

LA SALLE PREP REVIEW

LA SALLE CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY

SUMMER 2021



2021: A lesson in
resilience

p. 12

calendar*

SEPTEMBER

8

First Day of School

OCTOBER

4-22

Wreath Sale

17

Open House

23

Believe Benefit

NOVEMBER

1

All Saints' Day Mass

DECEMBER

4

Yulefest & Wine Tasting

*Subject to change
Updated calendar at lsprep.org

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COVER PHOTO: *Heavenly Salcedo '21 strikes a celebratory pose after the Class of 2021 graduated on June 5 at Rolling Hills Community Church. Photo by Greg Kozawa.*

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LOOKING FORWARD



I believe all of our experiences — whether we interpret them to be good or bad — can be opportunities to learn, reflect, and grow. The pandemic, forest fires, ice storms, and a record-breaking heat wave all kept us apart in the past year and a half. Within this experience, it has become clearer to me the importance and relevance of our Lasallian community.

This Lasallian ideal is deeply affirmed for me because we are, and always will be, a community rooted in relationships. St. John Baptist de La Salle knew this. We use words such as “brother” and “sister” to describe our relationships for a reason: We are a family.

But families can struggle when they are not together. Relationships do not form as easily in Zoom breakout rooms, and intentions can be hard to interpret when facial expressions are obscured by masks. Learning still happened, but building relationships and community was more challenging.

This is why returning to campus — to the athletics field, the stage, the classroom, hallways, and lunchroom — has been critically important for our relationships and our Lasallian mission.

We look forward to fall when, once again, we can gather as a Falcon family consistently. Our community needs to be together in order to thrive and fully exemplify La Salle’s core values.

As we conclude this amazing school year, I pray you move forward with hope. I pray you are surrounded by loving and supportive relationships that keep you feeling connected. And I pray you accept the Lasallian call and invitation to Live, Jesus, in our hearts. Forever.

Sincerely,

Andrew Kuffner
President



LA SALLE LEADERSHIP

Andrew Kuffner
President

Alanna O'Brien
Principal

Matthew Winningham
Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer

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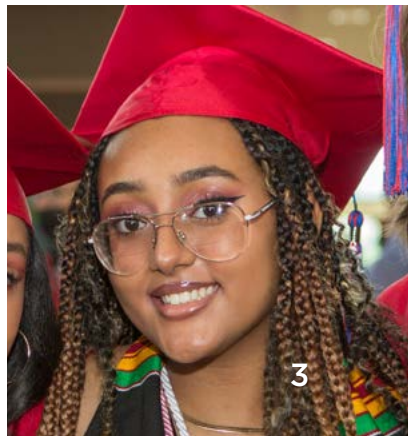
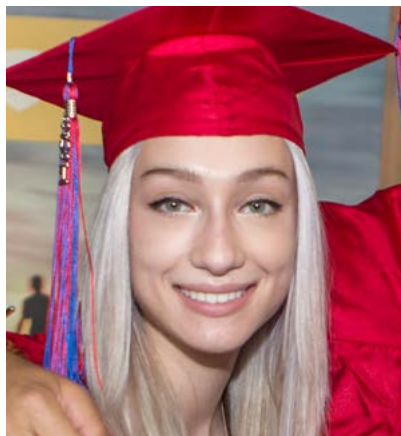
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LA SALLE NAMES NEW PRINCIPAL

Alanna O'Brien has been named the 11th principal of La Salle, becoming the high school's first female principal since the Christian Brothers founded it in 1966.

O'Brien, who has been serving as La Salle's interim principal since Andrew Kuffner became its full-time president last summer, was selected after a nationwide search in March.

Kuffner said he selected O'Brien for her education, experience, and drive to continue the school's academic innovation. Over the years, she has chaired La Salle's English department, served as its Director of Service, and led its Lasallian Education Advancement and Lasallian Scholars programs. She has been instrumental in transforming La Salle's academic programs and culture by establishing and enhancing Powerful Teaching and Learning (PTL) strategies, Understanding by Design (UBD), Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB),

and technology and design-thinking programs.

She also led La Salle's summer school programs and annual social justice school theme initiative, coached in the girls' soccer program, and chaperoned retreats.

In recent years, O'Brien gained a new perspective on La Salle; two of her sons now attend the school and the third one is just one year away from becoming a freshman.

"Alanna O'Brien is uniquely poised to advance our efforts to evolve from a traditional academic structure and culture into one of innovation, inclusivity, and excellence that aligns with the comprehensive 21st century learning and Lasallian formation outcomes we seek for our students," said Kuffner. "I have confidence Ms. O'Brien is the right leader for this time in La Salle's and our world's history."

Discovering her path

O'Brien grew up as Alanna Freeman in the San Francisco Bay area, where she attended Catholic high schools in the Central Valley and Mountain View, and spent her free time playing soccer, babysitting, and spending time with friends.

She wasn't sure what kind of career she wanted to pursue when she went East to the College of Holy Cross in Massachusetts. Only after graduating with a degree in English, serving in the Jesuit Volunteer Corps for a year, and then spending another year working with teen parents did she realize she wanted to teach high-schoolers.

"Teenagers are trying to figure out who they are and who they are going to be," she said. "It's potentially a rocky time, and I think they need the presence of invested adults."

So O'Brien set her career course to education, which she saw as "the most impactful way to make a difference in the lives of others, particularly young people."

She earned a master's degree in teaching from Lewis and Clark College, then started teaching writing and English literature at La Salle in 1996. Her career path was soon validated; in 2000, her colleagues voted her as the school's Lasallian Educator of the Year. The annual award honors an educator who embodies the ideals of St. John Baptist de La Salle in the 21st century.

// The work of teaching and learning is not stagnant, but ever-changing in a complex global society."

-Alanna O'Brien

A leader at La Salle

In addition to teaching literature and writing, O'Brien has contributed to La Salle in other ways. Over the years she chaired the English department, managed professional development, and mentored new faculty.

She led the teacher technology team to support the integration of iPads in instruction, assessment, and student organization, developed the school's Summer Session courses, and oversaw the graduating seniors portfolio program.

O'Brien completed the Equity Certificate Program for School Leaders through the Center for Equity and Inclusion in Portland, and participated in the Lasallian Leadership Institute and the Discerning Leaders Program run through the Lasallian District of San Francisco New Orleans and the Lasallian Region of North America.

Through her studies and experience, O'Brien said she has

learned that the best education fosters a student's purpose and direction while leaving room for wonder and joy.

"The purpose of school and a 21st century education is not simply to acquire information," she said. "Schools should allow for opportunities for deep learning in which students can apply their understanding of concepts in new and creative ways. The work of teaching and learning is not stagnant, but ever-changing in a complex global society."

Faith as well as scholarship

A lifelong Catholic and a member of St. Ignatius Catholic Church in Southeast Portland, O'Brien seeks to build a community of faith as well as scholarship at La Salle. Faith, she said, "provides me with opportunities for contemplation, challenges me to be a person of integrity, reveals direction in times of uncertainty or loss, and demands hope for a peaceful and equitable world."

Becoming the school's interim, and then permanent, academic leader during the pandemic, she said, "has been daunting, humbling, and at times, overwhelming."

"At the same time," she said, "this experience has been surprisingly life-giving as it affirms the goodness of this community and the resilience of young people and those who serve them."

"It reminds me that our Catholic faith calls us to be people not only of faith, but also people of hope."



Our Principal's principles

- **I believe** schools must operate as dynamic, human-centered institutions rooted in care for communities and the young people within them.
- **I believe** in the Lasallian principle that educators need to care for students' hearts as well as their minds and I believe in our mission to help young people remember and recognize the presence of God in their lives and the lives of others.
- **I believe** the Lasallian emphasis on educators operating as "big brothers and sisters" to their students is the heart of an educator's work.
- **I believe** education should foster a student's purpose and direction while allowing for wonder, connection, and joy. Schools should not only prepare students for the next level of education, they should provide them opportunities to discover their passions, talents, and purpose.
- **I believe** schools should support the development of student agency and responsibility, and allow for student choice and decision-making when possible.

campus notes



A

Finding time to retreat

In the spring, a few dozen members of the Class of 2021 gathered to reflect during a two-day retreat called Metanoia (A).

The Metanoia retreat was developed for seniors unable to attend the three-day Journey retreat their junior year because of the pandemic. Though shorter, Metanoia — which means “change of heart” or “to see things anew” in Greek — retains Journey’s spirit of self-discovery.

“The seniors, both participants and leaders alike, were present to and supported each other throughout,” said Director of Faith Gary Hortsch. “We had beautiful weather and an unforgettable experience.”

“It is important that we seek new ways to maintain our retreat tradition,” said Hortsch. “During this time of physical distancing, this retreat is needed more than ever.”



George, Shelton awarded

In recognition of the opportunities they created for students during the pandemic, athletic director Chris George '97 (B) and theater teacher Michael Shelton (C, right) received this year’s Carol Feltz Bluhm '80 Award, an honor established by Bluhm’s family to recognize teachers and staffers whose work as a coach or moderator helps students develop and thrive.

George was instrumental in coordinating on-campus athletic workouts and training during the fall as well as a compressed three seasons of athletics.

“These opportunities supported not only the physical and mental health of the hundreds of students who participated, but also the sense of connection and community they so desperately needed during a challenging time,” said Matthew Winningham, Executive Director/CFO.

Shelton devised ways for students to put on two major productions safely. The fall show — “The Giver” — was filmed on a closed set and released as a movie; the spring show — “The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” — was held outdoors. “These events offered opportunities not only for students to shine and grow their talents and expertise, but also for them to learn resilience, creativity and perseverance,” said Winningham.

Winningham described George and Shelton as “two fine Lasallians” who “model for all of us how we can creatively and effectively advance our mission and serve students even during challenging times.”

“They truly did go above and beyond this year,” he said. “It made a great impact.”



B



C

GRAD EARNS STAMPS SCHOLARSHIP



Paige Martin '21 has been awarded the prestigious Stamps Scholarship to attend the University of Oregon Clark Honors College.

Martin is one of only 10 incoming freshmen to win the merit-based scholarship, which includes tuition, fees, room, and board for four years of undergraduate study,

plus a stipend for educational experiences such as study abroad or unpaid internships.

"It didn't come easy to me, but I knew I had to get good grades to put myself in a good position for college," said Paige, one of the Class of 2021's three valedictorians.

While at La Salle, Paige took many of the school's most-challenging courses. By the time she graduated in June, she had a 4.31 grade point average.

"I am proud of what I have done," she said. "I always want to turn in my best work because I would rather get a worse grade knowing I did my best than a better grade knowing I could have tried harder."

Paige has other reasons to be proud. Using a \$3,100 Dare to Dream grant from La Salle, she founded the Hands for Hearts CPR organization to provide free, non-certified CPR, AED, and choking relief classes to people who couldn't afford traditional first aid training. She also played Falcon volleyball, served as a school ambassador, tutored students, and participated in La

Salle's Mexico-U.S. border immersion.

Paige said she was grateful for all the opportunities at La Salle, and was especially thankful for the La Salle teachers who nurtured her love of academics and created a safe place to learn and grow.

"My calculus teachers didn't mind my friends and I using all of their whiteboard spaces after school to study for a test, and my Spanish teachers encouraged us to converse with each other in order to truly grasp the language," she said. "Beyond academics, they're just wonderful people. My teachers are a big part of my life. They were some of the first people to know about my college decisions; they were also there for me with support I needed when my grandma passed in January."

Outside of school, Paige co-chaired the Happy Valley Youth Council, which advocates for youth by holding Youth Town Halls, sharing peers' concerns with city leaders, and meeting with Oregon legislators. She also was active in the National Charity League, a mother-daughter philanthropic organization, and volunteered with a clothing closet, food pantry, and preschool.

"She genuinely loves to help her community," said Renee Giesemann, who was Paige's counselor at La Salle.

At Oregon, Paige plans on majoring in biology and minoring in psychology and Spanish. She'd like to become a pediatric dermatologist who treats children suffering from atopic dermatitis (eczema), the autoimmune skin disease she's had since birth. She remembers the stares and questions she got when her eczema flared up — and the relief she felt when doctors helped her manage it.

"I figure I'd keep giving back," said Paige. "I want to help kids feel better in their own skin."



A



B



C

Art students win national medals

Paige Baines '21 and Maggie Dougherty '21 earned national medals for their entries in the annual Scholastic Art & Writing Awards competition, the nation's longest-running recognition program for creative teens.

"It is a really tough competition and represents the top 1% of student work across the country," said self-described "super proud" art teacher Cha Asokan.

- Maggie won a National Gold Medal for her digital painting (C) titled "Sexualize This"
- Paige won a National Silver Medal for her digital photo (A) titled "Left to Rust"
- Paige also won a National Silver Medal for her digital photo (B) titled "Grass Field"

Works that earned national medals will be displayed across the country during the next year.



red & blue review

The pandemic kept Falcons from following the traditional calendar of competition this year. But once health authorities deemed it safe for high schoolers to compete again, the Falcons never looked back.

Though the seasons were truncated and, in some cases, out of order (football in March, and swimming in June), La Salle fielded teams in almost every traditional sport and activity. A few highlights:

- For the first time in more than a decade, La Salle had a dance team compete at state, where it earned a score of “Outstanding.”

- Boys swim team won the conference title by 199 points.
- Girls track & field athletes took 1st place in High Jump and 4x100 Relay at the 5A state meet. Congratulations to high jumper **Abby Sheets '21**, and relay team **Victoria Azar '21**, **Molly Jenne '21**, **Abby Sheets '21**, and **Emelia Warta '23**.
- The football, baseball, and boys soccer teams earned the highest GPAs among 32 5A schools. (p. 11)

Because pandemic restrictions kept fans from rooting for the Falcons in-person for most of the competitive seasons, family and friends watched competitions via live stream or sports channels. That’s a whole new level of teamwork. Go, Falcons!





NEW HIRES IN ATHLETICS

La Salle recently welcomed two new coaches.

This spring, Sean Kelly (A) completed his first season leading the boys basketball team (6-3 in the league; 9-5 overall), which earned an invitation to compete in the top bracket of this year's end-of-season tournament.

Kelly came to La Salle from Concordia University, where he coached the school's Division II women's basketball team for six years. La Salle hired him after Concordia closed permanently last year.

Kelly attended and played basketball at Incline High School in Nevada and Pacific Lutheran University in Washington. He's been coaching for more than 20 years.

"I believe a team's culture is built around hard work and the ability to make mistakes," said Kelly in his profile on La Salle's website. "If you want to play for me, don't be afraid to work hard or make mistakes. That is how an individual and a team grows."

Athletic Director Chris George '97 praised Kelly for his coaching staff and strategies, and called Kelly's regard for kids, knowledge of the game, and enthusiasm "a blessing to our athletic department and the players."

Kelly isn't the only new Falcon. After years of coaching club and collegiate soccer, Monty Hawkins (B) is returning to La Salle to head the boys soccer program, which he helped lead to a co-state title in 1994.

"My heart is in some ways attached to La Salle because that's where I started," Hawkins told *The Times* newspaper in June. "I was just learning how to start coaching. We were a relevant program back then, and they've maintained it. It's kind of a nice circle."

Hawkins played soccer at Gladstone High School, then at Warner Pacific and Oregon State. He went pro in the early 1990s, playing in the Verbandsliga league in Germany.

Around that time, Hawkins started coaching high school soccer. After five years at La Salle, he coached the Portland State University's women's team for two years, then Sherwood High School boys' team for 14 years. He also coached at the club, semi-pro, and pro levels. Since 2002, Hawkins has owned and operated Tualatin Indoor Soccer.

"The Falcons are excited to welcome Coach Hawkins back to continue building on the legacy he was instrumental in developing at the start of his career," said George. "Monty is a very well respected coach."





ATHLETES ADVANCING TO COLLEGIATE TEAMS

Among the members of the recently graduated Class of 2021 are several athletes who will play sports at the collegiate level. Most of these athletes gathered for a photo wearing their college gear. Pictured above, left to right:

- **Maddie Khaw**, Emerson College (soccer)
- **James Menor**, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (football)
- **Abby Sheets**, Sacramento State University (track)
- **Addison Wedin**, St. Mary's College of California (basketball)
- **Ryan Rosumny**, Pomona College (football)
- **Kainoa Taylor**, Whitman College (soccer)
- **Will Curran**, University of Redlands (football)
- **Wade Nichols**, Whitman College (soccer)
- **Amanda Sisul**, Central Washington (basketball)
- **Hailey Wadsworth**, Linfield University (softball)
- **Bradley Kiltow**, Linfield University (track)
- **Victoria Azar**, George Fox University (track)

Not pictured:

- **Jake Owens**, Pacific University (basketball)
- **Gabby Warta**, Idaho State University (soccer)

THREE TEAMS AVERAGE HIGHEST GPA IN STATE

La Salle football, baseball, and boys soccer teams earned Academic All-State Awards for having the highest team grade point averages among all 32 of the state's 5A schools fielding teams in those sports this year.

Meanwhile, the average GPAs of Falcon volleyball, girls soccer, boys and girls golf, boys and girls tennis, boys and girls cross country, boys and girls track and field, boys basketball, and boys and girls swimming teams put them among the Top 10 5A teams in their sport in Oregon.

The recognition is part of the OnPoint Community Credit Union Academic All-State Program, which recognizes outstanding achievement in the classroom. The boys and girls teams in each Oregon School Activities Association-sanctioned activity with the highest team grade point average earn the Academic All-State Award.

Each member of a winning team receives a commemorative decal and certificate. Members of the Top 10 teams in each activity at each classification also are recognized.

Athletic Director Chris George '97 said he was "humbly not surprised that our kids can achieve great things in both areas."

"They work hard at it," he said. "And when you work hard it pays off. It's great to see them recognized for that, especially in a very challenging year for all students across the state."



a lesson in
resilience

“ At the top of your mountains, staring out in the world... you will certainly encounter many more mountains that lie behind and in front of you, many more obstacles and struggles, and conflicts that you have already faced and that you will face. But, if you look, you will see so many others who have summited or are working hard to summit those mountains and hills. You are not alone, you are never alone! And there are always beautiful vistas along the way.”

-Paul Dreisbach, teacher, speaking to the Class of 2021



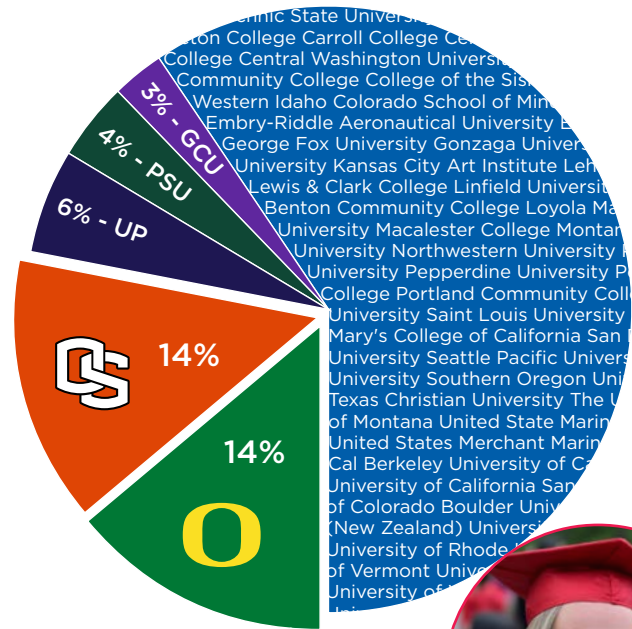
oh, the places they'll go

Here's where the Class of 2021 is headed:

- Cal. Polytechnic State University (San Luis Obispo)
- California State University (Sacramento)
- Carleton College
- Carroll College
- Central Oregon Community College
- Central Washington University
- Clackamas Community College
- College of the Siskiyous
- College of Western Idaho
- Colorado School of Mines
- Drexel University
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
- Emerson College
- George Fox University
- Gonzaga University
- Grand Canyon University
- Idaho State University
- Kansas City Art Institute
- Lehigh University
- Lewis & Clark College
- Linfield University
- Linn-Benton Community College
- Loyola Marymount University
- Macalester College
- Montana State University
- Northwestern University
- Oregon State University
- Pacific University
- Pepperdine University
- Pomona College
- Portland Community College
- Portland State University
- Purdue University
- Saint Louis University
- Saint Mary's College of California
- San Diego State University
- Seattle Pacific University
- Seattle University
- Southern Oregon University
- Texas Christian University
- The University of Montana
- The University of Montana (Western)
- United State Marine Corps
- United States Merchant Marine Academy
- University of California (Berkeley)
- University of California (Irvine)
- University of California (San Diego)
- University of Colorado Boulder
- University of Oregon
- University of Otago (New Zealand)
- University of Portland
- University of Redlands
- University of Rhode Island
- University of Vermont
- University of Washington (Seattle)
- University of Wisconsin (Madison)
- Washington State University
- Washington University in St Louis
- Weber State University
- Western Oregon University
- Western Washington University
- Whitman College

grads by the numbers

Here's what's next for the Class of 2021:



86%
attending college
this fall, 4% chose
a gap year, 8% are
undecided, 2% are
entering trades or
military

\$15.5m
total offered
to graduates in
scholarships

12%
bound for
Catholic
universities

38%
of students
attending college
are headed out
of state





GRADS GET TO CELEBRATE TOGETHER

La Salle's Class of 2021 graduated on June 5 at Rolling Hills Community Church.

The class — 177 strong — came of age amid a pandemic, political unrest, an economic downturn, and a racial reckoning. Because the pandemic led to campus closures, this class spent most of its final year in high school learning online.

Amid that background, valedictorians Otso Barron '21, David Jensen '21, and Paige Martin '21 each delivered a third of a valedictory speech that included the story about the Greek myth of Sisyphus, the man forced to push a rock up a mountain. Day after day, he pushed the rock up the mountain. Day after day, the rock rolled down just as it neared the top.

"As you may know, we are Sisyphus," said the trio, each taking a turn addressing their classmates from the front of the church auditorium. "Every step we took, every homework assignment, every sports match, and every ounce of effort has worked to push ourselves to the top. However, as a class, we weren't given just any regular rock. We were given Dwayne Johnson-sized rock. We were handed a beast."

"That's right, just over a year ago, our sudden Groundhog Day began. Wake up, maybe get out of bed, and join first period from home. As we pushed through Zoom classes, Jamboards, and breakout rooms, we knew that tomorrow we would do it all over again. And every one of us had our set of disappointments. Sports, musicals and plays, and dances were gone, reduced to atoms."

// The universe threw a lot at us, and we couldn't do anything but adapt. And so we did, because that's what we are good at...Our resilience will define us."

Excerpt from valedictorians' address

But, said the valedictorians, endless tasks are not an exercise in futility; they are an "exercise of life. The challenges we will face won't simply disappear, but rather evolve, as we go on to college, to gap years, internships or jobs."

"...we can turn the repetitive, mundane chore of the everyday into something new and exciting when shared with others. Yes, we need to be tenacious to be successful. However, there is no guarantee of success."

"So we have this wonderful opportunity to share our burdens with others. To remember that the journey is actually our pinnacle, and the wins are just the icing on the cake."

awards

VALEDICTORIAN

Otso Barron
David Jensen
Paige Martin

SALUTATORIAN

Nathan Henry
Sam Luft
Ryan Rosumny
Benjamin Scott-Lewis

CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Dakota Canzano

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD

Egan Arntson
James Menor
Alyna Nguyen
Jacob Owens

FAITH, SERVICE & COMMUNITY AWARD

Danny Nguyen

MICHAEL GLODEN AWARD

Dakota Canzano

DE LA SALLE AWARD

Anthony Nguyen

ZACH DAVIDSON BIG BROTHER/SISTER AWARD

Dakota Canzano

DOROTHY DAY HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Mary Grace Mott

FALCON DETERMINATION AWARD

Nickolas Phillips

leaving *legacies*

GOODBYE, MS. FISHER

For 23 years, Rhonda (Hess) Fisher was the first person everyone saw when they walked into La Salle Prep. Fisher staffed the front desk in the main office, welcoming visitors, tracking down students, and helping parents find what or who they needed.

What a blessing that was. Fisher was always ready with a smile and a hug if she thought you needed one. Her aw-shucks demeanor had a way of putting people at ease – even students sent to the office for violating dress code.

"Rhonda brought a genuineness to the front office that made it feel like home," said President Andrew Kuffner. "She wanted to make everyone feel welcomed and included."

But after years of saying "hello," Fisher said "goodbye" to La Salle this summer. She retired on July 1. "I've been thinking about it for a few years," she said. "I'm off in July anyway, so this just seemed like the best time."

'The best place to be'

Fisher grew up in Missouri as the second of three children of an airline mechanic and a homemaker. She loved dancing, softball, and kickball. In high school, she became a majorette; her classmates remember her as the girl who once twirled a baton on fire.

Fisher briefly considered becoming a teacher. Instead, she landed a job with the Missouri Department of Motor Vehicles. A few years later, she moved to Oregon to be near relatives.

Over the years, Fisher held several clerical jobs in the Portland



area. Then, a friend who knew Fisher liked kids suggested she apply to La Salle. Soon enough, Fisher became the school's official greeter.

"The front desk is the best place to be because I get a chance to see all the students," she said. "Watching them walk through the doors every day makes my heart happy."

Though her official role was to answer phones and guide guests, Fisher unofficially served as a School Mom. Along with former fellow front desk jockey Judi Powell '71 (A), who retired last year, Fisher consoled broken-hearted teens, motivated reluctant students, and hugged anyone facing tough times. Fisher shared that she, also, had faced tough times. If she survived, they could, too.

"Ms. Fisher was just always such a bright spot in everyone's day," said Tayler Cheney '15. "Even if you were in the office because you were in trouble...she was always spreading love and joy to all."

Some of her favorite high school memories, said Cheney, were of hanging out in the office with Fisher and Powell after school. "We'd eat snacks, play games, and talk about our lives," said Cheney. "But most importantly, we always felt welcome, seen, and heard."

After the goodbye

What's next for Fisher? She and her husband, Tony, plan to sell their Gresham home, visit family, and travel. Then they'll settle – likely with her collection of stuffed and ceramic gnomes – in Missouri.

But it's not easy to leave La Salle, she said. "There are so many things I will miss," she said. Students, as well as parents, co-workers, and co-workers' children "will always be special to me."

"I have been so blessed to be in such a loving community," said Fisher. "La Salle has been my family for 23 years and I'm going to miss everyone."



MARY NEIL BIDS FAREWELL TO HER 'LAST STOP'

By Anastasia Mickelson



Mary Neil hadn't planned to work in the field of human resources.

She didn't intend to make a career of onboarding new employees, saying farewell to departing ones, and handling nearly every kind of personnel situation in between.

But Mary Neil did all that during the four decades she worked in the field of human resources. This summer, after spending the last 13 years of her career running La Salle's human resources department, Neil retired from the workforce.

"There is a season for all things," she said. "Ours is not to wonder why. I trust that God has a new plan for me."

An unexpected career

Neil planned to go into fashion merchandising management after graduating in 1977 from Oregon State University with a bachelor's degree in business administration and marketing. She did so well during a practice interview with a large Oregon bank that the recruiter offered her a management trainee position. Within six months, she was asked to move to the Portland headquarters for a temporary assignment in human resources.

The gig gave Neil a valuable overview of the workings of a personnel office. She learned about employee relations, affirmative action, legal compliance, compensation, hiring, management, and how – and how not to – break bad news.

While Neil and her husband, Mark, worked, their children attended Vermont Hills Family Life Center and their parish school at Our Lady of the Lake. Vermont Hills leaders were so impressed by Neil's work on their board that they asked her to be their first human resources director. Neil accepted, and wound up staying for 18 years.

The path to Fuller Road

The Neils' relationship with La Salle started more than 25 years ago when their daughter, Sara '99, enrolled as a freshman. It deepened when four more of their eight children – Erin '01,

Jenny '02, Greg '05 and Tim '07 – also became Falcons.

The Neil children immersed themselves in La Salle's academics, activities, and athletics, while the Neil parents volunteered at the school. Mary Neil helped coordinate, and later chaired, the graduation party, the annual plant sale, and pre-game dinners for football and basketball players. Her husband immersed himself in La Salle leadership, eventually serving and chairing both the school's Foundation Board and Board of Trustees. The two were also honored as the school's Volunteers of the Year in 2007.

Meanwhile, Mary Neil's gifts were noticed by the school's leaders, including former La Salle President Denise Jones. The next thing she knew, Neil was asked to start and direct La Salle's human resources department.

Soon after arriving at La Salle, Neil created systems to track benefits, open enrollment, and time off. She shepherded staff through leaves of absence to care for newborns, sick family members, and aging parents. She handled sometimes uncomfortable situations with compassion and a box of tissues.

"When someone needed to talk, I listened," she said. "I wanted to ensure that they felt heard. If I couldn't help them I would tell them that. People respect the fact you can't always give them the answer they want."

Neil often assumed the role of a Lasallian "big sister" when dealing with delicate situations, said President Andrew Kuffner. She helped colleagues navigate rules, regulations, and laws so they could find the best solution for whatever they faced. Kuffner felt so confident in Neil's abilities that, when personnel questions came up, he would often reply, "Just talk to Mary."

Leaving an imprint

Neil left the school better than she found it, said Executive Director and CFO Matthew Winningham.

"Through her hard work, attention to detail, and diligence," he said, "she has made La Salle a better organization and better place to work."

Next on Neil's journey: Travel, canning (the Neils are a "huge dill pickle family"), and time with her grandchildren. And, after years of waking near dawn for work, Neil plans to sleep in "to see what it's like."

La Salle Prep, said Neil, was "the perfect last stop to close out my career."

She couldn't have planned it better.





GRATITUDE ABOUND FOR 2021 VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR

Hundreds of volunteers helped La Salle this year, doing everything from painting stage sets to making dinner for sports teams.

In June, the school honored three of them with the annual Volunteer of the Year Award, which was created in 1998 to recognize volunteers' contributions to the La Salle community. We are proud to share a bit about each of them here:

Tasha Galbraith (A)

Parent of Natalie '19 and Olivia '21

Since her older daughter started at La Salle, Tasha Galbraith has spearheaded activities for the theater, music, and dance programs. During rehearsals and performances she was often backstage making sure everything would go off without a hitch. Galbraith often went off script — by surprising students with snacks and gifts — to boost their spirits.

“All of the drama and choir students benefit from Tasha's positive presence and encouragement,” said Executive Assistant Stephanie Avery. “Our benefactors benefit from the extra activities she helps create around the theater productions. Our staff benefits by her presence and positive attitude when we see her helping with rehearsals. Her volunteerism is infectious, as well as her positive attitude.”

Alisa Rakoz (B)

Parent of Lauren '16 and Will '21

Over the past three years, Alisa Rakoz has led the Steak & Seafood Dinner, a volunteer-run event that raises more than \$40,000 a year for our athletic program and hundreds of Falcon athletes. After La Salle's Booster Club learned they couldn't

host the event in the gym because of the pandemic this year, Rakoz led the effort to transform it from a dine-in buffet to a takeout dinner for 400.

Rakoz “jumps in with both feet, puts in long hours and stays with it all the way until the end,” said Athletic Assistant Christine Stroud.

“I appreciate her ‘go get ‘em’ attitude and her genuine compassion to help fund La Salle athletics for longevity and for our students,” added Stroud. “We are so appreciative of all she has done to make our Falcon athletic programs stronger and sustainable.”

Pat Gabrish '84 (C)

Parent of Emily '13, Brendan '14, Jack '18, and Maggie '21

A longtime volunteer at La Salle, Pat Gabrish has chaired the 1984 class reunion, kept score at volleyball games, run the clocks at boys basketball games, and more. As president of the Alumni Board, he helped secure a gift for the stadium campus development project to fund the new scoreboard.

“Pat's service and leadership on the Booster Club has supported our student-athletes in ways they will never know,” said Executive Director and CFO Matthew Winningham. “His passion for La Salle is infectious and we will miss having him in our parent community.”

In a year that tested us like no other, we thank Tasha, Alisa, Pat, and all the other volunteers — especially longtimers Barb Bryan, Stan Griffith, Bill Hays, and Lydia Massaad — who stepped up to ensure La Salle continued to thrive. All of them have made a difference in the lives of our students.





THE FRUITS OF YOUR GENEROSITY

On March 3, 2020, La Salle broke ground on the renovation of the athletic facility. Ten days later, we transitioned to remote learning as a result of Covid-19.

Construction continued as the campus remained closed. On December 5, 2021, La Salle welcomed a small group of lead benefactors to a private celebration of the newly-renovated Saalfeld Athletic Center.

We officially welcomed students, staff, coaches, and fans into the new space with the return to in-person instruction and athletic competitions in late February.

The Saalfeld Athletic Center is now able to better serve all students by enhancing the health and physical education programs and enriching the Falcon fan experience for generations to come.

Thank you

On behalf of the students, faculty, staff and coaches, we give thanks to the La Salle community for giving so generously to the Saalfeld Athletic Center and for making this project a reality. We look forward to an official community-wide grand opening celebration in fall 2021.

LEADERSHIP GIFTS

\$1,000,000+

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\$500,000-\$999,999

The Gene and Betty Feltz
Family

\$250,000-\$499,999

Eton Lane Foundation

MAJOR DONORS

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PRESENTED BY

Forever



FALCONS



ONCE A FALCON, ALWAYS A FALCON

In May, La Salle launched our first "Forever Falcons," a two-week campaign held between Founder's Day and St. La Salle Day to:

- Celebrate La Salle, its mission, and memories
- Recognize past and present teachers, coaches, and families
- Reconnect alumni and alumni parents with the school and one another
- Strengthen our collective sense of school pride and connection
- Preserve La Salle for future generations

Throughout the celebration, alumni, alumni parents, current and former teachers, and coaches shared their favorite La Salle experiences on a Forever Falcons website. They described the school's lasting gifts: Lessons from caring teachers and coaches, preparation that helped them succeed in college and at work, values that contributed to their personal development, and connections they made. A Lasallian education, they said, is valuable, and its significance on people's lives immeasurable. They also posted memories on social media with the hashtag #LSforeverfalcons.

"The best way to see how successful your sense of community is is to see how many come back," said Shannon Scrutton Ellison '95. "My kids go to school here now and they have coaches that are alumni here that I went to school with, and the administrators are the same as when I went to school here. People get here and they don't leave. And when they do leave, they want to come back."

"We appreciate the tremendous education we received as well as the spiritual support."

Patrick '83 & Stephanie Redhouse Gottsch '85

Testimonials posted to the campaign website highlighted what's at the heart of a Lasallian education: Inclusive community, faith, service, respect for all, rigorous academics, athletics, extracurricular opportunities, and preparation for life.

"My current boss asked me if I went into teaching because my dad was a teacher," said Nicole Spirlin Taylor '04. "I said 'No, I went into teaching because I had an amazing high school experience and some amazing teachers. That's what inspired me to become a teacher. I wanted to create that amazing experience for my students."

The celebration culminated in our first FalconsGive Day, a day when alumni and alumni parents were encouraged to help provide a Lasallian education to current and future Falcons.

During that day and those preceding it, supporters donated more than \$67,800 — breaking a spring campaign record. Other Forever Falcons highlights:

- Falcons shared more than 150 testimonials
- Donors from nine states and the District of Columbia gave 142 gifts totaling \$22,200
- A \$5,000 gift from Mark '84 & Michele Waters Baker '84 was unlocked
- A \$5,000 gift from the St. Martin de Porres Trust was unlocked
- The La Salle Alumni Association matched \$2,500 in donations
- Joseph E. Weston Public Foundation matched \$33,100 in gifts
- Young alumni showed up strong; the Classes of 2005-2020 gave 24 gifts
- In the Half-Decade Challenge, the Classes of 1975-79 participated at the highest rates

"We appreciate the tremendous education we received, as well as the spiritual support and the community spirit which La Salle projects," said Stephanie Redhouse Gottsch '85 and Patrick Gottsch '83, parents of Alexandria '12, Rachael '14, Brittany '17, and Gigi '21.

"...We are so proud to be Forever Falcons, and will continue to support the school community in order to help provide financial aid for students in the future."

Thank you, Falcons. Together, we soar!

If you'd like to share a memory for the Forever Falcons website, email Michelle Crimmins at mcrimmins@lsprep.org. Visit the website at www.foreverfalcons.org



145 Gifts
Totaling
\$34,700



24 Gifts from
Young Alumni
'05-'20



Over 150
Testimonials
Received



Joseph E. Weston
Public Foundation
Matching Gift
\$33,100



From 9 States &
District of Columbia



Most Participation:
1975-1979 Grads



Photo by Duke Athletics

Duke hires La Salle star alum

As she has since her years at La Salle, basketball standout **Aleah Goodman '17** made the headlines in 2021.

After deciding not to return to OSU in the fall, Goodman was drafted into the WNBA by the Connecticut Suns. Though she was eventually released, Goodman was named the Director of Recruiting and Player Development at Duke University, where she'll be working under head coach Kara Lawson.

The 5-foot-9 guard was a captain and key part of Oregon State University's inspiring run in the NCAA Basketball Tournament (losing to No. 1 seed South Carolina in the second round). She earned a spot on the PAC-12's All-Conference team. She averaged 16.2 points, 4.9 assists and 3.2 rebounds; her three-point shooting percentage was .490.

Goodman was one of OSU's recipients of the PAC-12 Conference's Tom Hansen Conference Medal, an honor given to one senior female and male at each PAC-12 member school in recognition of outstanding scholarship, athleticism, and leadership.

"Coaching has always been a passion of mine," she said in a statement released by Duke. "I cannot wait to get into the gym with the team and learn from Kara and her incredible staff."



Alum sets up named fund

La Salle graduate and businessman **Cam Forni '04** recently established a named fund that will provide scholarships to students facing financial hardship or living with learning challenges.

The businessman, who is dyslexic, said he especially wants to support students with learning differences because, "my heart is with other students who suffer and can't keep up with traditional learning."

"There were some incredible teachers who believed in me, especially Ms. (Loreva) Bromley," he said. "My fondest memories are of Ms. Bromley staying late to help me study past school hours." Forni said the La Salle teachers like her were instrumental to his success.

Forni said La Salle's academics, as well as its culture of faith, service, and academics was "critical to my years in college and success."



Photo courtesy of Cam Forni

He encourages others to support La Salle, too.

"I wanted to give back to an amazing institution and a great cause," he said. "I fully support La Salle and I am happy to give back."



Creating a named fund

A named endowed fund is a permanent, self-sustaining source of funding in which endowment assets are invested. Each year, some of the earnings are distributed to support the fund's purpose, while excess earnings are reinvested to build the fund's market value. This way, the fund grows in perpetuity.

Donors can contribute to a fund until it reaches the endowment level of \$25,000; once it does, the scholarships can start being disbursed.

Gifts to the La Salle Foundation Endowment Fund ensure both our long-term stability and our ability to serve students and families in need.

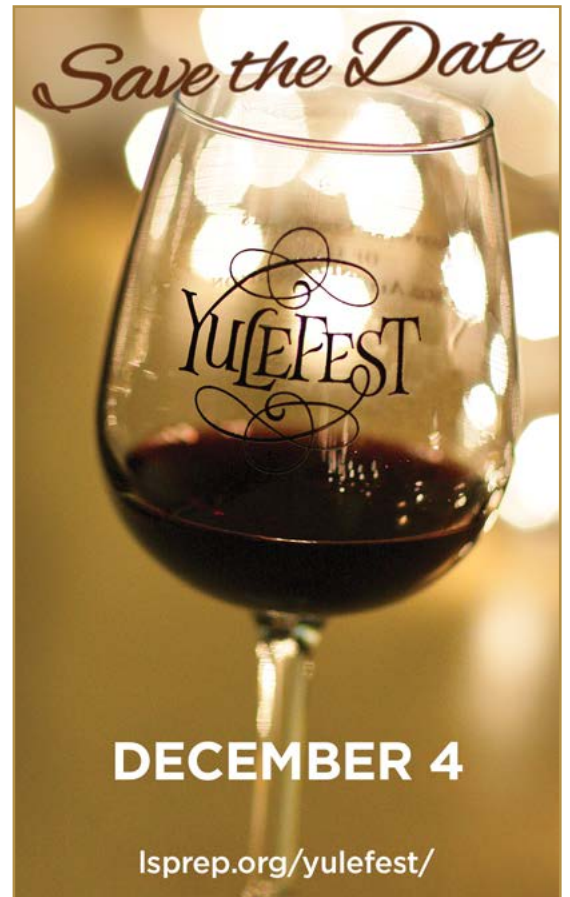
For details about establishing a named fund, contact Andrea Burns at aburns@lsprep.org



OPEN HOUSE

Enter to Learn.
Leave to Serve.

October 17, 1-4 pm



The show went on, with a little help

Despite the pandemic, La Salle's Theater Department made sure the show went on this spring.

The cast and crew, led by director Michael Shelton, staged six performances of the musical "The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" in an outdoor school courtyard. Actors wearing clear face masks performed on a set designed by **August Oaks '11**. Audience members – limited to 100 per performance – pulled on face masks and sat several feet away from one another at picnic tables and on benches, folding chairs, and blankets on the lawn.

"Spelling Bee is a show about new beginnings, friendships, and growth," said Assistant Director Ava Whalon '22 in her program notes. "It is a blessing to end such a crazy school year with the constant reminder of all the growth we have in front of us."

*Do you have a recommendation for an alumni profile?
Send us a name and grad year to info@lsprep.org.*



in memoriam

Please remember in your prayers the families and loved ones of these La Salle community members who have passed away:

Janet Barta

Matt Decker

Helen Draper

Robert Dreier '81

Kelsey Harris '08

Jeffrey Klupenger '06

Mary Jo Miller Lombardi '84

Helen Parent

Michael Raschio

Aaron Siewell '83

Christine Munsinger Skinner '71

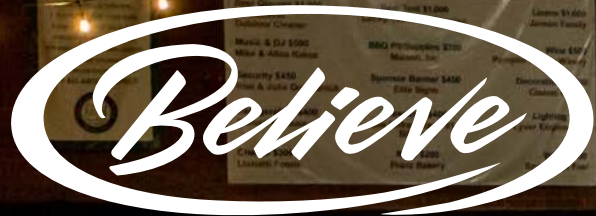
Thank you for sharing news of community members who have passed away. Please send information to info@lsprep.org

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