

LA SALLE PREP REVIEW

LA SALLE CATHOLIC COLLEGE PREPARATORY

SUMMER 2020



2020: A class of
visionaries

p. 10

calendar*

SEPTEMBER

8

First Day of School

25

Falcon Fan Tailgate & Homecoming

OCTOBER

4

Open House

5-23

Wreath Sale

17

Believe Benefit

NOVEMBER

4

All Saints' Day Mass

DECEMBER

5

Yulefest & Wine Tasting

*Subject to change. Dates and formats to be finalized. Updates posted to lsprep.org

contents

- 4 Equity work continues
- 6 Serving and connecting during pandemic
- 8 An era ends: Judi Johnson Powell '71 retires, more goodbyes
- 10 The Graduates: Class of 2020
- 14 Campus Notes
- 16 Red & Blue Review: College-bound athletes, new construction
- 18 Falcons in Flight: Alumni make a difference
- 19 In Memoriam

COVER PHOTO: Ashley Smith '20 and other members of the Class of 2020 graduated on June 6, 2020, with a virtual Commencement Ceremony and Drive-Thru Diploma Ceremony at La Salle Prep. Photo by Lauren Craven '05.

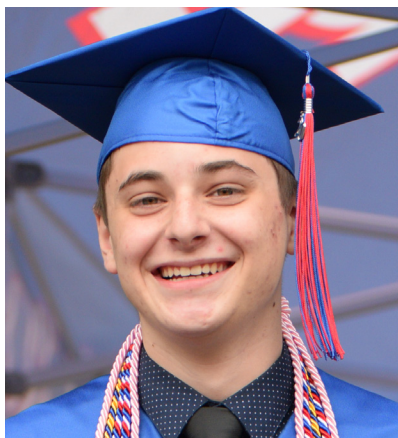
SUBSCRIPTIONS: Please send address updates and requests for electronic subscriptions to rachaelk@lsprep.org or 503.353.1439.

The La Salle Prep Review is published three times a year by:

La Salle Catholic College Preparatory
11999 SE Fuller Road
Milwaukie, OR 97222

Lisa Daniels, *Editor*
Lauren Craven '05, *Designer*

Contributors: Andrea Burns '97, Brian Devine, Greg Kozawa, Andrew Kuffner, Anastasia Mickelson, Alanna O'Brien, University of Portland, Matthew Winingham



EXTRAORDINARY TIMES, EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE



At the end of this extraordinary school year, I am proud of so much. I'm proud of La Salle Prep because, despite the restrictions triggered by the pandemic, the school transitioned to distance learning, maintained community, showed faith, helped people in need, and celebrated the Class of 2020.

I am proud of the Class of 2020. This remarkable group has been a blessing to La Salle and our community. They have graced us with their voices, helped the marginalized through their advocacy, and performed exceptionally on the stage, court, field, and in the classroom. They exemplify all that we hope for as a result of a Lasallian education.

I'm also proud to have worked with two remarkable individuals retiring this year: The amazing counselor Nancy Orr and the inimitable attendance secretary Judi Johnson Powell '71. We are honored they made La Salle their last stop. Read about Judi in this issue of the La Salle Prep Review, and read about Nancy, who will be staying with us through August, in our next issue.

La Salle is nothing more and nothing less than the people who choose to associate with and invest in our school. La Salle is a reflection of all of you, and I am proud to stand with you and the millions of Lasallians around the world who respect all people, create inclusive communities, provide holistic education, respond to the marginalized, and take time to remember we are always in the holy presence of God.

Live, Jesus, in our hearts,

Andrew Kuffner
President/Principal

P.S. Find links to videos and photos of several spring events and presentations — such as student speeches, Baccalaureate, and graduation — at lsprep.org and on La Salle's social media pages.



LA SALLE LEADERSHIP

Andrew Kuffner
President/Principal

Matthew Winningham
Executive Director/Chief Financial Officer

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mark Neil, *Chair*
Matt Baasten
Jamil Berry '03
Br. Stanislaus Campbell, FSC
Matt Hainley
Sue Gimarelli Harris '76
Shelley Larkins
Ron Larson
Fr. John Marshall
Joan O'Neill
Sharon Feltz Schlechter '77

FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bryan Redmond, *Chair*
Lindsey Hammond Charlet '94
Bill Hays
Gretchen Hibler
Alex Jansen
David Keller '97
Maryanne Krumm
Bryan Leslie '05
Matt Rast
Chris Van Wagner
Christine Wolf
Brett Wooden '98

ALUMNI BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Annie Hunt Anderson '08, *President*
Lisa Weaver Bergeson '86
Brian Bergquist '75
George Ceballos '86
Chris Dowhaniuk '14
Jack Foy '13
Megan Hays '11
Stephanie Redhouse Gottsch '85
Charlie Keller '01
Colin Maulding '94
Mike O'Keefe '15
Anna Parker '08





DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION AT LA SALLE

Though it is 2020, many people in our world still face institutional, systemic, and generational racism.

As Lasallians, we declare that racism is wrong and commit to working toward stopping its spread and treating what it has infected.

As a school, we are examining diversity, equity, and inclusion on our campus and addressing what we need to do to ensure our community engages all students, respects all cultures, and values all individuals. Here, we present an overview of our equity work.

Our aim

Guided by the core Lasallian principles of Inclusive

Community and Respect for All Persons, La Salle Prep continues engagement in equity work to make our school community one that:

- Confronts racism and other forms of discrimination and oppression
- Celebrates everyone's humanity
- Honors diversity
- Seeks equitable opportunities for all students
- Examines our own blindspots and biases in our work

The faculty and staff of La Salle are committed to this work, and, while we have taken the steps outlined on page 5, **we understand La Salle Prep has more to do.** We are grateful to the students, parents, community organizations, staff, and alumni who have engaged in this work with us and been part of our journey toward equity.

Steps taken so far

Since 2017, La Salle has enrolled three cohorts of administrators, faculty, and staff in a one-year certificate program in equity leadership with our partners at the **Center for Equity and Inclusion**, a consulting agency focused on advancing equity, diversity, and inclusion efforts within organizations, education systems, and communities.

As of July, 2020, La Salle counts 13 CEI certified equity leaders on the school's Equity Team.

La Salle's leadership team has provided, for three consecutive years, professional development in equity issues to all La Salle faculty and staff.

In addition, La Salle mapped out a plan for students and staff to explore the following three schoolwide themes as a community over three years:

- Understanding Identity (2017-18)
- Building Empathy (2018-19)
- Engaging in Dialogue (2019-20)

These community explorations included:

- Classroom discussions of equity
- Assemblies where students and staffers shared personal stories and experiences related to racial and gender injustice
- Support of students launching affinity organizations such as the Black Student Union, the Asian Pacific Islander Club and Unidos en Poder for Latinx students, and the Equality Alliance
- Parent Equity meetings where family members shared stories, offered perspectives, and contributed to initiatives aimed at improving equitable outcomes for La Salle's students of color

In addition, the school took these steps to fortify its staff to make it more inclusive and supportive of students of color:

- The addition, in 2019, of a Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Support position to the staff to build community with students and serve as a support and advocate for students of color
- New-hire practices, with the goal of hiring for diversity, include expanding recruitment targets to attract a diverse applicant pool, reviewing job descriptions prior to posting to ensure equitable qualifications are stated, revising interview questions to reflect diversity in the workforce and a neutral review of applicant qualifications following a posting

Page 4: Mary Gach '20 leads a workshop on Unity Day educating fellow students about the difference between cultural appropriation and celebration. Right: Students hold group discussions during a Unity Day workshop.

Next steps: Learning and growing

La Salle's work to improve diversity, equity, inclusion, education, and awareness continues. Initiatives under way as of summer 2020 include:

- La Salle is developing a new part-time (.6 FTE) Director of Equity and Inclusion 10-month position with the hope to hire in time for the 2020-21 school year. The person in this role will work to increase La Salle Prep's diversity, support students of color, expand our community's cultural competency, promote academic excellence, and prepare all students to engage equitably in an increasingly complex and global community.
- La Salle Equity leaders, parents, and students will work with our leadership team to create a schoolwide Equity Statement and Equity Lens that will guide the development of diverse, anti-racist curriculum, direct the revision and creation of school policies and practices, inform institutional decision-making, and support students in their experiences at La Salle.
- La Salle will establish a Parent Equity Team and a Student Equity Advisory Committee that can provide ongoing perspective to schoolwide equity issues.

In a letter to the La Salle community, President/Principal Andrew Kuffner acknowledged La Salle has a lot of work to do. Because of that, he said, "now is the time to take action, upend, and expand our comfort zones to make way for meaningful change."

"We bear the responsibility of being the voice, hands, feet, and heart of Christ in the world - and that right now, that heart is breaking," he said. "We must engage our students in understanding the truth and complexity of our community, country, Church, and world so they can serve as the voice, hands, feet, and hearts of healing, love, and peace."



sharing community



SERVING LOVE AND LUNCH DURING PANDEMIC

Lasallians in name and spirit donated 15,000 sack lunches on May 15 for Blanchet House and other agencies to distribute to people who need food.

Donors packed sandwiches, cookies, fruit, and cheese into paper lunch bags, many decorated, then drove to La Salle's parking lot. Masked La Salle staffers pulled lunches out of trunks and hustled them into other rigs for community-wide delivery.

School organizers had hoped to gather 10,000 meals to help Blanchet, which averaged 2,000 to-go meals a day during the pandemic. But by the time the last vehicle drove out of the school parking lot, they had amassed more than 15,000 - enough not only for Blanchet but also for several other agencies.

"In tough times people want to help," said Sarah Maher, La Salle's director of service. "We saw that today. And the important thing is how many people are getting fed today."

Donors included current and future students, staffers, alumni, and friends of the school. As she waited in the parking lot

to drop off the dozen peanut butter and jelly sandwiches she made, Camille Brumbaugh '20 said she was glad to help. "I wanted to help improve someone's situation," she said.

The "huge outpouring of humble service and love" drive was a fitting way to honor St. John Baptist de La Salle, said Maher. In addition to being the day of the drive, May 15 is Founder's Day.

"Today we witnessed light in darkness and joy in sadness," she said. "I know for me, I received great hope that all will be well. Different, but well."

Staff stages parades for students

Students and staff also found joy in community during two "Be the Light" parades through the school parking lot. The first parade featured students of all grades driving through campus while waving at teachers, administrators, counselors, coaches, and office staff standing and dancing on the sidewalk. The second parade gave seniors a chance to pick up their caps and gowns and personalized lawn signs congratulating each graduate.



Relief Fund helps 150 families send students to La Salle

In response to the financial hardships many La Salle families are facing because of the COVID-19 pandemic, La Salle created the COVID-19 Tuition Relief Fund.

So far, the fund has awarded \$180,000 to 150 families for the 2019-20 and 2020-21 school years.

The dozens of donors who have given to the fund say they did so because they want to help provide a human and Christian education to children, especially those in need.

Putting a Lasallian education within reach of families is part of the school's mission. Even before the pandemic, the school had awarded \$2.8 million in tuition assistance to nearly 60 percent of the student body for the 2019-20 school year.

To support La Salle's COVID-19 tuition relief fund, go to Isprep.org/relieffund/ or contact Andrea Burns '97 at 503.353.1424. All gifts are 100% tax-deductible.

leaving *legacies*



AN ERA ENDS AS JUDI JOHNSON POWELL '71 RETIRES

Once upon a time, La Salle Prep existed without Judi Powell. That was more than 50 years ago, when she was known as Judi Johnson.

An eighth-grader at St. Ignatius Catholic School, Judi rarely ventured out of Southeast Portland. To her, the world west of Creston Park seemed as magical as “never-never land.” Then she heard about La Salle, one of the few co-ed Catholic high schools in the Portland area, “I didn’t know where Milwaukie was, but it was a new school and there were boys, so I said, ‘Sign me up!’”

Judi’s schedule, typical for a girl of the times, included classes such as religion, home economics, typing, and shorthand. An average student, Judi liked everything about La Salle but the studying. She was happy simply being with her friends and steering clear of Sister Victoria, who was known to send girls to the home economics room to let down too-short hems.

Despite being sent to the home economics room more than once, Judi had a heart for everyone at La Salle. “It felt like family,” she said.

Vocation in education

After graduating in 1971, Judi studied cosmetology. She quickly figured out she wasn’t cut out for hairstyling.

“We had people who would come in and have their hair cut for

free,” she said. “I had no idea what I was doing, so when it came time for a test, I hid in a locker.”

Eventually, after marrying in 1973 and having four children, Judi found vocation: Helping struggling elementary and middle school students.

Judi never planned on returning to La Salle as anything other than an alum or the parent of four graduates. But one summer day, her brother-in-law Matt Powell told her the school needed a new attendance secretary.

Powell, who worked as a teacher and administrator at La Salle, had seen Judi keep kids in line at family gatherings. “We are looking for someone who is a mom,” he said, “but tough.”

A friend to thousands

In the fall 1999, Judi started tracking who was sick, who was on a field trip, and who slinked in tardy. Throughout her career, she estimated she loved, tracked, and befriended more than 3,000 students. “I just felt responsible for all of them,” she said.

Judi became a warm and caring face of the school. Along with front office co-pilot Rhonda Fisher, she greeted everyone walking in.

“Sometimes, Judi is the first person a student sees when they

come to school after they've lost a grandparent or a family pet has died," said Brian Devine, Vice Principal of Student Life. "Judi is there to offer a huge hug and kind sincere words."

Judi appreciated students' honesty, humor, and "their ability to tell you what they're thinking."

"I had better conversations with teenagers than I do most adults," she said. "They are more aware of the world."

Judi said she enjoyed watching students enter as nervous freshmen and emerge, four years later, as confident seniors. "That is my favorite part," she said, "to watch them blossom."

She witnessed a lot of growing pains along the way. Occasionally, while confiding to Judi, students would cry. About school. Boyfriends. Life. If they couldn't speak, Judi would fill the gap with a joke or an encouraging word.

"Ms. Powell is one of the most empathetic people I met at La Salle," said Brendan Lefranc '18, now a student at Oregon State University. "Not because she was always nice, but because she knew which students she could pretend to be mean to. I think she enjoyed playing the "grumpy late slip lady" more than I enjoyed sleeping in."

During his senior year, Brendan said he struggled every day to get out of bed. "No matter how late I was, it was always something like 'Look who decided to show up today' or 'Ugh, don't even TRY and make up an excuse, I KNOW you were just sleeping.' She knew I was struggling, so she would make a big deal out of me being late everyday to remind me that she cared....she knew that just showing up was the hardest part of each day.

"So basically, I like Ms. Powell because she was nice," he said, "but I love her because she was mean."

A quiet farewell

Judi's last days at La Salle were quiet. She took attendance remotely, as she had done since Oregon's governor closed school campuses statewide this spring. She received a cake that said "We'll Miss You." She promised to text from her Wilsonville home and her road trips with her husband.

Then, more than 50 years after arriving at La Salle, Judi left campus for the final time.

She posed for a photo, but couldn't bring herself to say "goodbye."

She just bit her lip, and waved.

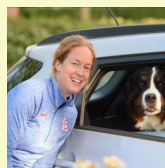
goodbye to five fine Lasallians

Farewell to five Falcons who won't be returning to La Salle next school year because of retirements and new professional pursuits. They've blessed us with their talent, their wit, and their commitment to teaching, counseling, and being a "Big Brother" or "Big Sister" to their students and even some of their colleagues.

We write about attendance secretary Judi Powell '71 on page 8 of the magazine; here we bid Godspeed to health teacher Caitlin Hudson, math teacher Mary Catherine Sewell, and counselor and soccer coach Seth Altschuler. We also say goodbye to counselor Nancy Orr, who is leaving La Salle at the end of the summer and who we'll profile in the next magazine. Fellow staffers said goodbye to all of them during a staff meeting — held via Zoom — at the end of the year. A few excerpts:



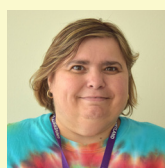
Seth Altschuler "You always seemed to have an open door to students (and me) to come to you and discuss anything — struggles, successes, challenges, grades, family, and friends. Not only does this again show the generosity of your time, but it speaks to your empathetic nature and how you will often go out of your way to provide support to others. You have an innate ability to relate to students and identify with them. And seeing your half-time and pre-match speeches, perhaps a stronger ability to lift them up, to provide them with hope, and to inspire them."



Caitlin Hudson "Caitlin is deeply committed to teaching her students which is evident in her innovative lessons, the positive energy and passion she brings to her classroom, and the encouraging and never-ending smile that greets both faculty and students alike. Caitlin provides a safe and supportive place for others to try new things and just be themselves. She has brought kindness, energy, intelligence, and compassion to these kids and our community...Caitlin made an impact on us all."



Nancy Orr "Nancy is a fierce advocate for students and does a great job of balancing supporting kids while also helping them be accountable to school and home. She has stood beside students through some tremendously difficult moments and helped them emerge on the other side wiser, healthier and stronger."



Mary Catherine Sewell "We have clearly seen your great passion for your subject and your students' development. I remember excited conversations about activities and materials that provided innovative or more accessible ways of approaching topics. I also remember chatting when you had concerns as you identified students having difficulties — academically and socially/emotionally. Thank you for seeing your students in such detail."

Thanks for your time and dedication. You will always be part of the Falcon family!

graduating *leaders*



“ I feel like these last few months of uncertainty have actually highlighted a few things that we already knew: We can learn and adapt a bit, we can find happiness, we can allow for some sad, and we can basically take from what was and make the best of what is. I find that sentiment fitting for a class who has done just that with so much grace.”

-Seth Altshuler, counselor, speaking to the Class of 2020



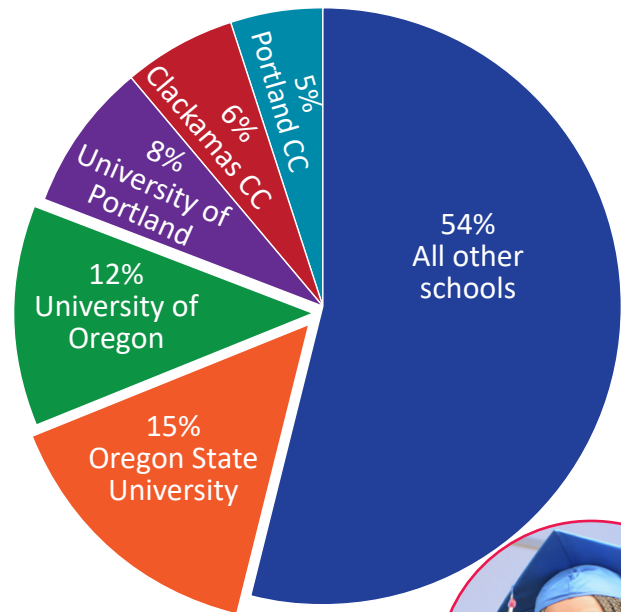
oh, the places they'll go

Here's where the Class of 2020 is headed:

- American University
- Arizona State University-Tempe
- Aveda Institute Portland
- Baker University
- Boise State University
- Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo
- Carroll College Montana
- Central Oregon Community College
- Chapman University
- Clackamas Community College
- Clark College
- Colorado School of Mines
- Colorado State University-Fort Collins
- Cornell University
- Davidson College
- George Washington University
- Gonzaga University
- Grand Canyon University
- Grinnell College
- Lehigh University
- Lewis & Clark College
- Linn-Benton Community College
- Loyola Marymount University
- Macalester College
- Manhattan College
- Mitchell College
- Montana State University-Northern
- Northwestern University
- Oregon Institute of Technology
- Oregon State University
- Pacific University
- Portland Community College
- Portland State University
- Regis University
- Saint Mary's College of California
- San Diego State University
- Schiller International University
- Seattle Pacific University
- Seattle University
- Southern Oregon University
- Spelman College
- Temple University
- Texas Christian University
- Umpqua Community College
- United States Naval Academy
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
- University of California-Berkeley
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- University of Oregon
- University of Portland
- University of Redlands
- University of San Diego
- University of Southern California
- University of Utah
- University of Washington
- Washington State University
- Western Oregon University
- Western Washington University
- Westminster College
- Wheaton College
- Whitman College

grads by the numbers

Here's what's next for the Class of 2020:



88%
attending college this fall, 3% chose a gap year, 8% are undecided due to COVID, 1% are entering trades

\$13.4m
total offered to graduates in scholarships

15%
bound for Catholic universities

43%
of students attending college are headed out of state





GRADS GET TWO-PART CELEBRATION

Because pandemic precautions prohibited the 179 members of the Class of 2020 and their families from gathering for a commencement ceremony, the school staged a two-part graduation celebration.

In the morning, a graduation ceremony was broadcast from the La Salle theater. School leaders in black academic regalia stood on the stage and spoke into a camera live-streaming the proceedings. They then aired commencement speeches by school counselor Seth Althsuler and valedictorians Franny Bengtson '20, Grace Elkhal '20, and Ashley Smith '20.

In the afternoon, the newly minted La Salle graduates drove to the school with their families to pick up their diplomas. While their families stayed in their vehicles, the graduates walked, one by one, up the sidewalk toward a stage in front of the school. On one side of the sidewalk, face-masked teachers applauded while they stood six feet from one another. On the other side of the sidewalk, the students' families drove by slowly, leaning out of windows and popping out of sunroofs to snap photos and cheer "You did it!"

As each graduate stepped onto the stage, President/Principal Andrew Kuffner — wearing a face mask — stretched out a hand to present a blue folder embossed with the school's name.

Though Hanna Nguyen '20 would have preferred a traditional graduation ceremony, the new graduate said she was thrilled to see her teachers again.

"It still made me happy to see so many people who have inspired me and taught me so much," she said.

Evelyn Bergler '20 said it felt like each student had his or her own personal celebration during the drive-thru diploma ceremony.

"I got to have my parents and my grandparents right there, I got to stop on the stage, and we got to see a lot of our teachers," she said. "It was a good ending."

|| La Salle Prep's Class of 2020 has worked to improve the world. In addition to pursuing academics, athletics, and the arts, these students have helped people who are homeless, stood up for the environment, and spoken out against violence and inequity. They started chapters of advocacy and affinity groups such as the Black Student Union, Youth Ending Slavery, Menstruation Awareness Club, Asian Pacific Islander Club, and Falcons for Life. They raised awareness about Latino culture, promoted mental health, and volunteered in the community. These seniors embraced our school's motto: 'Enter to Learn. Leave to Serve.' We can't wait to see what they accomplish next."

Andrew Kuffner, President/Principal

awards

VALEDICTORIAN

Frances Bengtson
Grace Elkhal
Ashley Smith

SALUTATORIAN

Lucas Wobig

CITIZENSHIP AWARD

Mary Gach

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION AWARD

Grace Elkhal
Kalei Carter
Brandon Lopez Elizalde
Isabel Van Vleet

FAITH, SERVICE & COMMUNITY AWARD

Maria George

MICHAEL A. GLODEN AWARD

Amira Tripp Folsom

DE LA SALLE AWARD

Aylin Begines Flores

ZACH DAVIDSON BIG BROTHER/BIG SISTER AWARD

Lucas Wobig
Mary Gach

DOROTHY DAY HUMANITARIAN AWARD

Mia Ly
Annie Hoang

FALCON DETERMINATION AWARD

Ethan Cook

campus notes

LA SALLE



student newspaper earns 'best in category'

La Salle's student news publication and website, The Falconer, has won 29 awards - including the second consecutive "Best in Category" award for a news website - in the Oregon Journalism Education Association's annual Student Media Olympics competition.

The entries were judged by media advisers and college media faculty from across the nation, said journalism and English teacher Miles Kane, the paper's faculty adviser.

In addition, Carlie Weigel '21 and Maddie Khaw '21 won a Best of School Newspapers Online Story of the Year award for an article about homelessness. Their story was one of only 24 pieces selected from more than 20,000 submissions.

grad honored for leadership, integrity

La Salle Prep graduate Amira Tripp Folsom '20 is one of only 32 students in North America selected as one of the Jordan Brand's 2020 Wings Scholars.

The Wings award is one of several national, regional, and school honors Amira has earned. This spring, she won a Princeton Prize in Race Relations, which recognizes and rewards high schoolers who have undertaken significant efforts to advance racial equity and understanding in their schools or communities. During La Salle's virtual graduation ceremony, Amira learned fellow seniors chose her to receive the 2020 Michael A. Gloden Award for her integrity, character, citizenship, and service to her class.

American University also named Amira one of its Frederick Douglass Distinguished Scholars. The honor, which comes with a four-year merit scholarship, is awarded annually to five of the university's "ambitious, introspective, and optimistic" first-year student leaders committed to "multidimensional excellence."

Amira excelled as a student leader at La Salle, becoming a voice for students of color. She helped launch a diversity committee that laid the groundwork for the formation of groups bringing together students of color. She also started a chapter of Youth Ending Slavery, a nonprofit that combats modern-day slavery by raising awareness about it and empowering youth to advocate for change.

"My four years at La Salle helped me realize the importance of being resilient, creating strong relationships within your community, and never being afraid to speak up about what matters," said Amira. Had she not attended La Salle, she said, "I don't think I could have gotten to that point."



'LES MISÉRABLES' BECOMES CASUALTY OF CORONAVIRUS

In 2019, La Salle students campaigned to stage the musical “Les Misérables” in 2020.

The students were anything but subtle: One walked into theater director Michael Shelton’s class wearing a T-shirt with a French flag, a nod to the show’s setting in France. Another performed one of the show’s signature songs during a campus Broadway review. Several emailed Shelton lines from the show.

With challenging music, heartbreaking death scenes, and a storyline that explores revenge and redemption, “Les Misérables” is demanding for any performer — much less a high schooler. But La Salle successfully staged the show in 2008 and a lot of students — especially the rising seniors — felt sure 2020 would be the ideal year for the school to stage, once again, the show based on Victor Hugo’s novel.

“We wanted to leave La Salle showing we could do a serious show.” said Alison Paguio '20, who was cast as Éponine in the show.

Students also knew that, in 2020, La Salle had enough strong male singers to master the roles of Jean Valjean, Inspector Javert, and Marius. “We had the perfect cast,” said Alison.

Practice, practice, practice

Shelton played along with the conspiracy, laughing at the T-shirt and smiling during the Broadway review. Then, the dreams students dreamed came true: Shelton chose “Les Misérables” as the 2020 musical.

Students started prepping for auditions right away, taking voice lessons and signing up for choir, eager to learn from choral director Otto Wild, who would direct music for the show. By the time tryouts rolled around in December, most of those auditioning had been singing “One Day More” and other songs from the show for months.



After auditions, actors memorized lines, crew members built sets, and musicians led by band director John Donnelly, studied the score. Then the COVID-19 pandemic halted everything.

Shelton searched for a way students could still perform the show. What about live-streaming a performance? Limiting the size of live audiences? Waiting a few months?

But technical requirements made the alternatives impossible; La Salle’s 2020 “Les Mis” — like so many high school traditions — became another casualty of the pandemic.

“I cried for a while,” said Alison, “especially because the senior class was never able to show La Salle what we could do.”

Students consoled themselves by calling one other to sing songs from the show. They shared photos of pre-quarantine rehearsals. They remembered the fun they had on set. “At least we got to spend some time on it,” said Bella Chalmers '21, a member of the ensemble.

A surprise scene

Sensing the students’ disappointment, Shelton, production manager Tasha Galbraith and set designer August Oaks '11 scripted a way students could say goodbye to “Les Mis.” So with the help of others who worked on the show — including choral director Wild, band director John Donnelly, choreographer Nikki Meyer '04, lighting designer Dan Elsner, Atty Wild, Luke Wild '20, Cindy O’Reilly, Colleen O’Reilly '18, Natalie Galbraith '19, and Frank Rowlett — Shelton invited students to drive by the theater one day. As the cast and crew crept through the parking lot, they heard “Les Mis” tunes blaring from speakers, and saw Shelton and company dressed as characters from the show.

Funny as it might sound, said Shelton, “Les Mis” was probably the most fitting show to work on during a pandemic. “The nature of the show is all about overcoming these terrible odds,” he said. “And that sometimes, you yourself don’t get to see the end results of your legacy, but the people who come after you stand on the foundation that you lay.”

The cast and crew who graduated in June left a multi-layered legacy: A legacy of passion to fight for a challenge, of drive to prove themselves, and of grace to accept that — once in a while — the show cannot go on.

In late June, Shelton posted a message on La Salle’s theater page asking returning students which show they wanted to tackle the next school year. Options included “The Importance of Being Earnest” by Oscar Wilde and “She Kills Monsters” by Qui Nguyen.

“I know which one I want,” he wrote. “I’m curious what others would like.”



falcon athletics pays off for students, graduates, and alumni

1 Congratulations to these 2020 grads who committed to continue their athletic career on college teams:

- Jacqueline Blakeley**, Seattle Pacific University: Soccer
- Sky Charley-Bolyard**, Southern Oregon: Soccer (top left)
- Karter Cook**, Westminster College: Soccer
- Lyndsay Drango**, Whitman College: Basketball
- Alexis Kemp**, Regis University: Softball (bottom left)
- Luke Strange**, Wheaton College: Soccer
- Nina Timmen**, Baker University (Kansas): Volleyball

2 Mizael Harris '22 (top right) has been selected to win a 2019-2020 Moda Health Player of the Game/Athlete of the Meet Scholarship. He will receive a \$1,000 scholarship to the school, college, or university of his choice.

Mizael, Player of the Game in the 5A Boys Soccer State Championship after scoring both goals, was chosen for the scholarship after submitting letters of recommendation, and writing an essay about his volunteer activities, which include serving at St. Francis Dining Hall, participating in La Salle's Black Student Union, reading books to schoolchildren, and encouraging middle-schoolers to consider attending college.

3 Typically, the La Salle Alumni Association hosts its golf tournament in the summer as its largest annual fundraiser. Because it wasn't possible to hold a traditional event, they had to get creative! With the help of some amazing sponsors, they launched a "PGA: Play Golf for the Alumni Association." Many alumni families participated and sent in photos, including Steve Schweitzer (bottom right) and his daughters Ali Schweitzer '15 and Robin Schweitzer Jones '11 as well as son-in-law Chase Jones '10. The effort has raised \$11,500 to support the school and students.



TAKING SHAPE: SAALFELD ATHLETIC CENTER

Since March, Todd Construction has been coming to school nearly every day to work on the Saalfeld Athletic Center.

The \$5.5 million project, funded primarily by donations, includes renovating the entrance, locker rooms, gym, and fitness center, as well as adding 3,200-square-feet of office, classroom, concessions, restrooms, and meeting space. When complete, the renovated sports center — named in honor of the late Falcon supporter Father Lawrence Saalfeld — will enrich the educational and athletic experiences of generations of students, athletes, and Falcon fans.

By early July 2020, workers had replaced the roof, framed new walls, and made other structural and fire safety improvements. They also had removed the original maple gym floor, part of which will be installed in the new Saalfeld commons, and other parts of which will be turned into memorabilia to be sold this fall to raise funds to furnish and equip the center.

“It’s exciting to see the Saalfeld Athletic Center come to life,”

said Executive Director Matt Winningham. “Just as we were blessed with the benefactors who made this improvement possible, we are grateful to be working with a fantastic construction team that has La Salle’s best interests in mind.”

Phase 1 of the project, which includes the locker rooms, training room, fitness center, and new gym floor, is slated to be completed in late August.

Phase 2, which includes a new entrance, athletic department office, and public restrooms, is scheduled to be finished in December.

Winningham said he’s eager to introduce Falcon fans to the new athletic center.

“We look forward to welcoming our community into this new space to experience it for themselves,” he said.



Alum makes face shields for front line

When the pandemic struck, Lindsey Johnson '70 and his wife Ronda Brewer thought they would sew masks to help frontline workers.

Then Johnson, who teaches 3-D printing at Oregon Coast Community College, came across a vlog showing how to make face shields out of the plastic used to make water bottles. "I said, 'We can do that.'"

They turned on their two 3-D printers and borrowed a few from friends to make face shields for healthcare workers in Lincoln County.

Now, working under the name Shield Me Please, Johnson and Taft High physics and robotics teacher Noah Lambie run six printers 16 hours a day. "You get them running, and go home for dinner," explained Johnson, "and, if you don't fall asleep, you go down and set it back up." By the end of the summer, the nonprofit will have made and distributed more than 3,000 shields.

"We were just brought up to help," said Johnson. "La Salle gave me the values that carry through to today."



Longtime Falcon fan becomes grad

Nearly 40 years after starting the ninth grade at La Salle, Steven Schroedl '20 has finally earned his La Salle diploma.

Learning challenges had kept Schroedl from finishing as a Falcon back in the 1980s. But he'd always stayed close with his friends in the Class of 1984. "He's always been part of our community," said Pat Gabrish '84.

Based on Schroedl's success as a businessman and his contributions to the community (including serving on the board of the North Clackamas School District), his Falcon friends wondered if he qualified for a La Salle diploma now. A few calls to state education officials later, President/Principal Andrew Kuffner learned that Schroedl did.

"Your life and your work has clearly exceeded any standard we would hold," said Kuffner in an email to Schroedl inviting him to be part of the 2020 drive-thru diploma ceremony. "You have lived the life of a Lasallian with vigor and have truly lived out our motto: 'Enter to Learn, Leave to Serve.'"

And that's how Schroedl ended up on La Salle's graduation stage on June 6, beaming as he held his new diploma.

"To be able to call myself a Lasallian," he said, "is a wonderful thing."



Beth Biggs '14 provides PPE to Oregon communities

During the pandemic, 1st Lt. Beth Biggs '14 has been part of the Oregon Army National Guard 141st Brigade Support Battalion's COVID-19 response team distributing personal protective equipment in Oregon.

Through a partnership with the Oregon military and state and county agencies, Biggs and her team have provided face masks, face shields, hand sanitizer, and more to 36 counties, 11 tribal nations, and more

than 800 assisted living facilities and hospitals throughout the state.

Biggs' team also shipped ventilators to hospitals in New York, packing the equipment in boxes sealed with "Oregon is Here for You" stickers.

"Knowing that they would all be used," she said, "that's why I'm here."

Article courtesy of University of Portland

Alumni sisters send books and joy



Left to right: Sisters Tami, Teri, Traci, and Toni

After witnessing many acts of kindness during the pandemic, Teri Watkins Peterson '77 wondered how her family could bring joy into the world. Then she and her sisters — Traci Watkins Mennis '79, Toni Watkins-Cline '82, and Tami

Watkins Klupenger '83 — had an idea: Give away books from Gold Beach Books, the South Coast bookstore they own and inherited from their brother, the late Ted Watkins '76. Their offer went viral; the family wound up sending books to every state in the U.S. — so many that they lost count. "We have been overwhelmed with wonderful thank you notes that have arrived from people who received books and even those who didn't," said Traci. "That, I know, would make Ted happy!"

*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:

Thomas Shamrell '78

Betty Schallberger '72

Edward Watkins

Br. John Achin, FSC

Joann Cahill

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

LA SALLE PREP

11999 SE FULLER ROAD
MILWAUKIE, OR 97222

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PORTLAND, OR
PERMIT # 1491

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED



OCT. 17, 2020



SAVE THE DATE

A virtual evening to celebrate, support, and provide
financial assistance to La Salle students.

Isprep.org