division Playoffs where SI went 1-1 and was an automatic qualifier for NorCals. Lost in NorCals at Antelope 60-57.

**Awards:** All League Second Team: Rachel Harvey, Alyssa Downs; HM: Georgia Madden, Diary Khin.

**Graduating Seniors:** Georgia Madden, Alyssa Downs, Brittney Nguyen, Natalie Tuufuli.



## Boys' Basketball

**Coaches:** Rob Marcaletti (V) assisted by Jamal Baugh, Paul Bourke and Alejandro Thomas; Kareem Guilbeaux (JV) assisted by Steve Murphy; Bryan Thomasson (F Red); Tim Egan (F Blue).

**Records:** V 9-5 WCAL, 18-10 Overall; JV 6-8 WCAL, 10-10 Overall; Frosh Red 6-8 WCAL, 11-10 Overall; Frosh Red 7-7 WCAL, 11-10 Overall.

**Highlights:** In league play, the 'Cats defeated SHC in the Bruce Mahoney Game and followed with a win at Serra in the Jungle Game and at home in the Beach Game. For the CCS Tournament, SI was placed in the Open Division where the boys lost to Palo Alto (21-2) and then beat Menlo (23-3). They qualified for NorCal and won their opening game to #6 Berkeley 71-54 before losing to Mitty in the second round.

**Awards:** First Team All League: Darrion Trammell; Second Team: Brandon Beckman; HM: Matt Redmond, Teddy Snyder and Wrenn Robinson.

**Graduating Seniors:** Darrion Trammell, Matthew Redmond, Ben Davis, Donovan Jones, Aidan Kelly, Brandon Beckman, Ben Syufy, Bradley Ley, Teddy Snyder. ☞



## Spring Training

The SI Alumni Association held its Arizona/New Mexico Chapter gathering in Scottsdale in March. Among those watching the Giants play were Fr. Tony Sauer, S.J., Jean Marrot '47 and the Costello family.



## Boys' soccer celebrates historic season

SI's varsity boys' soccer team made school and state history March 10 in Santa Rosa by defeating Montgomery 3-2 in overtime to win the first ever NorCal championship tourney ever offered by the California Interscholastic Federation.

The boys also ended their long season and 6-game post-season ranked first in the state and third in the nation, according to *USA Today*, the highest ranking for any SI soccer team.

In past years, competition ended at the sectional level, and next year, the CIF will offer the first state championship game. Head Coach Alan Downey already has his gaze set on that future trophy, as he hopes to extend a two-year win streak to three.

Last year, Downey's team went undefeated on its way to the league and CCS crowns. "I feel a little sorry for those players," he noted. "They felt a little aggrieved, as they believe they would have won the NorCal title had it been offered last year."

Downey used the success of last year's team to help this year's squad excel. "I told the boys that everyone said 2018 would be a rebuilding year. Of course, I got the response that I wanted. The players said, 'No way, coach. We're going to win it again.' That stirred a desire in them, and throughout the season, I felt these guys really wanted to go all the way."

Last year's team, he added, "inspired this team. They helped solidify SI as a state powerhouse thanks to their attack-heavy style of play."

This year's squad, said Downey "was a completely different entity, more defensively disciplined and organized. They always found a way to win, and the more they won, the more their confidence grew."

Overall, SI went 19-1-5, with one loss coming against Valley Christian. "The day before, it was one of those strange, hot February days. I wanted to change things up and suggested we have practice on the beach. Then the next day, we outshot Valley Christian 25 to 1, but they scored on their one shot. I don't think we lost because of that practice, but you can't help second-guessing yourself. We walked out stunned and in shock. The one advantage is that the loss revitalized us, and we won every game since then. In a roundabout way, that loss gave us the push we needed."

After winning league and CCS titles, SI beat Marin Academy in overtime thanks to a goal by Nicholas Brown '18. SI then traveled to take on the number-one ranked Folsom, which was undefeated. "They were the powerhouse," said



Downey. "We watched them warm up, and they seemed to take it pretty casually. I think they underestimated us, and we used that to our advantage."

Once again, Brown's actions helped SI. He kicked a ball that was deflected off a defender's foot, giving SI the only score it needed. "We were so disciplined that day, covering for each other and battling as a team. As soon as that game ended, we knew that we would win the NorCal title and that our name was already on the trophy."

At Montgomery High School for the NorCal crown, Seamus Lucey '18 scored early in the first half only to see Montgomery tie the game. With 8:50 to go in the second half, Brown scored again. Less than a minute later, Montgomery evened the score. Then in overtime, Alex Bailey '18 scored the golden goal to end post-season play.

"It was an amazing victory," said Downey. "To be the first team ever to win the NorCal title — that's something that can never be taken away from us."

Among the players honored by the league were goalkeeper of the year Nathan Kushner '18 and forward of the year David Woodruff '18. Both also made the all-league first team along with Bailey. Second team honors went to Brown, and Paul Rich '19 earned honorable mention honors.

Downey also singled out second-string goalkeeper Armando Malton '18, who started last year after Kushner was out with an injury. "Armando epitomizes what the team is all about," said Downey. "When Kushner came back healthy, Armando had to take a back seat. He helped Nate

work out every day. I'd tell the team at halftime that those cheering the loudest for them were the guys on the bench, guys like Armando. I was blown away by the togetherness and respect they had for each other."

Five years ago, when Downey started coaching at SI, he told everyone he had a five-year plan. "I've done everything I ever hoped I could do in that time, but I'm not ready to give it up. I'm having too much fun, and I want to put SI on the map in the world of soccer. I want winning to become part of our DNA. After years being the runner up, SI is now the team others are looking to. As far as we have gone, I know we can go even further."

## Boys' Soccer Stats

**Coaches:** Alan Downey (V) assisted by Stephen Cordova; Nicholas Harb (JV); John Stiegeler (JV) assisted by Patrick Cody.

**Records:** 19-1-5 (V).

**Highlights:** For the second year in a row, the team won league and CCS titles. SI also won the NorCal title in the first year that contest was offered. SI finished ranked first in the state and third in the nation.

**Awards:** WCAL Goalkeeper of the Year: Nathan Kushner; Forward of the Year: David Woodruff; both were also named to the all-league, first team along with Alex Bailey; second team: Nicholas Brown; HM: Paul Rich '19.

**Graduating Seniors:** Christopher Miglio, David Woodruff, Erik Connell, Seamus Lucey, Orlando Caballero, Nicholas Brown, Gabriel Damir, Henri Vatinel, Jose Davila, Alexander Bailey, Nathan Kushner, Armando Malton. ∞

## A season of honoring SI alumni and former coaches

BY CHUCK NAN '79

Six SI grads were or will be honored by a host of civic organizations this spring. They include former teachers and coaches **Robert Drucker '58** and **Gil Haskell '61** as well as **Ed Reidy, Jr. '76**, **Capt. Joseph McFadden '81**, **Levy Middlebrooks '84** and **Joe Hallisy '70**. In addition, the late **Vince Tringali**, who coached SI's football team in the 1960s and took the school to number one in the nation, will be honored by the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club.

That organization, on May 14, will honor Drucker with its Dante Benedetti Coaching Trophy in recognition of his lifetime achievement as a basketball coach at SI. (The award is named in honor of the great former USF baseball coach who graduated from SI in 1936.) Drucker coached the boy's varsity basketball team at SI for 20 seasons and amassed eight league titles (including four consecutive from 1981 to 1984), two section championships (1981 and 1984) and one Northern California crown in 1984. His 1976 team was the first to garner a perfect record (12-0) in the double round-robin format. Overall, Drucker's career coaching record was 394-150 (.724 winning-percentage).

Also honored that day will be the late coach Tringali when the SFIAC will unveil a new trophy to honor the best prep football player of the year. Under Tringali's leadership, the Wildcats earned three AAA San Francisco City titles and one WCAL crown and was ranked first in the nation for its success in the 1962 season. The 'Cats went on to a 19-game winning streak. Tringali coached from 1962 to 1968 and enjoyed a record of 54-4-1 (.915). His winning percentage ranks first and his number of wins ranks second in school history.

Five days later, at the May 19 San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame induction ceremony, both Haskell and Middlebrooks will be inducted into the ranks of this prestigious organization. Haskell, who successfully coached in the NCAA and NFL for many years, earned entry into the foundation for his skill at SI, first as a student-athlete playing football for Pat Malley '49 and then as head varsity football and track coach. In his four years as a track coach, his teams won four frosh-soph league titles and three WCAL varsity championships — the biggest win happening at the Carlmont Relays in 1972 against some of the best teams in the Bay Area.

He coached the Wildcat football team between 1973 and 1977 and sported a 34-15-0 record (.694), which included four 7-win

seasons out of the five he coached. Perhaps his greatest victory with SI came in late 1977 when the 'Cats traveled to SCU's Buck Shaw Stadium and defeated the nation's number-two-ranked Bellarmine Bells, 8-0.

Standing beside Haskell at the ceremony will be Middlebrooks, one of the most dominant basketball players in SI history. He led the Wildcats to back-to-back WCAL championships, and his 1984 team played for the state title after winning the Northern California championship game. Middlebrooks went on to a stellar career at Pepperdine, including being named the West Coast Conference's Player of the Year. After college he toured the world playing abroad professionally on several continents for 20 years. Today, Middlebrooks resides in Southern California, where he works with special-needs and at-risk youth.

Those who have already been honored include Capt. McFadden, who was named as Hibernian of the Year by the Hibernian Newman Society at its 54<sup>th</sup> annual St. Patrick's Day luncheon at the Westin St. Francis Hotel on March 16. A fourth-generation San Franciscan who grew up in the Mission District, McFadden has served nearly 30 years in the SFPD. A member of the department's Command Staff, he has served in Field Operations, on the SWAT Team, in the Investigations Bureau, Internal Affairs, Homeland Security and Crime Scene Investigations. He taught at the Academy where he specialized in training officers on issues surrounding domestic violence.

Last October, McFadden received a Certificate of Honor from the city's Board of Supervisors in recognition of his years of service to the city, especially his service to the General Crimes Unit. He added foot beat officers, improved relationships with community members and cracked down on crime. His past service included three years as captain of the Ingleside Station and a stint on the Domestic Violence and Officer-Involved Shooting sections.

Just over a week later, on March 24, CYO honored several people at its Hall of Fame induction dinner, including Hallisy. Active in San Francisco youth sports for over 55 years, Hallisy graduated from St. Emydius in 1966 before attending SI. He has since served as a coach or as an athletic director at St. Anne, St. Cecilia and St. Stephen between 1970 and 2003. He has been the boy's PE teacher at St. Thomas Apostle for the last 46 years. He is also well known for his 32 years as a public-address



announcer for USF basketball, for his 30 years with the SFFD and for his work with FLAME.

The most recent honoree was Reidy, who was honored by the Pomeroy Recreation and Rehabilitation Center at its Banner of Love ceremony at St. Mary's Cathedral on April 28. Reidy, who serves as a member of the group's board of directors, has a career that spans years spent working with major companies throughout the U.S. and abroad. He earned a bachelor's degree from SCU and MBAs from both the University of Colorado and Golden Gate University. His devotion to the PRRC comes, "because it is a happy community full of individuals who make everyone feel welcome," he noted. He is currently a major gifts officer for Riordan High School, he works to help the city's homeless communities, and he is doing business development work in an insurance practice for wineries led by Greg Locher '72. He is in his second year serving on the Olympic Club's board of directors along with many other SI grads. ∞

**ABOVE:** Joe McFadden '81 at the Hibernian-Newman Lunch on March 16.



## Mark Farrell '92 takes the reins of City Hall as San Francisco's new mayor

When Supervisor Mark Farrell '92 was sworn in as the city's 44th mayor on Jan. 23 after a vote by his fellow supervisors, it seemed another "only in San Francisco" moment.

When Mayor Farrell was elected to replace Acting Mayor London Breed, who was also serving as the President of the Board of Supervisors at the time, many were surprised, as Farrell had earlier declared he would not run for mayor.

It did, however, give Farrell a unique opportunity — a six-month window to tackle some of the city's perennial problems and to do so unaffected by shifting political winds. As he told reporters in the days following his swearing-in, knowing that he is ending his political career gives him the freedom to escape political compromises that can water down or delay solutions.

In early February, he sat down with *Genesis* Editor Paul Totah '75 in City Hall to talk about his goals for the next few months.

**Q. Within a day after being named mayor, you were on the scene of a fire on West Portal that affected three businesses. How does this paint a picture of the kind of politician you are and the kind of mayor you will be?**

A. The most effective elected officials, whether on the Board of Supervisors or the mayor, are ones who spend less time inside City Hall and more time in the neighborhoods. Our small businesses are the heart and soul of neighborhood commercial corridors and I'll always do everything I can do to support them in times of success or times of stress.

**Q. Does having only six months to serve as mayor offer an advantage in trying to fix problems that have plagued other mayors for decades — issues that include homelessness, congestion, crime and housing prices?**

A. It's both an advantage and a disadvantage. There are longer-term projects that I won't be able to get over the goal line in half a year. At the same time, I have the luxury of not running a campaign. That means I can do what I think is in the best interest of San Francisco residents without the burden of politics. That is a unique opportunity that not many, if any, elected officials ever get.

At the same time, the idea of solving a problem is a false notion. Whether you take on homelessness or crime, you need to make a significant difference in the lives of residents. One of the most successful programs to combat homelessness in San Francisco was started by Mayor Gavin Newsom and Police Chief Greg Suhr '76 — the Homeward Bound program. If the city can find a loved one on the other end of a phone line to take someone in, then the city will pay transportation and meals for that individual to get home.

The success ratio for these individuals is staggering compared to any other program San Francisco has ever initiated, with 70 to 80 percent of the participants still housed. Many of those individuals even found employment. Our goal has to be to move individuals off the street and onto their own two feet so that they may have better lives. This program, while wildly successful, is controversial for some people. However, I want to do things that work for San Francisco residents — for those we're trying to serve — and so this year I'm doubling the budget for Homeward Bound. I would not have been able to do that in any other circumstance, as I'm not running for re-election.

**Q. Every time I venture downtown, I see more and more homeless camps. It seems that the number of people living on the streets has skyrocketed.**

A. Homelessness is one of the biggest problems we face. A dozen years ago, we had approximately 7,000 people living on the streets. Today there are 7,000 — the same number. Looking at those numbers from one perspective tells us that we are not doing enough, and I have been the loudest voice on the Board and now as mayor articulating that the status quo is unacceptable. However, what I would also suggest is that the programs and initiatives that San Francisco has undertaken over the past decade have actually worked to great success. We simply need to do more of them.

For example, Los Angeles in the last six years has seen its homeless population increase by 75 percent. Could you imagine the impact of that increase on the streets of San Francisco? The difference we've seen in our own city is that our homeless population in years past was largely hidden from plain view, especially under

the freeways south of Market Street. Over the past decade, our South of Market area has been transformed by high-rises and a booming economy that has displaced thousands of previously forgotten residents, bringing them into neighborhoods for the first time and making the issue more visible to San Francisco residents.

**Q. The other issue I hear about is property crimes, especially car break-ins. Can you do anything in six months to address this?**

A. Property crimes, along with homelessness, are the two issues I hear about the most, as they affect residents in every neighborhood of the city. Putting up with crime shouldn't be the price to pay to live or work in San Francisco. We have men and women in our police department who are some of the best officers in the nation. We just don't have enough resources on the street to combat property crime right now.

Over the past six months, Chief [William] Scott doubled foot patrols in neighborhoods and created a separate Property Crimes Unit. I asked him last week to put together an analysis of realistic staffing needs for his department as well as other departments involved in monitoring our streets — such as the Departments of Public Health and Public Works — those who deal with everything from mental health issues to picking up used needles on the street. We need an honest conversation about the real costs of what it takes to make San Franciscans feel safe in their own city. We owe that to our residents.

**Q. Why the decision to close the door forever on politics? I understand for the short-term, wanting to spend time with your children. What about when they are grown?**

A. I have a unique opportunity as the mayor for the first half of 2018 to govern without the burden of politics or any compromise in my positions due to campaigning or responding to other outside influences. I don't want to do anything to compromise that opportunity. I believe San Franciscans deserve a mayor who will only look out for their long-term best interests and those of the city. That includes my decision not to run for mayor this June and not to run for mayor in 2019.

I am looking forward to rejoining my firm in the private sector. I've been managing



director at Thayer Ventures since co-founding the firm in 2009. The moment I was sworn in, I took an unpaid leave of absence that will continue until the next mayor is sworn in. I'm lucky because I love what I do outside of City Hall. Later in life, who knows what opportunity may present itself, but the reason I decided not to run in June is because we have three small children, and I want to enjoy every moment possible with them. I know in a blink of an eye they will be off to college.

**Q. SI has been in the city almost as long as San Francisco has been part of the U.S., yet you are only the third graduate to serve as mayor. In my experience, SI grads are the men and women behind the scenes, serving in quiet yet effective ways — people like Al Cleary, a 1900 graduate of SI who served as the city's first chief administrative officer**

**under Mayor Rossi, and Mike Farrah '85, a senior advisor to Mayor Newsom. Is that your take, too, or do you see things differently?**

A. There are many ways to serve your community, whether in public office or otherwise. Being an elected official inside City Hall and serving as a member of a staff are different in some ways, but in many ways, we are part of the same team. I would argue that you can make an equal if not greater contribution to City Hall as a staff member. Still, being mayor is something uniquely different. It presents a rare opportunity that I will not take for granted as I represent residents of the city.

**Q. How do your Ignatian values influence how you see yourself as a public servant?**

A. Ignatian values influence everything I do in life. They are the biggest part of who I am. What I came to value so much about my experience at SI was how the school did such an amazing job of instilling the notion of being "men and women for and with others" into the student body. It's not a catchphrase; it's who we became. My time in public service is simply an extension of that and a unique opportunity to express those values. I am an Ignatian and Jesuit-educated through and through, from my time at SI to my years at LMU. My family even attends church at St. Agnes, which is a Jesuit parish served by pastor Ray Allender, S.J. '62, who was also my high school baseball chaplain. Being an Ignatian is simply who I am and I'm very proud of it. ∞



# Parting the veil with words on the wind

BY TONY DEL ZOMPO '84

When my writing teacher, Laura Davis, invited me to attend “Writing as a Pathway Through Grief, Loss, Uncertainty and Change,” at the Commonweal Retreat Center in Bolinas, I declined. Life was good. I was falling in love with an amazing woman, and I had positioned myself to take a sabbatical from my career during which I intended to work on my book. I didn’t want to dig through the hurts of the past. But when my girlfriend called it quits, it seemed like a good time for introspection after all. Now, I realized, this was more than I had bargained for. I had pressed myself so tightly into the corner that my left arm was numb.

We were listening to an episode of *This American Life*. In 2010, Itaru Sasaki was grieving the death of his cousin. Sasaki built an old-fashioned telephone booth on his property in Otsuchi, Japan, and placed a rotary telephone inside from which he would call the deceased family member. In the Buddhist tradition, we learned, the veil between life and death is thinner than it is in the West. When the earthquake and tsunami devastated Otsuchi and claimed more than 15,000 lives the following year, Sasaki opened the phone to his community. Word of the “wind telephone” spread quickly. In the first three years following the disaster, an estimated 10,000 people had placed calls to the dead.

My fellow retreatants and I sat in silence while the podcast played. I studied the floor, the carpet and my neighbors’ bare feet while the mourners cried out to their lost loved ones. Although they spoke Japanese, pain is a universal language.

“We’ve placed two wind telephones on the property,” Laura said when the podcast ended. “Over the next week, you’re invited to use them and then share, generally, about your experiences.”

It was the ninth anniversary of my father’s funeral and memorial service, an austere coincidence. Dad was a staff sergeant and an MP in the Marines during the Korean War. After his service, he joined the SFPD and worked as a cop for 32 years. He looked like an action figure in his uniform, but he was also an alcoholic and the scariest man I’ve ever known. Although he quit drinking when I was a high school freshman, the damage was done. Some wounds can take a lifetime to get over. Others take even longer.

Dad held fast to an antiquated notion of masculinity, but it was one that kept him alive

during Korea and during a period of constant turmoil in San Francisco. As I approached middle age, however, his ideal no longer served me. The chip on my shoulder had cost me a family, a career and, for a long time, my sanity.

I could almost hear my father’s voice when I decided to attend the retreat. “You’re going to spend \$3,000 to cry with a bunch of broads for a week?”

Chauvinism notwithstanding, there was something to the accusation. I hadn’t been on a real vacation in a long time. I could have gone scuba diving in Cozumel or spent time with my daughter, Jessica, in Pennsylvania enjoying the fall foliage. Digging up old memories and recalling events that I wished I could forget didn’t sound fun or relaxing. Still, after 11 years clean and sober, I realize that I’m only beginning to scratch the surface of my own recovery.

For the past eight years, I paid visits to my dad’s grave at Holy Cross in Colma. I was always surprised by what came up. The first

---

“After his service, [my dad] joined the SFPD and worked as a cop for 32 years. He looked like an action figure in his uniform, but he was also an alcoholic and the scariest man I’ve ever known.”

---

time I went to see him, I fell to my knees and wept. Dad’s death came unexpectedly and at a time when I was finally getting my life together. I wanted him to stick around and watch a little longer. Two years ago, however, I felt nothing but rage towards him.

I stood alone over his headstone and screamed in the empty cemetery. I called him names I never would have called him while he was alive. I accused and blamed him and was certain that I hated his guts. I had held onto anger that I didn’t even realize I possessed. Grief is a funny thing and seldom makes sense.

I spent the next year in therapy and paid Dad a final visit on Fathers Day of 2016. I had forgiven him, finally, and was beginning to feel more comfortable as the man that I was becoming. I thought I had finally released him for good, but I was mistaken.

I walked out to the phone before breakfast on the fourth day of the retreat. It was a beautiful morning with an endless view across the Pacific Ocean. I took the last heavy steps out to the bench and lowered myself next to the old princess telephone. I didn’t expect a

dial tone when I raised the receiver to my ear, but I was not prepared for the silence. I waited; nothing happened. The emptiness on the other end devoured me. As I clutched the phone to my chest, my sobs were punctuated by the sound of the waves on the beach below.

When the purge subsided, I pressed the buttons to his old number, complete with San Francisco area code. I felt a little ridiculous holding a disconnected land line to my ear while tears and snot streaked my face, but it didn’t seem any sillier than the “empty chair” exercise in my therapist’s office.

“Uh, hey Dad. Sorry to bug you.”

The old man is a much better listener than he used to be. In fact, in the last nine years, he hasn’t interrupted me. Not even once. I told him all about my latest successes and setbacks and my plans for the immediate future. I told him I had to work hard to step out from under the weight of his expectations.

I know now that I had judged my father unfairly. He was dead for five years before I realized that he had severe PTSD but was never given the opportunity to recover. Although trauma gets passed from generation to generation like Grandma’s old china, I’m lucky enough to have the resources to heal. And the courage. Anger is a part of the grieving process. But so is acceptance.

I’ve done everything a man is supposed to do to prove he’s a man; sports, drinking, fighting, chasing women. It’s ironic that of all the things I did in order to “man up,” the hardest was to make space for the decades of sorrow I’ve kept buried inside.

Grief is universal. We all suffer, but it’s easy to get trapped in the experience. A loved one dies, a marriage ends, the bone scan reveals that the cancer has spread. And we end up alone and isolated. But there is another way.

Twenty strangers gathered at Commonweal in October of 2017. Although our stories were unique, we shared a common motivation, namely, to heal. The strength of the story is in the telling, and the healing begins when we are heard as well as seen, when our humanity is recognized. Some say that when a heart breaks, light may enter. If that’s true, then there’s no sense hiding alone in the dark. ∞

**RIGHT:** The author and his father, during Tony’s days playing football at SI.







# Mission High coach Tim Halloran '75 helps his teams succeed on the court, in college & in life

BY TOM STACK '75

The Mission High School Lady Bears strode into the frigid gym at Acalanes High School in Lafayette at precisely 5:55 p.m. on Dec. 21. Braving Bay Area holiday traffic and arriving some two and one-half hours after departing their Mission campus could have made the shortest day of the year one of the longest for Coach Tim Halloran '75 and his squad.

You'd have never known that by watching him stride into the gym. Sporting a tailored tan suit, ball bag over his shoulder, and with the long lean look of a former hooper and a current Ocean Beach surfer, he exuded calm and cool. He and his team were some 30 minutes late for tip off, an hour in total, yet Coach Tim simply distributed the balls and got the girls into a layup line to get loose, taking others aside to stretch.

So this is how my old buddy and classmate rolls, I surmised. We should all take a page from the book of a guy who is unfazed by traffic and tardiness. My image of him was shattered 1:41 into the first quarter, when from the bench I heard the bellowing of "PASS THE BALL!!" He then coached patiently as Acalanes went on a run, keeping his seat on the sidelines, chattering encouragement, constantly coaching. At one point, he called a time out and drew up a play for the eighth and last player on the bench so that she could get a great shot on the next possession.

At the half, Tim took his two post players to the court and showed them footwork down low, how to get their shot, head fakes, ball fakes, drop steps. He also instructed his wing players how to attack the basket, fake right, go left, get your shot. All in his tailored tan suit.

The Lady Bears started out cold, literally and figuratively. Despite the chilly bus, a long drive and the aforementioned frigid gym, they warmed up fast in the second half, going on runs led by strong point guard play and the efforts of their best player, a freshman named Lovely. She is a long, lean left hander, who can soar to the hoop or pull up for a jumper, ironically two of her coach's best glory days attributes. Lovely is a future star. Tim says that "she is the best player in my eight years at Mission."

\*\*\*

Tim grew up with two older sisters and his mom in the Outer Mission on Crocker Avenue and attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help. The trip to SI and back took three transfers each way, well over an hour. "Peninsula kids

like you often got home before the kids in the Mission or Noe Valley," said Tim over lunch at Murphy's on Kearney Street, across from the law firm of Murphy, Pearson, Bradley and Feeney, where he serves as managing partner. No, the law firm does *not* own the bar, "though we may have worked up a little equity by now." He carries a full caseload while overseeing 51 attorneys in four offices. It is a huge responsibility, time-consuming, stressful and, of course, litigious, but Tim seemingly balances it all while finding the flexibility to be a full-time high school girls varsity basketball coach.

"There are a few judges who know I coach, and they tend not to schedule any of my trials during the season," notes Tim with a wry smile. Tim's wife, Joyce, a '75 graduate of Mercy San Francisco, whom Tim met during an SI theatre production they both took part in their senior year, has been tremendously supportive of Tim's coaching. "Joyce is my sounding board for *everything*, my best friend and the love of my life."

\*\*\*

Former SI teacher, coach and bus driver in a pinch, the late Steve Phelps exerted a tremendous influence on the young Tim Halloran. "I first learned of Steve Phelps during CYO basketball. He coached a really good team at Sacred Heart Grammar School with my future SI '75 classmates Juan Mitchell and Raymond 'Buddy' Lee. Alton Byrd (Riordan '75) was also on that team. Man, they were good. Steve Phelps had them well coached and they were unbeatable."

Mr. Phelps's sociology class helped inform Tim's belief system. "Steve Phelps taught me the impact that person-to-person social change can have on a society. He preached to us the goal to practice one thousand acts of kindness during our lives. That concept never left me."

Tim had the opportunity to sharpen those social philosophies at Cal, where he graduated in 1979. "During my freshman year, I lived at the Alpha Delta Phi fraternity at Cal with George Barry and Steve Ghiselli, both a year ahead of me at SI, but moved home and commuted the next three years. My mom couldn't afford the room and board, so I worked all kinds of crazy jobs to help pay my way through college."

One of those jobs was at a financial start-up called Charles Schwab in the mid 1970s. "I picked up the trades from the day before at the Pacific Stock Exchange and hustled them

back to Mr. Schwab. There were no more than 15 employees there then. I interacted with him every day, first thing in the morning. I was a sophomore at Cal."

\*\*\*

Tim sent his son, John, to SI, where he graduated in 2008. His daughter, Rebecca, went to Convent, where she played basketball. While sitting in the stands one night in 2009 watching her team play, Tim overheard some parents talking. "The conversation turned to schools where girls' basketball programs weren't succeeding. When Mission was mentioned, the parents spoke dismissively of the program, saying that the girls were apathetic and would never sustain a program. It was very disparaging towards the school and the girls. I just stayed quiet and stewed."

So what did this busy litigator, manager, father, husband, man-of-no-time do? He researched and called then Mission AD Scott Kennedy, telling him, "I have a vision. I will build a program that graduates the girls and sends them to college. We will grow, compete and win."

He did just that. "The last three years, we've been to the league playoffs, and this year we are leading our division," said Tim, outwardly proud of his team, who learn from him the values of honesty, integrity, accountability and structure.

"I'm just passing on what we were taught at SI to the girls in their language. It can't be overtly spiritual, as it is the public-school system, but the principles are the same, and the results speak for themselves."

Indeed they do. Every girl that has played for Coach Halloran at Mission has graduated and gone on to college. These student athletes come from the Tenderloin, Potrero Hill, the Bayview and deep in the Mission District. They have fulfilled Coach Tim's vision, right off the jump.

"I de-emphasize to the girls that basketball is the way out of their challenging existence. I do emphasize that intelligence *is*. The girls are forbidden from using the word 'can't.' Liners are their penance if they do." Coach Halloran also raised the bar for the girls; he requires his players to maintain no less than a 3.0 GPA.

Jerome Williams '75, a former CYO nemesis from St. Dominic's, says this of Tim: "He develops the whole person. He directly recognizes each kid's value. When they eventually see that value in themselves, that's when everything kicks in and off they go."



Tim deflects the credit. “Mission High offers as many AP classes as any public school in The City. Their approach to teaching and the structure they bring these students is remarkable. They take the challenges of this diverse community of students and bring them all together.”

Tim donates his modest annual stipend back into a scholarship program he developed called the Triple Threat. Each year, the seniors on both the boys’ and girls’ teams are tasked with writing an essay describing their experiences of being a student, an athlete and a citizen at Mission High School and beyond. The winners each receive \$1,500 towards their college textbooks.

“I’m proud that so many of my former players come back to practices and games,

offer to volunteer and even help coach. They remain a part of the program. What they understand when they graduate is that this was a great experience for them, and they place value in that.”

To Coach Halloran, the importance of his work goes beyond coaching. “High school made me. Jesuit ideals were instilled that I feel the need to pass on. I received support, counseling and help when I needed it. The things my players want are simple. They want love, care and attention, and they need an adult to listen to them when they need to express themselves. The fact that I get to do it while coaching basketball is the blessing.”

Somewhere, Steve Phelps is smiling.

*The author has been a Broker Associate with Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage in the East Bay for the past 12 years. He played on the SI championship basketball team of 1975 before going to SCU, where he received his bachelor’s degree. After serving a 5-year sentence in Silicon Valley, he spent 20 years working with and for the Grateful Dead, eventually serving as VP of Licensing and Merchandising. He and his wife, Kiki, have a son, Sam, a freshman at the University of Oregon. ∞*

**ABOVE:** Tim Halloran and the Mission High Lady Bears at Kezar Pavilion.



## Ari Boosalis '15 survives Antifa attacks at Columbia University to advance free speech

Ari Boosalis '15 spent much of his junior year at Columbia University living in fear and defiance.

The president of the Columbia University College Republicans, he invited two conservative speakers who drew the ire of Antifa activists from off campus and liberal groups on campus.

What followed were violent confrontations and a media storm that put Boosalis in front of cameras on Fox News and PBS's *Market Watch*.



Boosalis saw his photo plastered on posters around campus, including close to his dorm room, that read, in part, "If you see Ari, let him know what you think."

Rather than make him back down, this backlash confirmed Boosalis's belief in the importance of the First Amendment.

"Some people at Columbia believe that freedom of speech is not for everyone but only for themselves," said Boosalis. "It's a double-edged sword. If you're willing to protect your speech, then you have to be willing to protect the other person's speech, no matter what he or she believes."

Trouble began when Boosalis invited to Columbia Mike Cernovich, often described as an alt-right social media personality and conspiracy theorist. He also invited Tommy Robinson, a far-right British anti-Islamic activist, who spoke and answered questions via Skype.

Boosalis' goal wasn't to promote the ideals espoused by these men but invite them to

share their beliefs in front of members of his club, whom he hoped would engage them in question-and-answer sessions. He also hoped members of his club would gain insight into why so many supported the movement that led to Donald Trump being elected president and why nationalist movements in Europe were on the rise.

"The Republican Party is suffering from so much infighting that I wanted students to hear from as many sides of the party spectrum as possible so they could determine their own values for themselves."

He posted invitations to these events on his club's website. After a story appeared in the school's newspaper in September, campus groups denounced the speakers as white nationalists, and websites such as Gotham and the Drudge Report picked up the controversy.

Tucker Carlson invited Boosalis to appear on his show on Fox to debate the merits of his case, and *The New York Post* later covered the story.

During the event, protesters drowned out the broadcast of the talk with jeers and chants. "Someone then pulled out an Ethernet cord, and the screen went blank," said Boosalis. "We don't endorse Tommy's cause, but we did want to hear what he had to say."

About a week after the Oct. 10 talk by Robinson, Boosalis began seeing posters around campus with his face that he believed encouraged fellow students to attack him both verbally and physically. "The sentence 'let Ari know what you think' was ambiguous. I was worried that the members of the club and I would be attacked. Some people yelled 'shame' at me and called me a white supremacist. Even the school band entered the library and called me the grand wizard of the KKK. I watched online as crowds booed me. I stopped going to school events, as I know that I'm no longer welcome."

Two weeks later, when Cernovich came to campus, protesters marched down 125<sup>th</sup> Street before entering Alfred Lerner Hall. Boosalis hoped students would challenge Cernovich's efforts to promote a now-debunked conspiracy theory involving a D.C. pizza parlor and an alleged pedophile ring.

In addition to those who had reserved tickets, others broke through barricades to force their way into the lobby but were barred from entering the hall. "Mike was able to give his speech, although there were a few interruptions," said Boosalis.

Boosalis no longer feels threatened on campus "but I do feel uneasy and unwelcome." He also refuses to leave his dorm or transfer to another school. "If I leave, then this behavior will continue and others will suffer, just as I have. If I believe in the First Amendment, then I should be willing to be called these names. I hope my actions show people what's at stake here and that Freedom of Speech applies to everyone."

He plans to continue his activities this semester by hosting former White House Communications Director Anthony Scaramucci and staging a debate between right wing commentator Ann Coulter and Mickey Kaus a self-described neoliberal journalist and pundit. Boosalis will also speak at SI during his spring break at a gathering of SI's Republican Club.

As for a model of civil discourse, Boosalis points to his experience at SI, where he heard both Condoleezza Rice and Rep. John Lewis address the student body. "I thought it was valuable hearing both points of view. Both speakers opened my eyes to the world and showed how they translate Jesuit values into their actions. Columbia can learn a lot from SI's example." ∞



### Stewardship Week at SI

The junior class took part in the annual Stewardship Week in March. Students studied issues regarding sustainability in their religious studies classes and did restoration work throughout the city in conjunction with the city's Rec & Parks Department.

# 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** Members of the Class of 1948 celebrated their Christmas lunch with (top row, from left) **Mike Kasatkin, Roy Burnham, John Rugeiro**, (bottom row), **Jerry Murphy, Bob Glynn** and **Walt Johnson**. They are having their 70th reunion at the Basque Cultural Center June 23.

**1955** **Gov. Jerry Brown\*** delivered his final State of the State speech after an historic four terms in office.

**1964** **Alan Saunders** was recently ranked by ESPN as the #1 offensive coordinator of the past 25 years in the NFL. He will be coaching his 38th consecutive season in the NFL with the Browns as their senior offensive assistant.



**1965** At the Daytime Emmys in March, **Harry Young** (left) won his second Emmy as part of the audio team for *Days of Our Lives* on NBC. He is pictured here with Nanny Baskin.

**1966** **Fr. Robert Christian, O.P.>\*** was named the new auxiliary bishop for San Francisco.

**1971** **Dr. James Corum** has a chapter in a new book: *1918: Winning the War, Losing the War*. The book will be used in military history courses of British Army schools.

Dr. Corum's chapter deals with the air campaign of 1918.

**1973** **The Hon. Peter Siggins** received the Man of the Year Award from LMU's chapter of Alpha Delta Gamma, the Jesuit fraternity.

**1974** **Joe Reid** retired in April after a 39-year tax career with Chevron that took him to five continents. He thanks Mr. Morlock, who made him memorize the names of the 15 republics of the Soviet Union. "I never dreamed I would conduct business in six of those republics."

**1975** **David Silver\***, longtime collector, historian and, for 20 years, a major dealer and broker in antique and vintage cameras, was featured in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, on KPIX Channel 5 and on NPR's *All Things Considered* after discovering previously unknown 35mm movie footage of the aftermath of the 1906 earthquake. The 9-minute film was passed along to the Niles Essanay Silent Movie Museum, where it will remain preserved in archival storage, and was digitally copied for future generations to see.

**1979** **Geoffrey Blake** is a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel living in Fayetteville, Ark. He follows his passion by owning his own landscaping business, and in his spare time, he enjoys working out, kayaking, sports, live music and fine craft beer. He promises to attend the next reunion.

**1980** Historian **John Garvey** was invited to participate in a Smithsonian Institution program entitled "Americans and the Nazi Threat: What Did Californians Know," held at the San Francisco Jewish Community Center in February 2018. The panel also included JoAnn Wasserman, Education Initiatives Manager of the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum; author Tom Graves; and moderator Leah Garchik, a columnist for the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

**1981** **Francis Jue\*** stars in *Soft Power*, a play that will open in Los Angeles May 3 before coming to San Francisco June 20.

**1982** SI Director **Ted Curry\*** wrote about the journey of the fall play, *O Beautiful*, for *SF Breaking Character* magazine. / **Mike Menaster, M.D.**, is taking his first photography classes at CCSF, and a month into the classes, saw the school newspaper publish his photos of the basketball team's victory over Ohlone College. / U.S. Attorney for Northern California **Brian Stretch\*** stepped down from the post to join Sidley Austin LLP as a partner in its white-collar, government litigation and investigations practice.

**1983** **Matt Larsgaard** works as a private investigator along with fellow SI graduates **Paul Elissiry '85** and **Chris Larsgaard '85**. The three of them work as heir hunters and have located clients all over the world.

**1986** Bi-Rite founder **Sam Mogannam\*** received the Specialty Food Association's Leadership Award in the Citizenship category. / **Richard Ponce** left his current position as assistant house manager at the Manhattan Theatre Club's Samuel J. Friedman Theatre, to serve as house manager of 2nd Stage's new Broadway home, the Helen Hayes Theater (where he worked 28 years ago as a ticket taker and usher). He started at the Friedman in 2008 and spent the last 10 seasons working on 29 productions, including the Tony-Award winning revival of August Wilson's *Jitney*. He also worked Off Broadway for the Lucille Lortel Theatre in Greenwich Village between 1986 and 2008, advancing from usher to house manager. Richard put himself through school and earned a bachelor's degree in theatre arts and a minor in film from Brooklyn College in 1994.

**1987** Business owner and entrepreneur **Lloyd Princeton** is running for Congress in New Mexico's First Congressional District as a Libertarian.

**1990** **Mario Alioto** (right) will be celebrating his 20th anniversary teaching at Archbishop Hanna High School at Hanna Boys Center in Sonoma. He has been married for 17 years and just bowled his first sanctioned 300 game.

**1992** San Francisco Mayor **Mark Farrell** hosted his classmates on March 12 at City Hall. Top of next page, from left are **Sean Murphy, Chris Stecher, Joey Cannata, Mike Thanos, Ed Dollard, Frank Mong, Mayor Farrell, Andre Ferrigno** and **Paul Merrion**. According to Frank, "Mark wanted







**Scott Lensing, Andrew Hooker, Evan Yates, Michelle Arguelles, Gina Perlite and Brendan Byrne.**

**2008** *Catholic San Francisco* featured ICA graphic designer and photographer **Matt Tominaga\***.

**2010** **Carly Bell** was voted one of three captains for the Boston College Women's lacrosse team. She was selected to wear the #19 jersey, which recognizes the heroic efforts of Welles Crowther, who died helping others in the 9/11 attack on the World Trade Center. She was nominated by Inside Lacrosse Media's mid-season poll as Honorable Mention All American. / **Will Kircher\*** was promoted as an agent at the Hollywood powerhouse talent agency ICM Partners. / USF and the USF Psychology Department created an alumni profile regarding **Breniel Lemley's\*** research, which led her to her current research position at SRI International.



**2012** **Kerry Crowley** joined the Bay Area News Group, which includes the *San Jose Mercury News*, the *East Bay Times* and the *Marin Independent Journal*, as the San Francisco Giants beat reporter.

**2013** **Andrew Vollert\*** saw extensive playing time in the East-West All-Star Game; he also earned honors for his academic success at Weber State.

**2014** **Jaren Yang\*** was selected for a post-grad internship at MLB headquarters. He is the only one of 5,000 applicants chosen for this honor. He is double-majoring in business administration and recreation, sport and wellness at Gordon College. Jaren played basketball both for SI and Gordon College.

**2015** **Katie French** (left), a student at Villanova, played water polo against former SI teammate **Alissa Caltagirone '16** who now attends Chapman. Villanova won that game 10-8. / **Sydney Raggio\*** enjoyed success playing for St. Mary's basketball team.



**2016** **Anne-Cecilia Byrne** is studying in Madrid after receiving a scholarship from John Carroll University to help her finish her work towards her bachelor's degree in Spanish. She is also an office assistant to both the Language and Political Science Departments. The Poli Sci Department has asked her to translate a research/immersion project. / **Georgina Stiegeler** was voted Offensive Player of the Year for Cal Poly Women's Soccer.

**2017** Cal Poly San Luis Obispo's website sang the praises of **Ayzhiana Basallo\***, who is making a name for herself on the school's basketball team. / At the Army Invite at West Point, USMA cadet **Lauren McNevin\*** set a new plebe record in the 400 medley relay and earned #7 in the Army's All-Time best list for breast stroke. / Seattle University's Campus Ministry program named **Rose Murphy** its student leader of the week for her work as a Catholic Relief Services Ambassador, an RCIA sponsor for Campus Ministry and a Student Representative on the Trustee Committee for Student Government of Seattle University. Rose is also a Student Ambassador for Living the Fourth Day: Gathering for High School Retreat Alumni.

some advice from his most trusted advisors."

**1993** **Matt Ferrucci** won Best Director and Best TV Comedy for the show *Companion* at ITVFest — The Independent Television Festival — and was featured in *TV Guide* magazine.

**1995** CCSF basketball Head Coach **Justin Labagh\*** and Assistant Coach **Adam D'Acquisto**, led their team to a third state title since 2011.

**1996** **Tiffany Bong\***, who helped create SI's dance and drill team, was featured on the USC website for her work "raising the bar for university-level dance education." She is a USC Kaufman Dance Lecturer at the school.

**1998** **Angela Leus** was nominated for an award by the Guild of Music Supervisors in the "Best Music Supervision For Film: Budgeted Under \$25 Million" category for her work on last year's comedy hit *Girls Trip*. Angela is currently vice president of Film Music at Universal Pictures. Her current and upcoming projects include *Trolls 2*, *Mamma Mia: Here We Go Again!*, and *The Voyage of Doctor Dolittle*, starring Robert Downey, Jr.

**2000** **Josh Harris\*** and the **Sancimino brothers — Jim '75, Phil '76, Steve '68 and Tom '72** — were semifinalists for the prestigious James Beard Awards.

**2002** *Agnus*, a play co-written by **Matt Werner\***, opened off-Broadway.

**2004** **Joe Unruh**, a firefighter in San Diego, son of Coach **Rob Unruh '64** married Leah Mardon Cook in San Diego on March 4, 2018. Co-best men were twin **Corbolotti** brothers, **Mike** and **Tom '04**, neighbors of the Unruhs and sons of **Bob Corbolotti '74**. Also in the wedding party was **Tony Lagomarsino '04**.

**2005** The *Chronicle* interviewed *American Crime Story* star **Darren Criss\*** on his San Francisco roots. / **Samantha Geno (Silvia)**, daughter of **Ed Silvia '74** and Alicia Donahue (current SI trustee) married Gregory Geno, son of **Kevin Geno '72** on Nov. 4, 2017, at Old Saint Mary's Cathedral in San Francisco. **Georgia Silvia '09, Amanda Garcia, Alex Loback, Hannah Brosnan** and **E.J. Silvia '11** served as bridesmaids and groomsmen. Also in attendance from the class of 2005 were **Juliana Sanguinetti, Jill Hansel, Molly Callaghan, Francesca Flaherty** and **Katy Bunch (Milton)**.



**2007** On Dec. 16, 2017, **Dennis (D.J.) Murphy, Jr.** married Holly McMannes at Silverado Resort and Spa in Napa. **Danny Tate** was best man. Also in attendance from the Class of 2007 were **Alex and Cal Trembath, Drew Lawson,**



**2018** This past December, **Keo Chui\*** and one other Latin student took the National Medusa Mythology Exam. Both students opted in just to see how they would do. Keo earned a Laurea Certificate for her strong performance on this national exam. / **Alex Enos\*** broke SI's long-jump



record by 10 inches (24 feet, 2.5 inches) and also set a meet record at the first meet of the season. / **Justin Yamamura\*** received the Prudential Spirit of Community Award for his work founding Youth Policy Initiative, a nonprofit program at SI for middle school students.

**2019** On Jan. 24, SI Spanish students participated in a one-day cultural and language exchange with students from two South American Jesuit high schools: Colegio San Javier of Tacuarembó, Uruguay, and Colegio Del Salvador of Buenos Aires, Argentina. SI students hosted the exchange students all day, bringing them to their classes and practicing their Spanish skills. SI students included **David Barajas, Marcelo**



**Villavicencio '20, Claire Cruse, Selascie Smith, Alyssa Perotti, Nick Love, Cole Lombardi, Grace Bettis, Kaitlin Kelly, Caitriona Hegarty and Julia Kelly.**

**2020** **Samantha Lo, Nick He '21 and Ethan Liu '21** were named semifinalists by the San Mateo Chapter of the Organization of Chinese Americans for the group's speech contest, and Samantha was later named contest winner. / **Ruby Luu\***, one of the Orchestra Concertmasters at SI, was selected to perform at the Junior Bach Festival at the Crowden Music Center March 24. She has been accepted to the prestigious Conservatory Audition Workshop in Vermont this summer to work with teachers from Curtis, Juilliard and the New England Conservatory. / SI's Sophomore Oratorical Contest featured finalists (below, from left) **Sam Magdamo (1st), Kailey Sjauwfoekloy (2nd), Felix Andam and Lorraine Lee.**



**2021** **Emma Dinkelspiel\*** and **Nina Ng-Lara '20** were accepted to the prestigious Interlochen Arts Academy at the Interlochen Center for the Arts in Michigan this summer for the one-week intensive music seminar. Also, Emma, **Theresa Wu '19** and **Vivian Tsang '19** received a Superior rating at the CA Music Educators Association Solo and Ensemble Music Festival at SFSU Feb. 24, where they played a trio by Francois Devienne for flute, viola and cello. In attendance was orchestra leader Gillian Clements who has worked with the students on their piece once a week since early January. / The freshman class enjoyed the Frosh Elocution Contest. Finalists, below from left,



included **Erika Morris\*** (1st place), **Edgar Silva** (3rd place), **Claire Galerkin** (2nd place), **Jacqueline Tom, Areni Panosian and Emma Dinkelspiel.** / On Feb. 3, SI's novice debate team participated in the league's third Lincoln-Douglas tournament at CCSF. The dedicated team had a strong showing, and **Chloe Lequient\*** won a "Debate Winning Record" trophy.

This follows their second tournament, where **Violet Wade '20** took home the same prize. From left to right are **Ethan Collins, Chloe** and **Jacqui Tom.**



## Births

**2003** **Stephanie (Ching) Huynh** and her husband, Vince, a daughter, Natalie Violet, born Oct. 24, 2017. She joins big sister Lana. / **Annie (Mai) Zaks** and her husband, Ben, a son, Kaden Leo, born Aug. 10, 2017. Annie works as an Account Manager for Google in San Francisco.





# St. Ignatius College Preparatory SUMMER PROGRAMS 2018



## ONLINE REGISTRATION NOW OPEN



*Morning Extended Care 8-9 am &  
Afternoon Care Available 4-5 pm*

### **JUNE 18-JULY 20, 2018**

Academic Program for rising  
6th, 7th, 8th graders

### **JUNE 11-JULY 20, 2018**

Sports Camps of all types for rising  
1st-9th graders

### **JUNE 18-JULY 20, 2018**

Academic Program for incoming  
SI 9th graders only

### **JUNE 18-JULY 20, 2018**

Camps:  
Robotics, Cooking, Photography & more!

### **CONTACT US AT**

summerprograms@siprep.org • 415-731-7500 ext 5288 • [www.siprep.org/summer](http://www.siprep.org/summer)

## SI OFFERS ESTATE PLANNING HELP!

- ⚡ A well organized estate plan is the first and most important step in **PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY** and your assets, especially in uncertain economic times.
- ⚡ We offer estate planning videos on wills, living trusts, probate, choosing a trustee, charitable trusts, gift annuities, advance health care directives and other **POWERFUL PLANNING TOOLS** vital to you and those you love. Visit [www.siprep.org/plan](http://www.siprep.org/plan).
- ⚡ Our complimentary Estate Planning Organizers can help you **CREATE OR REVISE YOUR WILL OR LIVING TRUST**. Contact Joe Vollert at (415) 731-7500, ext. 5319, or [jvollert@siprep.org](mailto:jvollert@siprep.org) to get a free downloadable organizer or request a binder.

**MAKING AN ESTATE PLAN, NO MATTER YOUR AGE OR ASSETS, IS GOOD FOR YOU, GOOD FOR YOUR FAMILY, AND IF YOU WISH, GOOD FOR SI! [WWW.SIPREP.ORG/PLAN](http://WWW.SIPREP.ORG/PLAN)**

*save the date*

# Red & Blue Campus Crawl

## Saturday, June 9, 2018

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

Questions? email [slaveroni@siprep.org](mailto:slaveroni@siprep.org)



**lifeatsi**

San Franisco, California

FOLLOW



### FOLLOW AND WATCH



[facebook.com/stignatiuscollegepreparatory](https://facebook.com/stignatiuscollegepreparatory)



[twitter.com/stignatius](https://twitter.com/stignatius)



[twitter.com/siscores](https://twitter.com/siscores)



[tinyurl.com/thecubesi](https://tinyurl.com/thecubesi)



[vimeo.com/channels/siprep](https://vimeo.com/channels/siprep)



[instagram.com/lifeatsi](https://instagram.com/lifeatsi)







## In Memoriam

1937 Lloyd J. DeMartini Sr.  
 1942 Louis M. Brizzolara  
 1943 Paul J. Trahan  
 1944 George Pellicer  
 1945 John P. Cunningham  
 1945 Ezio H. Gallarate  
 1946 Walter E. Puccini  
 1947 Rev. Gerald J. Lentz, S.J. (former faculty)  
 1948 Joseph Buzzo

1949 Robert J. Harrison  
 1949 Bradford Dillman  
 1952 Albert H. Modena, Jr.  
 1953 Antonio Sanchez-Corea  
 1954 Bernard "Bernie" Simpson (see below)  
 1956 The Hon. John Henning  
 1959 Anthony Friscia  
 1959 Jerrold Schaefer  
 1959 Raymond L. Pariani  
 1959 Deacon James F. Shea, Jr.  
 1961 Jean P. Lassegues (former faculty)

1964 Vincent P. Finigan  
 1971 Michael J. Driscoll, Jr.  
 1971 James Laveroni  
 1973 Sean Curry  
 1980 Dennis O'Sullivan  
 1981 Robert Merjano  
 1983 John Francis Corry  
 2005 Benjamin Riney  
 2008 Noah Orme  
 Mrs. Donna Burns, director of SI's Bingo for 37 years & founder of numerous scholarships

## Bernie Simpson '54, star athlete, former basketball coach and English teacher, dies at 81

Bernard "Bernie" Simpson '54, a former student body president and champion athlete and coach, died Feb. 28 at the age of 81 surrounded by loved ones.

Born Oct. 11, 1936, in Omaha, he moved to San Francisco with his family and attended Notre Dame des Victoires School until 1950 before going on to SI, where he played baseball and basketball all four years. He played 120s basketball for Rene Herrerias '44 as a freshman; when Rene moved to the varsity team, Bernie played for him the next three years, culminating in the championship 1954 season and a Tournament of Champions title. He also helped coach Grove Mohr's baseball team win the AAA title, the first since 1930.

He went on to Cal, where he played on the NCAA championship baseball team in 1957 and the 1959 national championship basketball team, coached by Pete Newell. He later earned entry into the San Francisco Prep Hall of Fame for his athletic prowess.

He was a lieutenant junior grade in the Navy and married Jacqueline Minenna in 1960. They had two sons, Craig and Chris, and a daughter, Dana Freudemberger.

He returned to SI in 1962 to teach English and coach the boys' basketball team. In 1965, he led the squad in one of the key games in the history of the school when SI beat SH with a last-second basket by Bob Portman '65 (Creighton, NBA Warriors). The victory led to an AAA championship and a place in the Tournament of Champions, where SI beat Gilroy and Richmond before losing the crown to Fremont of Oakland.

"Coach Simpson was known as an excellent tactician who promoted aggressive play with multiple presses," said former SI Principal Charlie Dullea '65, who played for Bernie. "He was fun to play and practice for, though he was always tough. He made his good players even better, including my teammate who would go on to play for the Warriors."

Bernie later earned a master's degree from SFSU and coached at Laney College and Seattle University. His players remember him as an exceptionally knowledgeable, skillful and passionate coach. He later went into sales and retired as regional sales manager at Cerro Copper in San Francisco.

A Memorial Mass at St. Ignatius Church was offered April 14 for him and his second wife, the late Dona J. Simpson, who died Nov. 9, 2016. The couple are survived by Bernie's three children, Dona's two children, 11 grandchildren, 3 great-grandchildren and lifelong friends. ∞



From left: Bernie Simpson and his classmate George Marchand.



## Business Lunch features FB's Colin Stretch

Opposite page: Facebook Vice President and Chief Counsel Colin Stretch '87 spoke at the Downtown Business Lunch in February in the Julia Morgan Ballroom. (He is pictured second from right in the far left photo with his classmates.) He shared stories about testifying before Congress and regarding the world of social media. At the event, SI Law Society President Tom Brandi '63 also honored retired judge Alfred Chiantelli '57, now working as an arbitrator, for his years of distinguished service to the legal profession.



## Cancer Awareness Club

Each year the Cancer Awareness Club sponsors a day for students and faculty to donate lengths of their hair to St. Baldrick's Foundation and Pantene Beautiful Lengths, which makes wigs for people fighting cancer. Among those who took part was math department chair Paul Maychrowitz, pictured at left.

## CALENDAR

### APRIL

17 Spring blood drive  
 19-21 Spring Musical (Bannan) 7pm  
 21 Spring Musical (Bannan) 2pm  
 21 The Bruce-Mahoney Baseball Game (AT&T Park) 5:30pm  
 22 Mother Student Breakfast 9am  
 26 Father/Student Dinner (Commons) 6pm  
 26-28 Spring Musical (Bannan) 7pm  
 28 Spring Musical (Bannan) 2pm  
 28 Class of 1958 Reunion

### MAY

2-4 Spring Dance Concert (Wiegand) 7pm  
 5 International Food Faire 4pm  
 8 Ignatian Guild Meeting 7pm  
 9 Ignatian Guild Installation Mass & Luncheon 11am  
 10 Spring Pops (Bannan) 7pm  
 10 Transition to College (Orradre Chapel) 7pm  
 11 Spring Pops (Bannan) 3&7pm  
 12 Spring Pops (Bannan) 7pm  
 14 Returning students receive Financial Aid notification  
 17 Fathers' Club BBQ (Commons) 5:30pm  
 18 Faculty In-Service (No Classes)  
 18 AALPA Meeting 6pm  
 23 Performing Arts Star Banquet 6:30pm

24 Transition Liturgy  
 25 Awards Assembly  
 25 SIPAC Meeting 6pm  
 28 Memorial Day Holiday  
 29 Ignatian Guild Meeting (Faculty Dining Room) 6:30pm  
 29-31 Final Exams  
 31 Baccalaureate Mass 7:30pm

### JUNE

2 Graduation 10:30am  
 9 Red & Blue Campus Crawl 5:30pm  
 11 Summer High School Classes, Cat Camp & Camps begin  
 18 Summer School begins

The 2017–2018 **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.





**THE IGNATIAN GUILD PROUDLY PRESENTS  
THE 49TH ANNUAL FASHION SHOW**



**SEPTEMBER 29 & 30, 2018**

***WILDCAT, WHAT MAKES YOUR HEART SING?***