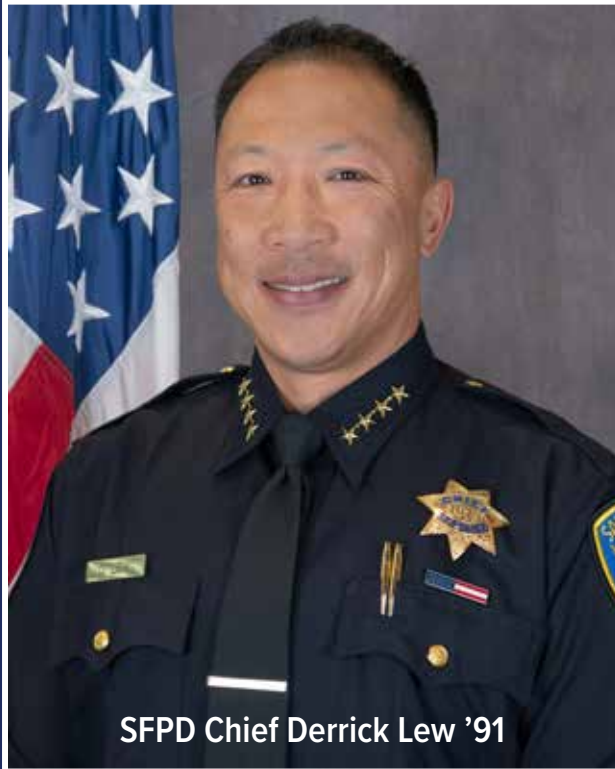


The St. Ignatius College Preparatory Magazine • SUMMER 2026

# GENESIS



SFPD Chief Derrick Lew '91



SFFD Chief Dean Crispin '87

## WHERE LEADERS BEGIN

**New Building, Same Ignatian Focus**



# GENESIS

SUMMER 2026

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# A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear SI Community,

The heart of Jesuit education is forming leaders who go on to shape our city, our region, and our world. Great leaders come in all shapes and sizes, with a plethora of leadership styles, but they all authentically pursue lives of leadership and service.

In this issue of GENESIS, I see that authenticity in San Francisco Fire Department Chief Dean Crispen '87 and San Francisco Police Chief Derrick Lew '91, who both spoke about how they value collaboration and putting talented people in positions to do fulfilling work that serves the public good. I see it in Marilou Ubaldo Lafon '98, who showed her joy in helping child performers develop and grow into young adults through the studio she owns. I see it in the parent volunteers who play a huge role in putting on many events enjoyed by our students while modeling for them how to joyfully engage with a wider community. I saw it in the late Charlie Dullea '65, SI's first lay principal, described beautifully by former colleague Kate Kodros as, "a steady, generous presence," who often said school leadership's job was, "to support the teachers so they can spin their magic."

And I also saw it in the late Edward A. Reese, S.J., my predecessor as SI's president and dear friend. We expect to open the New Learning Commons in 2027, thanks in large part to Fr. Reese's vision and leadership putting us on that track. His boldness also led to the creation of the Fr. Sauer Academy, which, this past school year, graduated its seventh class and continues to bring students to our campus who enrich our community in a variety of ways.

Those two initiatives, alone, cement Fr. Reese's place as one of the most consequential figures in SI's history. For those accomplishments, and much more, I am proud to share that Fr. Reese is the next recipient of SI's President's Award, the highest award our institution bestows upon non-alums. Fittingly, we will formally dedicate the award at the first Mass celebrated in the Edward A. Reese, S.J. Chapel in the New Learning Commons on a to-be-determined date in the spring of 2027.

As events in the world seem to spin at an ever-quicken pace, we form Ignatians who stand on solid ground, fueled by a deep understanding of their God-given gifts and how to use them to meet the world's greatest needs.

*Joseph A. Vollert*

Joseph A. Vollert '84  
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In December 2024, SI President Edward A. Reese, S.J. blesses the groundbreaking for the New Learning Commons



# THE DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

Hi, SI Alums and Friends,

While skilled union workers have been hard at work raising the New Learning Commons, your St. Ignatius Alumni Department has been skillfully bringing Wildcats together through reunions, affinity events, and alumni outreach across the country.

This spring, we hosted our largest-ever SI Law Society Luncheon, welcoming more than 200 guests to the SF Italian Athletic Club in sunny North Beach. Lawyers, judges, district attorneys, public defenders, and members of the SI community gathered to honor John Ring, Esq. '86 and Superior Court Judge Mary Wiss while celebrating the extraordinary impact Ignatians continue to make in the legal profession.

We also welcomed back the Class of 1976 for their Golden Diploma Weekend, one of SI's most cherished traditions. In a moving re-creation of commencement, each alumnus in attendance was called forward to receive a second diploma — this one in gold. Throughout the weekend, classmates reflected on 50 years of friendship, shared memories, and the enduring bond forged through their Ignatian education.

This spring also marked the debut of a new alumni event: Brunch and Bubbles. More than 150 alumni gathered at Mission Rock Resort to reconnect, share stories, and celebrate community. Guests heard from Alumni Board President Martha Shaughnessy '97 and Vice President Camilla Mize '06, who spoke candidly about their experiences as women at SI during a transformative period in the school's history and how the Wildcat network continues to shape their professional and personal lives today.

We also hosted the Admiral Callaghan Society Essay Dinner, which drew record attendance and tremendous energy throughout the evening. Medal of Honor recipient Daniel J. Callaghan, a member of the Class of 1907, remains one of SI's most revered alumni, and his leadership and sacrifice during the Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942 still resonate powerfully today. Students, parents, and alumni heard inspiring remarks from Lt. Cmdr. Scott Goossens '06, former Blue Angel and naval aviator, and Ambassador William E. Grayson, recipient of the Spiritus Magis Award for excellence in community service and professional accomplishment. We also recognized four seniors who have committed to military service through the Air Force Academy, Naval Academy, and Navy ROTC.

These events represent only a glimpse of what it means to belong to the St. Ignatius alumni community. The common Ignatian thread that unites us remains as strong as ever.

It never gets old to say it:  
We are... SI.

*Tom Hsieh*

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

SI alumni marched together to Chase Center ahead of the Bruce-Mahoney basketball games in January 2026



# NEWSFROMSI

## REPRESENTING SI AT D.C. TEACH-IN FOR JUSTICE

In November, 12 SI students represented the school at the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C. Hosted by the Ignatian Solidarity Network, IFTJ is an annual gathering for members of the Ignatian family (those affiliated with both Jesuit institutions and the larger Catholic Church) to gather in the context of social justice and solidarity to learn, reflect, pray, network, and advocate together. The participating students were: Caitlin Ciresi '26, Alva Fahlgren '26, Samantha Goethals '26, Giovanni Gonzalez '26, Amelia Haller '26, Camila Limo Fernandez '26, Karina Barance '27, A.K. Bolano '27, Lana Manoat '27, Xavier Mendoza '27, Alexandra Wallerstein '27, and Charlotte Furey '28, accompanied by teachers Hermes Ruiz and Phyllis Tonna '14.



## ALUMS EDUCATE MEDCATS ABOUT THEIR CAREER PATHS

Dr. Shweshva Govil '08 returned to campus to speak with the MedCats club about becoming a doctor of osteopathic medicine. She answered questions about her preparations for medical school, how she achieves work-life balance, and more. The visit concluded with opportunities for students to use Dr. Govil's equipment to examine each other's reflexes and ears. Later in the school year, Dr. Anthony Ea '01 spoke to students about his career as an interventional cardiologist. *Dr. Anthony Ea '01 with MedCats leadership*



### TEACHER CONTRIBUTES TO JESUIT SCHOLARLY PUBLICATION

Religious Studies teacher Dr. Sara Hoverstad has begun editing book reviews for "Theological Studies," a quarterly, Catholic scholarly journal founded and sponsored by the Society of Jesus, and one of the oldest continuous academic journals in theological studies. She said, "I am trained as a Catholic theologian and ethicist, so I enjoy serving the scholarly community as a book review editor. It is also a wonderful opportunity to be connected with colleagues around the world and stay up to date with new developments to inform my teaching."

### SI'S 17TH PASKO CELEBRATION

Once again, SI's Pasko celebration was a big hit. The event, hosted by SIPAC, is a celebration of Christmas traditions featuring student performances, audience participation, and an abundance of food. Thank you to the many students and adult volunteers who contributed their time and talents, and thank you to all who came!



## HELPING STUDENTS NAVIGATE CHOICES

In January, Elissa Asch, founder of Consent Wise, spoke at an all-school assembly organized by the Wellness Department. In her talk, she shared with students information about how different substances — nicotine, alcohol, opioids, and marijuana — interact with the body and how young people can make informed decisions about using such substances in a variety of situations. The assembly was followed by a webinar for parents that night aimed at supporting families as they help teens navigate their choices.

## MLK DAY MARCH

On Jan. 19, SI students, parents, faculty, staff, and alumni spent a beautiful Monday participating in San Francisco's Martin Luther King Day march. The SI contingent included representation from parent groups, affinity groups, and many others to honor Dr. King's legacy.



## SOCIAL JUSTICE SUMMIT FEATURES JOSE ANTONIO VARGAS

The keynote speaker for SI's 4th Annual Social Justice Summit was Jose Antonio Vargas, a Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist, Emmy-nominated filmmaker, and theatrical producer. Mr. Vargas shared his personal history about growing up in the Bay Area as an undocumented immigrant and asked students to consider more deeply how they define what it means to be "American," particularly in the context of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy. In keeping with our theme for the year, "Journeying With Youth," later in the week, students reflected upon Mr. Vargas's address and our community was invited to ask critical questions about our identities, family stories, recognition of others' stories, and how we are called to respond when dignity and justice are at stake.

## YOUTH POETS HONORED

Elizabeth Foster '27 (left), Aisha McCulloch '27 (center), and Sasha Miller '26 (right) were among the final 16 participants in San Francisco's Youth Poet Laureate workshops, conducted in the fall and winter of 2025-26.

McCulloch was named the city's Youth Poet Vice Laureate at a ceremony in January. She said, "The program was a catalyst for discovering my voice, and helped me discern how I write best and in what ways my process is different from other writers."

Miller said, "The program was welcoming and open, and our mentors were super supportive as they fostered our creativity. I appreciated that they helped us find our own path and build out our own vision."

Foster added, "Feedback and constructive criticism are such an important part of the creative process, and I am grateful I got the chance to form a community with talented artists who helped me understand the power of my words, especially when shared with other people."



## FOOTBALL TEAM HONORED BY SAN FRANCISCO BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

After winning the Div. 3-AA state championship, SI's football team was invited to a San Francisco Board of Supervisors meeting in February, where several seniors and head coach JaJuan Lawson accepted congratulations and a certificate of honor.



## DISTRICT ATTORNEY VISITS FR. SAUER ACADEMY FOR CAREER PANEL

San Francisco District Attorney Brooke Jenkins and Sydney Allen, Esq. '09 visited the Fr. Sauer Academy in early February. The guests visited classes, then participated in a Black History Month panel where they spoke and answered student questions about their careers as lawyers and advancing professionally as Black women.

## AWARD-WINNING POET COMES TO SI

National Poetry Series winner MaKshya Tolbert (center-left) read from their collection of poems, "Shade Is A Place," and was joined in conversation with English teacher Jeremy Mann (center-right) about creating art and connection across difference. Students Liam Guiland '28 (left) and Aisha McCulloch '27 (right) also read original poems for the audience in Wilsey Library.





## CONGRATULATIONS TO SI'S NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALISTS

Three SI students were named finalists in the prestigious National Merit Scholar competition. Pictured left to right, with Principal Michelle Nevin Levine (left) and Assistant Principal for Academics Danielle Devencenzi Cronin '97 (right), Jordan Liu '26, Bobby Mullin '26, and Josh Lee '26 were among 15,000 students to achieve the honor nationwide out of about 1.3 million entrants. National Merit Scholars are selected on the basis of exceptional standardized test scores and an application for recognition, which includes an essay, school endorsement, and more.

## USHERING IN THE YEAR OF THE HORSE

In February, at an event hosted by the Asian Student Coalition and SIPAC, SI celebrated the Lunar New Year in the Student Center. The evening featured a traditional lion dance, games, food, and an appearance from special guest San Francisco Chief of Police Derrick Lew '91.



## BSU SHOWCASE: WONDERFUL STUDENT PERFORMANCES, AND BLACK EXCELLENCE AWARD

This year's Black Student Union showcase, themed "Soul Train: The Rhythm of Black History," was a vibrant celebration of Black culture, music, tradition and movement through the decades. Performances included live music, dance routines, spoken word, and tributes to Black icons from multiple eras. Volunteers from AALPA helped organize the event, which was held in Cowell Pavilion and the Student Center.

SI also honored Timothy Alan Simon, Esq. '73 with this year's Black Excellence Award. The award is bestowed annually to a deserving alum for their contributions to the development and success of SI's Black student community. In addition to a long career in public life that included serving on the California Public Utilities Commission, chairman of the board of directors for the California African American Chamber of Commerce, and many other roles, Mr. Simon previously served as a regent and trustee for SI.

## SI JCL EXCELS AT ANNUAL CONVENTION

SI Junior Classical League attended the 71st Annual California JCL Convention, earning multiple awards and accolades. As a group, the delegation won 1st place in the Talent Show, 1st place in the scavenger hunt, and the Spirit Award. Individually, Zoe Aguasin-Horace '26 won 1st place in the 100-Meter and 200-Meter track events, Andrew Ballantyne '26 won 1st place for Photography (Computer-Enhanced), Georgia Parr '27 won 1st place for Jewelry, and Sawyer Salisbury '28 won 1st place for Sight Latin Reading. The other student representatives were Cameron Ko '26, Maddie Dela Rama '27, Gia Song '27, Connor Slatton '27, Radhika Saha '28, Amisa Maharjan '28, Luca Colant '29, and Wesley Fischer '29.



## HONORS STRINGS PERFORMS AT GIANTS GAME

SI Honors Strings performed the national anthem before a Giants game at Oracle Park over Easter break.

## CHORUS PERFORMS IN NEW YORK

On April 10, the Treble and Chamber Singers performed in Carnegie Hall with other choirs from around the country.



## DANCE VISITS NEW YORK

Also over Easter break, dance students visited New York and got to take a class at the Broadway Dance Center.

## ETHICS BOWL TEAM EXCELS IN NATIONAL TOURNAMENT

SI's Ethics Bowl team finished in 5th place at the national tournament in North Carolina, held in April. In addition, the team was honored with the Spirit of the Ethics Bowl award. Congratulations to the team: (L to R) Pierce Winters '26, Samantha Goethals '26, Bobby Mullin '26, Tai Morganson '26, and Alex Salentine '26.



## UN MUNDO DE COLORES: A MOSAIC OF OUR CULTURES

For this year's ALAS Latinx Showcase, held in the spring, parent volunteers transformed Cowell Pavilion into a vibrant and welcoming space celebrating Latinx culture, community, and belonging, and students proudly celebrated their roots and culture through their performances.



## "MEAN GIRLS" NOMINATED FOR MAJOR AWARD

SI's production of "Mean Girls" received a nomination for Outstanding Cast in the 2nd annual Sara Bareilles Awards. Judges visited 41 high schools performing 57 productions from 12 counties in Northern California. The "Mean Girls" cast performed on the Orpheum stage in San Francisco for judges in the final round of the competition in early May.



## TEACHER HONORED WITH APA AWARD

In April, Eric Castro '92 was selected as a 2026 American Psychological Association TOPSS Charles T. Blair-Broeker Excellence in Teaching Award recipient, a national award which recognizes outstanding teachers in psychology. He said, "I am surprised by how much this means to me. Some students can articulate what the psychology classes have meant to them; others cannot. After 28 years of this, getting this award from folks who teach the same things as I do, to roughly similar students, across the country is gratifying, for lack of a better term. I also want to thank the SI administration for the academic freedom that enables this kind of work. Psychology classes can be chaotic and messy; stories about the topics we cover can spread out of context; and our demonstrations and instructional materials sometimes cost real money. The support of administrators has been vital to the success of these classes."



## INTERNATIONAL FOOD FAIRE PRESENTS WORLD CUISINE

In early May, students, parents, and friends of SI gathered in Cowell Pavilion for the International Food Faire. There, they enjoyed student performances and food representing cultures including African-American, Latino, Portuguese, Jewish, Chinese, Eastern European, Filipino, Vietnamese, Greek, Indian, Italian, Irish, and a pupusa booth.



## ENGINEERING CLASS RACES CARDBOARD BOATS

Students built boats out of cardboard, tape, and garbage bags that were required to carry two paddlers, then raced them in the pool. The annual tradition once again drew a large and raucous crowd for the final heat, which featured six boats that had emerged victorious in earlier races.

Watch a video  
showing students  
building and racing  
the boats!



## TRANSITION LITURGY AT HOLY NAME OF JESUS CHURCH

For the year-end Transition Liturgy, students again walked to Holy Name of Jesus Church in the Sunset. Following tradition, a reflection was presented by a retiring faculty member: Sandra Schwarz, who completed her 36th year at SI. At the end of Mass, seniors presented juniors with SI pins, symbolizing new leadership in the student body. 





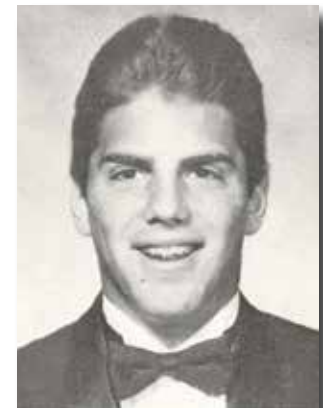
# SI Alums Leading San Francisco Public Safety

**In January 2025, Dean Crispin '87 was named the chief of the San Francisco Fire Department. Less than a year later, in December 2025, Derrick Lew '91 was named chief of the San Francisco Police Department, marking the first time the SFFD and SFPD were led by SI alums at the same time.**

In interviews with GENESIS, the two men spoke about their journeys to these positions, how their high school experiences formed them, their relationship with each other as they strive to make San Francisco safer, their philosophies on leadership, and more.

When reflecting on their time in the Sunset, both chiefs noted the strong bonds between classmates and said they were grateful for how Jesuit education at SI helped develop their confidence and their character. In particular, there were specific adults whose care, encouragement, and guidance played a major role in their growth.

Chief Lew pointed to longtime Dean of Students Douglas Draper, S.J. as a key influence on his life, saying, "Br. Draper was a disciplinarian and hard-nosed — you didn't want to be the object of one of his lectures — but I also learned that, even though he had an outsized reputation for upholding discipline, he was very compassionate. More than a few times, as a student, I forgot my basketball shoes at home, or my homework, and found myself trying to explain to Br. Draper what had happened and asking if I could go home quickly to fix the problem. In all of those situations, whatever the outcome, I understood not only the disciplinary standard he wanted for me, but that he could see me as an individual."



Chief Crispen noted that he long considered himself an ordinary student, but a teacher's encouragement gave him the confidence to pursue more, saying, "Senior year, Mike Silvestri '67 pulled me aside. I had been in his math class, and at first I wondered if I had done something wrong, but in the hallway he told me I was pretty talented at math and asked if I had ever considered a career in the field. He guided me into what ended up being a career path in accounting."



Though he joined the fire department while finishing his college degree, Chief Crispin continued pursuing accounting and did side work in the field during his first few years as a firefighter. "That care Mr. Silvestri had for me, and being singled out for something positive, was really valuable," he said.

Both chiefs described their careers as a calling and directly connected their decisions to heed the call to service to lessons they learned at SI. Chief Lew said his family had minimal connections to law enforcement, and he had already started a career in finance when, after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, he reconsidered if he was on the right course.

"I began to wonder if, 10, 15, or 20 years in the future I would look back and be fulfilled by my career," Chief Lew said. "And I couldn't escape the idea that I was meant to be of service in some way. I truly felt a calling to be a cop in San Francisco — I wouldn't have done it anywhere else and the SFPD was the only department where I applied, at age 29. I even went through the academy twice, because the first time I had a knee injury that kept me from finishing. I remember being in the hospital, recovering from that injury, and my mother asked me why I was doing this. I told her that I was definitely going back because I had a clear vision of the importance of police work, and I felt it was how I should serve."

For his part, Chief Crispin said, "To be really good at this job, you have to have a calling, and you can't fake it. You have to care about people and their outcomes, and you have to be connected to the community, which was demonstrated for me at SI and by my father, who was a fire department captain. He really cared about the people who worked for him, and they were like family to him. I think that's really important in the fire department because our people can be in stressful situations, yet have to perform well as a group, and afterward have to take care of each other to get through traumatic experiences."

As they rose through the ranks of their respective departments, the two chiefs developed a relationship that continues to pay dividends today. Before Chief Lew's appointment to lead the police department, the two worked on San Francisco's Drug Market Agency Coordination Center, a multi-agency task force that seeks to address street conditions and crime attributable to drug dealing and consumption in the Tenderloin and South of Market neighborhoods. Their close partnership has continued after Chief Lew's elevation, and so they have particular insight into how the other leads.

Chief Crispin said, "Derrick led DMACC prior to being named chief, he is still very involved, and I gained a lot of respect for him in that position. I think because we are both operations people who embraced those positions, now we both understand the operational piece of our departments, which allows us to really connect with the boots on the ground."

Chief Crispin continued, "I have noticed that the people who work with Derrick have an incredible amount of respect for him. I think it's because he's worked the ranks; every position he has ever been in is the most important position for him. I feel that mirrors my career, and that's a deep connection we have. At the end of the day, we are public servants, and we learned at SI the value of being connected to the community and respecting all the people we serve."

For his part, Chief Lew was equally effusive speaking about the fire chief, saying, "I love Dean Crispin. Given his seniority as a department leader, he's been something of a mentor to me, showing me the ropes. I think we do have a natural camaraderie being SI alums, and that connection helps us work together trying to make our city better. Working together on DMACC means that Dean and I talk multiple times each week about what we're doing to impact the fentanyl crisis in our city, a major public safety issue. As a city kid, I want to do everything I can to be part of that solution, and it's super cool that I get to work with Dean, a fellow Ignatian."

Looking ahead, the chiefs have ambitious goals. They both articulated visions for their departments that acknowledged unique challenges presented by San Francisco — notably the cost of living in the Bay Area — while also embracing ideas rooted in the value each department can generate by helping build strong communities in the city.

"The job of a firefighter is evolving," Chief Crispin said. "When I joined the fire department, most of my cohort were not EMTs, and many of us viewed our job as, 'We fight fires.' We still fight fires, but firefighters are asked to do so much more, now, particularly responding to medical calls in order to help people suffering from substance abuse and mental health issues. We also have San Francisco firefighters performing cliff rescues and underwater scuba diving operations. We have helicopter rescue technicians. All of this requires a lot of training because our area is prone to a wide array of events that may be infrequent, but very dangerous — think earthquakes, tsunami, and we even had a tornado warning fairly recently. You have to have

comprehensive training and put people in simulations that prepare them for when the disaster or emergency happens. I think that will be my legacy, that our training has gone to a level that has never been seen before."

He continued, "I have also pushed and encouraged our members to be really invested in San Francisco communities, and I am working to get our members to live, if not in San Francisco, closer to the city. Part of that is operational, but I am also doing it for cultural reasons. San Francisco is a city of neighborhoods, just about every neighborhood in the city has a firehouse, and I think our city is better when our members are truly a part of the community, both on and off duty."

Chief Lew spoke enthusiastically about the role technology can play in policing, saying, "The department has made a lot of progress with our real-time investigation center, which, with

the talented people running it and the essential work of people on the ground, brings together all sorts of data that allows us to quickly take in information from people who are reporting a problem and then be very efficient and precise about how we are spending our time. For example, when it comes to auto burglaries, a very small fraction of people are responsible for an outsized percentage of that particular crime. Ideally, we want to get the necessary information so that we can secure an apprehension and create the best case for a prosecution, which is helped by being efficient and precise, but it also matters a lot that we have the kind of information that allows us, say, to stop only the one car with our suspect in it instead of eight or nine cars that do not have our suspect. We don't want to stop the wrong people, and we also want people in our communities and people who might commit crimes to know that we are very good at this."

**“I think, from listening to people in San Francisco, our citizens think the SFPD should excel at our core function: responding to 9-1-1 calls, investigations, apprehension, maintaining a presence to ensure public safety.”**

SFPD Chief Derrick Lew '91



Chief Lew, Chief Crispin, and San Francisco Sheriff Paul Miyamoto



Chief Crispin, Chief Lew, Principal Michelle Nevin Levine, and President Joe Vollert '84

Chief Lew added, "I think, from listening to people in San Francisco, our citizens think the SFPD should excel at our core function: responding to 9-1-1 calls, investigations, apprehension, maintaining a presence to ensure public safety. No one wants heavy-handedness, but when a person calls 9-1-1, something bad has happened to them and they need help. We need to get there as quickly as possible and solve that problem in the most professional and efficient way as possible."

Being chief of a big city public safety department will always be a complex job. However, the chiefs both said they are confident in the teams they have in place in their respective departments. For their parting thoughts, they described key similarities in how they approach leadership.

Chief Lew said, "I am very much a collaborative person. I've never been one to dictate to the rest of the command staff. I understand that the buck stops with me and that, ultimately, I will be making some hard decisions and be responsible for those decisions. But I always want to hear what subject matter experts have to say because I hope I'm humble enough to understand, at core, that I am not the expert in everything. There are super-talented people who have a lot of dedication to the city, who have been doing their work for a long time, and are experts at what they do. I would be a fool not to listen to them and formulate strategies with them."

"But also, everyone in the SFPD has value, no matter what their role is, and I think that's true of any organization. A big part of

my job is articulating our mission so that people understand they have purpose, that there's a why for what they do. They also need the freedom to do their best work, with proper guard rails that put them in position to succeed."

Chief Crispin also stressed the importance of collaboration, saying, "I'm very collaborative. If you talk to my team, they'll tell you I bring a lot of people into decision-making, I make important decisions slowly, and I try to get everybody's input before making those decisions. A mistake a lot of people make in leadership is only talking to their inner circle before making a decision, and then they later find out information that would have changed their minds."

"I also think your leadership ought to continuously evolve with the personnel that come on board. I want to find out what makes people tick because I believe there will be a certain group of people who are going to toe the line and do as directed, and there are some people who need nudging one way or another — using sugar or salt. You want to get buy-in from as many people as possible, but as chief, you have to kind of accept that there are going to be some folks who aren't in favor of your management style, or don't agree with some decisions. You won't be the most popular person in every corner, and that's tough because you may want to be loved by all. But to lead everybody, you have to accept that some people have a different way of looking at things, rely on managers to help guide them, and you can't take that singular responsibility completely upon yourself."

**“I also think your leadership ought to continuously evolve with the personnel that come on board.”**

Chief Dean Crispin '87

# NEW LEARNING COMMONS

# MORE THAN A BUILDING

By Joe Vollert '84 • SI President

Last fall, the St. Ignatius Alumni Association hosted a networking event on the evolution of venture capital at the offices of Mintz, led by managing partner Steve Osborn '94. In conversation with alums Tripp Jones '99, a partner at Uncork and SI Trustee, and Elliot Geidt '99, a partner at Redpoint, Mr. Jones offered a striking observation: we are living through a once-in-a-millennium moment of technological innovation and disruption, and we sit at the very epicenter of that revolution. Artificial intelligence will not only transform how we work and what we do, but also how we learn and live our daily lives.

In many ways, the opening of the New Learning Commons in early spring 2027 coincides with this epochal shift. While the NLC creates space for the Edward A. Reese, S.J. Chapel, dozens of new classrooms, the Hub, and a new commons area, the vision behind it cuts to the heart of Jesuit education.

I often say that Jesuit education is "hand-to-hand combat." The eyeball-to-eyeball encounter between teacher and student is what forms our young Ignatians into leaders. That may sound like a bold claim, but teaching is a sacred responsibility, and true education is a deeply human experience. The New Learning Commons is designed to create the conditions for those relationships to flourish.

The Commons itself will be a gathering place where students can eat, socialize, and study — a space where learning is both ubiquitous and communal. One of the defining challenges of our time is increasing human isolation, and part of our response is to intentionally create spaces where students come together and build community. Scattered across all four floors of the NLC will be dozens of breakout rooms and collaboration spaces for group study and project work. The first floor will also feature a large, library-style quiet study area alongside a dedicated large-group study space.



“Teaching is a sacred responsibility, and true education is a deeply human experience. The New Learning Commons is designed to create the conditions for those relationships to flourish.”

Tucked into the northwest corner of the NLC is the Edward A. Reese, S.J. Chapel and chapel garden. Dedicating sacred space, where students can strengthen their faith, discover their God-given gifts, and discern how those gifts might meet the world's greatest needs, is central to the SI experience. Quiet reflection need not be reserved for the occasional retreat; it belongs in the rhythm of daily Ignatian life.

If we were to step into an SI classroom in the 1980s, we would likely recognize much of the curriculum — with the notable exception of science — but see vastly different teaching methods. In other words, what we teach is relatively similar; how we teach continues to evolve. Students do as much, if not more, learning outside the classroom than inside. Walk through the Student Center or the library, and you will find students working together on projects or studying for tests together. “Homework” has taken on a whole new meaning, with mastery of the material trumping day-to-day busywork.



# NEW LEARNING COMMONS

## ENHANCING PERSONAL ATTENTION TO STUDENTS

By Danielle Devencenzi-Cronin '97 • Assistant Principal for Academics

At SI, our priority is providing personalized education for our students, and the New Learning Commons is built to enhance teachers' ability to give that close, personal, eyeball-to-eyeball attention Mr. Vollert identified as a hallmark of Ignatian education. Faculty have been involved in the NLC process from day one, and I am excited about what we will be able to do with the thoughtfully-designed spaces in the new building.

For example, many of the class spaces have adjacent breakout rooms where students can go for focused work or conversation that is best done away from the larger group while still within view of their teacher. Imagine a math class where a few students who have mastered a given concept use the breakout room to tackle something new while the teacher works with the full class. Or, imagine a language class doing a project in small groups in the main space while rotating into the breakout room individually to speak with the teacher.

Principles of personal attention and flexible space go beyond the classroom. The NLC will also include a teacher-student collaboration room, a dedicated location for faculty and students to meet outside of class time. Our students are generally very good at advocating for themselves and asking for help, and the collaboration room is a new type of space teachers can leverage to give students personalized attention, whether that is meeting in its larger common area or in the collaboration room's various corners and alcoves with different types of seating, whiteboards, and other tools.

“I genuinely believe that having that sense of place and natural beauty inspires creativity, pumps up curiosity, and, overall, activates learning in students.”

Speaking of tools at our disposal, I am mindful of the promise and perils of new technologies. In order to form leaders who do incredible things made possible by those technologies, we will need to set them on paths where they learn how to use and build upon them without stunting their fundamental abilities to think, problem-solve, and engage with the world. Our values and mission statement guide our work, so as we have considered which technologies we implement in the NLC, we have anchored our decisions in whether those tools benefit student learning.

Finally, there is one more element of the NLC that I believe deserves special mention for how it will affect our students' academics. The new building has large windows with sweeping views of the surrounding neighborhood and beyond, out to the Pacific Ocean, the Marin Headlands, Sutro Tower, and more. I genuinely believe that having that sense of place and natural beauty inspires creativity, pumps up curiosity, and, overall, activates learning in students. That makes sense, because when we have access to the outside environment, our brains are stimulated in different ways than when we do not, which is why we have made a concerted effort to bring our classes outside the four walls of the classroom in recent years. In the new building, the outside world will be more accessible — both through windows and on the rooftop terrace and the west terrace.

We will go into the NLC without all the answers — as Principal Michelle Nevin Levine says, the students' experience will guide us. But we are excited for the opportunity to try new things, form new habits, and reinforce that Ignatian education is built upon close, personal relationships between teachers and students, feeding each other's creativity.



# As Simple as Going for a Walk

## Building Connections, Five Decades On



In the Winter 2025 issue of GENESIS, we featured Chris Spano '80 in the Alumni Spotlight series, and he told us about hikes that he began organizing during the pandemic to reconnect with friends from the Class of 1980.

What started as a way for Mr. Spano to be present with his friends during uncertain times evolved into a cherished tradition for him and many of his classmates. During our conversation last year, we asked him what he thought these outings meant to his fellow Wildcats.

"I'm not sure. You'd have to ask them," he answered.

So, we did ask them, and we found recurring themes of belonging, pride, and vulnerability.

Rich Bechtel '80 was unavailable when Mr. Spano first invited him to take a hike together in the hills behind his house.

"He gave a couple of options, and none of the dates worked. A lot of guys would let that go," said Mr. Bechtel. "But not Chris. He offered to check back in a few months to find a time that worked. We went for a few more rounds of this until we finally set a date."

So they walked — just the two of them — for about eight miles, reminiscing about their favorite classes at SI and the classmates with whom they have kept in touch.

"Chris and I were good friends back in high school, but we hadn't seen each other in about 15 or 20 years. On this first walk, we got back to our friendship," he said.

Mr. Spano compiled the stories and experiences he gathered with Mr. Bechtel and others who joined him for individual

outings, and he posted them to Facebook. Quickly, the posts caught the attention of other men in the Class of 1980, who inquired about joining.

"Concentrating on a wide variety of classmates and letting them tell their story resonated with our class. In a way, their story turned into everyone's story," said John Barbieri '80, a class representative and a co-recipient of an Alumni Certificate of Appreciation at the class's 45th reunion this past fall, sharing the recognition with Mr. Spano.

Paul Fitzpatrick '80 joked that he joined during "season two" of these hikes, a season that eventually added more cast members and new locations.

"I did it for the first time in tandem with another classmate of mine, Jim Deasy," Mr. Fitzpatrick said. "We had a great time catching up. It was a beautiful day. Shortly thereafter, Chris came up with the idea of walking on a Saturday or Sunday morning with more guys. The first one I went to was at the Polo Fields, and we had probably 15 to 20 guys, with some friends and some that I didn't even really know in high school."

These hikes took on new life. More Wildcats attended, with some excursions attracting as many as 45 classmates. Sometimes they were attached to other events, like a holiday three-day weekend or the "Super Bowl Shuffle." With larger scale and more demand to connect as a class, leaders stepped up.

Mr. Spano pointed out, "There are four or five of us who run lead on different events. John Barbieri, of course, is our fearless leader. Tony Clifford does his thing. Mark Hazelwood and Dennis DiMartini. It's a group effort."

As they grew in scale, these hikes also grew in importance. Perhaps counterintuitively, the larger the outing, the more opportunities for intimate connection. The very nature of these experiences is inviting to folks who have not re-engaged with the Class of 1980 since graduation; the physicality of the activity and the simplicity of nature lower the stakes and ease the pressure of returning to the fold.

"These hikes have brought people together that normally wouldn't go to a group setting. Some folks may have been challenged by life and found that being with Class of '80 brethren, hiking in the wilderness, and trading life stories was

therapeutic," noted Tony Clifford '80, member of the SI Alumni Board.

These walks go on for hours, giving the classmates the space to move freely from one chat to the next, and the time to dive into conversations as profound as the roots of the trees that watch over them.

"It's the ups and the downs. The guys are really real on these walks. That's the nature of being together and 50 years of knowing each other. It's wonderful hearing everybody's stories," said Mr. Bechtel. "There's a familiarity and the common place we share, which is high school in our case. You think of the great Jesuit value of honesty, and guys are honest and sincere with each other. There's a lot of good that comes from that. Some guys need to talk."

Mr. Fitzpatrick added, "It's a good opportunity to catch up with people. You talk about memories of SI, your kids, the things you have going on now. It's almost like a mini retreat. Some of the people on these walks have gone through some tough things

in their personal life. And it's a safe environment for guys to get things off their chest."

Families and divorce. Good health and struggles. Nostalgia for the past and hopeful horizons. Conversations go anywhere and everywhere they are needed.

Anytime a pack of Cats gather, stories and laughter threaten to blow the roof off any place bold enough to try to contain them. But there was an extra buzz in the room when the Class of 1980 gathered in the SF Italian Athletic Club in October 2025 for its 45-year reunion.

Mr. Clifford said, "Through Chris's actions, some classmates have been reinvigorated."

That reinvigoration was palpable, a testament to the value these hikes add to the classmates' lives and their identity as a group. The Class of 1980 has always been close, and these moments of connection — sharing stories and being outdoors — have strengthened their bond even further. 

**"The guys are really real on these walks. That's the nature of being together and 50 years of knowing each other. It's wonderful hearing everybody's stories."**



# SI Parent Volunteers: Fun, Friendship, Service

Over four years, your high school becomes a second home, you grow, and you make new friends you look forward to seeing for the rest of your life. But you are not a student... You are an SI parent.

The SI community is fortunate to have a heavily involved parent community, many of whom are dedicated volunteers. SI parents operate concessions at athletics events, run fundraising events, put on cultural events for students and parents alike, and more.

Several parents spoke to GENESIS about volunteering at SI. They shared how fulfilling their experiences have been, strongly encouraging others to come join SI's parent groups, have fun volunteering and socializing at various events, and build stronger connections with the school.



**Jesus Carrillo**  
FSA/SI Parent

When our daughter was at Fr. Sauer Academy, my wife, Vanessa, started volunteering whenever there was an opportunity. We started meeting more families and became very good friends with many of them. After our daughter started at SI, we wanted to continue that, so I signed up to help the Fathers' Club with concessions at football games. I am very happy I got out of my comfort zone to volunteer because they welcomed me with open arms, it has been entirely positive, and now, even more, **we love being part of the parent community at this school.**



**Kealy Murray**  
SI Parent, 2025-26 Ignatian Guild President

When my eldest started at SI in 2020, the challenges of COVID and having only a small cohort from her prior school left me feeling uncertain about how we would integrate into the community. At the start, I received a phone call from Ignatian Guild President Sheila McCarthy, which made me feel extraordinarily welcome. The Guild did an exceptional job of bringing people together appropriately during a time of social distancing so that we could meet and build community. It far exceeded my expectations, and, from that point on, I have felt that the more I put in, the more I get out. My family has had a rich experience at every turn, whether with faculty, staff, sports teams, or the community in general.

Through my roles as a 2024 fashion show co-chair and this year's Ignatian Guild president, **I have come to deeply value the immense effort SI parents dedicate to creating memorable experiences.** It is truly rewarding to witness the happiness these events bring to both students and parents alike. There are so many opportunities to get involved — The Big Event, Ignatian Women's Retreat, Mother-Son/Mother-Daughter Dances, Mom's Night Out, International Food Faire, Pasko, affinity group showcases, Crab Feed, and more. Simply put, there's something for everyone.



**Josh Shaskan**  
SI Parent, 2025-26 Fathers' Club President

I have always tried to show up and be there for my children, whether that meant helping coach their sports teams when they were younger, or later getting involved at their school. I believe by volunteering at school, I'm sending a supportive message, that I will always be there for them. But also, I have a lot of really good friends from meeting and spending time working on the auction and other various events at SI, people I am going to be friends with the rest of my life thanks to our shared experiences.

A big thing about being a parent volunteer at SI is that **the more you volunteer, the smaller the school feels, because you start building friendships with people you might otherwise never have met,** and it feels good to be able to walk into any room and see people you already know. I never want people to think SI is asking people for a big volunteering commitment — for the Fathers' Club, try helping out with the concessions at a game a few times, whatever makes sense for you. See how you feel meeting new people and how it will build from there.



**Robyn White**  
SI Parent

Our kids grew up in a smaller parochial school in Marin, so I wasn't sure what to expect when our eldest started at SI. We quickly discovered an incredibly welcoming community that our whole family has loved being a part of. Early on, I volunteered at the senior fashion show check-in table, where I hit it off with the mom working beside me. We realized we had so much in common, and she was the one who first encouraged me to get more involved and mentioned the Prep Shop.

Because I work, I'm only on campus about once a month, but even that time has given me a much better pulse on school life. Seeing SI "in action" during the day, at a football game, or at other special events offers a unique perspective on what makes this place so special. The school makes it easy to dive in, and the Prep Shop team is flexible with busy schedules. **I highly recommend volunteering, even in a small way; it is such a rewarding way to meet people and help build the community that supports our kids.**



**Cristhians Leon**  
FSA/SI Parent, AALPA Co-President

When my older son started at SI, I was happily surprised to find welcoming, friendly, and supportive parents. Clearly, we have one of the best alumni and parent communities of San Francisco high schools. My youngest is now a senior in the Class of 2026. I got involved with parent groups because I wanted to make sure that he had a role model to look to as an example of how to be a community member, and I wanted to encourage him to participate and step out of his comfort zone.

I think that all SI parents should try to get involved in some way. **This is our children's education and it's important that we create and maintain a positive community.** The parent groups do a lot of good and without them the SI community would be incomplete. Also, getting involved shows our kids our commitment to them, and it is another opportunity to get to know them more and help them grow. High school is just a few short years, and it's important that we appreciate them. *Photo: Cristhians Leon with son Yair '26*



### Julian Ware '89

SI Parent, AALPA Co-President

I was an active participant in the BSU when I was a student at SI and there were no parent affinity groups at that time, so when my child came to school here it was kind of mind-blowing to learn about AALPA. Our model for affinity groups — students and adults — is about inclusion and belonging. Anything we can do to help people feel comfortable being their full selves in any space within our community is important. And I am happy to see so many parents who are involved with AALPA and involved with the Fathers' Club and the Ignatian Guild.

Ultimately, it's just simply fun to build relationships with a lot of different people, getting to know them and their families. We are involved to help serve the school community, for sure, but I keep coming back to **my highest reward is how much fun I have getting to know so many different parents, all while feeling more connected to our kids' school.**



### Jodi Wahlen-Burry

SI Parent

I wanted to volunteer in the Prep Shop because I've worked for The Gap for more than 20 years in merchandising, and I felt it would be a natural way to be involved. What I did not realize was how fulfilling it would be, and how I would get to know so many faculty and other parents through helping in the Prep Shop. Not only have I become very good friends with Brent Foley, SI's Prep Shop manager, **I feel incredibly connected with the broader SI community** from meeting so many people who drop by.

For other SI parents, I encourage them to be open to getting involved and volunteering, because the more you put yourself out there, the more you will get out of it. High school is a time of growth for our kids, when they are becoming adults both with and apart from their parents in a way that might make us feel like we are taking a back seat, but by getting more involved, I have felt a part of my child's school without stepping on her toes or overshadowing her in any way.



### Liz Farrell

SI Parent, 2026 Big Event Co-Chair

This is a community where parents support one another. I have also found the parent community is open and generous in a way that makes it easy to feel welcome. I keep wanting to come back and volunteer because, no matter the event or occasion — if it's a retreat, a moms night, or doing something as a team parent for athletics — **I always have fun and feel a sense of pride that I'm part of a strong community.**

As a Big Event co-chair working mainly on the senior show, I'm glad I was able to apply previous experience with fundraising and event planning, but also, it was a wonderful opportunity to work with and get to know so many members of the senior class putting on an event where they have a chance to have fun as a big group and celebrate each other. Now, when I'm on campus, after sharing that experience, I have a new appreciation for those students, and even better is hearing from so many of them that it was an incredible highlight of their senior year.



### Bryan Spaulding '89

SI Parent, 2026 Big Event Co-Chair

Volunteering and being involved with the Fathers' Club has been one of the best parts of my life in recent years. **As a new parent at SI, I was taken aback by how welcoming the other parents were, and the excitement everyone had to be together with shared purpose.**

Ultimately, we all have a common connection of kids and family, and, for me, I find great meaning in volunteering at the school, connecting with other adults — many of whom have become close friends — and doing my part to help SI fulfill its mission of forming the next generation of leaders. The best part is there are so many opportunities, big and small, to be a part of the school community, from the Big Event, to sports, to events put on by SIPAC and AALPA, and more. High school goes by fast, so I appreciate all the chances to be involved, give back to the community, be present for my kids and their friends, and connect with them in a way I might not otherwise.



### Alex Parr

SI Parent, 2026-27 Fathers' Club President

I remember going to my first Fathers' Club event soon after my daughter started at SI, and immediately I thought it was a cool environment where I could have lots of fun. In the Fathers' Club, **we talk about how our goals involve fun, fellowship, and fundraising, and it really is all about that.** Yes, we're giving back and supporting our kids, but every time I volunteer I feel more connected to the school community, too.

There are a million different roles people can fill in the parent groups. Speaking from experience with the Fathers' Club, whether you're more outgoing and enjoy talking to people at the concessions register, or you're more comfortable behind the scenes building tech systems that will be used at the auction and other events, or something else, there is an opportunity for you to contribute and be an active part of the parent community.



### Bernadette Dee '95

SI Parent, SIPAC Co-President

At first, I expected the parent experience at SI to be pretty hands-off based on my experience with my older child at a different school, and that made sense to me. High school students are developing independence and capable of taking on a lot, themselves. What I found at SI was very different, and in the best way. **There are so many opportunities for parents to be involved, and more importantly, that support is genuinely welcomed by teachers, staff, and administration.** It gave me the chance to stay connected to my children's high school experience in a meaningful way, and to model for them

showing up, joining communities, volunteering, and participating.

I got involved with SIPAC, specifically, because I feel strongly that our students should see their cultures celebrated openly and joyfully, and I have enjoyed helping the broader SI community participate and celebrate alongside them. Students should feel pride in who they are and know that their culture, traditions, and lived experiences are assets, that they are part of what makes them unique, valuable, and important. To hear students talk with pride and joy about cultural events at the school and their part in them is deeply fulfilling.





# REUNIONS ARE COMING! REUNIONS ARE COMING!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS AND MAKE PLANS TO JOIN WITH  
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Whether you attended your last reunion or if you are making your first one, reunions are an easy way to reflect over your shared Ignatian experience, connect with classmates, and share smiles and stories about your travels.

1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996,  
2001, 2006, 2011, 2016



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# GENESIS ONLINE EXTRA

*The March issue of Genesis Online Extra, a digital addition to the twice-annual printed magazine, included stories about the missioning Mass for SI President Joe Vollert '84, the topping off ceremony for the New Learning Commons, catching up with alumni, highlighting talented students, and more.*



## Joe Vollert Inaugurated as New SI President at Mission Mass

In front of hundreds of friends, family, colleagues, and well-wishers from the St. Ignatius community and wider Bay Area, Mr. Vollert was formally installed as SI's next president at a Mass celebrated by Jesuits West Provincial Sean Carroll, S.J.



## Students Excelling at Visual Arts and Music

Maida Liu '26 and Camille Pyo '26 are both accomplished artists, in music and the visual arts. Take a look at examples of their beautiful and striking work.



## Topping Off Ceremony Marks Major NLC Milestone

SI students, faculty, administrators, and supporters, along with representatives from Devcon and architectural firm Mark Cavagnero Associates, signed a special beam that later they watched be put into place on the New Learning Commons.



## Q&A With SI Law Society Honoree John Ring, Esq. '86

The SI Alumni Dept. caught up with Mr. Ring after the annual Law Society Luncheon to get his thoughts on the event and the connection between a Jesuit education and the law profession.

**[ALUMNI.SIPREP.ORG/GENESIS-EXTRA](http://ALUMNI.SIPREP.ORG/GENESIS-EXTRA)**

Scan the QR code or visit the URL to see Genesis Online Extra, which includes these stories and more.





Congratulations to the  
Fr. Sauer Academy  
**Class of 2026!**

**Valedictorian**  
Abraham Castañeda Muñoz (SI '30)

**Excellence Award**  
Melanie Mejia (SI '30)

**Leadership Award**  
Brooke Jackson-Tyler (SI '30)

**Service Award**  
Dylan Lopez (SI '30)





## Welcome to the Newest SI Alums Class of 2026

**Valedictorian**  
Amelia Haller

**Loyalty Award**  
Kate Ozaeta  
Alexander Salentine

**Sauer General  
Excellence Award**  
Camila Limo Fernandez  
Tai Morganson

**Ignatian Award**  
Giovanni Gonzalez

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alumni.siprep.org



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## CLASS OF 2026 SENIOR AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

**BAND AWARD**  
Pascal Chavez

**NORMAN A. BOUDEWIJN '86  
AWARD**  
Kate Ozaeta

**JOHN E. BROPHY '43 AWARD  
OUTSTANDING SENIOR ATHLETE**  
Ellie McCuskey-Hay  
Zui Shelton

**CAMPUS MINISTRY AWARD**  
Caitlin Ciresi  
Pablo Gracia Caceres

**HARRY CARLIN, S.J., '35 AWARD**  
Gabriella Blas  
Evelyn Conboy  
David DeLucchi  
Sophie Ghosh  
Samantha Goethals  
Steele LaBagh  
Thomas McKeon  
Robert Mullin  
Madison Pashby  
Dominic Regalia

**CHORUS AWARD**  
Gabriella Blas

**CLASSICAL AND MODERN  
LANGUAGES AWARDS**  
**French**

Jack Peterson

**Latin**

Maida Liu  
Emma Morgan

**Mandarin**  
Natasha Rodkewich  
Ethan Smith

**Spanish**  
Camila Limo Fernandez  
Andrea Velasco

**DANCE AWARD**  
Alessandra Isola

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT GENERAL  
EXCELLENCE AWARD**  
Samir Halteh

**ENGLISH WRITING AWARD**  
Emma Morgan

**FOX MEMORIAL RELIGION AWARD**  
Madeleine Lund  
Alexander Salentine

**JAZZ BAND AWARD**  
Nico Verhaverbeke

**INSIGNIS AWARD**  
Jett Dixon  
Natalia McGrath

**LEADERSHIP AWARD**  
Jack Farrell  
Sofia Flores  
Boyd Killion

**MATHEMATICS AWARD**  
Amelia Haller

**EDWARD MCFADDEN, S.J., '41  
AWARD**

Julia Alcantara  
Charles Ball  
Cassandra Gwyneth Conde  
Sadie Eggert  
Trevor Foss  
Rachel Kirk  
Bryson Lewis  
Hayley McGee  
Serafina Spink  
Pierce Winters

**TOM MURPHY '76 JESUIT SCHOOLS  
NETWORK AWARD**  
Camila Limo Fernandez

**PUBLICATIONS AWARDS**  
**Inside SI**  
Evelyn Conboy  
Lucas Liang  
Jordan Liu  
Annika Watkins  
**The Ignatian**  
Dylan Liu  
**The Quill**  
Dylan Liu  
McCann O'Brien  
Beatrice Sopko  
**SITV**  
Sebastian Huerta  
Darrin Yang

**THOMAS A. REED, S.J., CHRISTIAN  
SERVICE AWARD**  
Jett Dixon  
Emma Morgan  
Zoe O'Neal  
John Slack

**MATTEO RICCI, S.J., EQUITY AND  
INCLUSION AWARD**  
Matthew Ayon  
Caoimhe Cudden  
Jadyn Lewis  
Jordan Liu  
Zoe O'Neal  
Kate Ozaeta  
Andrea Velasco

**ORCHESTRA AWARD**  
Pablo Gracia Caceres

**PERFORMING ARTS AWARD**  
Nicholas Shumway

**SALUTATORIAN**  
Chase Kendall  
Beatrice Sopko

**SCIENCE AWARDS**  
**Life Sciences**  
Kate Ozaeta  
**Physical Sciences**  
Alva Fahlgren

**SERVICE AWARD**  
Valerie Chu  
Natalia McGrath

**CHUCK SIMON THEATRE AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN ACTING**  
Donovan Shinn

**PETER SMITH '80 THEATRE AWARD FOR  
EXCELLENCE IN TECHNICAL THEATRE**  
Gabriela Bulgatti  
Natalie Daigain

**SOCIAL SCIENCE AWARD**  
Ari Bushler  
Lillian Chavaree

**SPIRIT AWARD**  
Malcolm Child  
Santiago Dyer-Ramirez  
Mary Ennis

**VISUAL ARTS AWARDS**  
**Overall:**  
Maida Liu  
Camille Pyo

**Art & Architecture**  
Alva Fahlgren  
Madeline Lund  
**Photography**  
Andrea Velasco

**Sculpture**  
Nora Heath  
Michael Rawles  
**Studio Art**  
Kyna He  
Natasha Rodkewich

**WILDCAT NATION AWARD**  
Jason Balmy

**ALL-BROPHY TEAM**  
Julia Alcantara  
Charlie Ball  
Elaine Birkhold  
Ezaura Bisaillon  
Johann Buehlmann  
Joseph Dito  
Santiago Dyer-Ramirez  
Mary Ennis  
Jack Farrell  
Gianna Galarza  
Sophie Ghosh  
Breion Glaspie  
Aiden Higgins  
Archer Horn  
Steele Labagh  
Declan Mahoney  
Ellie McCuskey-Hay  
Haley McGee  
Joaquin McGuigan  
Ryan Neeson  
Lauren Nip  
Phoebe Oliven  
Gussie Robillard  
Zui Shelton  
Beatrice Sopko  
Devin Stuppin  
Kaija Wascott  
Kathryn Wilhelm  
Pierce Winters  
Karina Zeng



# A Jesuit Education Is a Special Gift

For Kerry and Sean Honey, sending their four children — Mackenzie '19, Thomas '21, Charlotte '23, and Will '25 — to SI was about more than academics; it was about formation of the whole person. Over time, they saw their children grow into resilient, compassionate young adults shaped by the values at the heart of a Jesuit education.

“Starting with our eldest, we saw how the SI experience helped them handle challenges in school and in life,” Kerry Honey said. “Beyond academics, the lessons they learned about integrity, reflection, and caring for others have stayed with them in college and beyond.”

The Honey family embraced those same values through their deep involvement in the school community. Kerry served as Ignatian Guild president during the 2024–25 school year, and together they gave their time as volunteers as well as active cabinet members of the Building Our Future Forward Campaign, living out the call to be people for and with others.

“I grew up with the question, ‘What are you doing for your community?’” Ms. Honey said. “At SI, that spirit is everywhere. It became our community in the fullest sense. The relationships we built and the sense of purpose we shared made the experience incredibly meaningful.”

Though their children are now alumni, the Honeys have continued to give generously to SI and joined the Fr. Carlin Heritage Society by including the school in their estate plans.

“Giving back to SI, even after our children have graduated, was an easy decision,” Sean Honey said. “A Jesuit education is a special gift, and we want SI to be an amazing place for future generations, just as it was for our family. We are proud to give back to our community and support a school we know is setting up children for success for the rest of their lives.”

*The Honeys, left to right: Thomas '21, Charlotte '23, Will '25, Kerry, Sean, and Mackenzie '19.*

SI's 11th Annual  
**GIVING DAY**  
St. Ignatius College Preparatory  
**4.22.2026**

**Thanks to the strength and spirit of our community, this year's Giving Day was our most successful yet, raising \$1.3 million from more than 2,200 donors!** Alumni, parents, faculty, and students came together in an extraordinary show of support.

Whether you gave, shared, or simply cheered us on, thank you. Your generosity and connection to SI make a meaningful difference in the lives of our students and in the future of our school.

A special thanks to our dedicated class representatives, and to every member of the SI community, for making this day such a success.

# Class of '99 Friends Turn Business Success Into Support for Fr. Sauer Academy

Three alumni from SI's Class of 1999 first became friends as students at the school, a friendship that has endured for more than 25 years. Nini Abalos Gueco, Michael Pallari, and Chrystine Lawson Villarreal recently turned that friendship into a business partnership to revitalize and sell San Francisco homes — and they are generously donating a portion of the proceeds to support the Fr. Sauer Academy, SI's tuition-free middle school.

Ms. Gueco has an established real estate career, Mr. Pallari owns general contracting company Pallari Construction, and Ms. Villarreal anchored the partnership, leading financing and overall project management. Their vision has grown and evolved, but all along, they said, it has been informed by principles they absorbed as SI students.

"Reflecting on how our experiences at SI had translated, now 25-plus years later, we thought a lot about the opportunities, experiences, and relationships that had been afforded us thanks to our school," Ms. Villarreal said. "We all understand this work we are doing as a business, but also believe we have a level of responsibility for the next generations of San Franciscans and the neighbors who live nearby our projects. SI helped make all this possible, so it is important to us that as we hope our work is helping make San Francisco more accessible, we are donating a percentage of the proceeds from projects to the Fr. Sauer Academy in order to make Jesuit education, and all that comes with it, more accessible."

"We loved Fr. Sauer," Mr. Pallari said of the late former SI president, Anthony P. Sauer, S.J. "Fr. Sauer was the best. I know that giving to his namesake academy will help middle school children who otherwise might not go to a school as great as SI, which, under Fr. Sauer, meant so much to us. Those kids are the future of SI, so I am proud to do my part and hope others will also help future students have access to Jesuit education."





# Celebrating a Pioneering Jesuit

## Ray Allender, S.J. '62

Ray Allender, S.J. '62 sat in a chair in front of the altar at Holy Name of Jesus Church and addressed a congregation of more than 400 people. Perfectly framing his clerical collar was a new medal, hung on a red and blue ribbon, which he had just received as the newest recipient of SI's Christ the King Award.

"I loved my years at SI," he said. "It was a wonderful experience with the students through the years. What is really distinctive about SI is there's a real sense of loyalty."

On Nov. 23, 2025, former students, colleagues, parishioners, friends, and family showed that loyalty to Fr. Allender and SI by braving the Sunset's crisp autumnal air to join the St. Ignatius Alumni Association in recognizing him with the 2025 Christ the King honor, the highest distinction SI can bestow upon a graduate.

Since 1960, the Christ the King celebration has been one of the most cherished traditions for SI alumni. It is the best opportunity to reconnect with other Ignatians, celebrate a shared Catholic faith together, and highlight a valued member of the community.

The SI Alumni Board selected Fr. Allender in May 2025 for his commitment to God, impact in the community, and role in fundamentally transforming St. Ignatius as a pioneering decision maker at the crossroads of co-education, voting to open SI's doors to young women in pursuit of a Jesuit education.

A row of Jesuits concelebrated Mass, including former SI principal Mario Prietto, S.J., who made the trip from Sacred Heart Jesuit Center in Los Gatos to deliver a moving homily.

During Mass, Alumni Director Tom Hsieh '83 read a proclamation written by the 2024 Christ the King recipient, Paul Totah '75, that outlined Fr. Allender's unique career, from his work with the LGBTQ+ community and undocumented people to his memorable meditation class that challenged students to emulate St. Ignatius and his Spiritual Exercises.

SI President Joe Vollert '84 followed with a reflection, saying, "Ray captures two things here. He embodies [Jesuit] values, but he also instilled, taught, and engendered those values into tens of thousands of alums and parishioners. It's a gift twice given."

Mr. Vollert continued, "On behalf of the entire school — the Board of Trustees, faculty and staff, students, and the alumni association — I just want to tell you, Fr. Allender, how proud we are of you and how thankful we are for your life of service."

The SI Alumni Department also premiered a short documentary about Fr. Allender, featuring voices from throughout his life and ministry, including stories about his service at St. Agnes Parish, the "Jewel of the Haight," as the retired Jesuit called it.

In the video, St. Ignatius Parish pastor Greg Bonfiglio, S.J. glowed that "Ray Allender is the priest I want to be when I grow up."

SI Assistant Principal for Mission Megan Pryor Lorentz, a former colleague of Fr. Allender's at St. Agnes, added that, "he was able to speak with a lot of moral authority, and call people to live Ignatian values, but he was able to do it in such a kind way that nobody felt pushed out of the conversation." Fr. Prietto called him a "wonderful man" and described him as an "exemplary Jesuit priest."

One Mass cannot capture the entirety of Fr. Allender's impact upon SI, St. Agnes, and the larger San Francisco Catholic community, but the abundance of love, support, and gratitude that poured out that day made it a celebration that we hope all in attendance, especially Fr. Allender, will remember.

See the Ray Allender  
mini-doc!



## St. Ignatius College Preparatory Announces 2026 Christ the King Award Recipient

Al Clifford '73 is the kind of man SI is made to produce and the kind of man who, decades after walking the SI halls, keeps giving back to the school and the world with the same quiet intensity that defines a life well-lived in the Ignatian tradition. It is with great pride and joy that the St. Ignatius Alumni Board names **Al Clifford '73**, the **2026 recipient of the Christ the King Award**, the highest distinction the SI community can bestow upon one of its own.

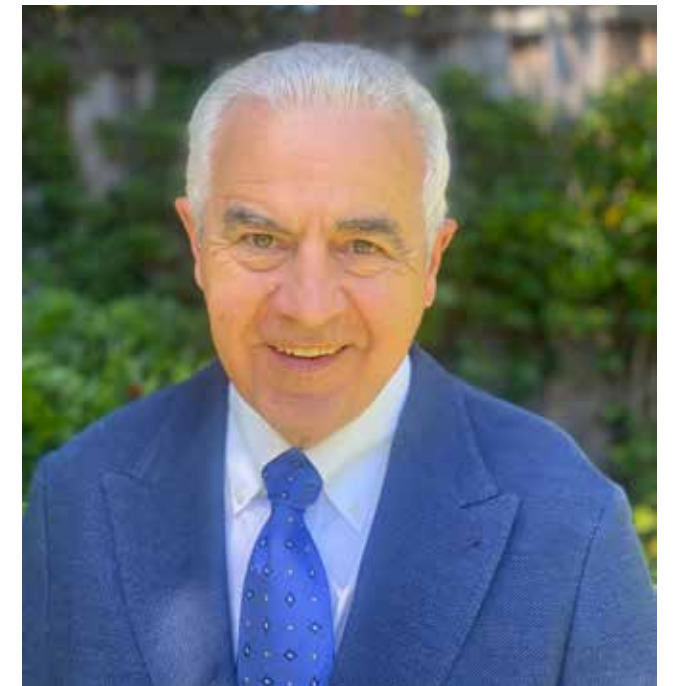
"I've had tremendous opportunities in my life, and many of those opportunities are connected to SI. It is a wonderful honor to share with past recipients. I feel very fortunate to receive this recognition," said Mr. Clifford.

From his decades of service to SI, on the Board of Regents, through the Fathers' Club, and as a dedicated Class Representative for the Class of 1973 — to his transformative leadership in San Francisco's real estate community, the Olympic Club, and beyond, Mr. Clifford has embodied *cura personalis* at every turn. When his son was diagnosed with epilepsy, he became president of the Northern California Epilepsy Society. When his daughter was diagnosed with histiocytosis, he channeled his grief into action, driving fundraising that contributed to breakthroughs in research, including DNA mapping of the disease. Time and again, his response to life's challenges has been the same: step forward, serve others, and do more.

His connection to SI runs deep and wide. Mr. Clifford shares his love for the red and blue with his late father, Harry '33; his late father-in-law, Donald Gordon '44; four brothers, Harry '65, John '68, Gerry '69, and Tony '80; and his children, Sheila '99, Patrick '01, Ryan '03, and Colleen '06. Mr. Clifford and his wife, Rosanne, have supported St. Ignatius deeply over the years. SI is not just a school in his family's story: it is threaded through generations of it.

The SI Alumni Board found in Mr. Clifford a clear and compelling honoree.

"Al was a clear choice: accomplished in his profession, active in his community, and boldly and consistently weaving Ignatian principles into every element of not only his own life, but the lives of those lucky enough to encounter him on their paths," said Alumni Board President Martha Shaughnessy Convery '97.



SI President Joe Vollert '84 added that, "We expect all of our graduates to lead and serve — how they do that is between them and God. Al's life is a testament to leadership and service across his family, professional, and volunteer lives."

Among his many contributions to SI, Mr. Clifford chaired the Fathers' Club Auction Committee — doubling contributions from the prior year — and has spent years as a Class Representative organizing annual Christmas lunches and supporting the Class of 1973 John McVeigh Scholarship, a fully endowed fund that has supported Cats since 1996. Additionally, Mr. Clifford and his brothers funded the Clemencia and Harry Clifford Scholarship to honor their parents and serve future generations of students. He also lent his expertise as one of San Francisco's most accomplished realtors, having served as president of the San Francisco Association of Realtors in 1992 and 1993, to help SI faculty navigate the city's notoriously difficult housing market, strengthening the school's ability to recruit and retain exceptional educators.

"A core tenet of Ignatian education is *cura personalis*, education of the whole self. Al Clifford exemplifies this in his dedication to his faith, community, and world," said Tom Hsieh '83, SI's director of alumni relations.

The Christ the King Award has been part of SI's tradition since 1960, when it was first presented to Dr. Edmund Morrissey, Class of 1913. It is the highest honor the school can bestow upon a graduate.

**The entire St. Ignatius community is invited to celebrate Al Clifford and the Feast of Christ the King on November 22 at Holy Name of Jesus Parish. All are welcome to join in honoring this great Ignatian and in a beautiful expression of our shared faith.**



# PERFORMINGARTS

FALL DANCE CONCERT



PIANO RECITAL



WINTER ORCHESTRA AND JAZZ CONCERT



WINTER CHORAL CONCERT



OUR TOWN



**SPRING  
CHOREOGRAPHY  
SHOWCASE**



**SPRING POPS  
CONCERT**



**PERFORMING ARTS  
ASSEMBLY**



**SPRING CHORAL  
CONCERT**



**MEAN GIRLS**



Left to right: Carolyn (Kolling) Selig, Sean Giese, Kelly Turbin, Dave McMonigle, Asher McInerney, and Susan (Ott) Nguyen

# Class of '00 Mobilizes to Support Class Scholarship, NLC Chapel

As their 25th reunion approached, several members of SI's Class of 2000 organized a class campaign to fundraise for the school. They set lofty goals, aiming to raise \$50,000 to sponsor a stained glass window from the old Montserrat Chapel that will be preserved in the Edward A. Reese, S.J. Chapel in the New Learning Commons, and also aiming to raise \$200,000 for the Class of 2000 Scholarship fund.

In the run-up to the reunion, they mobilized and directly contacted almost every one of their classmates. The reunion event, held in late 2025 at Mission Rock, was a smash, attracting more than 160 alums to spend a celebratory evening together.

"It amazes me how much of a gift it is to be a part of a community like St. Ignatius," said Susan (Ott) Nguyen '00. "Even 25 years later, I still feel as much honor and privilege to have been a student there, and how unique the experience is. SI gave me lifelong friends, entrée to one of the most giving alumni communities, and a connection to the Jesuit way. At our 25th reunion this past year, I realized how much I missed many of those friends and also reconnected with classmates I had not seen since graduation."

By late spring, buoyed by the success of their reunion event, the Class of 2000 had reached their \$50,000 goal for the stained glass window and had also raised about \$58,000 for the Class of 2000 Scholarship fund, with lots of momentum and excitement for continuing toward the \$200,000 goal.

"Before this initiative, I didn't think much about SI's class scholarships," said Asher McInerney '00. "But almost immediately after looking into it, it became clear that if we could get everyone to chip in a little bit, we could do a lot of good for a future SI student in need."

Dave McMonigle '00 added, "We know that the more diverse a school community is — across all types of diversity — the more students stand to benefit from each other and the overall experience. San Francisco is an extremely expensive city for both schools and families to navigate, so the reality is that scholarships are more important than ever to ensure SI is able to draw together the most engaged and dynamic group of young people it can."

"So many people before our class invested in SI and helped create the opportunities we benefited from," said Sean Giese '00. "Supporting the Class of 2000 Scholarship feels like a chance to help another student have that same experience and advantage going forward."

For the chapel, the alums were inspired by their memories of how Orradre Chapel was central to their experience at SI, and a desire to help provide similar opportunities for future students.

"SI's chapel meant a lot to me, especially singing at Friday Morning Liturgy sophomore year," said Carolyn (Kolling) Selig '00. "Spending time there became something I really looked forward to, and helped me feel like I belonged at SI. When I found out the stained glass windows from Montserrat Chapel were going to be repurposed, it was important to me to both honor my family's history at SI and be a part of my class's commitment. I'm excited to join classmates with whom I've grown to be friends as adults. I see in them evidence of shared values and elements of Ignatian spirituality that we learned at SI and carry forward in our communities."

Kelly Turbin '00 said, "A school chapel is more than a building. It's a space that anchors a school's mission and is a key place where character formation happens."

He continued, "I also think it's important people know that you don't need to make a huge gift to make a difference. Simply participating matters, and collective action is that much more powerful as more people join. Think about how SI shaped who you are, today. Nothing else feels like it does to give back to a school that means so much to you."

*To learn more about these specific initiatives, please reach out to any of the Class of 2000 Gift Committee leaders: Sean Giese '00, Asher McInerney '00, Dave McMonigle '00, Susan (Ott) Nguyen '00, Carolyn (Kolling) Selig '00, or Kelly Turbin '00.*

*If you are interested in organizing and setting up your own class gift campaign, please reach out to Associate Director for Advancement Franco Arieta '97 at [farieta@siprep.org](mailto:farieta@siprep.org).*



# SIATHLETICS



**FALL  
2025**

**Football**  
V 9-6 (CCS, NorCal,  
Div. 3-AA State Champions)  
JV 7-2  
F 3-6

**Women's Cross Country**  
V 2nd WCAL (CCS  
Champions)  
JV 3rd WCAL  
F/S 2nd WCAL

**Flag Football**  
V 2-11  
JV 4-4

**Women's Volleyball**  
V 24-11  
JV 20-4  
F 23-1

**Women's Tennis**  
V 19-6 (WCAL  
Champions)  
JV 6-7

**Women's Golf**  
V 10-2  
JV 0-8

**Field Hockey**  
V 18-2-3 (SCVAL Champions)  
JV 10-2-3

**Men's Cross Country**  
V 2nd WCAL  
JV 4th WCAL  
S 2nd WCAL  
F 4th WCAL

**Men's Water Polo**  
V 7-16  
JV 4-13  
F/S 1-9

**Women's Water Polo**  
V 11-16  
JV 10-11



# WINTER 2026

|                         |                           |                       |                           |              |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|--------------|
| <b>Men's Basketball</b> | <b>Women's Basketball</b> | <b>Women's Soccer</b> | <b>Men's Soccer</b>       | <b>Rugby</b> |
| V 25-5                  | V 20-9                    | V 13-5-4              | V 14-4-2 (WCAL Champions) | V 3-6        |
| JV 22-2                 | JV 12-5                   | JV 13-3-1             | JV 7-6-4                  | JV 4-3       |
| F Blue 20-3             | F 11-4                    | F 1-5-2               | F 14-3-3                  |              |
| F Red 21-3              |                           |                       |                           |              |

# SPRING 2026

|                 |                                    |                         |                         |                              |                                  |                 |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| <b>Baseball</b> | <b>Women's Swimming and Diving</b> | <b>Women's Lacrosse</b> | <b>Men's Volleyball</b> | <b>Men's Lacrosse</b>        | <b>Men's Swimming and Diving</b> | <b>Softball</b> |
| V 17-9          | V 5-1                              | V 15-6                  | V 8-18                  | V 18-6 (WCAL, CCS Champions) | V 3-4                            | V 10-14         |
| JV 13-8-2       | JV 4-2                             | JV 7-4                  | JV 8-10                 | JV 8-2                       | JV 2-4-1                         | JV 1-13         |
| F 19-3          |                                    |                         |                         |                              |                                  |                 |



# SI Athletics Reaches New Heights in 2025-26

## PARTICIPATION

**73 / 31**  
Teams Programs

**1,101 / 73%**  
Athletes of the Student Body

## EXCELLENCE ON THE FIELD OF PLAY

**9** Teams Finished **1st** in League

**8** Teams Finished **2nd** in League

**Field Hockey**  
#1 CA, #11 U.S.A.

**Women's Lacrosse**  
#3 in the West, Top 30 U.S.A.

**Men's Crew**  
#1 CA, #7 in Region

**Men's Basketball**  
#2 CCS, #9 CA

**Women's Crew**  
#1 CA

**Women's Track, 4x100 and 4x400**  
Ranked Top 8 CA

**Men's Lacrosse**  
#2 in the West, Top 30 U.S.A.

**Football**  
#1 CA Div. 3-AA



## EXCELLENCE IN THE CLASSROOM

Average Team GPA  
**3.87**

**53 Seniors**  
Signed to Play College Sports

**5 Athletes**  
Will Compete at MIT

**Top Track Athletes**  
to Compete at Oregon, USC, Harvard

**15 Lacrosse Athletes**  
Signed to Play in College



**SPRING 2026**

**Women's Crew**  
V - SRAA West Coast Scholastic Champions  
F - SRAA Nationals - Bronze Medalist

**Men's Golf**  
V 13-3  
JV 16-0  
F/S 8-1

**Men's Track and Field**  
V 2-5  
F/S 4-3

**Women's Track and Field**  
V 5-1 (CCS Champions)  
JV 5-1

**Men's Tennis**  
V 22-7  
JV 8-4

**Men's Crew**  
V - SRAA West Coast Scholastic Champions, SRAA Nationals - 4th



**Archer Horn '26**  
Potential First-Round MLB Draft Pick



**Soleil Warner '26**  
2026: #1 CCS 300m Hurdles  
#2 CA 300m Hurdles



**Stevie Umali '27**  
2024: #1 CCS  
2025: #4 NorCal, #7 CA



**Prince Najeeb Babalola-Buchango '26**  
2025: #1 CA 200m, #2 CA 110m Hurdles, #5 CA 100m  
2026: #7 CA 200m, #6 CA 110m Hurdles



**Ellie McCuskey-Hay '26**  
14 WCAL Track Gold Medals  
2025: #4 CA Long Jump, #7 CA 100m  
2026: #1 CA Long Jump

## COACHING CONTINUITY

**31**

**Head Coaches**

All Returning for 2026-27





# 10 Years Later, A Moment That Lasts

By Rob Werner '16

It is a moment I will never forget.

The ball was mishit and sailed directly into the back fence. Then the party started.

At the Bay Club Courtside in Los Gatos, in front of a jam-packed, rowdy crowd rooting heavily for Menlo School, which had won seven consecutive Central Coast Section championships, the 2016 St. Ignatius Boys' Tennis team made history. SI tennis, for the first time in school history, was the CCS champion.

As soon as the ball went long, my partner, then-frosh Josh Belandres '19, and I ran to each other and hugged. By the time we made it to the net, the rest of our team had mobbed us. We had just clinched the championship against the team we had chased all year.

Recently, to mark the 10-year anniversary of our championship season, I called several teammates to share memories of that season.

"It's kind of crazy to think about now," Belandres said. "I do remember that being a huge deal: trying to beat them, definitely rivals, definitely a loud match. It was like college-level energy, not that I knew it back then, but the emotions were high for sure.

"We were waiting all season for that moment."

"I just remember you (Rob) were going absolutely ballistic," then-sophomore Cambell Nakayama '18 said. "And then the whole team was rushing over to that court. It was a huge, huge celebration there. It was awesome to feel that."

In high school tennis, teams play best-of-seven matches, four singles and three doubles.

The match against Menlo was tight through the completion of the first sets. SI had a slight lead at four sets to three. We knew it would be extremely difficult to beat the reigning CCS champions, who had experience, confidence, and heavy fan support on their side.

They were also chasing history, looking to become the first program to win eight-straight CCS titles.

"That was the biggest dragon to take down," Derek Austin '16 said, about Menlo. "The whole time we were playing [high school tennis], they were the team to beat and to dominate them in the end was awesome."

Plus, since the Bay Club Courtside was about a 25-minute drive from Menlo, the crowd was heavily on their side. By contrast, the drive from SI was over an hour to the club.

"Oh man, was it fun to have the crowd against us," Nakayama said. "That atmosphere was great. I'll never forget how silent they got when we clinched the win."

The competition ended with SI winning 6 matches to 1. The final three wins for the Wildcats came in third sets.

Ryder Jackson, who was a frosh phenom playing number three singles, remembers the moment the match was clinched.

"It was our first time all season being in a tight match because we had won a lot of matches pretty easily," Jackson said. "Watching you guys on the court, all-time moment for sure. We'll always remember that one."

Jackson, who was a standout player at the University of Southern California before transferring to play for the University of California Berkeley Golden Bears, is now pursuing a professional tennis career. SI's 2016 season was the first time Jackson had ever been on a tennis team.

"Tennis is so individual," Jackson said. "Pretty much our whole team played USTA tournaments and you have friends out there, but it's just you on the court against one person. The camaraderie we had that season, playing for each other and cheering each other on, was so much fun."

We knew during tryouts in early February that we had a chance to do something special, with a talented group joining four returning seniors.

Our starting lineup included frosh Jackson (who played number three singles), Ryan Ali (four singles), Mason Fung (one doubles), and Belandres (two doubles); sophomores Nakayama (three singles) and Ethan Smith (three doubles); and seniors Jayson Fung (one singles), Derek Austin (one doubles), myself (two doubles), and Jackson Cooney (three doubles). Jayson Fung, Austin, and I were team captains.

The juniors on the team, Daniel Begovich, Will Baumbacher, Arthur Endo, and Craig Smyth, contributed on and off the court, cheering vociferously as well as always keeping the vibes and energy high.

Our head coach, Craig Law, guided the group with his firm values and soft voice. His motto for the winning season was: "Together."

Perhaps counterintuitively in such an individual sport, that concept led the group all year. Together, all the individuals formed a cohesive group that laughed and cheered loudly for each other. We also traveled together. Early in the season, we played the Lightning Invitational tournament in Newport Beach. Against the best schools in Southern California, we won the tournament without losing a match.

Eight of the 10 members of the starting lineup went on to play college tennis: Jayson Fung (Amherst College), Nakayama (Xavier University), Jackson (USC and Cal), Ali (Santa Clara), Mason Fung and Austin (Boston College), Belandres (Tufts), and Smith (AZUSA Pacific).

After winning the CCS title, we still had to play the NorCal championships. As you can probably glean, our team wasn't short on confidence. Going into the championship in Folsom, we weren't the slightest bit worried.

With the CCS championship win, we knew the mountaintop was within reach, but we had to beat Menlo again at the California Interscholastic Federation NorCal championship tournament in Folsom.

"There was so much emotion and pressure in that CCS win and then at CIF, we knew we were the top team and could beat them," Belandres said. "They were obviously really good, but we weren't underdogs anymore."

It just so happened that the day of the CIF championship was the same day as the SI senior prom. The seniors knew we would miss at least the pre-parties and potentially a significant part of the evening.

A few days before CIF, Coach Law discussed the scheduling dilemma with me. He said that our senior class — Cooney, Jayson Fung, Austin, and I — had contributed so much to the program, and we had his blessing to skip CIF and go to prom. However, we all decided to play. We wanted to finish off an undefeated season and take down Menlo one more time.

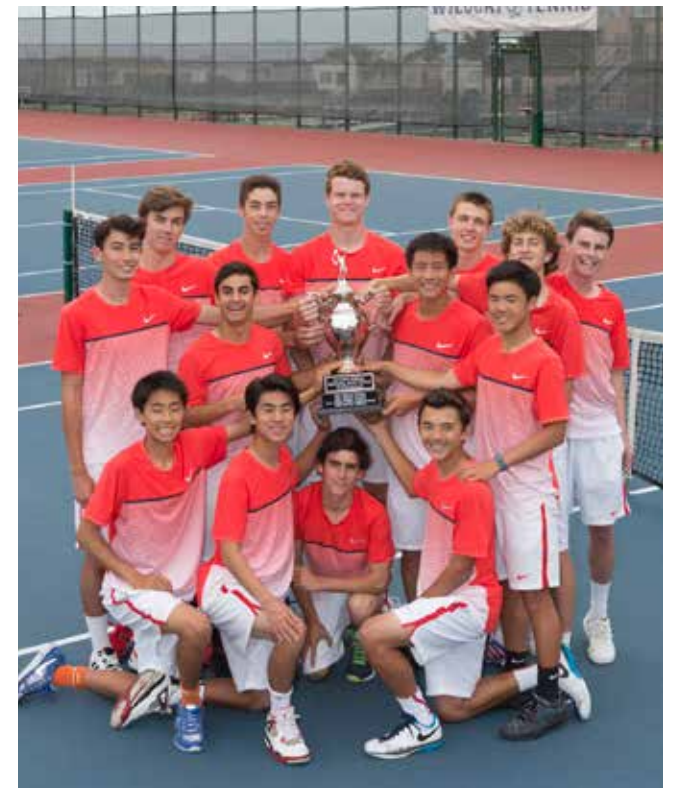
The match ended with a closer score than the CCS final, 5-2, but it was the same result. SI had defeated Menlo twice in eight days and had finished off an undefeated 28-0 season.

SI's run was just beginning. The following fall, the girls' varsity team won the regular season West Coast Athletic League title and also the CIF Northern section championship. In the spring, the 2017 boys again claimed the CCS and CIF championships, with another 28-0 season.

Ten years later, the moment stays with me: the hug with Josh, the sprint to the net, the celebration with my teammates.

In a sport defined by individuals, that moment belonged to all of us. Together, we didn't just win a title — we built something that lasts. 

*Rob Werner '16 says SI tennis played a major role in shaping his love for the sport. He is now an announcer and producer for Tennis Channel and the ATP Tour.*



# SIALUMNISPOTLIGHT

## JOHN OTTOBONI '65

SI WAS CHOSEN FOR HIM; NOW HE HAS CHOSEN SI



John Ottoboni '65 didn't have much of a say when it came to receiving a Jesuit education. His parents, Bartholomew and Pierina Ottoboni chose it for him.

"My father told my mother that if anything ever happened to him, he wanted my brother, who was four years older than me, and me to go to a Jesuit school," he said. "Two years later, at 39, he had a heart attack and died."

Mr. Ottoboni was the only student in his Corpus Christi class to attend SI. During his four years at St. Ignatius, he ran track, played football until a shoulder injury ended his career, and was elected student body president. But it was a relationship that he formed during his senior year that shaped the next six decades of his life.

After becoming SI's principal in 1964, Ed McFadden, S.J. '41 took a particular interest in Mr. Ottoboni's path.

"You're going to Santa Clara. We'll figure out how to help you with tuition and things," he told the senior, who had no illusion of going to college away from home because his mother could not afford room and board. With the help of Fr. McFadden and other Jesuits, Mr. Ottoboni received a scholarship, sealing his fate as a Bronco.

It was at Santa Clara University that he saw what living the Ignatian tradition truly looked like.

"What we learned is, in practice, we're here to help others. To serve others. We learned to pray a little. Development of the whole person. You'd see it. It became a part of our class," he said.

After completing his undergraduate degree, Mr. Ottoboni was offered a spot on the Santa Clara board of trustees. Many schools, he noted, were inviting students to join boards as a way to mitigate protests surrounding the Vietnam War — Santa Clara opted for a recent alumnus, a position that still remains today.

Over the following decades, Mr. Ottoboni served his alma mater in a variety of roles, including as its first in-house general counsel and its first chief operating officer. Most recently, he was a deputy athletic director and a special advisor.

Now, he is refocused on giving back to the place that started it all, honoring the people who set him on this path by establishing the Bartholomew L. and Pierina M. Ottoboni Academy Scholarship to support students at the Fr. Sauer Academy.

"[SI President] Joe [Vollert] took me over to see FSA one day, and I thought I wanted to do something in memory of my parents," said an emotional Mr. Ottoboni. "Without them, I wouldn't have been at SI. They were the reason I got here. And then I thought of those kids who need help. We met five or six of them, and I thought, 'These kids are going to be terrific.'"

Bartholomew and Pierina Ottoboni chose SI for John — now he gets to choose SI for them, and for the students who will benefit from the memory of his parents.

## SHWESHA GOVIL '08

"I OFTEN KEEP IN MIND THE PRAYER FOR GENEROSITY"



When Shwesha Govil '08 walked into Career Day as an SI student, she signed up to learn about computer science, law, and the FBI. A creative, she was involved with the yearbook and looks back at dance as one of her most memorable classes.

So, naturally, she became a doctor.

Dr. Govil is a family medicine physician and assistant clinical professor at UC San Francisco. But unlike many who dream of entering the medical field as soon as they can even grasp the concept of a dream job, this profession was not always the obvious choice for her.

"Honestly, I wasn't very interested in becoming a doctor. What I thought of as a more realistic career was being a teacher," she said. "Throughout elementary, middle, and high school, I thought, 'It would be fun to teach that.' Even through college, I believed that I would enjoy being a professor."

Unknowingly, she first opened this door when she and a friend volunteered at UCSF as SI students fulfilling their service hours requirements, primarily because the hospital was close to her home. She kept the door open at her parents' suggestion through her chosen coursework, starting with AP Biology. Eventually, she found herself in a position to take the MCAT, and the decision was a no-brainer.

Dr. Govil said, "My philosophy is that I always want to keep trying. I never want to quit something halfway. I was already on this path, and I had done so much already — I didn't want to feel like 'what if?' And I knew that I could always teach, even as a doctor, so I had to try."

Her journey illustrates the potential to create your desired reality with an open mind, hard work, and a trust in the process.

"I've always been creative. Medicine was daunting, and it didn't seem like I would have any creative outlet. But as you learn about different specialties, you figure out what fits your personality and matches your interests, and I see now how creativity is involved," she said.

Today, she pours her creativity into teaching her patients in family medicine, as well as medical students and residents at the beginning of their own journeys, guided by an approach fundamentally tied to the Jesuit tradition.

"I often keep in mind the prayer for generosity ['Lord, teach me to be generous...'], even though I'm not Catholic. When something is challenging at work, this helps me to focus on working hard and striving to be a better person without looking for a way out or expecting something in return."

With the same generosity and enthusiasm as the professionals she met at Career Day, Dr. Govil has been on campus in recent months to share her experiences for those interested in a similar trajectory. Notably, she gave the MedCats club a more hands-on demonstration, showing them how to use a stethoscope, how to measure blood pressure, and opportunities to handle several other tools, giving them a head start compared to her own path.

She said, "It was really fun. The first part was more informational about the next steps if you're interested in the medical field. The second part was more play with the different instruments, which was really cool because I didn't have much exposure to all those instruments until I actually went to med school."



## MARILOU UBALDO LAFON '98

DEDICATED TO THE "SPARK" OF YOUTH PERFORMING

Twenty years ago, Marilou Ubaldo Lafon '98 founded Spark of Creation, a South San Francisco performing arts studio that offers programs for multiple disciplines and levels of dance, plus musical theater. Speaking about her journey, she connected the values she wants to bring to the studio with those she learned at SI.

"Spark of Creation is a community-based performing arts studio," she said. "Our mission is to take what we teach beyond dance and beyond theater so students receive life skills and create lasting memories. Regularly, I think about A.M.D.G. — for the greater glory of God — because it grounds me in my purpose and how I want to relate to my community and the world."

Ms. Lafon began her time at SI focused on athletics, playing both basketball and volleyball, but soon determined her primary interests lay in performing. She joined the dance program, sang with the chamber singers and mixed chorus, and participated in school musicals, all while continuing to take dance outside of school. At UC Davis, she initially thought of pursuing a career in dentistry, but she soon realized that she was most passionate about the dance and musical theater classes she was teaching on the side.

"In all, I taught for 12 years at the studio where I grew up taking classes, and then reached a point where I felt it was time to start my own programs," she said. "My husband, Randy, and my parents encouraged me, and I wouldn't have been able to do this without their support. I am also thankful for the teachers at SI who believed in me and helped put me on this path. Ms. Angela Brizuela was my dance teacher, and in the midst of learning jazz, tap, and hip hop, she gave me the wonderful opportunity to teach a piece of Polynesian dance for our show. Also, Ms. Donna Alexander, now Ms. DeBenedetti, had incredible passion for her students both inside and outside her English classroom. She helped me gain confidence in myself that I carry on in my teaching to this day."

She added that she is proud to welcome SI students to her studio and play a small part in their artistic journeys.

She said, "Getting to teach SI students is wonderful. I've had many students who started with Spark of Creation as younger children, then I got to watch them develop through senior year, and beyond. It's a full-circle moment for me to come back to the school and the theater where I started and see that SI is still a place where performing artists have a community where they can grow."

**KENNY HATCH '12 AND MADDY HATCH '16**  
**WORKING HARD FOR A GREATER PURPOSE**



Siblings Kenny '12 and Maddy '16 Hatch are the operators of Kenny Hatch Basketball, a player development facility located a few blocks from Chase Center in San Francisco.

"We're just like any other business, but we end our meetings with 'I love you,'" said Ms. Hatch, KHB's director of basketball operations.

KHB opened its doors in May 2023, and the brother-sister duo began training athletes with a program built upon faith, perseverance, and a commitment to others.

"We teach the technical, but we also show them why. We teach them about the impact that this game can have on their life, on and off the court. We teach them the importance of believing in themselves and believing in the work. Faith is everything," said Mr. Hatch, KHB's founder and lead player development coach.

Ms. Hatch added, "I think about the Jesuit tradition of being with and for others. When we're with a client, whether it's an adult or a kid, for that hour, we are letting them know they're not alone in that journey. We stand in solidarity with them."

KHB's client list ranges from grade schoolers to pros like NBA champion and former Golden State Warrior Juan Toscano-Anderson, sharpening skills at all levels. No testimonial, however, speaks to the efficacy of the KHB philosophy more loudly than the Hatch siblings themselves.

Mr. Hatch, an admitted late bloomer, only made the varsity team his senior year. He went on to have a five-year professional career overseas. Ms. Hatch, who began her career as a frosh on JV, tore her ACL twice — once before her sophomore year and once heading into her senior campaign. She is currently in her sixth professional season.

After getting cut, Mr. Hatch worked to strengthen his body and mind and become the player he knew he could be, laying the groundwork for the workouts he would put others through. During her second rehabilitation stint, Ms. Hatch studied her brother's game film and prepared reports with analysis, a precursor to the individualized training she would provide to clients.



These obstacles became stepping stones for the determined Hatch hoopers, and the lessons they learned as young Ignatians at SI, away from the court and through adversity, prepared them for this chapter.

Ms. Hatch, in particular, remembers how impactful her Kairos retreat was during her second ACL tear rehab. "I didn't realize how much support I truly had in my community until then. To this day, my Kairos experience stays with me. This was about two months post op from my second surgery, and it was crucial for me. I thought, 'I owe this to them to get back.'"

Mr. Hatch credits SI's playground of possibilities for activating his entrepreneurial spirit.

"SI was challenging. I had my struggles, but the school kept me moving forward," he reflected. "Opportunities like founding the skateboard club and writing a mission statement made me comfortable creating. It was like my first shot at creating a business."

Now, the two siblings, along with Alexis, Kenny's wife and KHB CEO and co-founder, are giving others their own shot, leading with the love they have for each other, the business, and the game of basketball.

SI ALUMS AS LEADERS  
**John Ternus '93 Named  
Next CEO of Apple Inc.**

An SI alum is about to lead one of the biggest, most influential companies in the world. John Ternus '93 has been tapped to succeed Tim Cook as the CEO of Apple Inc., starting in September 2026.



In a press release, Mr. Cook said, "John Ternus has the mind of an engineer, the soul of an innovator, and the heart to lead with integrity and with honor. He is a visionary whose contributions to Apple over 25 years are already too numerous to count, and he is without question the right person to lead Apple into the future."

Mr. Ternus joined Apple in 2001 and rose to become a senior vice president of hardware engineering at the company. The release credited him as a key figure in introducing the iPad and AirPods, as well as continuing successful development of various other products, including the iPhone, Apple Watch, and Mac computers.

"I am profoundly grateful for this opportunity to carry Apple's mission forward," Mr. Ternus said in the release. "Having spent almost my entire career at Apple, I have been lucky to have worked under Steve Jobs and to have had Tim Cook as my mentor. It has been a privilege to help shape the products and experiences that have changed so much of how we interact with the world and with one another. I am filled with optimism about what we can achieve in the years to come, and I am so happy to know that the most talented people on earth are here at Apple, determined to be part of something bigger than any one of us. I am humbled to step into this role, and I promise to lead with the values and vision that have come to define this special place for half a century."

*Photo courtesy Apple Inc.*

# Alumni Events

## OH WHEN THE CATS GO MARCHIN' IN

Ahead of January's Bruce-Mahoney basketball games, more than 100 St. Ignatius alumni, families, and friends gathered at Mission Rock Resort for the first-ever "Pregame Tailgate." SI President Joe Vollert '84 and Head Football Coach JaJuan Lawson set the victorious tone with a chalk talk about this year's historic Wildcat squad. Delicious food and drink fueled a loud entrance as the Cats marched on Thrive City, an impressive red and blue force, heralded by The Gumbo Band, and led by Adrienne Choy Cianfrocca '96, Katie Meinhardt '02, and Jamie Rey '06 of the Alumni Board and Class Rep Catherine Abalos '05 carrying a "St. Ignatius Alumni" banner. After turning heads around Thrive City, the Wildcat faithful marched into Chase Center and provided the spark the teams needed to secure two big wins to retain the trophy.



## JOHN RING '86 HEADLINES BIGGEST LAW SOCIETY LUNCHEON EVER

Former SI Alumni Director John Ring '86 was one of the architects of the St. Ignatius Law Society Luncheon, which began in 2011. It is only fitting then that the biggest one ever featured Mr. Ring as the guest of honor. More than 220 guests broke bread together on the afternoon of Feb. 6, 2026 at the SF Italian Athletic Club. Alumni, city leaders, and friends were treated to a packed program featuring remarks from Mr. Ring, the Hon. Mary Wiss, and three members of the Class of 2027 — Keelin Duffy, Raith Roland, and Peter Laddaran — who shared their experiences on the SI Mock Trial team. With more than two dozen judges and alumni of all generations, this luncheon is one of the calendar's most highly anticipated events.



## CELEBRATING CO-EDUCATION AND ALUMNAE LEADERSHIP

This year's alumnae-driven event, Wildcat Brunch & Bubbles, had a bit of everything: thoughtful reflection on SI's story of co-education, excitement for the future of St. Ignatius, a raffle, delicious food and drink, and Iggy the Wildcat himself taking photos with guests! On April 12, 2026, nearly 90 alumni gathered at Mission Rock Resort for this afternoon event. Christine Abalos Tsu '02, a member of the Brunch & Bubbles committee, moderated a fireside chat between the first alumnae president of the Alumni Board, Martha Shaughnessy Convery '97, and Board VP Camila Mize '06. The two Ignatians discussed their experiences as students, how they stay connected as alums, and the ways that this alumni association continues to grow more dynamically. After brief remarks comparing the boldness of SI's first campus to the New Learning Commons project, President Vollert assisted committee member Jamie Rey '06 with pulling the first few tickets for the raffle, which included great prizes such as a gift card to Elena's Mexican Restaurant, a San Francisco Giants bundle, a Cow Palace rodeo basket, and more. Sydney Allen '09 and Bridget Chau '13 — the two other committee members for this event — sold the raffle tickets, raising over \$1,400 for the Alumnae Scholarship. There is a special energy radiating from this alumnae community and building momentum for the next iteration of alumnae-focused gatherings.



## AUTHOR SHARES HIS STORY WITH EPILEPSY AWARENESS CLUB

Michael King '78, author of "Be There When I Return: A Memoir of Epilepsy, Love, and Success," visited St. Ignatius for the first time in decades to share his story with the Epilepsy Awareness Club. Several dozen students were in attendance to hear about Mr. King's journey. The former SI baseball player described his early episodes, the impact they had on the people around him, and the life-altering car crash in Southern California that led him to undergo an experimental procedure that would change him forever. Mr. King spoke about navigating relationships, his career, and taking chances to meet life's challenges while managing his epilepsy. His visit highlights the impact that alumni can have on the current generation of Wildcats carving out their own paths. Religious studies teacher and Epilepsy Awareness Club moderator Andrew Shahamiri '08 noted the comparison between Mr. King's journey and Ignatius of Loyola's, drawing parallels between their life-changing physical hardships and subsequent clarity of purpose, unwavering faith and trust, and mission to share their enlightenment and experiences with others. **If you have a story or interest that you would like to share with our students, contact [alumni@siprep.org](mailto:alumni@siprep.org) to set up a visit!**



**50 YEARS OF BEING AN ALUM**

The great Class of 1976 celebrated its 50-year Golden Diploma reunion on the weekend of April 18-19, 2026.

That Saturday, nearly 90 classmates gathered at SI in the Student Center for a cocktail party, most of them arriving on campus after golfing or hiking together earlier in the afternoon. Dean Levitt '76 was presented with an Alumni Certificate of Appreciation for his work organizing the festivities. John Mohun '76 was recognized with a plaque for his legendary cap toss at graduation five decades ago, and some lucky winners came home with SI swag from a raffle.

Sunday's Mass and ceremony attracted over 150 guests, including 80 classmates who received a golden diploma. The Ignatian spirit was present throughout the SF Italian Athletic Club as the Class of '76 reflected upon and celebrated 50 years of being an SI grad. Jon Leonoudakis '76 produced a touching video tribute to deceased classmates; Jean-Louis Casabonne '76 played a video featuring congratulations from iconic Jesuits like Br. Douglas Draper, 2025 Christ the King recipient Fr. Ray Allender '62, and Bishop Gordon Bennett; and Robin Villa '76 turned the energy level all the way up by leading the class in cheers that would lift the spirits of any Wildcat. The highlight of the program, however, came after the conferral of diplomas to classmates and family members of the deceased, when President Vollert presented the Hon. Claude Perasso '44 with a diploma of his own, a milestone he didn't get to enjoy as a young man due to his deployment in World War II. Every year, the Golden Diploma showcases the value of staying connected to the community and how the bonds you form in our school's hallways can last a lifetime.



**A RECORD-SETTING TURNOUT TO HONOR SERVICE MEMBERS**

With a sellout crowd of over 150 people, this year's Admiral Callaghan Society Dinner was the biggest in its history. Held in the Student Center at SI on May 5, 2026, guests were treated to a robust program that highlighted leadership, courage, and the Ignatian principle of service to a greater cause. Ambassador Bill Grayson '76, who has served his country under five different U.S. presidents, was honored with the Spiritus Magis Award in recognition of his professional service and achievement. Former Blue Angel pilot Lieutenant Commander Scott Goossens '06 joined as the guest speaker, sharing wisdom and experience from throughout his life, spanning his foundation of values at SI, to the trust required to fly a jet inches away from another, to the gratitude and importance of serving others. He reminded everyone in the room, especially the students at the start of their own journeys, that, "Wherever life takes you, never forget that the greatest things you will ever be a part of will almost always be bigger than yourself." The annual Adm. Callaghan Essay Contest challenged students to illustrate effective leadership. In all, this event stands out on our packed calendar as one that directly connects alumni with students and places Ignatian values at the forefront.



**100 Years In, Loyola Guild Still Dedicated to Jesuit Education**



This year, the Loyola Guild celebrates its 100th anniversary, and in April, about 175 members, spouses, and friends attended a Mass and luncheon marking the milestone. Started in 1925 to raise money to help Jesuits with paying a few bills at St. Ignatius College which, decades later, became the University of San Francisco and St. Ignatius College Preparatory, today the Loyola Guild carries on as a tax-exempt, non-profit organization which has continually contributed to now fully-endowed scholarship funds at USF and SI.

Members are largely mothers of USF and SI alums. Loyola Guild President Connie Mack, mother to an SI and USF alum and an SI and Loyola Marymount alum, said her involvement with the organization is a natural extension of her volunteering and social activities with the Ignatian Guild while her sons were at SI.

"I was president of the Ignatian Guild, so I got to know a few members of the Loyola Guild before I joined," she said. "But after joining, I have met a lot of wonderful women. We have various gatherings and it is a wonderful way to stay in touch with other parents, but it is also a way to keep giving back because we raise money for scholarships. We welcome everyone, so I am looking forward to meeting younger parents whose children have recently finished high school."

Susan Mallen, whose children graduated from SI in 2009 and 2011, echoed those sentiments. She said, "I felt it was especially important to stay engaged with my sons' school during their high school years and model the value of service for them, particularly as a working mom. I was approached to attend an Ignatian Guild meeting, I went, and immediately I felt welcomed by a group of incredible women who came from a wide variety of backgrounds and experiences, and whose children had attended many different grade schools and participated in all sorts of different activities. What united us was our shared love for our families and the principles of Jesuit education."

She continued, "Upon my younger son's graduation, I jumped at the chance to join the Loyola Guild alongside amazing women who have dedicated themselves to serving others. I have made so many meaningful connections and I am grateful for the opportunity to continue being of service to Jesuit education."

For more information about the Loyola Guild, contact Connie Mack at (415) 606-6117.



# Keeping in Touch

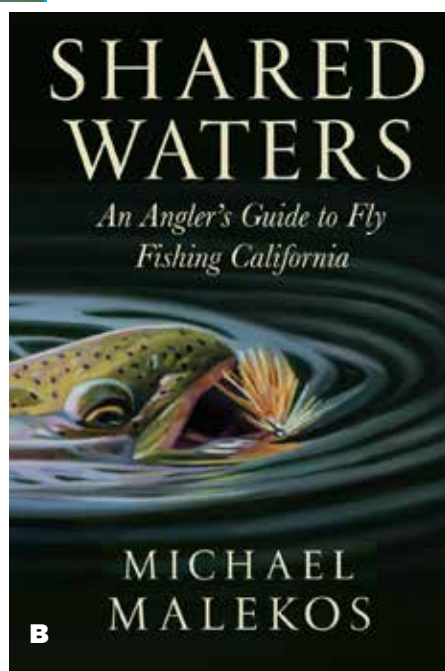
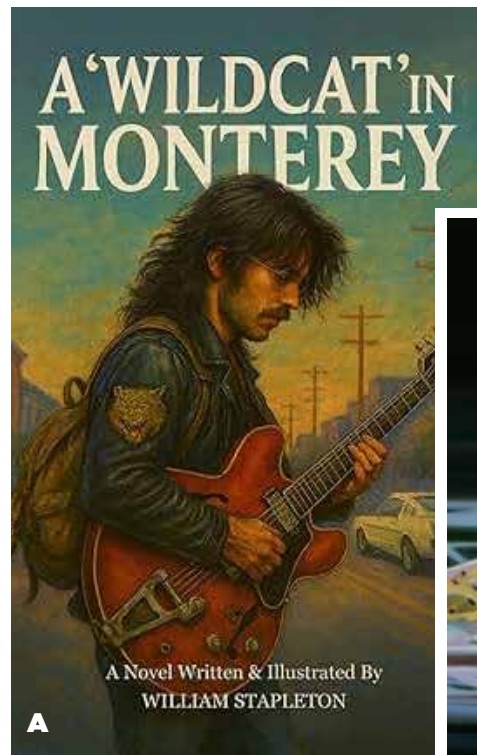
## 1950s

**David Clisham '55** celebrated the life of his late wife, Pam, last April at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in San Francisco.

## 1960s

**Frank Falzon '60**, author of San Francisco Homicide Inspector 5-Henry-7, was honored at a \$100 plate luncheon by the Irish, Italian, Israeli Society for his life achievement as a member of the SFPD. The event was held October 22nd at the SF Italian Athletic Club in North Beach.

**Billy Stapleton '67 (A)** published his novel *A Wildcat in Monterey* on Amazon. The protagonist in the story is an SI "Wildcat" grad. From the back cover teaser: Wisecracking guitarist Johnny Lyons is certain he's headed for the 'big time' when the unthinkable happens. Lost in frustration, drugs and alcohol begin to take over his life and lead him to a life of crime which quickly escalates beyond his control. Ensnared in a devil's bargain and looming criminal prosecution, Johnny fights enormous odds in a fast-paced quest for redemption peppered with twists and turns.



## 1970s

**Steve Cash '70** is in his 49th year of education. After 30 years of running private schools in Indiana, Tennessee, New York, and Florida, he is now teaching English 4 and AP Literature at an international boarding college prep school in Florida.

**Michael Malekos '75, (B)** with support from classmates **Paul Totah '75, John Cleary '75, and Joe McGuinness '75**, has released his first book, *Shared Waters*. The book profiles California's iconic trout fisheries, blending practical fly-fishing strategies, tactics, and techniques with personal reflections drawn from more than fifty years on the water. In keeping with the values instilled during his time at SI, Mike has pledged to donate all author royalties to California Trout. *Shared Waters* is available on Amazon.

**The Class of 1977** enjoying Christmas dinner at the new Original Joe's in Westlake.

**David Lee '79** retired in April 2025 after 40 years with the General Services Administration. He is currently a volunteer at Petaluma Village Network and a docent at the Robert Ferguson Observatory, Sugarloaf Ridge State Park.



## 1980s

**(Below)** Members of the Speech and Debate team gathered recently to celebrate the life of Ann Clark, mother of **Matt '88** and **Steve '89**, along with fellow team members **Jose Vargas '89, Gautam Srivastava '90, Simon Chiu '88, and Mike Sweeney '88** (not pictured).



**David Lo '89** was honored to be elected as Council Commissioner of the Silicon Valley Monterey Bay Council, Scouting America.

**Alfonso Rey '89** is the co-founder at Sentra, an artificial intelligence memory system for the enterprise.

## 1990s

**Angela Leus '98** celebrated 15 years at Universal Pictures this past January. As Senior Vice President of Film Music, she leads film music/soundtrack efforts, overseeing the creative and strategic use of music across Universal's film slate and affiliated divisions e.g. Dreamworks Animation. During her tenure, Angela and her films/soundtracks have been nominated/won American Music, Billboard Music, Grammy, Guild of Music Supervisors and Hollywood Music in Media Awards, and she was also an honoree at the 2024 Billboard Women in Music Awards. Soundtracks and corresponding singles that Angela has overseen have reached RIAA-double platinum certification and achieved Billboard Chart-topping success (Anna Kendrick's "Cups," NSYNC's "Better Place" from Pitch Perfect and Trolls Band Together, respectively.) As a committed advocate for representation in music for visual media, Angela has been instrumental in the launch of the Universal Composers Initiative in 2018. This first-of-its-kind program identifies, develops and champions talent with a focus on underrepresented groups in the industry, and increases visibility for all composers among executives, producers and directors. In partnership with Universal Talent Development & Inclusion, the initiative has grown into multi-faceted, landmark talent experience – with nearly 60% female representation and more than 79% BIPOC representation across the 24 participants to date. Past projects at Universal include the "Trolls" and "Pitch Perfect" franchises, "Jurassic World Rebirth," "Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again," "Straight Outta Compton," Jordan Peele's "Us," "Nope," and "HIM," "Kung Fu Panda 4," "Girls Trip," and the 2024 Paris Olympics. Upcoming films include "Shrek 5," Colleen Hoover's "Reminders of Him" film adaptation, and Dreamworks Animation's "Forgotten Island," set in 1990s Philippines starring H.E.R., Lea Salonga, Manny Jacinto, Dave Franco, and Jenny Slade.



## 2000s

**Leah Pimentel '00's** two-year-old daughter, Ella, is the newest face of Baby Gap.

**Greg Mangan '05 (below)** led Stuart Hall High School to an undefeated 12-0 record and an NCS D1 Championship in 8-Man football in the 2025 season. Mangan's team outscored all opponents 561-36 on the year, and pitched 8 shutouts. The Knights were also 3-0 in 11-man games. (Pictured: Defensive Coordinator **Bryan Blake '89**, far left; Mangan, second from left; and Athletic Trainer **Kailey Chan '19**, second from right)



**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](http://alumni.siprep.org)

**Amanda Dougherty '07 (below)** is the Co-Founder and General Manager of Sonoma Golf Studio. Opening in December, it is the first-ever indoor golf studio in Sonoma Valley.



**Dr. Keiko Fukuda '06** joined Montage Health in 2025, specializing in interventional neuroradiology, endovascular neurology, and vascular neurology.

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](mailto:alumni@siprep.org).

## 2010s

**Lauren Murray '10 (below)** will serve as the Interim Assistant Principal of Academics at Sacred Heart Cathedral for the 2026-2027 school year.



**Kerry Crowley '12** married Rachel Morrow in Bentonville, Arkansas on September 27, 2025. Several SI alumni were in attendance, including **Ian Anderson '12**, **Matt De Benedetti '12**, **Morgan Edwards '12**, **Meg Crowley '16**, **Jack Sheedy '14**, **Chris McGovern '12**, **Angela Balistreri '12**, **Dom Truoccolo '12**, **Jackie Grealish '12**, **Joey Solomon '12**, **James Crowley**, **Michael Loginoff '12**, and **Luke Edwards '15** (not pictured).

What began in the halls of St. Ignatius College Preparatory has grown into a professional string ensemble with a global reach. Founded in 2012 by **Rachel Yan '14**, **Coco Suen '15**, and **Annie Lee '15 (below)** under the direction of Dr. Clements in the SI music program, Montalvo Strings has performed together for over a decade, from Carnegie Hall to Kenya as part of SI's international music programs, and at countless weddings and events throughout the Bay Area. Today, the ensemble is proud to be an official vendor for San Francisco City Hall and to perform at many fellow SI alumni weddings, continuing to carry the spirit of SI onto every stage. Montalvo Strings is currently booking weddings and events for 2026–2027.



## Welcome!

**Andy Flick '94** and his partner, Sally Ma, welcomed their first child, a daughter, Autumn Michaela Flick, on October 25, 2025.

**Olivia Roth (Schreader) '08** and her husband, BJ, welcomed their second child, Dominic Scott Roth, on October 14, 2025. Nico joins big sister, Willa (2).



**Carl Otto '13 and Arielle (Sacks) Otto '13** are thrilled to announce the birth of their first child. Theodore "Teddy" Samuel Otto was born on November 26, 2025 in New York City. They are loving their new life as a family of three.



**Lauren McNevin '17** was promoted to Army CPT near the Presidio Officer's Club as USCG **CAPT Lavery (Riordan '84)** officiated. Lauren later commented, "You see Uncle Kevin, now we're both captains!" **Al Morales '72** and **Emma Krauss '17** were in attendance.



# Charlie Dullea '65

## 1947–2025



By Kate Kodros

First and foremost, Charlie Dullea '65 was a teacher. Before he was SI's first lay principal, and even before he was assistant principal for student affairs, Charlie Dullea was an English teacher.

There was a novel he loved to teach, "Bless Me, Ultima," by Rudolfo Anaya, a story about a boy who expects a miraculous encounter with the Almighty at his First Holy Communion, only to find that God is not in an earthquake, fire, or wind, but in the quiet. It's no coincidence that reflection and discernment would become the hallmarks of Charlie's long career at St. Ignatius College Preparatory.

Charlie was born and raised in The City. He graduated from SI in 1965 and walked across Parker Avenue to the University of San Francisco, where he played four years of basketball, just as he had at SI. But the most important thing about those college years was Charlie meeting and falling in love with the future Patti Dullea — and later, falling head over heels for his daughter, Jennifer. A two-year stint in the Army followed graduation, and then, equipped with a lifetime teaching credential, Charlie returned to SI as an English teacher in 1972. He was named assistant principal for student affairs in 1981.

By the time I arrived on campus as a counselor in 1988, Charlie had already done what seemed like absolutely everything: English teacher, department chair, basketball and tennis coach, retreat director, Student Council moderator, prom and rally organizer, and the person somehow responsible for everything in between. All the while, he continued teaching a section of English, preparing lessons, and meticulously grading student essays. I was immediately struck by his ability to manage an ocean of responsibilities while remaining genuinely accessible to students, to colleagues, to me. When I became assistant principal for academics in 1995, Charlie was a steady, generous presence. As the first female assistant principal at a Jesuit high school in The California Province, I especially valued his care and support.

I remember one experience where Charlie literally stood by me. It was shortly after I had been appointed assistant principal. Out of nowhere, the power on campus went off. PG&E gave no reason for the outage, and no estimate of how long it would take to restore. Without power, school was effectively shut down. Students gathered in the sunlight that managed to filter into the Student Center. Teachers hoped power would be back on soon and classes would continue, but it seemed nightmarish to keep students penned up on campus with no purpose. It also could have been disastrous to release them into the neighborhoods and homes without parental knowledge, much less permission. The principal was away, so the dean of students, Douglas Draper, S.J., deferred to me. I was paralyzed; I had no idea what to do.

Charlie helped me decide which of the three choices was the least undesirable. We stood together in the Student Center as the dean made the announcement that school was cancelled for the rest of the day. Seconds later, the power came back on. But it was too late. The students had already scurried out the doors. I was horrified. But Charlie just shrugged his shoulders and said, "Oh, well. It won't be the worst thing that happens this year."

It was always all about the students with Charlie. When he had a hand in designing the new Student Center, he insisted his office be located in the middle of it, right among the students. The first thing I noticed when Charlie was named interim principal in 1998, after the previous principal's abrupt departure, was that students followed Charlie right into the principal's office.

Students in the principal's office! Unheard of. But there they were, squeezed into chairs and on the couch, delighted to be there. Charlie, characteristically, was calm. He had just returned from a Kairos retreat, and had been reflecting on being open to whatever God might call him to do — reflection and discernment. God, through President Anthony P. Sauer, S.J., called him to become SI's first lay principal. Charlie insisted on continuing to teach at least one section of English throughout his tenure, grading essays between meetings and appointments. Being with students, he said, kept him grounded in what mattered most.

Charlie really knew the students, and he knew their parents; he had taught many of them. I would always check in with Charlie before meeting with a student who was struggling academically. There could be many reasons for a student to struggle, and ability usually was not one. Charlie's insights and common sense were invaluable. I had tough conversations with teachers as well, and with Charlie's support and advice, I was able to guide a few of them through some difficult times.

On days when we were both so busy that we hardly saw each other at all, Charlie would stop by my office on his way out of the building. We would go over the day, from mundane logistical matters to important upcoming events. We would make decisions, jot down things to investigate, and then just talk. We would talk about our own kids, the 49ers, movies, and San Francisco politics. And we always shared a good, much-needed laugh.

As an administrator, Charlie oversaw long-overdue classroom renovations, laptops for faculty, new instructional technology, and the addition of new classrooms. Most significantly, he restructured teacher workloads to give faculty more time — time to collaborate, to innovate, to absorb new research on how students learn. Time, not incidentally, to grade essays. His entire frame of reference was shaped by the classroom, and his leadership reflected it. Every fall, he reminded his staff of their purpose with words I have never forgotten: "Our job", he said, was "to support the teachers so they can spin their magic."

Charlie spun his magic at SI for nearly 50 years, and at home as well, with Patti, with Jennifer, and later with his grandson, Grant. When his tenure as principal came to an end in 2008, Charlie did what came naturally: he returned to the classroom full time.

He heard God's call in the quiet spinning of magic in classrooms and hallways of St. Ignatius College Preparatory.

Stand outside an animated classroom, and you'll hear it still.

## "IT WAS ALWAYS ALL ABOUT THE STUDENTS WITH CHARLIE"



Dr. Collin Quock '57: 1940–2025

Dr. Collin Poy Quock '57, the 2008 recipient of SI's Christ the King Award and a one-time SI regent, passed away in November 2025. He led an extraordinary life of service to the Catholic Church, the Chinese community, and the medical profession as a well-respected cardiologist and energetic civic leader.

At SI, he participated in track, wrote for Inside SI, managed the varsity basketball team, became a lifetime member of the California Scholarship Federation, and developed lasting friendships. Upon graduation, he went to the University of San Francisco for three years before transferring to UCSF to finish his bachelor's degree and pursue a career in medicine, earning his medical degree from UCSF in 1964.

After marrying the love of his life, Betty, in 1967, and serving his country for two years during the Vietnam War as captain of the Medical Corps of the U.S. Air Force at Hamilton Air Force Base, Dr. Quock returned to San Francisco and built a remarkable record of service and accomplishment. Among his many accomplishments, he started the Cardiopulmonary Unit at Chinese Hospital and was the first cardiologist to practice in Chinatown. Additionally, he served on SI's Board of Regents from 1985 to 1994, the board of governors for the University of San Francisco's Alumni Association from 1982 to 1984, and on the San Francisco Archdiocese's Re-Organization Committee from 1979 to 1980.

The late John LoSchiavo, S.J. '42, former USF president, praised Dr. Quock for his service “as a real bridge between the Chinese Community and SI and USF, his alma maters.”

Former SI Vice President Steve Lovette '63 also praised Dr. Quock, calling him “a supremely well-organized man of impeccable character and humility. He was a wonderful, caring and hard-working doctor ... the best of the best.”

Dr. Quock is survived by his wife, Betty, and by their children — Justin '86, Lisa, Erika, Jason '93, and Valerie '99 — as well as 12 grandchildren, including Justina Quock '21.



Greg Goethals, S.J.: 1955–2025

Greg Goethals, S.J., who worked at SI for many years as a rector, teacher, campus minister, counselor, chair of the Board of Trustees, and as the Superior of SI's Jesuit community, passed away in November 2025. His lasting gift to SI was to start and fund the Adult Spirituality Program, a gift to so many of us today.

Subsequently, he joined his alma mater, Loyola High School, in Los Angeles, and served as president for 19 years, a tenure he completed in spring 2025.

In a remembrance published in the National Catholic Reporter, Thomas C. Fox described him as, "...A spiritual mentor with a steady, compassionate heart — a priest who ministered to the vulnerable, including in his years of service with AIDS organizations."

Mr. Fox continued, describing Fr. Greg during a visit in the last months of his life, "We sat with red wine while he spoke about 'living in the love of God,' not as an idea but as something as immediate as breath. He talked about the spiritual life being lived not in mountaintop visions but in ordinary days: dinners, stories, shared laughter."

In addition to gathering many friends and loved ones during his ministry in the Bay Area, Fr. Greg had several nephews and nieces who attended SI: Joe '95, Meg '97, Jim '00, Kate '02, J.P. '06, and grand-nieces Sam '26 and Ellie '28.

In Memoriam

|                             |                              |                                    |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Edward J. Reidy, Sr. '44    | Gregory Wood, Sr. '59        | Richard F. Enright '72             |
| Irvine P. Sicotte, Jr. '50  | Roger A. Arnal '60           | William Egan '73                   |
| Robert R. Granucci '50      | James B. Rudden '60          | Michael Lee Gogin '74              |
| Richard Hornung '50         | Xavier Jimenez '60           | Terry P. Ratto '76                 |
| William Reilly '50          | Jack D'Angelo '60            | Daniel P. Craig '76                |
| William J. Bush '51         | Stephen Calegari '60         | Gregory Michael Hart '77           |
| Thomas Watters '51          | Gregory Bonfilio '60         | Daniel Feeney '77                  |
| James Joseph Killian '53    | Clayton F. Cavanaugh '61     | Joseph Miller '77                  |
| Dr. Julian Irias '53        | David Basso '61              | Thomas Cashman '78                 |
| Mayo Ryan '53               | Paul Richards '61            | Gregory C. Gardener '78            |
| Thomas J. Turner '54        | Edward Podesta '62           | Anthony Puig '80                   |
| Thomas Kolanoski '55        | Daniel Doonan '62            | James "Jim" Garcia '82             |
| Robert C. Barrett, Jr. '55  | Peter M. Dito '63            | Andrew Lehane '82                  |
| William Francis Cuneo '56   | Colin M. King '63            | Joven Caesar Esteban Fernandez '83 |
| James R. Rogers '56         | Kenneth McGreevy '63         | Christian Weinman '83              |
| Paul B. Wilson '56          | Robert T. Reed '64           | Matthew Cannon '87                 |
| Peter Kerner '56            | Frank Lucier '64             | Martin "Marty" Maguire '04         |
| Daniel Ignatius Cooney '57  | Gerald H. Robinson, S.J. '65 |                                    |
| Dr. Collin Quock '57        | Dr. Gerald R. Hover '65      | As of May 31, 2026                 |
| Robert "Bob" Bjorkquist '58 | Dr. Joseph Cordes '67        |                                    |
| George Strain '58           | Michael Harrington '68       |                                    |
| James "Jim" Collopy '58     | Jim Nichols '68              |                                    |
| John Mansfield Kiely '58    | John M. Shine '70            |                                    |
| James R. Brady '59          | Christopher A. McCarthy '71  |                                    |
| Richard J. Seyler '59       | Mark J. Wildermuth '71       |                                    |



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