



GENESIS

**THIS IS OUR NEW
LEARNING COMMONS**

**THIS IS THE MOST
AMBITIOUS PROJECT
IN OUR HISTORY**

THIS IS FOUR FLOORS AND 165,000 SQUARE FEET OF FLEXIBLE, SUSTAINABLE SPACE

- OUR NEW CHAPEL
- OUR NEW ACADEMIC SPACE
- OUR NEW KITCHEN AND DINING FACILITIES
- OUR NEW GATHERING AREAS

THIS IS
OUR WAY OF
THINKING
ABOUT
EDUCATION



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SI Community,

When SI's planning for new academic space began, we knew we had to have a building that recognized students' different learning styles and took advantage of technology. Furthermore, it had to be flexible, designed with the core principles that its spaces be student-centered and promote collaborative, hands-on, and creative work in whatever form that might take. As you read about our plans for the **New Learning Commons** in the following pages, I hope you see how everything, from the technological tools, to the furniture, to the walls, are geared toward that goal.

I have been blessed to be able to work with young people over my 50-plus years as a Jesuit, and over that time, I have seen incredible growth in Jesuit education and our understanding of how students learn. Research shows that adolescents have different learning styles — some learn best with visual cues, others are auditory learners, still others are tactile learners who learn best when they are able to physically touch and hold items, and so on. Furthermore, while we strive to keep up with the latest technological innovations, no one knows what the future will bring.

I am most excited about the NLC because it will be flexible enough to support learning in a wide variety of modes, and it will be adaptable enough for us to take advantage of whatever major technological breakthroughs come next. All of this is in service of helping students learn even better.

To fund this necessary project, we have launched the **Building Our Future Forward** campaign, and you can learn more or give now at www.siprep.org/nlc.

On behalf of our school, I am asking everyone in our community — current families, alums, alums' families, and friends of SI — to support the New Learning Commons and Jesuit education in San Francisco. Your gifts will ensure that future generations of Ignatians will grow and learn in a cutting-edge facility designed from the ground up to help them grow into Ignatians who live lives of conscience with and for others. Join us!

Edward A. Reese, S.J.
President, St. Ignatius College Preparatory



THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Dear SI Alumni and Friends,

When SFGate listed SI's new building project as one of the “great reasons to live in San Francisco,” they called it right.

In a city that has seen more than its fair share of challenges, the editors without doubt see our construction plans as a positive indicator for San Francisco, a significant investment into its shining future.

St. Ignatius and its alums have left an indelible mark on the city of St. Francis. Its selfless teachers, counselors, coaches, administrators, and parents have propelled this Jesuit institution forward for the past 169 years. SI's mission has always been to mold young minds into Ignatians, people who will be “with and for others,” who will make the world and their local community better than when they found it.

Today, nearly 20,000 alums are living out that mission with vigor, not just in the Bay Area but in every corner of the world. The New Learning Commons will do many things to continue this legacy of Jesuit education, such as creating much needed space, allowing teachers to adapt to ever changing pedagogy, and creating a visionary, student-centered design that will make learning more stimulating and exciting than ever before.

No doubt this is a daunting task and it has taken years of careful planning to get to this moment, but so was the task facing Anthony Maraschi, S.J., a priest with little local standing and few resources in the era of the Gold Rush, when he constructed the first St. Ignatius schoolhouse and chapel on Market Street. Or, more recently, when Harry Carlin, S.J. '35 took us west from Stanyan Street to the sand dunes of 37th Ave. Establishing, building, and improving our school is embedded into the DNA of our community. We have demonstrated for 169 years that we know how to steward one of the finest educational experiences in the country, and with your ongoing support we will continue that legacy for at least another 169 years.

As you read about SI's New Learning Commons in this edition of GENESIS, consider that it is a story of our future, which will be written by all of us, a story as old as San Francisco itself, and one we will proudly share for generations to come.

Tom Hsieh '83
Director of Alumni Relations, St. Ignatius College Preparatory



The New Learning Commons



**We are not just building a new campus;
we are building community and ensuring that
personal interaction between students and faculty
remains at the heart of Jesuit education at SI.**

When SI moved from Stanyan St. to its Sunset campus in 1969, students and teachers arrived at a school built to educate according to the precepts and circumstances of the time. A three-story academic building stood at the center of campus, containing a series of rectangular rooms with seats arranged in rows facing a teacher at the front.

Over the decades, the school has modified classrooms and practices to make use of new technology and evolving understanding of education. Today, classes are arranged to facilitate group discussion and collaboration, and many rooms are equipped with rolling desks and chairs. Teachers and students work synchronously on collaborative software and browser-based applications.

But technology and our understanding of best practices continue to change, and while the original academic building will continue to serve SI students for many years, the time has come to build new academic space both to meet the needs of education today and meet needs that we have not yet imagined.

Therefore, SI is embarking on the most ambitious project in our history, building what we are calling the **New Learning Commons** on the north end of campus: a four-story state-of-the-art structure that will provide the necessary space and tools for generations of Ignatians to reach their full potential.

We invite you to join us and give to the **Building Our Future Forward** campaign for the New Learning Commons. Invest in Ignatian education and the next generations of SI students who will go on to lead our communities, our country, and our world.



A Legacy of Commitment

Bill and Patti Sheedy Lead the Charge for SI's New Learning Commons

Bill and Patti Sheedy, parents of Jack '14, Emma '16, and Daniel '19, embody a legacy of commitment to their children's alma mater. They have not only witnessed SI's evolution, but have played an active role in shaping its future. They were the first SI family to embrace the vision of the New Learning Commons, solidifying their commitment by volunteering to chair the NLC Leadership Committee, and Bill now also leads SI's Board of Trustees.

Their connection to SI began when their children attended St. Matthew Catholic School in San Mateo, where they formed bonds with fellow parents who were SI alums, as well as more recent SI families who had become impressively dedicated to St. Ignatius. Inspired by the positive experiences of their own children at SI, the Sheedys became ardent supporters of the school and its initiatives to make SI even stronger.

Over the years, Bill and Patti got involved at SI in a variety of ways, from hosting Fathers' Club Auction gift parties to Patti's term as co-

chair of the Ignatian Guild Fashion Show. When asked why they have given so much of their time and energy to SI, they shared, "We saw firsthand the quality, breadth, and depth of our kids' education and formation as young women and men, and how they each had their own unique and very positive experience. We both believe deeply in the value of education and as our children went through SI, we became committed supporters of Jesuit education, in particular."

Their commitment took a significant turn when they heard Fr. Reese's vision for the New Learning Commons. Recognizing the need for SI to modernize and refresh its campus, they not only pledged a leadership gift, they determined they had to be at the forefront of this transformative project.

At the November 2023 President's Gala, Bill emphatically made the case for the NLC, saying, "The school cannot afford not to do this project," and expressing the urgency of providing "SI's students and teachers with a facility that matches the caliber of their talent and the promise of their leadership." He pointed out that while SI's teachers have evolved their teaching methods, the physical spaces still resembled "factory-model boxes." It is time, he asserted, to build SI's campus for the next century by "building its seventh campus on the sixth campus."

Patti agreed, saying, "We hope our gift will inspire others to support Jesuit education and its mission of forming Ignatian leaders to address the challenges of our time." She emphasized their gratitude to the school for what it provided their children and their family's desire for SI to be even better for future generations.

"We, and so many others, are a part of the SI story, which has been going for 169 years and continues to help launch young people into the world," she said. "We are happy to be a part of ensuring SI is able to provide an exceptional Catholic, Jesuit education for our next generation of Ignatians."

WHY NOW? WHY HERE?

The Carlin Commons and Orradre Chapel and Courtyard have been essential to the SI experience. From liturgies, to daily lunch service, to dances, to countless other events and gatherings, these spaces are where students and faculty built connections and made memories. The adjoining McGucken Hall was where the on-campus Jesuit community lived, and as the number of priests and brothers in teaching roles declined, living quarters there were revamped into office space.

Today, Carlin Commons and Orradre Chapel are both in need of significant upgrades, and seismic analyses of McGucken Hall have determined it is impractical to pursue renovations. At the same time, families' interest in sending their children to SI remains strong, and enrollment is at capacity, putting a major strain on our facilities, particularly academic space.

Altogether, this presents SI with a crucial opportunity to replace these structures with a new facility offering four floors and 165,000 square feet of flexible, sustainable space, at the heart of which will be a dramatic increase in new academic space. There will also be a new Commons that will act as a place where students eat, study, and socialize. The new chapel and garden will be the cornerstone of the NLC, befitting its essential place in a Jesuit school experience. In addition, our plans include a new main entrance, kitchen facilities, a new band room, a rooftop terrace, and more.

Finally, it usually goes without saying, but it is worth noting here: SI is a San Francisco institution, and we are committed to our city. Building the New Learning Commons is a tangible sign of that commitment and our intention of serving families in San Francisco and surrounding communities for the next century and beyond.



SPACES FOR A NEW WAY OF THINKING ABOUT EDUCATION

SI has partnered with renowned architectural firm Mark Cavagnero Associates to design the New Learning Commons so that faculty and students may easily adapt academic spaces to whatever needs they have. These spaces, which we are calling the Learning Lofts, will be conducive to collaborative, hands-on, and creative work that maximizes the value of teacher-student interactions.

The key to the Learning Lofts is our student-centered approach. Instead of committing to fixed rooms in which students must fit, the Learning Lofts are designed so that teachers can adapt spaces by moving furniture, tools, and even walls in order to best serve students and their learning objectives. This will make it easier for teachers to apply pedagogical best practices which, in concert with our commitment to providing up-to-date technological resources, will put students in the best possible position to engage with all the challenges and opportunities of a Jesuit education.

In addition to the Learning Lofts, the New Learning Commons will include spaces and amenities that will enhance the SI experience beyond the classroom.

Where the new building connects to the north side of the existing academic building will be the new main entrance to the school from 37th Ave. Go through that ground-level entrance and you will find yourself in a welcoming connector space we are calling the Hub, which will feature amphitheater-style seating that might serve as a social spot, a lecture space, or a performance stage at different times of day.

Pass through the Hub to the north, and you will arrive in the new Commons, a large two-story atrium where our community can gather between classes, during lunch, and after school. It can also be adapted to host special events, including sit-down dinners, school dances, and more.

Below the ground level, we plan to build a new lower level to effectively add a fourth floor of space to the New Learning Commons, to be used for academic rooms, the new band room, kitchen space, and storage.

Go up from the new Commons through the Learning Lofts to the third floor, and alongside more academic space you will find a rooftop terrace with ocean views. In addition to space for students to eat, socialize, and study, the terrace will also be able to accommodate smaller open-air events.



In His Own Words Architect Mark Cavagnero explains what excites him about the New Learning Commons. His comments have been edited for clarity.

“A school's physical environment can enhance the experience. It can excite students to collaborate, to really focus. It can bring their attention to a higher level than they are used to, or than they might get at home or some other environment. The overall sense we seek is that the students are enjoying the education process in a way they had not before. They are enjoying coming to school. They are enjoying being in school. They are enjoying learning from their teachers and from each other. As an architect, you really want your space to foster that level of enthusiasm.”

“The more we talked and listened, the more we learned SI's project was about making a school for the future. We took inspiration from where we are, here in San Francisco, a center of technology, of visionary thinking, a region that prizes self-confidence and the ability to go out and research and experiment with new things. The idea was that we would make a school with those attitudes. It would be a new kind of school experience, and it would be an exciting one for the students, an exciting one for the faculty, and exciting for the parents to learn about what their kids are doing at school when they come home at night and talk about it. And ultimately, it would put SI at the forefront of education.”

“I think of it less that we are making a series of classrooms and more that we are making a place for a community of young learners to be inspired by each other, by their teachers, and by the material at hand. We are making a community of young learners that want to be together and realize the sense of purpose in what they are doing for their own lives and for each other, that there is this shared camaraderie. It is that sense of community, of bonding, of sharing, of learning from each other, making friendships and understanding what makes other people tick, that if we bring

that into the classroom, it adds that much more intensity to the experience and makes it more relevant for the students.”

“This building will be flexible in ways that we have not seen before at a higher education level, let alone a high school or in K-8. The places that we are designing serve multiple activities. So, a place that might be a dining experience can also be an event venue or a larger classroom. Classrooms can be larger or smaller with breakout rooms associated with them. All the spaces can do multiple duties in a day, in a week, or in the summer versus the fall. And we realized that might change in four or five years.”

“Decades ago, no one knew how much computers would come into the classroom. No one knew we would have smart boards, or we would have the internet to bring information into a classroom discussion or research. Over the coming decades, there will be lots of new technologies that will come forward. We need to have a space that has enough power, enough air conditioning, the absence of noise, balanced daylight, no heat gain or glare, no distractions, so that when these technologies and these new ways of learning are available and readily seen as positive, this school can grab them, and will have a building that can make them work.”

“We think about sustainability as a model that these students bring to their whole lives as citizens: how to be resourceful with materials they are given and not waste them, to understand the real fragile nature of this beautiful place we live in at the edge of the continent. The chronic shortage of water, the balance of light and sun and heat, the changing nature of our global climate and what that means in terms of how we interact with the flora and fauna around us — all those sensitivities are only going to be more and more important as today's students get older.”

“Over the years, I have had a very personal way of responding to our buildings when they are done. I have always found myself when the building opens not wanting to be with the crowd or shaking the mayor's hand or being at the front table. Instead, I tend to sneak off into a corner, and I like to just stand there and watch people come in for the first time, see the smiles on their faces, tap each other on the arm, look around, and realize that this is their future. This is their school. I like to see their faces, hear a little bit of what they say to each other, watch them walk away excitedly, and know that they are feeling the energy that we put in. All those years of hard work, all those years of working through the various issues and thinking it through — tons of details go into building a building — and all of a sudden, the payoff is so visceral. It is clear when you see those faces and you see those smiles, you realize that this is impactful and this is why you are doing it.”

A LEGACY FOR GENERATIONS OF IGNATIANS TO COME

SI has built up its physical plant since moving to the Sunset more than five decades ago. Each time the school has needed a new facility or upgrade, our community has stepped up to support the next generations of students who would benefit from them.

Looking forward, the New Learning Commons will be a legacy for generations of Ignatians to come, transforming the SI experience as dramatically as the move from Stanyan St. to 37th Ave. We are not just building a new campus; we are building community and ensuring that personal interaction between students and faculty remains at the heart of Jesuit education at SI.

Now is the time for the SI community to come together, to act boldly, and participate in

BUILDING OUR FUTURE FORWARD

THE NEW LEARNING COMMONS AT SI

For more information about the New Learning Commons and to give to the Building Our Future Forward campaign, visit www.siprep.org/nlc

Want to get involved? Contact:

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Mobile: 415-254-6768

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Major Gift Officer
sfleming@siprep.org
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Stained Glass That Reinforces Our Mission

Few pieces of on-campus artwork are more awe-inspiring and representative of our Jesuit mission than the stained

glass windows that adorn Orradre Chapel and Montserrat Chapel in McGucken Hall, the former Jesuit residence.

Installed in 1970 by Carl Huneke, the stunning Jesuit imagery and quality craftsmanship have dazzled generations of Ignatians during Mass, prayer services, and community gatherings.

All 12 of the saints portrayed in the Orradre Chapel windows are Jesuit except for St. Stephen, a unique selection to represent Stephen Orradre, in whose honor the Chapel is named. On the second floor of McGucken Hall, where the Jesuits previously resided, Montserrat Chapel has two more windows with classic Ignatian imagery boldly displayed.

Huneke's stained glass windows have been on our campus in the Sunset for as long as we have. They inspire, they ground us when we enter their spaces, and their beauty and artistry help reinforce our Jesuit mission.

As the entire SI community prepares for the New Learning Commons, we are making arrangements to preserve the stained glass windows so they may continue inspiring Ignatians for the next 50 years and beyond.

For more about SI's history, visit history.siprep.org.

A Timeline of SI's Campuses



1855

Anthony Maraschi, S.J. opened SI as a one-room schoolhouse on Market St.



1862

After SI outgrew its original building, the Jesuits constructed a new church and school building on the same site.



1883

Forced to move because of high property taxes, SI opened a new campus on Van Ness Ave., where Davies Symphony Hall now stands.



1906

After the Great San Francisco Earthquake and Fire destroyed SI's building, the Jesuits quickly rebuilt at Hayes and Shrader, a campus that would come to be known as the Shirt Factory due to its resemblance to the city's industrial buildings.



1929

The Shirt Factory was initially considered temporary, but SI stayed there 23 years. In 1929, the school moved into more modern quarters at 222 Stanyan St.



1969

Coinciding with a name change from St. Ignatius High School to St. Ignatius College Preparatory, President Harry V. Carlin, S.J. '35 spearheaded SI's move to its current campus in the Sunset. In the early 1990s, SI added a second gym, a practice field, a pool, theater facilities, and redesigned science labs. After the turn of the century, the school built out its west side with a piazza, new classrooms, a choral room, and a weight room.

In Their Own Words

Students, faculty, and administrators explain what excites them about the New Learning Commons. Their comments have been edited for clarity.



Jack Quach '23

"One of SI's goals is to be a home to the different diverse students who are part of the school community. In order to do that, you have to be able to provide access to a lot of different ways of learning, especially when you have so many students interested in so many different topics. While some people might feel more comfortable in larger areas, others will like the option to go into smaller groups where they can be in more intimate space and receive more personalized learning. I think the New Learning Commons design will really help that."



Michelle Nevin Levine, Principal

"With this new space, we are going to be able to do what we have already been doing well, but we are going to be able to do it better: Educating students to be leaders who work for justice, who are loving and intellectual, open to growth, and spiritual. Our students need to be engaged in learning experiences that enhance their ability to collaborate and connect with each other. My hope is that the New Learning Commons is going to provide spaces and places for our teachers to teach more creatively, and for our students to learn in a way that enhances their experience."



Christian Rodriguez, Religious Studies Teacher

"Giving students variable spaces where they feel comfortable learning is really important to me, whether that is creating a nice little nook within the classroom, or stepping outside. If students feel comfortable in a particular space, they are going to learn better."

Verónica Bricker, Language Teacher

"In our current building, I am not able to break down the wall between myself and the next teacher and do something collaboratively together to deepen the student experience, but I will in the New Learning Commons. It will provide a more dynamic, more real, experience to match what students are going to encounter in the world."



Winston Zapet '23

"Having spaces that encourage collaboration and working with others definitely lets people learn how to actively and efficiently work with those around them. I think, also, having that sense of belonging and comfort really lets people be themselves and not afraid to share their opinions and ideas, which is essential for growth."



Joe Vollert '84, Vice President for Advancement

"The New Learning Commons is designed to center the student experience and help faculty foster creative and collaborative work. What is education going to look like in 25 years? We don't know, but we want to have space that is flexible enough to adapt to that. We are really focused on how students learn and work together, how they aggregate and synthesize data. We are still going to teach writing along with critical thinking, but today's world demands that students are not just accessing facts, but using them, and they are using them together."

"Also, one of the things we want the New Learning Commons to communicate is that everybody is welcome here. We want someone who has never seen St. Ignatius before, who might not even know what Jesuit education means, to walk into this building and say, 'I belong here. I could see my future here.' We are not constructing a new campus, we are building community."



Raven Shaw '23

"The thing about this project is it is not just a building. SI, for many people, is a home away from home. The New Learning Commons will help to amplify that, to create spaces for people to feel comfortable, to feel like they belong, to feel like they have spaces where they can pursue their passions."

NEWSFROMSI



FALL SPORTS RALLY
Students celebrated the start of the fall and winter sports seasons with a rally in McCullough Gymnasium featuring hype videos and competitions between the classes.



BEHIND THE CURTAIN
SI's arts programs kicked off their seasons with the annual "Behind the Curtain" event, with music, dance, and drama performances, and displays of students' visual art.

IGNATIAN FAMILY TEACH-IN FOR JUSTICE
In late October, 12 SI students, accompanied by three adults, attended the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C. This annual event for people associated with Catholic and Jesuit institutions aims to provide space for prayer, networking, education, and advocacy on behalf of social justice. In addition to meeting with IFTJ participants from around the world and hearing addresses from peers and adults, students met with staff from Rep. Nancy Pelosi's office to advocate for more just immigration and environmental policies.



**CARNAVAL:
ALAS LATINX SHOWCASE**
The Association of Latin American Students put on Carnival: Una Celebración in the Carlin Commons, bringing together the SI community for a showcase of our school's Latinx community through music, dance, food, and cultural tradition.



FR. SAUER ACADEMY HARVEST FESTIVAL
FSA's second annual harvest festival was held on the Gordon Practice Field in October. Attendees enjoyed carnival games, bounce houses, food, and more.



LUDI NOVEMBRES
Members of Junior Classical League visited St. Francis High School in Sacramento for Ludi Novembres, a gathering of JCL groups from various high schools. The SI delegation participated in various contests, had their faces painted, played certamen, and had a blast at the photo booth, among other activities. Award winners from the gathering included Maddy Dela Rama '27, Connor Hermann '27, Georgia Parr '27, Gia Song '27, Cameron Ko '26, Timo Ko '26, Keoni Liwanag '25, Margot Rodgers '25, Rini Saha '25, Alex Zervas '25, Carmen Aaronson '24, CJ Lindstrand '24, and Penny Pyo '24.

FIRST GEN STUDENTS
SHARE EXPERIENCES

Several SI alums came back to campus for the annual First Gen Day celebration, participating in a panel discussion about the challenges they have faced and joys they have experienced as the first generation in their families to attend college. They were, from left to right: Anthony Ballesteros '15, Samuel "Sam" Martinez '15, Ivan Varela '15, Brianna Floyd '20, Luis Hidalgo '16, Ariana Arana Bermudez '21, and Isabel Samayoa '19.



ALUM SPEAKS TO STUDENTS ABOUT HER CAREER

In December, Dr. Jacqueline dela Merced '98 came back to campus as a guest of the Medcats club and Wildcat Career Connections to speak about the challenges and joys of her career as an OBGYN. If you are interested in speaking about your career journey to students, get in touch with Wildcat Career Connections moderator Michael Deneui at mdeneui@siprep.org.



CHRISTMAS DRIVE

The annual Christmas Drive concluded on Dec. 9 with the distribution of 260 food boxes, Safeway gift cards, and Target gift cards for families in the St. Dominic's community in San Francisco. We are extremely grateful for the ways so many hands were involved and how this event brought our entire SI community together. It would not have been possible without the work of faculty, staff, students, and alums, including the truck rented and provided by former SI parents Frank and Monica Verducci, and Sal Rizzo '02 donating all the produce to accompany the boxes. Thank you, SI, for supporting our neighbors.



FACULTY SHARE
PERSPECTIVES ON ARTIFICIAL
INTELLIGENCE

Director of the Library Christina Wenger has hosted and produced a podcast series focusing on the promise and pitfalls of artificial intelligence in a school setting via conversations with SI faculty. Some teachers talk about the tools they are using to bolster their lessons, and all of them share their reasoning behind decisions they have made regarding use of AI technology in their classes. Listen to the episode featuring discussions with teachers Owen Maguire, Michael Deneui, and Christian Rodriguez through the QR code below.

Listen to the
AI discussion

PASKO

Thank you to all the wonderful parent and student volunteers who helped make our Pasko celebration a success. SI's popular pan-Asian Christmas celebration, hosted by the SI Parents Asian Club, once again drew a capacity crowd to the Carlin Commons for food, performances, and fellowship in the Christmas spirit.



FORMER MAYOR
VISITS HISTORY CLASS

Former San Francisco Mayor Art Agnos visited the history class taught by Robert Vergara '76 to speak about the life of a politician, which includes a lot of difficult decisions and a lot of criticism. Mayor Agnos also promoted the value of public service and encouraged students to get involved in government.



RAP SESSIONS RETURNS TO SI

On Jan. 11, the Rap Sessions series held an event on SI's campus featuring author Bakari Kitwana and artist/archivist Akua Naru giving a multimedia presentation titled "The Music and The Movement: From Dr. King & Civil Rights to Hip-Hop & Beyond." Part performance and part discussion, the program examined love and wellness; peace and justice; and art as liberation.





ENGINEERING IN PHYSICS CLASSES

Peter Cossid's physics students built bridges with the limitation that they were only allowed to use popsicle sticks and glue. The bridges were then load-tested with buckets of sand, with most of them able to withstand weights upwards of 50 pounds.



SI STUDENTS SELECTED FOR PRESTIGIOUS POSSE SCHOLARSHIPS

Three SI seniors have been named Posse Scholars: Tiffany Lei '24, Nam Nguyen '24, and Mia Santiago '24. Awarded by the Posse Foundation, these scholarships provide four-year tuition to college and other support to students identified for their "intrinsic leadership abilities, their skill at working in a team setting, and their motivation and desire to succeed."

WATCH THE SI LIP DUB VIDEO

The entire SI community — students, faculty, staff, and administrators — participated in a one-take lip dub video showing off SI's campus, creativity, and school spirit. Shot by Roberto Borja '19, the video has garnered thousands of views on YouTube, and you can watch it yourself through the QR code below.

Watch
Lip Dub



RUGBY COMES BACK TO SI

Many decades ago, SI fielded a rugby team — recall that the first rivalry game against Sacred Heart in 1893 was a rugby game. This school year, the program was resurrected as a club sport, with scrimmages and a slate of matches leading up to playoffs against other Northern California schools.



CHORAL PERFORMS AT SANTA CLARA UNIVERSITY

In January, SI Chamber Choir and Treble Choir participated in the Santa Clara University High School Choral Festival presented by the SCU Department of Music. Our students collaborated with other high school choirs, were coached by SCU's Director of Choral Activities Dr. Scot Hanna-Weir, and performed in a culminating concert in the Mission Santa Clara de Asis.

MOCK TRIAL WINS SF COUNTY

In February, SI's mock trial team won the San Francisco County competition, going undefeated through four rounds, and earning the opportunity to compete at the state competition in Los Angeles. In the final case, students were scored on their performances as counsel, witnesses, bailiff, and clerk in a hypothetical criminal trial that involved a pretrial motion, opening statements, witness examination, and closing statements. Twenty-five students participated in mock trial this year, from frosh to seniors, and coach Dan Devitt noted they used a wide variety of skills, including experiences in robotics, speech and debate, and drama to shine in the courtroom.



LUNAR NEW YEAR

To celebrate Lunar New Year and its 10th anniversary, the Chinese Culture Club hosted a dumpling party in Carlin Commons. Students and parents made dumplings and enjoyed traditional Chinese food and tea.



SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT

SI's second Social Justice Summit took place in February 2024 with the theme, "Care for Our Common Home and Humanity." Sarahi Espinoza Salamanca, founder and CEO of DREAMer's Roadmap, gave a keynote address at an all-school gathering about her work addressing justice for farm workers and other migrants, followed by a conversation onstage with Dory Miller '22 to expand on some of those topics and connect them to ecological justice. Later in the week, students were invited to reflect and engage with Ms. Salamanca's message during in-class sessions.



BSU SHOWCASE

The annual Black Student Union Showcase was a Mardi Gras celebration focused on Black Joy. A full Carlin Commons enjoyed Creole food and student performances demonstrating the resilience, creativity, contributions, and unity of the Black community at SI and beyond. Leah Pimentel '00 was given SI's Black Excellence Award for her leadership in her profession and community, and giving back to the SI community.

PRESIDENT'S
Gala



The President's Gala was held on Nov. 11, 2023. The gathering was an opportunity for President Edward A. Reese, S.J. to thank those parents, alums, and friends who had generously contributed high levels of financial support to SI during the previous fiscal year. This year, the Gala was also an opportunity for the school to honor Fr. Reese on the 50th anniversary of his ordination as a Jesuit. Mass in Orradre Chapel was followed by cocktails in the courtyard and a fabulous dinner in the Carlin Commons.



ALUMNI EVENTS



BSU Alumni Networking Event

Building off the incredible 50th Anniversary Celebration nearly two years ago, the first-ever BSU Alumni Networking event was held in February 2024, bringing together generations of Black Student Union alums to connect, share, and celebrate this year's Black Excellence Award recipient, Leah Pimentel '00. The event, which began in McGucken Hall's Faculty Dining Room, led into the BSU Showcase in the Carlin Commons, tying together BSU's past with its present.



ASC Celebrates 50 Years

In January, the Asian Students Coalition celebrated 50 years at SI with a dinner gathering in the Carlin Commons featuring special guest speaker and San Francisco Police Department Commander Derrick Lew '91. What started as a club about Asian-American culture has transformed into an affinity group that has fostered community, affirmed identity, cultivated the leadership of its members, and continues to share its cultural wealth with the school.



Law Society Luncheon

Hosted at the San Francisco Italian Athletic Club, the 2024 Law Society Luncheon brought together a community of Ignatians who have chosen to fulfill the Jesuit commitment to justice and service. The Hon. James J. McBride '69 was this year's awardee and Susan Freiwald, dean and professor of law at USF's School of Law, delivered remarks to a full room of Wildcat judges and lawyers.



PERFORMING ARTS

PLAYWRIGHT
FESTIVAL

CHORAL
CONCERT

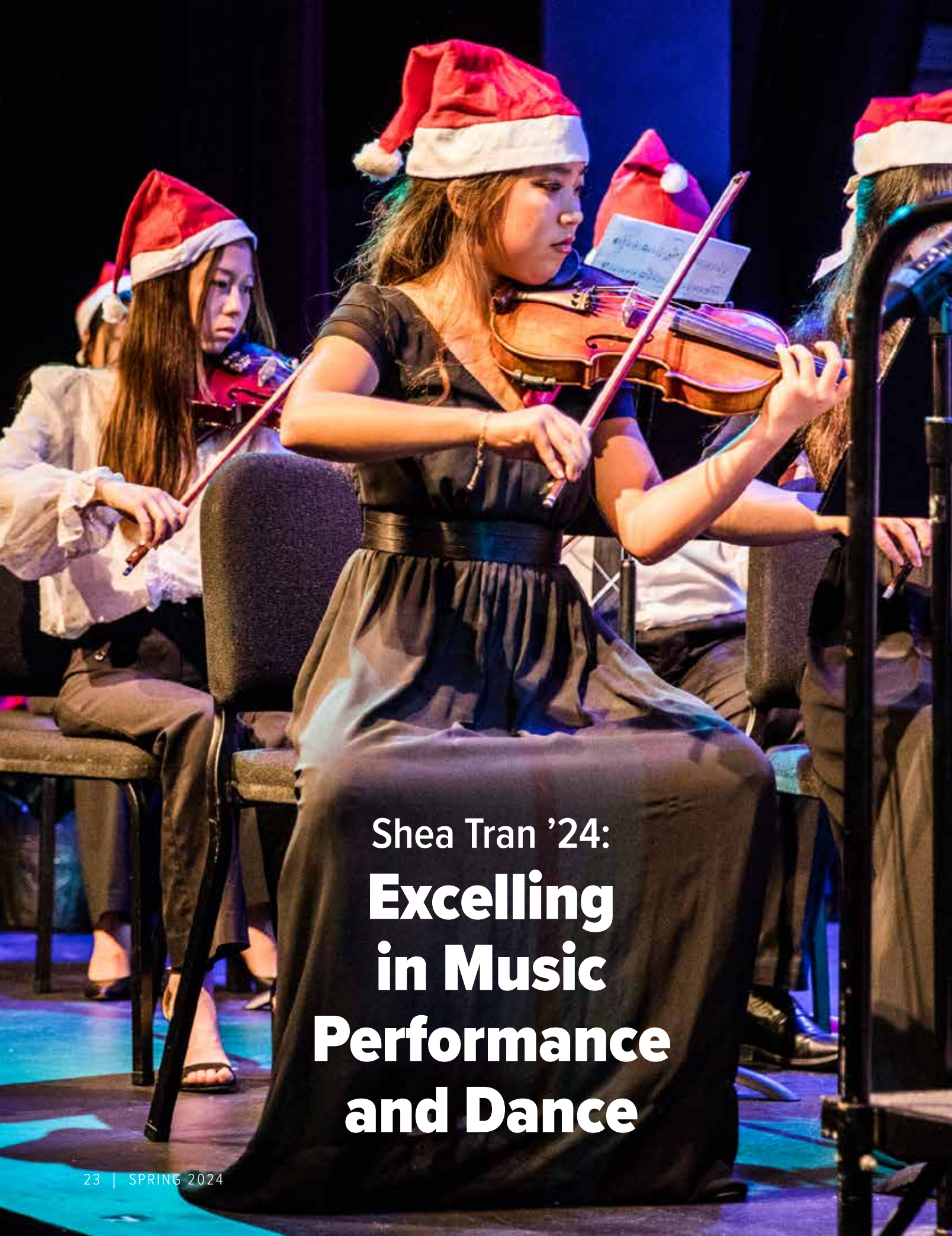
WINTER CONCERT
JAZZ BAND

PIANO
RECITAL

AND THEN THERE
WERE NONE

WINTER
CONCERT
ORCHESTRA

FALL DANCE CONCERT



Shea Tran '24: Excelling in Music Performance and Dance

Among the many talented students at SI who push themselves to achieve in multiple disciplines, Shea Tran '24 has distinguished herself as a violinist in the orchestral music program, earning first chair and serving as the ensemble's concertmaster, while at the same time performing and choreographing for the dance and drill team.

"I started playing violin very young," she said. "After getting a violin for Christmas and starting lessons, I remember being so into it that I would do little recitals for myself. I mostly had solo experience until SI, when I joined the orchestra. For dance, I took tap and ballet as a young child, but as I got older, I was inspired by the TV show 'So You Think You Can Dance?' and started taking hip-hop dance classes when I was about 10 years old. At SI, I joined the drill team my sophomore year, and it has been so much fun."

When asked if her experience in one art form informs her performances in the other, she readily explained, "Absolutely, there's a clear relationship between the two. For example, with drill, I am now one of the main choreographers for the team, and I have found knowing music theory and having a good sense of musicality makes it a whole lot easier to explain how certain movements and counts work. In orchestra, Dr. Clements always says, 'I can see the dancer in you,' because as concertmaster I have to lead people in, and part of that means swaying with the beats. The role means I am not just playing, but physically performing in a way that cues everybody in."

Orchestra Director Dr. Gillian Clements explained that dynamic in more detail, saying, "Shea is one of the most artistic leaders we have had in the orchestra. As concertmaster, she shows all the other players sitting around her not only when to play but, more importantly, where the musical phrase is going through her body cues. She can show the tension in the music by leaning forward in time with the music, indicating to the others that we are making a crescendo, or getting louder, to show the climax of a phrase. I think she does these movements instinctively because she is also a dancer, and it helps the music."

Allison Lee, coach of SI's dance and drill team, was effusive in her praise, saying, "Shea is hands down one of the best dancers we have at SI. She brings life, energy, and team pride that can't be matched. Not only is she a phenomenal dancer, she is a supportive, humble, and cheerful teammate. When Shea is in the room, the coaching staff and dancers all light up with confidence and pride knowing that she helps lead our team. And if being a powerhouse dancer is not already difficult to master, Shea choreographs the most crowd-pleasing sets. I am so happy she is getting the recognition she deserves."

Now that she is a senior, Shea reflected on her time at SI and talked about how music performance and dancing have given her a deeper sense of the SI community. Specifically, she pointed to her opportunities to play in a string quartet at SI events that led to her coming together with several friends to play gigs outside of school. From dance and drill, she recalled performing a set she had choreographed at a Bruce-Mahoney football game.

"I will always remember being out on the field and feeling how hype everything was with my team performing for our classmates," she said. "At the end, we all jumped into splits, and the roaring sound from the crowd just washed over us. I felt so grateful to be an SI student at that moment, with so much love and school spirit all around us." 



SIATHLETICS



**FALL
2023**

Men's Cross Country
Varsity | 3rd Place Finish in WCAL
JV | 4th Place Finish in WCAL
Soph | 4th Place Finish in WCAL
Frosh | 3rd Place Finish in WCAL

Women's Cross Country
Varsity | 3rd Place Finish in WCAL
Soph | 3rd Place Finish in WCAL
Frosh | 3rd Place Finish in WCAL

Flag Football
Varsity | 7-4
JV | 8-1

Football
Varsity | 8-5
JV | 7-2

Women's Volleyball
Varsity | 23-13
JV | 23-0 WCAL Champions
Frosh | 12-7

Women's Tennis
Varsity | 20-4
JV | 9-2-1

Women's Golf
Varsity | 12-2
JV | 10-2

Field Hockey
Varsity | 15-6-1
JV | 8-1-1

Women's Water Polo
Varsity | 13-5
JV | 4-7-1

Men's Water Polo
Varsity | 12-9
JV | 9-6
Frosh | 2-8



WINTER 2024

Men's Basketball
Varsity | 21-8
JV | 19-5
Frosh Red | 11-12
Frosh Blue | 18-6

Women's Basketball
Varsity | 18-12
JV | 8-8
Frosh/Soph | 17-3

Men's Soccer
Varsity | 6-11-3
JV | 11-7-1
Frosh | 6-11-2

Women's Soccer
Varsity | 13-6-2
JV | 10-5
Frosh | 5-12

Rugby
Varsity | 6-1
JV | 2-4

JENNIFER MONAHAN OHANESSIAN SCHOLARSHIP A BOND OF BROTHERS

The opportunity to team up with your siblings to create something that uplifts your community, represents multiple aspects of your life, and honors your matriarch all at the same time doesn't come around often, but the Ohanessian family found just the thing.

In February 2022, Gregory '02, Justin '03, and Alexander '07 launched the Jennifer Monahan Ohanessian Scholarship. Named after their mother, the fund supports St. Ignatius-bound KZV Armenian School graduates who are in need of financial assistance.

"Strengthening the bond between these two Bay Area pillars of community was of the utmost importance to us when we started to brainstorm this scholarship. For my brothers and me, this scholarship is a way for us to show our appreciation and deep-rooted respect for both of these institutions and, of course, for our mother," said Alex.

"It's something special to honor her because she's such a huge part of these two communities. And a scholarship where we have a kid coming from KZV to SI is like our family legacy too," added Justin.

Giving back to the communities that shaped them into the men they are today in this manner exemplifies the commitment to leadership taught to them by their Jesuit education and their mother, a leader in her own right.

Greg, the eldest, said that, "KZV laid a strong foundation of family, legacy, and giving back; and the Ignatian values affirmed these and encouraged us to make change to better the greater community. We learned what it really meant to be people with and for others at SI."

"This scholarship is, hopefully, a great example of us servicing our community and taking our lessons of compassion out of the

classroom and into the real world," Alex observed.

Jennifer has been an active and energetic volunteer and contributor over the course of her sons' academic careers.

"I was always doing a flier, managing an event, volunteering for field trips, fundraisers, sports, whatever," she said. "When I arrived at SI, I leapt right in, getting involved with similar activities. I had some wonderful fellow moms that welcomed and appreciated me. Becoming Ignatian Guild president during Fr. Sauer's last year as president was such an honor that I still cherish to this day."

After a year of tireless work in silence, the family finally presented their unsuspecting mother with the news of the scholarship at a surprise ceremony at the K-8 school.

"When I went to KZV on Dec. 13, it was under the ruse of picking up two of my grandchildren who had stayed late to rehearse for the Christmas program... When I opened the door and saw all of our family and numerous friends — including Joe Vollert — from both KZV and SI, I was really wonderfully surprised," said Jennifer. "I'm still in shock and awe!"

Built over the course of a year, the Jennifer Monahan Ohanessian Scholarship is an inspiring product of a deep familial love, celebration of heritage, appreciation of the importance of a quality education, and Ignatian pride.

Justin noted, "This is just the beginning. We're thinking of fun ways to raise money for the scholarship. This will be the first year that this scholarship will be awarded to a student at SI... We're super excited to have our whole family be a part of that."



IGNATIAN GUILD
FASHION SHOW
**LET'S
DANCE!**

"Let's Dance!" was the theme of the 54th Ignatian Guild Fashion Show, featuring the Class of 2024. The dinner performance was on Feb. 3 followed by a luncheon Feb. 4, both in McCullough Gymnasium. The countless volunteer hours from dedicated moms and the students' dedication to dance rehearsals resulted in an extraordinary show! This year's Fashion Show chairs were Nicole Barker, Kealy Murray, Shannon O'Neill, and Julie Vlahos, under the leadership of Guild President Maureen McFadden.



FATHERS' CLUB
AUCTION



On Saturday, March 16, the Fathers' Club Auction SUPERHEROES took place at SI. Batman, Superman, Wonder Woman, The Incredibles, and Underdog were just a few of the caped crusaders attending the event. A few villains managed to slip in — we're looking at you Riddler and Joker! Cocktails were held in The Hall of Justice (Cowell Pavillion), and later, guests sat down to dinner in McCullough Gym. The live auction was a rousing success, and in all, you raised more than \$1.5 million for SI.

Thank you to Auction Chair Tom Ivers, Vice Chairs Josh Shaskan and Bryan Spaulding '89, and Fathers' Club President Michael Rossetto '83. A huge thank you to Franco Finn, the auctioneer hype man. And to all in attendance: you are the SUPERHEROES of SI!



SIALUMNISPOTLIGHT

ADRIAN FERNANDEZ-DEL-CAMPO '87 AND FRED MOLFINO '87 GALVANIZING FELLOW WILDCATS INTO ACTION

Following their 35th reunion in 2022, members of the Class of 1987 organized efforts to support the New Learning Commons with a class gift. Fred Molfino, Jr. '87, and Adrian Fernandez-del-Campo '87 — two contributors to this effort — reflected on their time at SI and how it has driven this commitment and vision for how the NLC can transform the SI experience for future generations.

Fred was the first to contribute to the class gift campaign, making a point of personally reaching out to classmates and inviting them to join their fellow Wildcats to help build SI's campus of the future through the Class of 1987 Campaign.

Describing his classmates' efforts, Fred said, "Thus far, our class has pledged \$155,000 to support the campaign and advance SI's mission to educate future generations and continue the spirit of the Jesuits to be men and women with and for others."

Since the Class of 1987 reunion, a handful of members of the class have banded together and pledged more than \$155,000 in future gifts for the NLC while an additional 31 members have contributed over \$75,000 in gifts to the campaign in the past 18 months.

Adrian excitedly joined the effort because he sees the potential for the New Learning Commons to bring the best out of young Ignatians.



"My hope for the NLC is that it will be a world-class educational facility for current and future SI students. Technology is rapidly changing, so having a facility such as the NLC with the latest technology and modern classroom configurations will not only enable SI

Fred Molfino, Jr. '87

to compete for the best and brightest students, but also enable SI to improve the overall learning and collaborative experiences for all students," Adrian said.

The current Class of 1987 campaign is a shining example of what a class can do with the proper organization, togetherness, and commitment. While major fundraising can be a daunting task, Fred and Adrian have the right perspective to galvanize their fellow classmates into action.

"The SI community, then and now, is an important part of our character. Part of my personal reason for supporting this campaign is to ensure current and future students have the opportunity to forge the same special relationships and bonds," Fred noted.

Adrian added, "My time at SI was truly one of the best times of my life. I made lifelong friends, was challenged academically, and learned valuable critical thinking skills. I want SI to continue providing students the same life and learning opportunities that were provided to me."

The Class of 1987's effort is changing SI's future and adding a new layer to their decades-long brotherhood, thus setting a great example for how other classes can unite to support the next generation of Wildcats.

To start a class campaign for your own class, please reach out to Franco Arieta '97, Associate Director of Advancement, Alumni, at farieta@siprep.org.

Adrian Fernandez-del-Campo '87



ELLEN LAVAIA '05 "WE'RE ALL WORKING TOGETHER TO ACHIEVE ONE GOAL"

With productions such as "The Lion King," "Annie," "Matilda," and "Les Misérables" under her belt, the most challenging part of being a stage manager for Ellen (Mezzera) Lavaia '05 might have been describing the role in which she has spent more than a decade.

"It's like a wedding planner because you do all this prepwork and every show is a wedding because you actually have to make it happen. And it's also like you're a conductor because everyone could probably play together, but if you have one person saying, 'This is when the lights need to go, when the sound needs to go, when this curtain needs to move,' it's better. I've never quite found the right way of saying what a stage manager does, but we help make sure everyone does their job and ensure the vision of the director and designers is seen during each performance."

While Ellen may still be honing the definition, her work has taken her all over the U.S. and across the globe. Through it all, she has held on to her Jesuit education — both at SI and

Gonzaga University — to give her proper perspective on how to make sure the show goes on.

"It's the core value of kindness. We're all people. We're all working together to achieve one goal and one dream in putting up a production. And everyone in that theater is needed, necessary, and important. It was definitely something I learned about 'men and women for others' and this is the 'with others' part, in my point of view: we are all together trying to make this one event. That core value of the Jesuit education led me to appreciate and understand every job in the theater."

Ellen is now with Broadway Cares/Equity Fight AIDS, working as a producer to help organize events that raise money to support people in need, whether it is for HIV research, food grants, or grants for communities such as Maui following the devastating fires last year.

Even thousands of miles away from 37th Ave., the Ignatian spirit lives through Ellen and her service to her productions and community.

PAUL JUAREZ '71 "ALL OF US WROTE OUR NAMES ON THE WALL"

Every student that goes through St. Ignatius leaves a mark on our school community, but Paul Juarez '71 holds a unique place in SI's history for the literal mark he left on the campus.

In 1969, Paul, who was entering his junior year, was one of about 10 students asked to help move equipment from the Stanyan Street campus to the school's new location in the Sunset. The moving team loaded up massive filing cabinets onto dollies and sent the student helpers on their way to the elevator where Paul and the rest of his forward-thinking group hatched a plan that would leave an imprint on the school that remained secret until now.

"They put the file cabinets in the elevator, they stuffed us all in, and the two movers said, 'we'll meet you up on the second floor,' because that's where the administrative offices were. We all get in there and one of the upperclassmen pulls the knob on the elevator and stops between the floors and opens the doors," he recalled. "And all of us wrote our names on the wall."

If you visit the elevator by the main entrance of the academic building, you'll find dozens of signatures and scratches inside the doors, ostensibly etched by students who had the same daring idea as Paul and his classmates.

Paul and the rest of the student body soon found that a new campus meant they were developing a new culture.

"When we came down here, it was like a blank slate for many of us."

He described pranks, the transition from Fr. Hyde to Br. Draper as dean of students, and the new curriculum, one made possible because of the dynamic new space. Paul remembers how new programs developed and sees parallels between his experience and how he expects SI will grow with the New Learning Commons.

"St. Ignatius is transitioning. [Education] is no longer, 'sage on a stage,' it's now, 'guide on the side,'" observed Paul, an educator himself. "You no longer have to stand up there and tell the students what you're doing. You have to have more of a conversation, I don't care if it's mathematics or history."

Drawing from his own experience splitting his high school career between two campuses, Paul left today's students with advice to make the most of the soon-to-be-different Sunset campus.

"As you transition into a new learning environment, what are you going to bring with you to make it beneficial to yourself and others? When you go into these types of learning environments there's a challenge on you to move you out of your comfort zone — and that's what education is about."





2023 RECIPIENT:
Bob Drucker '58

"I have loved this school and everything about it for many years."

On Nov. 19, 2023, the SI community came together to celebrate this year's Christ the King recipient, Bob Drucker '58.

The Mass was celebrated in Cowell Pavilion, where Mr. Drucker built championship programs as a basketball coach for more than 20 years, in addition to his impactful work as a teacher, counselor, and administrator. It was an especially jubilant day for the Drucker family, as Bob and his wife, Kathy, celebrated not only this accolade but also 57 years of marriage.

"I have loved this school and everything about it for many years, and being able to spend 42 years at two different campuses has been a source of great joy," Mr. Drucker said with the Christ the King medallion around his neck.

With all eyes on him, Mr. Drucker, to no surprise, took the mic and celebrated everyone else, showering his family with love and thanking mentors, colleagues, and friends for their roles in his illustrious four-decade career at SI.

During the Mass, the Alumni Department premiered a special tribute video honoring Mr. Drucker and his incredible life and legacy at SI. The video is viewable on the SI AlumniCats YouTube channel, and linked through the QR code below.

Among all of the special guests in attendance, SI was overjoyed to welcome 10 previous Christ the King recipients to the festivities.

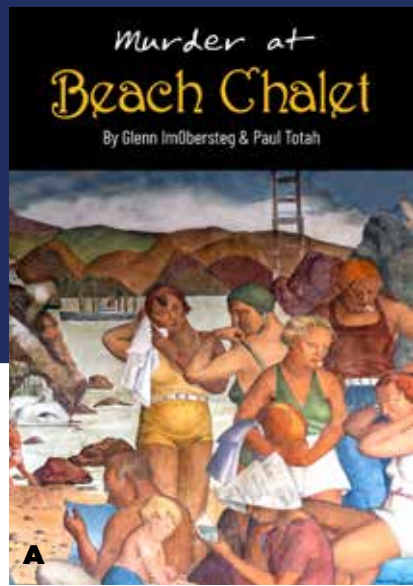
Eddie Reese, S.J.; Jack Mitchell, S.J., '58; Ed Harris, S.J., '63; and Mario Prietto, S.J. presided over the Mass.

With more than 500 friends, family, and community members gathered to celebrate Mr. Drucker, this was the biggest Christ the King event SI has ever had, and a special day in our school's history.



Watch SI's
tribute video to
Bob Drucker '58





Keeping in Touch

1950s

Ren Harris '59 acquired Pancha's, one of Napa Valley's most beloved dive bars.

1960s

"The Tiger's Apprentice," set in San Francisco and written by **Laurence Yep '66** in 2023, has been adapted into a Paramount+ movie that was released on Feb. 2, 2024.

John Donohue '69 (C) was named an Ambassador for the West Coast by the Irish-American Baseball Society.

Class of 1969 members **Jim Maloney, Steve Laveroni, and Jerry Quinlan** all attended **Dan Quinlan '67's** daughter's wedding.

1970s

Vince Gotera '71 was named Poet Laureate of Iowa.

John Hourihan '74 was listed in the Top 100 Civil Defense Litigators in Northern California by America's Top 100, LLC.

Paul Totah '75 (A) has been busy since retiring as editor of Genesis in 2020. He has two new books out, both available on Amazon.

"Murder at Beach Chalet" is a historical mystery that tells the story of Irish and Chinese immigrants, spanning the years 1934 to 1965. His second book, "Earth Word, Fire and Water," is a collection of his poetry paired with landscape photos of Sonoma through Santa Cruz counties with a side trip to Yosemite.

Jon Leonoudakis '76 (B) produced interviews with Clint and Kyle Eastwood in Carmel, CA, that aired on French and German TV for Kyle's "Eastwood Symphonic" project in September 2023. "Eastwood Symphonic" captures Kyle's jazz group backed by the Czech National Symphonic Orchestra, performing soundtrack music from Clint's films (e.g., "Dirty Harry," "Unforgiven," and "The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly"), including several in which Kyle composed the score. The interview segments were featured in the live performances to provide context for the audience.

Jim Fitzpatrick '77 (C) was honored to be included in the special Cow Palace exhibit, which will run for two years and eight months, at the San Mateo County Historical Museum in Redwood City. His old uniform, skates, helmet, and other equipment from when he skated professional Roller Derby with the San Francisco Bay Bombers, are on display, along with his two published books on the sport. Another display contains his other book, with his pro wrestling photos he shot at the Cow Palace while working for promoter Roy Shire's wrestling league in 1978. Also on display is an enlargement of one of his photos mounted on the wall.

Sixteen members of the **Class of 1977 (D)** reunited for Chuck Barberini's annual Christmas lunch at the Elk's Club in San Mateo. The 30+ year tradition continues with family, friends, and multiple generations of Wildcats in attendance.

Top Row (l - r): **Lou Cassanego, Gene Clancy, Mike McNulty, Al Pontius, Brad Levesque, John Sullivan, KC Murphy, Matt Castagnola, Claudio Cipolla, Charlie Jadallah**

Bottom (l - r): **FX Crowley, Jay Bechtel, Greg Rocca, Chuck Barberini**

Not pictured: **Louis Kolenda, Al Smoot**

Garry O'Reilly '77, Tara Delaney '93, Tim Caulfield '02, Dan Lawrie '07, Aisling Cassidy '10, Ryan Ward '14, (E) and other SI alums at Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction recently celebrated the completion of the San Francisco Giants' Mission Rock office towers overlooking Oracle Park. The firm is keeping Ignatians busy on other San Francisco projects including Studio Gang's California College of the Arts Addition as well as Sir Norman Foster's vibrant transformation of the Transamerica Pyramid.

John Sandstrom '78 currently lives in Scottsdale, AZ with his wife Anna Sandstrom. John recently started a new job as Vice President of Medical and Scientific Affairs at Sumitomo Pharma America.

1980s

Joe Allanson '81 (F) delivered the commencement address to the graduating class of the University of San Francisco's School of Management in December 2023. Joe was also recognized by Santa Clara's Leavey School of Business as a "notable alum." (l - r) Reverend Paul J. Fitzgerald, S.J., Joe Allanson '81, and Reverend Sean O. Carroll, S.J.



BJ Stretch '82 was appointed to the San Francisco County Superior Court bench.

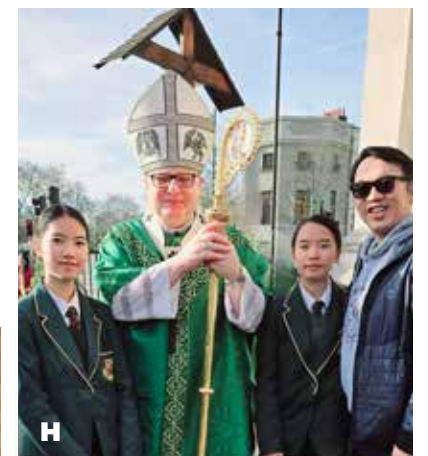
Chris Gaggero '83 (G) is the new varsity baseball pitching coach at University High School. In his first year, UHS went undefeated in the BCL, won the League title, and finished as the D5 State runner up. Additionally, Chris and other Ignatians **Kevin Barry '82, Aldo Congi '72, Dave Braun '80, and Lou Alessandria '82** continue to play OClub softball, where they all won the Masters League together.

1990s

Ben Chan '92, (H) based in London, UK with his daughters, Clarissa and Sophia, met the Archbishop of Southwark at the Racial Justice Sunday Mass, St. George's Cathedral Southwark, UK.

Former San Francisco Mayor **Mark Farrell '92 (I)** visited **Bob Vergara '76's** US Govt: San Francisco Case Studies class.

Jim Murphy '98, Darin Fong '90, Matt Stecher '93, and Greg Teshara '98 (J) coached a very competitive 3rd grade CYO baseball game between the St. Cecilia Irish and St. Stephen Cougars with their sons. Father/Sons (l - r): Jim and Liam, Darin and Trevor, Matt and Luke, Greg and Benjamin



If you submitted an entry for Keeping in Touch, Births, or In Memoriam after our last issue but do not see it here, and would like to ensure we have your news for the next issue of GENESIS, please let us know at alumni@siprep.org.

2000s

Ben Bradford '01 has launched a new journalistic podcast distributed by the NPR Network titled "Landslide."

Sullivan Jones '06 played a central role in HBO's Emmy-winning show "The Gilded Age."

Michelle Arguelles '07 (K) got married in November 2022, celebrating the occasion with a number of Wildcats in attendance:
Ryan Aguirre '07, Cal Trembath '07, Alex Trembath '07, Teresa Leong '07, Jess Lau '07, Gina Perlite '07, Hannah Abarquez '07, and Brendan Byrne '07.



2010s

Michael Echaniz '12 (L) — a pianist, keyboardist, and composer — released his debut jazz album "Seven Shades of Violet" on Sept. 8th, 2023 through Ridgeway Records, in the wake of a successful fight against stage four lymphoma cancer. The album was featured in DownBeat Magazine's "Best Albums of 2023," receiving a 4-star review, and has been described as "an intricate constructed and musically complex masterpiece" (Steven James, Jazz in Europe). Tracks from the album have received radio airplay throughout North America and western Europe and have earned several awards, including the 2021 ASCAP Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composers Award.



Kassandra Lastimosa '12 and Thomas Curran-Levett '12 (M) got married on Sept. 30, 2023, surrounded by their loved ones. The wedding ceremony and reception were held in Big Sur. Among the attendees and wedding party members were Kassandra's sister, **Nina (Lastimosa) Thompson '13,**



Thomas' sister, **Maggie Curran-Levett '15,** and fellow alumni **Michelle Christofferson '12** and **Matthew Perez '12.** The wedding ceremony was officiated by Jim McGarry, who is not only Thomas's stepfather but was also a long-time teacher at SI in the Religious Studies Department.

Brianna Beckman '15 and **Brenden Niland '15 (N)** were married in May 2023 in Presidio SF. Many SI alums were in the wedding party and in attendance. The SI alum group photo includes **Brandon Beckman '18, Georgia Madden '18, Josie Little '15, Sydney Raggio '15, Mary Catherine Flood '15, Luke Lotti '15, Timmy Lynch '15, Thomas Niland '12, Aine Niland '19, Arthur Beckman '73** (father of the bride), and more alums.

Michael Lundgren '18 has been named a 2024 Marshall Scholar, joining an illustrious group of prior recipients, including founders, government directors, and even a Supreme Court Justice. The Marshall Scholarship fully funds up to three years of graduate study in the United Kingdom. Lundgren, a Georgetown alumnus, will pursue a MSc in Child Development and Education at the University of Oxford next fall.

Jack Thomson '18 was named NCAA Division III National Player of the Year for his performance on the Lewis & Clark baseball team.



Welcome!

Melissa Bailey '08 and husband Max welcomed their daughter Cori in July 2023. Cori is the first grandchild of **Wes Nihei '70. (A)**

Noelle Formosa Bocian '02 and her husband, Zac Bocian, welcomed their first child, a girl named Felicity Renée Bocian, on Nov. 1, 2023. **(B)**

Olivia (Schreader) Roth '08 and her husband, BJ, welcomed their first child, Wilona "Willa" James Roth, on Dec. 23, 2023. Willa was baptized at St. Ignatius Church on Feb. 17, 2024, with **Griffin Schreader '10** as her godfather. **(C)**

Gianna Galletta '06 welcomed Carolina Emilia Galletta on Jan. 8th, 2024.



We want to know what is going on in your life!
Submit your stories and update your information so we can keep you informed about reunions and other events
alumni.siprep.org

CORRECTION: Due to an editorial error, the SI Alumni of the Year Award was incorrectly described in the last issue of GENESIS. The award is given in honor of Bill Callanan '81 and Dan Linehan '83. We regret the error.

YOUR REUNION IS COMING SOON!
ARE YOU READY?

1954 1959 1964 1969 1974 1979 1984
1989 1994 1999 2004 2009 2014 201

Keep an eye out for communications from your SI class representatives, and check out the Events and Reunions page on **alumni.siprep.org** for more details.

We Remember

Leo La Rocca '53

by Bob Drucker '58

Leo loved being an athletic director. He loved watching teenagers work hard and grow physically and emotionally and improve each year. Having been a talented and competitive athlete himself, he believed that high school athletics were the purest form of competition.

When he was appointed SI's AD, the job was a challenge because SI was in the process of changing leagues from the Academic Athletic Association to the West Catholic Athletic League and occupying a new campus, without a gym, on 37th Ave. The infrastructure of the two leagues was completely different but Leo made the inclusion of SI a success with hard work and diplomacy. He especially loved those times when a team or athlete exceeded expectations and helped their team win an important game. He always reminded his coaches how important it was to exhibit sportsmanship, win or lose, to respect the integrity of the game, and to be truthful with their athletes.

The job was not without its challenges. One afternoon, a young Jesuit scholastic baseball coach came into Leo's office and asked if he could schedule a practice game with St. Francis. Leo handed him the California Interscholastic Federation directory to look up the number to call. While writing down the directions, Leo perked up when he heard the words "405 freeway," quickly grabbed the phone, told the young coach that he didn't think driving to Los Angeles for a frosh baseball game was a great idea, and gave him a lesson on how to read the CIF directory.



The shift to coeducation required another restructuring of the athletic program that Leo successfully managed. Hiring coaches, adjusting the facilities, designing uniforms, and providing additional time and space for practices and games took a lot of discussion, but Leo did it with kind, gentle care. SI's women's athletics program flourishes to this day and is a tribute to Leo's commitment.

As the Varsity Boys Basketball coach for 20 years, Leo was my boss, my assistant coach, and mentor. He sat next to me on the bench for almost every game I ever coached. He watched out for me, managed my impulses during close games, believed in me, and evaluated me in the quiet of his office the following day. Often, Leo would quietly appear in the gym to watch practice. During the break in practice Leo could rarely resist the temptation to throw up a 20-foot hook shot from the corner of the court, hoping that someday he would make one. The players loved watching him attempt the shot and it brought a much needed lightheartedness to practice.

Without Leo, I would not have made it through those 20 years of coaching basketball. For his mentorship and friendship I am eternally grateful.

Leo La Rocca was a great athletic director, mentor, and friend. Despite his imposing physical presence, he was easy to converse with, thoughtful, understanding, always helpful, kind, and aware of the challenges of high school coaching. Leo made us all better.

Jim Dekker '68

By Joe Toboni '70

For more than five decades, I counted Jim Dekker '68 as a friend. It started when he was incredibly kind to me during his junior year, my frosh year, when he was the best player on the varsity summer baseball team and I was the worst. It showed me early on what leaders are made of. Over the years, I thanked him many times for that extra effort. Of course, extra effort was never a problem for Dek.

I had the privilege of watching many of his junior year basketball and baseball games. He was fiercely competitive. I remember a hard fought basketball game at Washington High School where he spent most of the time on the floor diving for loose balls. The image is still fresh in my mind 55 years later.

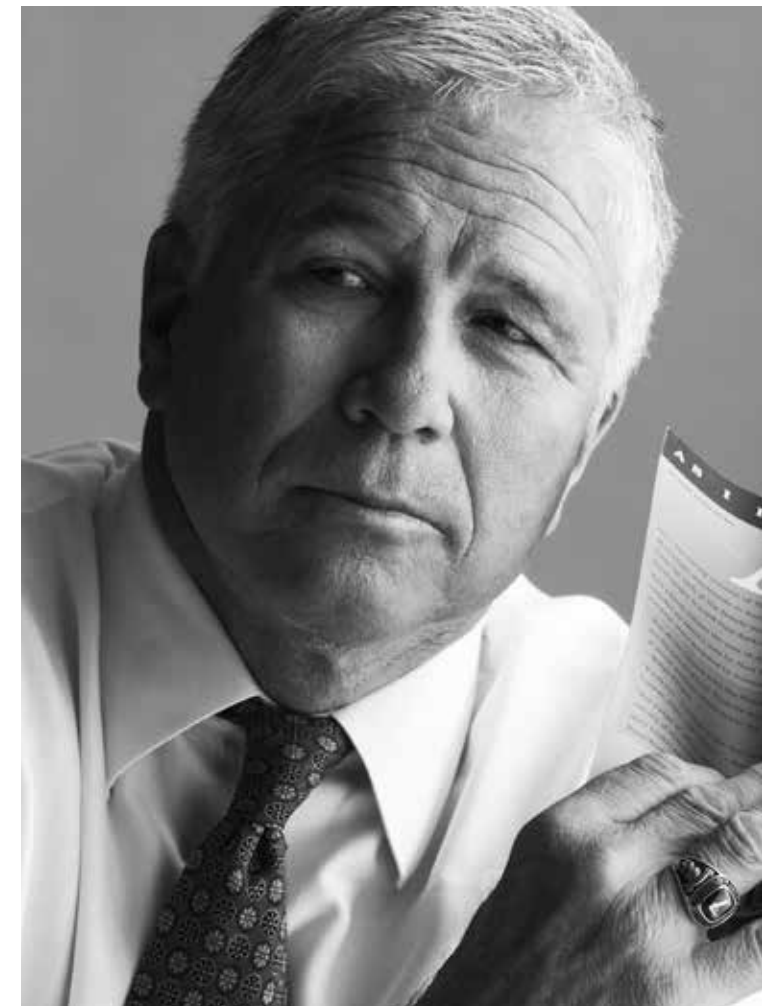
He had been elected student body president in the spring of 1967, and when we got back to school in the fall, he was still recovering in the hospital from a car accident that ended his athletic career. A few weeks into the school year, we had an assembly in the gym, and Dek came walking up the aisle with braces on his legs and crutches wrapped around his arms. It took him at least 10 minutes to get to the stage, but he did it, competitive as ever. And I will never forget those 1,000 tough guys in the gym with tears in our eyes.

His kindness and enthusiasm for others continued long after he graduated high school and became a teacher, coach, and alumni director at SI. Again and again, unprompted, he would tell me and my wife, Mary, how he and his wife, Lorraine, had noticed something one of our children was doing and the joy it brought them.

When I saw him at the funeral for Leo La Rocca '53, we had 15 minutes to catch up; he told me his cancer was bad and he was not going to make it. At the same time, he made it a point to say how proud he was of the work my son Joey '03 and Tim Szarnicki '04 are doing addressing housing in San Francisco. At the doorstep of death, and still enthusiastic for others, still making the extra effort.

Dek was such a wonderful gift to SI, and to everyone who knew him. He will always be a great inspiration to me and we will all miss him terribly. May God bless Jim!

Joe Toboni '70 lives in San Francisco with his wife, Mary. He is parent to Michael '02, Joey '03, Gianna '06, Paul '08, and Jacqueline '10, and a former SI Fathers' Club president.



We Remember



Matt Balano with his son, Marcus

Matt Balano *With and For Others*

Over the decades, many have invited the SI community to embrace the vision of Pedro Arrupe, S.J. that Jesuit education is about forming young people with and for others. Matt Balano, in particular, was singular in how he challenged our community to discern how we were “with” one another at St. Ignatius, as a teacher and our first director for equity and inclusion.

Matt came to the SI community through the *Magis* Middle School Summer Enrichment Program, then became an English teacher at SI. In that role, he noticed a disconnect between the aims of the *Magis* Program and the SI community as a whole. Soon, he and Lizette (Ortega) Dolan '94 created Burning Illusions, a course that traced the history and function of race in America, aiming to help students become more culturally competent.

But Matt saw he could do more. He wanted to challenge the school to move beyond diversity numbers and embrace equity and inclusion as core tenets of our community. He and then-*Magis* Director Abram Jackson gathered student panels to present to faculty and staff

their experiences as students of color at SI. These conversations called us to humbly reflect upon the degree that all were included in our community and challenged SI to discern how we could be more Ignatian. When the school created the director of equity and inclusion position, Matt was a natural choice to take it on.

Matt was not the first to promote diversity at SI. However, he challenged us to build a comprehensive and sustainable approach that did not place the burden of diversity solely on those who had been historically underrepresented. When he left SI in 2017, he told GENESIS, "Do we want to make people of color and other marginalized groups more comfortable in their marginalization, or do we want to change our systems so that all community members can blossom to their full potential?"

Whether he was gathering students, parents, alums, or colleagues, he wanted spaces where people felt that they could work on cultural competence. Accordingly, as director for equity and inclusion, he helped clarify and solidify the school's transition from sponsoring cultural organizations and clubs to sponsoring affinity groups and spaces, and he emphasized professional development, helping departments evaluate and update their curricula for culturally responsive teaching. Perhaps most notably, he was a key adviser when the Social Science and Religious Studies Departments revised their curricula, resulting in the creation of our Ethnic Studies classes, among many changes. Moreover, he spearheaded efforts to evolve SI's hiring practices to put more emphasis on cultural competence and recruit teachers who excelled in this area.

"I owe a great deal of thanks to Mr. Balano," said Bryan Vicente '20, "not just for helping to build programs at SI that contributed to my success, but for believing in me. I know that I am not the only student at SI who was similarly impacted."

Henry Davis '17 said, "Mr. Balano made SI a place of belonging for me and my peers. His role on campus saw him work with a diverse amount of young people, people to whom the world can be unkind. He challenged this with a radical kindness that he brought to each individual and every group he could. From the classroom to extracurriculars, to the more interpersonal moments, Mr. Balano strived to give people like me courage to feel like we belong."

"Matt insistently held firm on policy shifts that ensured all students and families felt valued and supported," said Abram Jackson. "I recently reviewed my text messages with Matt and instantly remembered so many good memories. As I read them with that comforting voice in mind, Matt consistently conveyed care in action — his forever footprint at St. Ignatius — a legacy that I know so many, like myself, who have been touched by his leadership, friendship, and mentorship, will carry on."

We will always continue to confront areas of growth as Ignatians, so we are continually working on being *with* each other. Today, many of our efforts to be faithful to the Jesuits' primary educational objective are still influenced by Matt Balano's work. He loved our community enough to challenge us to be true to our mission, and even years after leaving the school to work elsewhere, Matt continued to believe in SI's mission and often reached back to share his inspiration, hope, knowledge, and love. He will be missed, and we are eternally grateful for the commitment and sacrifice that Matt gave to SI.



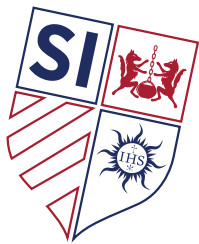
Watch a recording of Matt Balano's memorial service, led by Greg Goethals, S.J. and including remembrances by friends and family

In Memoriam

Armando Lopez '44
Paul A. Kilmartin '47
Rowland Rebele '47
Roy Michael Burnham '48
Louis Robert Soberanis '48
Albert Theis '49
Dr. Donald John De Martini Ed.D '50
Francis Scarpino '50
Robert Maltby Dohrmann '52
Donald Fitzpatrick '52
Leo La Rocca '53
Robert “Bob” Facciola '54
Michael G. Georgandas '54
Donald Jacobberger '54
George L. Marchland '54
Michael Cavanaugh '55
Jack A. Scarmaglia '55
Raymond E. McDonald '56

Steven Barrett '57
John “Jack” McDonough '57
Edmond Joseph Pera '58
Peter Mario Carcione '59
John Kelterer '59
Joseph P. Stone '59
Clifford Vattuone '60
David Tripaldi '61
David Bond '62
Terry Gillin '62
Ronald Giuffre '62
Jim Ringseis '64
Charles Segalas '64
Bradford John Tretten '64
Stephen Conroy '65
Paul Lahaderne '65
Terrance Lee '66
James William Dekker '68

Kenneth G. Wayland '68
James Cross '70
Roger Bottarini '71
John Joseph Webb '72
William Terrence “Bill” Quinlan '76
Paul Iracki '77
Mark John Harvey '79
Bernard Oyharcabal '81
George K. Coviello '84
Steve Simonian '84
Christopher J. Shea '85
Thomas Musni '86
Alvin Esteves '87
Michael Christopher Mason '13
Alexander Hauer-Molero '20



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RED & BLUE

SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024 • 6-11 P.M.

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IN THE CARLIN COMMONS

Last Mass in Orradre Chapel at 4:30 p.m.



FEATURING

Alumni Tasting Pavilion

Dueling Pianos & DJ

Photo Booth

Specialty Cocktails

AND MORE



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