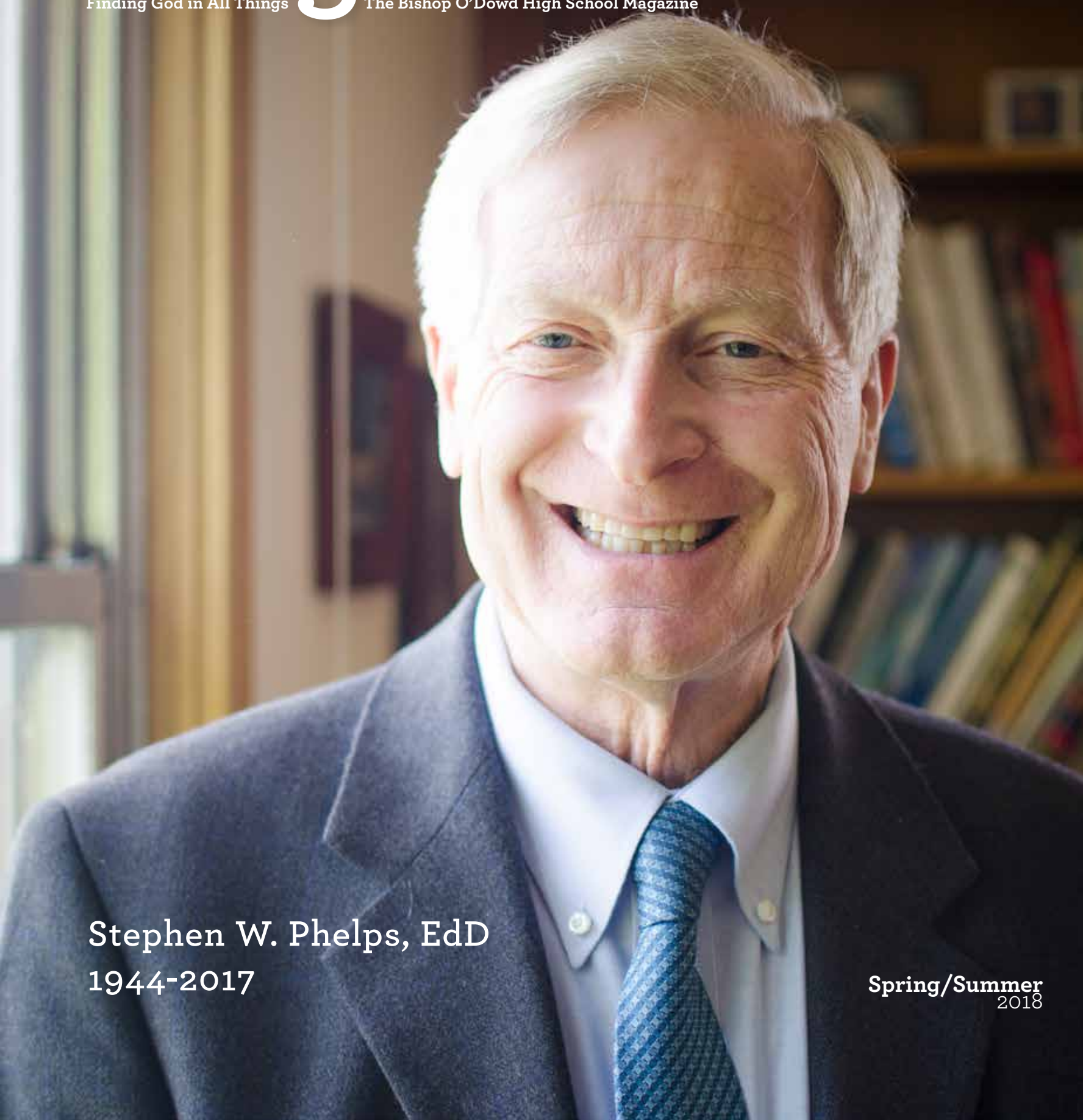


Dragon

Finding God in All Things

The Bishop O'Dowd High School Magazine



Stephen W. Phelps, EdD
1944-2017

Spring/Summer
2018



Charism

Finding God in all things calls us to:

- Community in Diversity
- Strength of Character
- Academic Excellence
- Kinship with Creation
- Social Justice
- Joy

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From the PRESIDENT

The unexpected loss of our president, colleague, and friend, Dr. Stephen Phelps, leaves a huge hole in our hearts and our school leadership. Steve was a visionary, faith-filled leader who tirelessly led our dedicated faculty, staff, students, parents and alumni and helped us together make O'Dowd a premier Catholic College Preparatory School that reflects the diversity and pursuit of excellence for which the Bay Area is known. His unmatched legacy leaves us well-positioned for the future with, among other key achievements, a record number of freshman applicants for the 2018-2019 school year, the purchase of 20 acres of adjacent land from EBMUD and an inspiring new master plan for campus facilities.

We dedicate this issue to Dr. Phelps and pay tribute to his many significant and lasting accomplishments. Centrally important to Dr. Phelps was O'Dowd's Charism, "Finding God in all things" which calls us to - among other things - Academic Excellence. In this edition, we showcase O'Dowd's commitment to academic excellence, college preparatory rigor and expansive programming, both inside and outside the classroom. As you read about our programs, I'm sure you will join me in admiration and gratitude for our faculty and staff who continue to innovate and bring excellence into their classrooms, while supporting the personal, spiritual and intellectual growth of our students. O'Dowd graduates are engaged learners and citizens, highly prepared for college and beyond.

I thank Bishop Barber for the honor of serving as your interim president and have been humbled by your warm reception. As an O'Dowd parent and member of the Board of Regents, I know how truly blessed we've been by Dr. Phelps' leadership and how fortunate we are to be a part of such a special and unique community. Through a rigorous nationwide search process, aided by a professional search firm, I am confident we will find the best new president for O'Dowd. Our goal is to have a new leader in place for the start of the 2018-2019 school year.

Thank you for the many ways you show your support for O'Dowd and our mission and values. As we embark together on this new chapter, may we be inspired by the memory of Dr. Phelps and his eternal optimism, his genuine concern for others, his authenticity, his boundless energy and his unfailing smile. He gave his all to O'Dowd every day and showed us how to live out our Catholic values in pursuit of a more just, joyful and sustainable world. May we carry forward in our hearts and minds the lessons he taught us and continue his good work.

Warmly,

Kim Walsh
Interim President

Write us!

We welcome your letters in response to articles in this magazine. Please e-mail submissions to *Dragon* editor Lisa Coffey Mahoney '76 at lmahoney@bishopodowd.org or send a letter to:

Dragon Magazine
9500 Stearns Ave.
Oakland, CA 94605

We reserve the right to edit letters for clarity and space.

Are you interested in being a featured contributor? Please contact Lisa Coffey Mahoney '76. We reserve the right to make decisions on whether or not to publish submitted contributions based on theme of the issue, available space and the nature of the story.

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Contributed and staff photos are featured in the *Dragon*.

Remembering Stephen W. Phelps, EdD - 1944-2017 -

Innovator and Futurist in the Field of Catholic Education

“This was a man who could never rest with ‘the way things were’ because he knew that each class of students came with new experiences, asking us to prepare them for their new futures that demanded new approaches,”
Lorraine Ozar, Clinical Associate Professor and Andrew M. Greeley Endowed Chair in Catholic Education at Loyola University Chicago.

The Bishop O’Dowd High School community continues to mourn the passing of President Steve Phelps, Ed.D, a passionate and visionary leader and man of principle and kindness.

Phelps, 73, passed away on December 26, 2017, after suffering complications from a heart procedure. He is survived by his wife Sue, children Amy and Chris, and grandson Boston.

Accomplishments 2005-2017

Steve’s first initiative at Bishop O’Dowd High School focused on renovating every classroom, including adding state-of-the-art technology and flexible furniture because he believed that we needed to start with a project that affected every student, every period, every day.

Under Steve’s direction, O’Dowd raised \$30 million to invest in its programs and facilities from 2005-17, increased its total financial holdings to \$18 million with no debt, increased annual fundraising from \$300,000 in 2004-05 to \$3.2 million in 2016-17, and increased financial aid from \$900,000 for 15% of students (170) in 2005-06 to \$3.5 million for 30% of students (370) in 2017-18.

Steve spearheaded the one-to-one laptop program (O’Dowd was one of the first schools in the Bay Area to implement such a program), and devoted time, personnel, funding and energy to enhance the technology infrastructure that would support expanding tech growth.



Phelps' impact in Catholic education is immeasurable, according to colleagues.

“For more than 40 years Stephen Phelps benefitted and improved Catholic education by acting on two deep insights that drove his innovative approach to everything he did. Steve knew that 1) to be transformative, Catholic schools must be excellent for our times; and 2) when Catholic schools share knowledge and resources they become collectively better.

For Steve, Catholic schools – no matter how excellent or in need of improvement – must change and grow, using the best tools of the age and reshaping those tools in light of the Gospel message.

Without such change, Steve saw, we cannot educate every child who comes to our schools so they can be advocates for social justice and persons capable of transforming their world,” **Lorraine Ozar** said.

“Steve was a visionary leader who worked tirelessly to thoughtfully respond to the changing needs of 21st century students. He led with the perfect balance of heart and mind and was a remarkable thought-partner for transforming education. Those who knew Steve well, understood that he engaged others by sharing his endless supply of ideas, books, and revelations and that he was a sincere and caring human being who truly made a difference,” Moreau Catholic Principal **Lisa Tortorich**, who served as assistant principal at O’Dowd from 2005-09.

Steve recognized that the mission of Catholic educators is to reach every student entrusted to them. With that focus, he dedicated resources to significantly expand the supplemental academic support services at O’Dowd. Additionally, he supported the development of a comprehensive tutoring program before, during and after school.

During Steve’s administration, ensuring adaptability, sustainability, advancing student discovery and demonstrating stewardship of the land were the key factors that drove the expansion of the Living Lab, a four-acre certified wildlife habitat and outdoor classroom, and the building of the 5,000-square-foot LEED-Platinum-Certified Center for Environmental Studies (CES). Integrating sustainability as a key thread throughout O’Dowd’s curriculum, as well as providing outdoor education experiences to other schools, supported these priorities. O’Dowd has been recognized at the state and national levels for its sustainability program, and in 2016 was named a U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon School in recognition of the school’s efforts to reduce environmental impact, create a healthy learning environment, and provide effective sustainability education that prepares students to succeed in the 21st century.

Where Steve Phelps Made a Difference

Coach, Mentor and Educator in the **Fillmore and Hunters Point** areas and **Sacred Heart Elementary School**, 1965-1972

Teacher, Coach and Director of Professional Development
St. Ignatius College Preparatory School, 1972-2004

President, **Bishop O'Dowd High School**, 2005-2017

“Steve Phelps worked to augment the life of the entire person. If they needed food, he would make sure they were fed. If a child needed academic assistance, he would tutor. If emotional support was required, he offered his heart.

If we ever wonder how to live a life that is ‘for the greater glory of God and the salvation of humanity,’ look at the life of Dr. Phelps.”

Jerome Williams,
Class of 1975, St. Ignatius High School
A former student of Steve Phelps



Under Steve’s direction, O’Dowd significantly expanded Campus Ministry to include comprehensive Service Learning (each student completes a minimum of 100 hours of service over four years), Kairos retreats and Immersion programs, providing life-changing experiences for students

He also made it a priority to be a leader in Diocesan-level planning and to support the elementary schools with money, time and effort.

In recent years, the school, under Steve’s leadership, created a long-range master plan, introduced new and expanded existing programs and experienced the most successful admissions seasons in school history.

**THANK YOU
DR. PHELPS**

Thank You for Your Outpouring of Support

The O'Dowd community experienced an incredible outpouring of support after the sudden and unexpected death of President Steve Phelps.

As of February 20, 2018, nearly 140 donors had given more than \$200,000 to the Stephen Phelps Memorial Scholarship Fund. Many of them also offered moving examples of his impact on their lives and we wanted to share a few with you.

"Dr. Phelps truly had a passion for education and ensuring the diversity and sustained success of the O'Dowd community. His door was always open if you wanted to talk, and he did whatever he could to help his students succeed."

Dylan Brown '17 and family

"In honor of Dr. Phelps and his noble cause of ensuring a quality education for all who seek it. We only knew him briefly but quickly came to appreciate his grace, warmth and commitment."

Mark Johnson and Jane Wellenkamp, parents of Ciela Johnson '21

"Both my alumni children fondly recall Steve's genuine warmth and interest in their lives. Steve will live on in the memories of the many, many children whose lives he impacted. He was, as they simply stated, 'the greatest guy'."

Steve and Janice Hull, parents of Michael '15 and Samantha '16 Hull

"If it wasn't for Dr. Phelps, my sister and I would have never had the opportunity to go to O'Dowd. Thank you so much Dr. Phelps for what you did for the O'Dowd community and my family."

Belinda Magalon '16

"Steve Phelps was a visionary educator and leader with the heart of Jesus. He dedicated his professional life to the intellectual, spiritual and physical care of his students and their families. May his brilliance, goodness and grace leave an indelible imprint on the O'Dowd community."

Judy Logan Smith '64



STEPHEN PHELPS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Stephen Phelps Memorial Scholarship Fund recognizes Steve's decades of service to Catholic education and to the O'Dowd community. Throughout his career, Steve helped countless students to transform their lives through education and to develop into future leaders.

You can join us in honoring Steve's legacy and his dedication to ensuring that an O'Dowd education is accessible to all deserving students with a gift to this endowed scholarship fund. Donations can be mailed to the school or made online at

www.bishopodowd.org/phelpsfund



Kim
WALSH

*Serves as
Interim President*

PRESIDENT SEARCH COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Search Committee represents all constituencies of the school, including the Board of Regents, alumni, faculty, staff, parents and parents of alumni:

Kim Walsh P '14, '16, '19, Interim President & Search Committee Chair

Rev. Mr. George Alengadan, Pastor,
St. Joseph Basilica, Alameda

Kerwin Allen P '12, Board of Regents,
Vice President Kennedy Jenks, Inc.

Chris Garavaglia, Chief Financial Officer

Kevin Kelly P '16, '18, '21, President,
Board of Regents, CEO Emerald Packaging

Lars Lund, President, Junipero Serra High
School

Rev. Mr. Keith Maczkiewicz, S.J.

Rhonda Morris '83 P '21, Vice President of
Human Resources, Chevron Corporation

Kathleen Radecke, Superintendent of
Schools, Diocese of Oakland

Fran Warmerdam, Director of Counseling

O'Dowd Initiates Nationwide Search for President

The Most Reverend Michael C. Barber, SJ, announced in January that a nationwide search would be conducted to identify O'Dowd's next president. Kim Walsh is currently serving as interim president.

"As Bishop of the Diocese of Oakland, one of my major responsibilities is appointing the presidents and principals of our Diocesan Catholic schools. Bishop O'Dowd High School is one of the most important and effective Catholic apostolates of our Diocese. A successor to Steve Phelps will be selected to carry forward the continued success and growth of the school," Bishop Barber said.

Walsh has served on the O'Dowd Board of Regents for six years, three as chair and two as vice chair, and worked closely with Phelps on many fronts, including fundraising, admissions, marketing and campus development. Phelps passed away on December 26, 2017, due to complications following a medical procedure. In addition to her interim president responsibilities, Walsh is leading the search committee in its effort.

Walsh has a successful private sector career and will not be a candidate for the position.

Catholic School Management (CSM), a division of Christian Brothers Services, has been retained to ensure O'Dowd has access to a broad network of potential candidates.

Walsh has assembled a balanced committee with representatives from various constituencies (see listing). A survey to garner input from the broader community on the characteristics and criteria important to weigh during the interview and selection process has been completed.

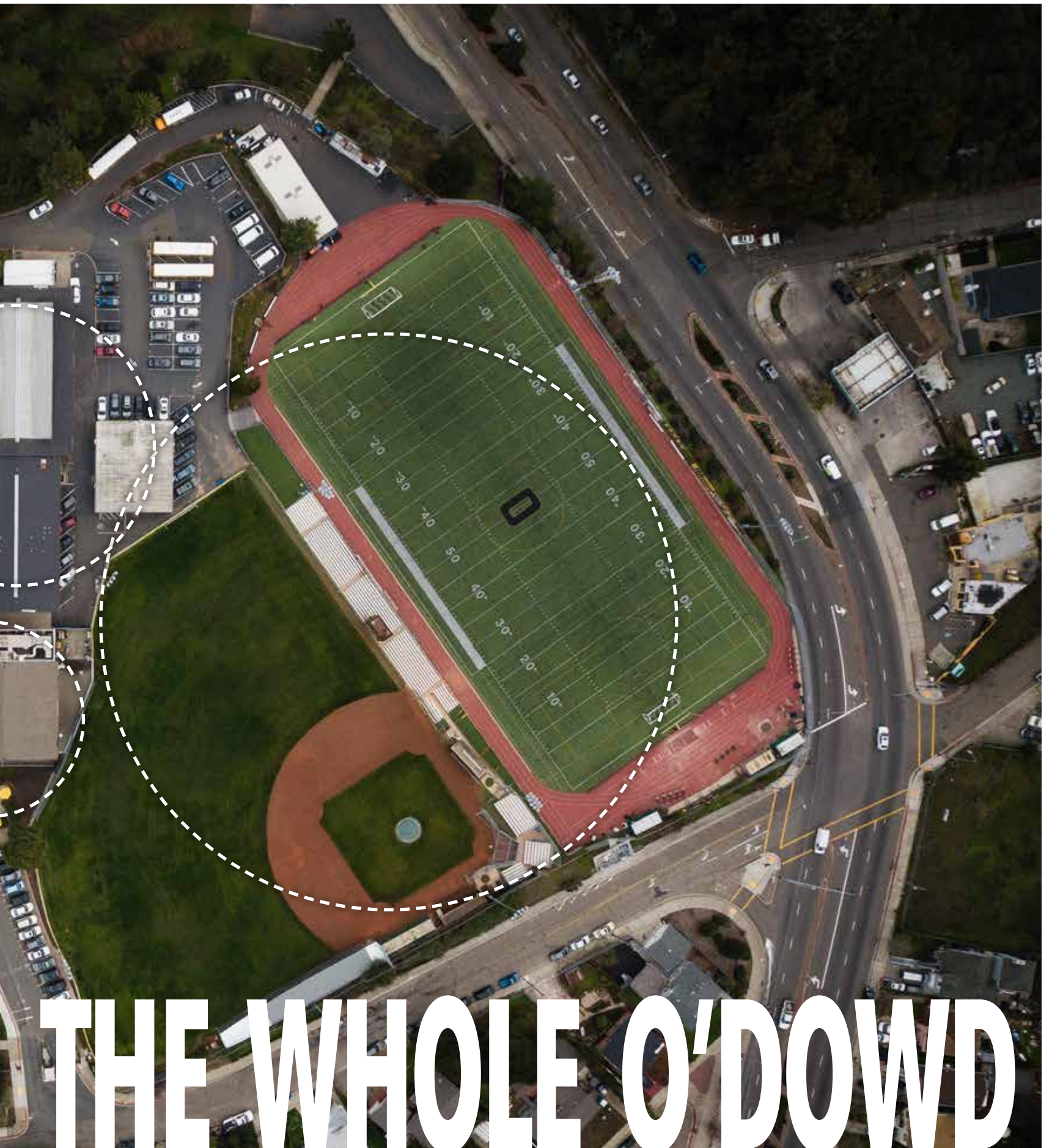
The goal of the search process is to ensure that O'Dowd continues to be, as described by the Bishop, one of the most important and effective Catholic apostolates in the Oakland Diocese. After interviewing and vetting each candidate, the search committee will make a recommendation to Bishop Barber who will make the final appointment.

O'Dowd's next president will be appointed for the 2018-19 school year.

There is a page on the O'Dowd website devoted to the job description posting, survey input and other timely updates about the search, www.bishopowdowd.org/president-search.

Academic rigor and content literacy is at the heart of an O'Dowd education. Our core work within academics, counseling, activities, sustainability and campus ministry, and the interplay between those program areas, is enhanced by many different and evolving co- and extra-curricular programs. These complementary programs emerge out of a context in which anticipating current and future needs is always occurring, ensuring the relevancy and power of an O'Dowd education.





THE WHOLE O'DOWD

ENGLIS

Purposeful and Cohesive English Department Curriculum Enhances Student Experience



Renee Early.

When English Department chairperson **Renee Early** discusses political theory in upper level literature classes, she can rest assured this isn't a new concept for her students.

Because of the department's carefully scaffolded curriculum, Early knows that the students analyzed issues like justice, power and democracy when they read *Lord of the Flies* during sophomore year.

"Within the department there is a specific scope and sequence for each year of study, which results in a sense of cohesiveness for the students. I can allude to what the students studied in earlier years and I'm confident they can make the connections," she said.

This type of purposefully designed curriculum - both vertically from grade level to grade level, and horizontally from course to course - prevents needless repetition and creates an environment where students can confidently take on challenging, higher level work.

While English Department faculty members routinely hear anecdotal evidence from alumni and parents about the strength of the English Department (see sidebar stories about **Zenzile Riddick '15** and **Caitlin Walsh '14**), a quantitative marker of success is O'Dowd students' AP English Literature exam scores.

In 2017, the national pass rate for the exam was 52.6 percent, while the O'Dowd pass rate was 100 percent - the rate for at least the past 10 years. The number of 5's (highest possible score) on the exam achieved nationally was 6.7 percent, while 65 percent of O'Dowd students achieved a perfect score.

Connor Tamor '18 had never written an essay on a book prior to his freshman Honors English I class taught by Early. "I'm pretty sure I had the most confused look on my face. The words 'signal phrase,' 'concrete detail,' and 'commentary' meant absolutely nothing to me," he said.

"However, Ms. Early took us through baby steps - color-coding everything, showing us how to outline our ideas, and putting different parts of the essay into different colored text boxes. Eventually, we worked our way up from color-coded boxes and bullet points to an actual essay with all of the MLA formatting. Sometimes I still use the color-coding method in order to gather my thoughts and write a cohesive essay. Whenever I get assigned an essay, I still get intimi-

dated. However, I find confidence in knowing that I've written essays for the past four years and that this next essay can't be any worse than the last," he said.

Today, as an AP English Literature student, Tamor reads books with an analytical eye. "I've learned what annotating means. It's not just highlighting and underlining random lines in the text that sound interesting, but writing commentary about the symbolic purpose and literary meaning of those words," he said.

Early said the department is fortunate to have a department reader - **Thea Patterson '09** - who reviews student essays and provides valuable feedback. Students have the opportunity to revise their essays and then faculty members provide final grades.

"The draft process allows students to be metacognitive of their work - for example do they need to pay more attention to tenses, provide stronger evidence, or be more consistent in their arguments," she said.

Meanwhile, the department recently integrated new technology that helps students build vocabulary and grammar skills through a platform called Membean.

Another online tool being piloted this year, No Red Ink, helps students improve their grammar and writing skills. This tool builds stronger writers through interest-based curriculum, adaptive exercise and actionable data.

Early enjoys watching students develop from freshman to senior year - both academically and personally. "Your voice in writing is a really important aspect of self - that is how you present yourself to the world and it is also who you are," she said.

She also gets immense satisfaction from her work. "My freshmen and I are currently reading *Of Mice and Men*. One of the parts of George's dream of owning land is seeing the product of their labor. After reading that line I turned to my freshmen and said, 'That's one of the greatest things about being a teacher - we are so connected to the product of our labor.' We see students become better readers, thinkers and writers. We help them realize their human potential. I don't know if there is a better job in the world," she said.

Finding a Voice Through Writing

“SW!” Those two letters bring back a flood of memories for **Zenzile Riddick '15**.

“Anyone who has had Ms. Early will recognize the meaning of ‘SW!’ written on their papers,” she said. “Time and time again I would craft a beautifully worded thesis, and time and time again Ms. Early would ask ‘So What (SW)?’ She was trying to teach students how to make arguments instead of statements and encourage us to connect our thoughts to an overarching significance.

“Learning this was so valuable not only because I can now argue a strong thesis but because it’s how I measure my own purpose. I can be very excited, ambitious and involved, and sometimes take too much onto my plate. The moment I decide to do something, join something, be something, I have to ask myself, ‘so what?’ Answering that question is the final personal step in validating my choices and has actually helped me confirm so many parts of my identity,” she said.



“What Ms. Early gave me is so much bigger than grades. The work ethic she demanded has helped me be a true leader. The excellence she expected from us empowered my voice. I am proud of the things that I write because I know I have every right to be; I was taught by the best,” Riddick said.

Currently a junior at UC Santa Barbara, majoring in Sociology and Black Studies and maintaining a 3.9 grade point average, Riddick has found that her O’Dowd English experience prepared her well for college.

“To this day I have not been challenged by a college level writing assignment like I was at O’Dowd, as far as difficulty goes. Since I’ve been at UCSB, I’ve earned A+ grades in six classes, all of which were heavily essay based, and TAs have gone out of their way to compliment my writing as exceptional,” she said. “I love writing. I love reading. And, with so much more thanks to Ms. Early than I will ever be able to voice, I do both incredibly well.”

Looking to the future, Riddick plans to pursue a PhD in either Sociology or Ethnic Studies. “I now belong to the prestigious McNair Scholars program for PhD track students, and I’ve been able to fully immerse myself in my research without ever having to stress over its conveyance thanks to my strong writing skills,” she said.

At UCSB, Riddick serves as the Internal Vice President for the Black Student Union, Director of External Relations for the Coalition for a Better UC, is the Black Leadership Council Coordinator and works as an intern in the Office of Financial Aid and Scholarships.

Caitlin Walsh '14 Remains a Fan of the English Department



Imagine arriving at an Ivy League school as a freshman and finding that you are prepared to compete with the most accomplished students in the country. Really prepared. That's what happened to Caitlin Walsh '14 when she began her studies at Yale University.

"In all of my courses, I have felt just as qualified and prepared as my fellow students who had attended elite boarding and prep schools, such as Andover and Exeter," she said. "I even found that I had read a number of classic books, such as *Beloved* and *Moby Dick*, in high school that some of my friends from those schools hadn't."

Now a senior at Yale, Walsh recently provided her perspective about how the O'Dowd English Department prepared her for college.

"I think one of the most valuable aspects of O'Dowd's English program is its structured nature and continuity across all four years," she said.

During her freshman Honors English I class, Walsh learned the fundamentals of writing a strong essay, interpreting literary devices, and conducting thorough quote/primary source analysis. Sophomore year, she and her classmates were introduced to concepts such as the hero's journey as they read *The Odyssey*. "This served me well when I discussed the book in depth upon reading it again for a seminar during my freshman year at Yale," she said. "Honors English 3 and AP English were truly interdisciplinary courses, and the Junior Research Paper and British Literature projects closely approximated real college research."

Walsh found that an extremely valuable component of the O'Dowd English Department program was the attention to the literary, philosophical, and historical contexts in which the books students read were produced.

"I witnessed this advantage firsthand as a freshman at Yale when I was accepted into and participated in the Directed Studies program, an interdisciplinary curriculum of Literature, Philosophy, and History and Politics centered on the Western Canon. The program was only offered to 100 freshmen in my class through competitive admission," she said.

"I firmly believe that I would not have been accepted into the Directed Studies program, nor survived its requirement of writing a lengthy paper a week, had it not been for my background in and skills acquired through O'Dowd's English program," Walsh said.

Today, as a history major, Walsh frequently reads primary sources to try and extract meaning that can be used to craft a unique argument. "I use the same quote analysis skills that I learned in O'Dowd's English program to do this, even though I now read historic government documents or newspaper archives rather than works of literature," she said.

Walsh has plans to attend law school and believes that the critical thinking and logic skills she learned in O'Dowd English classes will serve her well in a legal career.



Encouraging the Next Generation of Scientists

Though **Kate Marcel '18** had an interest in science long before she started high school, she's discovered a deep passion for the subject at O'Dowd and an appreciation for how scientific practices apply in other disciplines, too.

"Science is not merely an area of study for me. It is a tool to solve problems, to better the world. It is a common language to speak across nations and to consider what affects all of us. Science is where creativity and needs create solutions," she said.

This is music to Science Department chairperson **Tim Newman's** ears.

"We want to engage students and encourage curiosity, and we want them to operate like real scientists - to use the Claim, Evidence and Reasoning (CER) framework to create better scientific explanations," he said.



To ensure these outcomes, the O'Dowd Science Department three years ago introduced the foundational Science and the Environment (SE) class - a year-long course for freshmen.

This course introduces students to basic scientific methods, as well as laboratory tools, data collection methods, educational technology and analysis, and integrates skills and knowledge in biology, chemistry, earth science, environmental science and physics, preparing students for success in their future science classes.

Each summer, Science Department faculty members take time to scrutinize and revamp the SE course curriculum, which is fully aligned with Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS). These standards aim to ensure that students have the tools and skills necessary to succeed in a rapidly and continuously changing world.

"We've actually made some really huge changes, such as moving parts of the curriculum from one unit to another because we think the concepts would be better scaffolded," he said. "And we've also rewritten some of the labs so that they are more inquiry-based. There's less direction from teachers and more opportunity for data analysis."

And there's a cross-cutting approach to the curriculum, which means concepts from subjects like physics and chemistry are also addressed in biology class. "That's a big deal because science classes have been narrowly focused for way too many years," Newman said.

One thing that Kate loves about the O'Dowd Science Department is the promotion of creativity. "For one of the labs we had to develop an experiment around an insect. I made a contraption to measure the angle of incline that a centipede could cling on certain materials. I was so proud of my contraption, as well as the lab write up, and when Mr. Newman asked me to consider engineering as a job aspiration I was thrilled," she said. "Our teachers encourage us to think past the classroom, past the homework, and into the real world, into 'what if' and 'what will come next' questions. Because of this, I became a better scientist. By understanding what I learn and applying it to what I know I am more curious about the world around me, and I start applying what I learn to what I want to know."

In the last couple of years, O'Dowd has accelerated physical science electives, Newman said. "We now have Electronics, Robotics and Engineering Physics, and this is the first year we have offered AP Physics," he said.

An assortment of field science research trips and club activities in the areas of Robotics and Girls in STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics) compliment the academic offerings.

Newman is excited that science has become more accessible for more students. "The doors are open for different types of learning and a broader scope of people," he said.

Alexis Jackson '04

Protecting and Conserving Marine Species

Even before she started attending O'Dowd, Alexis Jackson '04 had a strong sense that she wanted to pursue marine science as a career.

But the opportunity to participate in an O'Dowd science field research trip, along with mentorship provided by Science Department Chairperson Tim Newman, fine-tuned her interest and impacted her trajectory within the broader field of marine science.

Alexis traveled to Costa Rica on an O'Dowd Ecology Project International trip in 2002, where she collected data on endangered leatherback sea turtles, learned of the effect poachers and loss of habitat have on the population, and worked to relocate sea turtle nests to increase the likelihood of nests eluding poachers until after the eggs hatched.

“The trip opened my eyes to the importance of field work. Up until then, I had always thought I would be primarily researching in labs,” she said. “And I learned that an individual has the ability to make a very significant impact, and decided I was interested in doing marine conservation work,” she said.

Alexis went on to earn undergraduate (Yale University), graduate and doctoral degrees (University of California at Santa Cruz) in ecology and evolutionary biology. As an EPI alum, she applied for and received an Alumni Leadership Award that helped fund her graduate research project expenses.

As a PhD candidate, she was interviewed as a scientific expert for a PBS *Changing Seas* episode on spawning of Nassau Grouper in the Cayman Islands.

Currently Alexis is Fisheries Project Director for The Nature Conservancy's California Oceans Program, and one of the projects she is working on involves creating a red abalone fishery management plan that would assure long-term conservation and sustainable use of the mollusk.

“I enjoy the intersection of science and policy work,” she said. “It's not enough to do just research if you want to enact change.”

VISUAL ARTS

Visual Arts Program Encourages Students to Create Without Fear



Thien Pham.



“Is this good?”

Art Department Chairperson

Thien Pham cringes when a student asks that question about his/her visual arts project. “I always reply, ‘Do **you** think it is good?’” he said.

Within a rigorous academic environment like O’Dowd, and with many subjects constrained by specific standards, students are always looking for the “right” answer,

Pham said. “Because visual arts classes are creative, students learn that there isn’t any ‘right’ answer - and they can make mistakes and still be successful. They learn to think outside the box to solve problems, and I think that’s an important component to growing up and becoming leaders in the workforce.”

O’Dowd’s rich visual arts program offers introductory and advanced classes in ceramics, computer art, drawing and design, film and video, painting and photography. The goal in all is to encourage students to create without fear.

“Everyone’s project isn’t going to look the same, because every student is completely different - whether it’s in skill level or creativity,” he said. “The two goals in our department are to give students the foundational tool box so that they are capable of creating art and then inspire them to create their personal vision.”

That said, students must show an understanding of elements and principals of design, as well as proficiency in application and use of materials.

Pham explained that visual arts classes are carefully structured so students can build a foundational tool box to eventually be independent in the way they create.

“The student’s challenge should never be that they can’t execute a project because they don’t know how. Their only challenge should be coming up with the creative idea,” he said. “An artist is a person who can realize their vision in a very creative and finished way because they have the foundational skills.”

Aisha McMahon ’19 says she’s enjoyed the creative freedom offered in drawing and painting classes. “The teachers give us an outline or a range to operate in and lay out certain requirements. You can do whatever you want as long as you meet those requirements. I think that’s really nice,” she said. “And, because of that, when I go to other classes I find that I think more creatively about approaching projects.”

One of the unique aspects of the O’Dowd Art Department is that the faculty members are all professional artists who can provide students very meaningful instruction and feedback.

Javier Sanchez is a world class photo realistic renderer, **Chris Roscoe** is a professional sculptor and glass blower, **Briana Loewinsohn** is an illustrator, painter and photographer, and Pham has written two graphic novels (*Level Up* and *Sumo*) and is currently working on a third.

“Our students see that we can create and I think that is key to inspiring them,” Pham said. “And we are all very collaborative and we’re constantly talking about our projects and talking with each other about what we can do to give students the skills needed for the next level of classes.”

Students benefit greatly from the school’s commitment to ensuring appropriate staffing and purchase of equipment and materials. “We have four full-time visual arts teachers, which is amazing for a high school,” Pham said. “And the school believes in funding state-of-the-art industry standard materials, equipment and applications.”

For example, students use professional grade drawing and painting materials and the school has two electric kilns and 15 professional grade pottery wheels, as well as a 3D printer, drones, camera equipment and the latest versions of sophisticated computer design programs.

“It’s part of the reason we can be so effective as teachers. It’s a real luxury to have this equipment and it definitely benefits the students,” Pham said.

McMahon says she’s not only appreciative of the availability of materials, but the way in which O’Dowd art teachers are always available to encourage and assist students. “You can come into the classroom any time to finish your project. It’s really like an open studio and the teachers are there as advisors if you need help,” she said.

Art Department projects are constantly changing, further challenging students to build their skills. “We are always doing different things in all the classes and that keeps everything fresh and new,” Pham said. “Art, just like everything else, is constantly changing and we have to change with it.”

Tearing Down Silos and Building Bridges Through Leadership Training

Having the ability to effectively communicate, build bridges, and capably lead others in a common effort is critical in today's global world.

O'Dowd's **Emerging Leaders Retreat (ELR)** program, coordinated by the Campus Ministry Department, was developed to help students gain these kinds of skills so that they can effect positive change on campus and in the greater community.

Up until a couple of years ago, core campus student leadership groups - like Associated Student Body Executive Council and Campus Ministry Team - were focused primarily on the tasks of their specific group, and seniors held most leadership positions.

There's been a significant culture shift – one in which student leaders in these core groups now understand, support and connect with one another, and find joy as they work collaboratively on schoolwide initiatives outside their designated focus. “The students leaders now have another level of excitement because feel they are part of something greater,” Associate Principal Brian Judd said.

And, freshmen, sophomores and juniors are actively being identified and encouraged to take on leadership roles.

“ELR is an invitation. It sends a message to younger members of our student body that their involvement is welcome and necessary. It provides an experience of ‘being mentored’ for the younger students, and ‘mentoring’ for the peer leaders. It is a way of drawing students into the discovery of their future gift of selves on our campus,” Principal **James Childs** said.

In September, nearly 30 students who self-selected or were identified by teachers, club moderators or coaches as up and coming leaders participated in an all-day ELR. The budding student leaders engaged in a series of workshops on topics

such as public speaking, growth mindset and teamwork/listening. They also heard from senior leaders who talked about their personal leadership experiences.

“The purpose of the Emerging Leaders Retreat was to gather together our school's current and emerging leaders, build community, develop and deepen some practical leadership skills, and have fun,” Retreat Coordinator/Religious Studies teacher **Michael Downs** said. “The objectives include deepening the leadership/collaboration/presentation skills of current leaders, and recruiting and supporting others who feel called to leadership.”

ELR participant **Colleen Cushing '19** is considering applying for a leadership position at the end of this school year and signed up for the retreat to hone her skills.

“I want to embody the great qualities that the student leaders at O'Dowd have shown through the years that I have been going to O'Dowd, and what better way to do that than by interacting and learning from them in person,” she said. “From this retreat I came away with a stronger sense of confidence and ways to be a better leader, such as getting everyone involved and pumping the energy up. The skill that I came to work on was public speaking and the activities for this were very helpful.”

O'Dowd offers many opportunities for students to discover a leadership role in a niche that really resonates with them, Judd noted.

“For example Solidarity in Action is a new group where students get to take action on social justice issues,” he said. “We've always had kids working in the Living Lab but now there is a dedicated leadership group of students - Eco-Leaders - who work with the adults to continue to raise awareness and educate and inspire kids around sustainability.”

“We've always had the senior Campus Ministry Team, but peer ministry teams are giving freshman, sophomore or junior students the opportunity to lead their classmates in grade-level Masses and have that faith-based experience.”

ADFAEFGN

FEARS

Clare Deck '12

Shares Jesuit Volunteer Corps Experience

I really had no idea what I wanted to do after graduation going into my senior year at Fordham University in the Bronx, New York. So to begin discerning what I wanted to pursue, I made a list of some of the things that I felt had greatly impacted my time at Fordham: my work with Fordham's retreat ministry; my thesis, which focused on why the U.S. government responds differently to different groups of immigrants seeking protection; my trip to Guatemala with Fordham's Global Outreach program; volunteering with students at a public school in the Bronx; studying abroad in Argentina; the Jesuit charism of "men and women for and with others." This exercise brought me to start exploring different volunteer programs, and I eventually came to settle on the Jesuit Volunteer Corps (JVC), which stood out to me because of its commitment to social justice, community, spirituality and simple living.



JVC is a volunteer organization that places young people at agencies that serve marginalized communities in cities all over the U.S. and the world. It is rooted in values that stem from the Catholic faith and the Jesuit tradition. Volunteers live together in intentional community and receive a shared

community stipend for groceries and rent, and each volunteer receives a small individual stipend.

After I applied to JVC, I was placed at Posada Esperanza in Austin, Texas, which is a shelter for immigrant women and children experiencing homelessness. My role as family advocate at Posada encompassed both shelter management and case management. Within a few weeks of beginning my service at Posada, in August 2016, I quickly realized how difficult it is to be a case manager. It's one thing to sit down a couple times a week and do all the necessary applications and renewals for benefits, schedule appointments, and apply for jobs, but it's another thing to empower a resident to truly believe that they have the means to move out of Posada and into a more stable form of housing. I was so grateful to be able to come home at the end of a hard day and have my wonderful JVC community members to comfort me but also challenge me to go back to work the next day.

At Posada, community is built on respect for the multitude of cultures that exist under the same roof. Social justice is walking in solidarity alongside the Posada women as they take on the obstacles that come with being an immigrant mother in the U.S. Simple living is shared living spaces and finding joy in shared moments with one another when it seems there is a shortage of everything else. Although Posada is not affiliated with a religious tradition, spirituality is present in listening to the stories of the residents and acknowledging that each one of them contains a universe to behold. The Posada community's dedication to immigrants and refugees reflects the values of JVC, and inspired me to continue to be a part of the work it carries out. After my JVC year came to a close in July, I decided to stay on for another year at Posada through AmeriCorps. I'm committed to continuing to live out the Jesuit charism of "men and women for and with others" that inspired me to pursue a year of JVC and ultimately to end up serving at Posada Esperanza. When my AmeriCorps year at Posada ends in July 2018, I know I definitely want to continue working in the immigration field, specifically working with newly arrived immigrants and advocating for their rights.

STUDENT LEADERS



Ann Schorno '78 Finds Her Calling Serving Others

When Ann Schorno '78 graduated from UCLA with a bachelor's degree in economics in the early 1980s the country was in the midst of a recession and she didn't have the luxury of contemplating various career options. Her number one priority was finding a job, and she was thrilled to land a job at General Telephone in Santa Monica.

Ten years later, with the economy on a stronger footing, she decided it was time to let passion be her guide. She pursued a cooking certificate, taking classes every Saturday for over a year, and accepted a job as a line cook at the Four Seasons Hotel in Chicago. She quickly advanced to the position of Hotel Manager and lived in six locations around the world, including Singapore and Shanghai. Then she was transferred to Houston – a move that didn't thrill her.

"I didn't want to be transferred there and wondered what I would learn from this experience. I later realized what an important step it was in my life journey," she said.

"Though there were so many things to love about working for the Four Seasons, the least of which was the opportunity to travel the world and stay in some of the most luxurious hotels, I really struggled with the vast divide – in terms of financial resources - between the hotel staff and guests. I had attended a JustFaith program while living in Austin on a previous assignment, and it caused me to really question what is important and what role did I want to play. When is enough, enough?" Schorno wondered.

The next logical step in Schorno's career was General Manager. She was conflicted about remaining in the hospitality industry, but didn't have time to think about making a change – until her job was eliminated.

As her boss delivered the news, Schorno started saying a Hail Mary. "At that moment I knew I would be okay - I was instantly at peace," she said.

Schorno had been volunteering for the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in Houston, and the organization had an open position for the Executive Director.

"After a series of interviews, I convinced them, as I had the Four Seasons, that though the job change was significant, both in role and financial compensation, I could do it," she said. "That was almost eight years ago, and I couldn't be happier. So many things fell into place with this new role, and I definitely could feel the impact of the Holy Spirit guiding me."

Serving as Executive Director is like running a small business, though with mostly volunteers, Schorno said. "There are many priorities that one juggles daily, and because we have a small staff I wear a lot of hats," she said.

Most recently, Schorno found herself at the epicenter of one of the country's most serious natural disasters – Hurricane Harvey.

"We immediately started helping with basic needs, like food, clothing, cleaning and hygiene supplies, and then moved into financial assistance to make sure families were not evicted from their apartments or had their utilities disconnected as they waited for pay or reimbursement," she said. "Now that people are moving either back to their homes or to new homes, we are providing furniture assistance through our House in a Box® program. We also have a large immigrant population here and with the current political climate, both federally and in the State of Texas, many were afraid to come forward for government assistance. We are working to stabilize these families, too. This work is done collaboratively, with other agencies, because no one group can do it alone."

What has been amazing is hearing the stories of people helping others in their community, regardless of what happened to their own homes, Schorno said. "The first couple weeks are high energy and then you realize that this chaos will continue for a long time - that this is the new normal. There is no clear path regarding who will do what or when in a disaster because each is unique. And a huge amount of patience is required, especially when the needs arising from the disaster far exceed the available resources," she added.

"I am so thankful for the various experiences I have had in my life. They have helped me greatly as I respond to the new challenges I face daily in my work, whether it is responding to a disaster, establishing a strategic plan, raising money to fund our programs or recruiting volunteers," Schorno said.

In addition to serving as Executive Director at St. Vincent de Paul, Schorno continues to volunteer for the organization, participating in home visits to ascertain needs and provide referrals and assistance.

She says this work keeps her personally connected to the organization's mission. "It's part of my faith journey, as it is with all our volunteers," she said. "My faith has always helped keep me grounded, and reminds me that at the end of the day I want to want to be able to look back and know I treated others the way I want to be treated myself."

Health and Wellness Program Supports Students in their Social and Emotional Growth

Bishop O'Dowd High School places a unique focus on educating the whole child in a community of care. This work is supported by increased attention to student health and wellness through integrated programming.

Over the past year, O'Dowd Health and Wellness programming has grown to include a continuum of services oriented to supporting students in their social and emotional development.

Current programming for students includes the schoolwide **Safe Environment curriculum** that addresses health and safety in relationships. Last year, O'Dowd focused on sexual assault using the documentary film *Audrie & Daisy* to elicit conversation. This year, the emotional well-being of boys and cultural awareness of healthy masculinity is being examined using the film *The Mask You Live In*.

In response to a student survey taken at the end of the 2016-2017 academic year, O'Dowd held a **Health and Wellness Week** last fall that addressed the themes of stress, depression, anxiety, eating and exercise through fun activities, educational events, and a schoolwide assembly on mindfulness.

Sanah Basrai '18 said that by making mindfulness and healthy living skills a priority, O'Dowd empowers students to take steps towards becoming emotionally aware adults. "Personally, I feel that stress levels significantly rise during finals, so I worked with Mr. Lederer and other students to help reduce stress. We suggested bringing therapy dogs onto campus during finals week. Mr. Lederer was extremely receptive and supportive and it is great to see the students spending time with the dogs on the Quad during finals. Truly, I believe that the faculty and students are better because of O'Dowd's emphasis on mental health," she said.

Dragon Talks are student-led opportunities to discuss issues as they arise throughout the year, within affinity groups, and that impact our diverse community as a whole. Dragon Talks have addressed issues related to racism, sexism, and inclusivity, both with the O'Dowd community and at broader local and national levels.

Targeting specific health and safety issues is also part of the supports offered through Health and Wellness programming. Teens For Life classroom-based **youth suicide prevention workshop** is offered to help students identify a peer who may be in crisis and encourage them to find help, and the **Alcohol-Wise and Marijuana-Wise online courses** are offered to educate students about the harmful effects of alcohol and marijuana.

At the individual level, students have the opportunity to seek **mental health support** from Lederer, a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, as well as **personal counseling services** from their respective counselors.

Faculty and staff professional development has placed a focus on bringing **mindfulness practices** to the classroom to help students learn essential self-regulation skills and suicide awareness and training to empower teachers to identify and refer students at risk of a mental health crisis. O'Dowd has been a leader in the Diocese of Oakland in hosting training for counselors, administrators and deans have in assessment and intervention for assisting students with a mental health crisis.

Our **parent education program** seeks to build community in supporting parents in their role as the primary educators of their child through events focused on helping parents navigate conversations related to healthy use of technology, safe driving, and healthy peer relationships. Parents also had the opportunity to attend a screening of *The Mask You Live In*, with discussion led by Ashanti Branch, one of the leaders in helping boys develop a healthy masculinity featured in the film.

Mark Lederer Named Director of Health and Wellness



In keeping with O’Dowd’s holistic approach to education, and with an eye towards equipping students with the skills they need to succeed both now and into the future, Mark Lederer has been named Director of Health and Wellness.

“Health and wellness isn’t just about health today – it’s about sustainable health,” Principal James Childs said. “That’s why we teach mindfulness practices and emphasize the development of healthy habits, including interpersonal skills. We want to build or facilitate competencies like resiliency, adaptability, and creativity in our students.”

Lederer has served in a variety of roles over his 16 years at O’Dowd, from teaching in the Religion and Social Studies departments to serving in Campus Ministry, to coordination of the Safe Environment and Parent Education programs, to providing therapy to students in the Counseling Department. He is also a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

“A significant overlap exists among the responsibilities and efforts related to my work developing and administering the Safe Environment curriculum, coordinating Parent Education programming with our Dragon Parents, and providing school-based mental health services. The common theme of health and wellness is an appropriate frame for each of these undertakings and the naming of a directorship is a consolidation and expansion of these services. It is an honor to serve in this capacity and to be in conversation with our leadership about the health and wellness of our school community,” Lederer said.

In his new role, Lederer has been working in Director’s Council to develop a vision for Health and Wellness that is guided by data in supporting students in their social-emotional growth, equipping faculty and staff to educate the whole child, and engaging parents as the primary educators of their children. With this in mind, a primary effort has been to undertake a school climate survey to provide a foundation of data to guide programming and measure growth for not only health and wellness, but also curriculum and instruction, equity and inclusivity, and student activities. He envisions the development of Health and Wellness programming within a framework of offering a continuum of services, from more inclusive community wide outreach, to more targeted programming for specific needs, to individual supports.

Associate Principal Jase Turner said school administrators understand that students are coping with various levels of stress on a daily basis which can impact their ability to be their best selves academically.

“Our holistic approach to education - teaching to the heart and minds of our students - affirms the importance of fostering a community where students’ well-being is a priority. We have an obligation to create spaces where we focus on the social and emotional health of our students,” he said.

“The development of collaborative relationships in our diverse community in a common effort to foster the integration of health and wellness supports into the school culture is at the core,” Turner said.

CORE Program Provides Vital Academic Support



As an incoming freshman, Michael Thaete '18 was apprehensive and nervous about the academic expectations and responsibilities at O'Dowd. "In middle school I could barely keep up with the workload, and I thought high school would be impossible," he said.

Today, Michael is a confident, successful student looking forward to college, where he plans to major in film studies. He attributes his academic growth to his participation in O'Dowd's CORE program, which serves students whose High School Placement Test (HSPT) scores suggest that they may benefit from additional support.

"Because we believe that test scores are not always indicative of a student's ability and potential for success, the HSPT is just one component considered in determining one's placement in the CORE program. Others include the personal statement, teacher recommendations and middle school grades," program coordinator and counselor Patrice Wakeley '01 said.

Fifteen to 20 freshmen are admitted to the CORE program annually, and currently there are about 60 CORE students in grades 9-12.

All students in the program receive structured and targeted academic and personal support throughout their four years at O'Dowd, with the most intensive support occurring during freshman year.

Working one-on-one with Wakeley, the students develop personalized strategies for success which may include working on test-taking, organizational, time management and self-advocacy skills.

In addition to instructing the Academic Skills class that all freshman CORE students take, Wakeley meets with CORE students on a regular basis – two to three times a week for freshmen, with meetings often tapering down to once a week or every other week as students become more self-sufficient.

She also meets with CORE students' teachers monthly to gain understanding about how students are doing in the classroom. "I ask the teachers about the supports students are utilizing and we brainstorm about what else we can do to assist them," she said. "We also discuss any personal issues the students might have that could be affecting their academic performance."

Michael said he's become skilled at breaking down assignments and projects into manageable increments and is no longer afraid to ask for help when he struggles with concepts.

For example, when Michael arrived at O'Dowd he had a hard time with Math. He attended a series of after school one-on-one study sessions with Math teacher Carlos Trujillo which got him over the hump. "His attention and focus was on me and helping me try to figure out Math problems," Michael said. "As a result, I've been able to perform better in Math than I ever had before."



Similarly, **Jevon Holland '18** has greatly improved his notetaking skills, using the Cornell Method - a systematic format for condensing and organizing notes - that he learned as an O'Dowd freshman. He's found that precise notes make it easier for him to study and prepare for tests.

Essay writing used to stymie Jevon. "I would think of good ideas, but when I tried to put them on paper or type them on the computer, they wouldn't come out the way I wanted them to - and then frustration set in," he said.

After school study sessions with Wakeley, coupled with support from his freshman year English teacher, Michael Lucas, were instrumental in helping Jevon learn the basic steps of essay writing.

For **Maya Perkins '18**, academic success is closely tied to being organized - something she didn't fully appreciate until she arrived at O'Dowd. "During freshman year I learned about the importance of organizational skills," she

said. "Now I'm really good about checking my planner and Schoology to see when homework and other assignments are due. And I try to plan ahead and get homework done early."

Being so organized has made it easier for Maya to participate in sports - rugby, track and cheerleading - as well as serve on the Associated Student Body Executive Council.

"Education is everything! To be educated is to be given the opportunity to become more, do more, excel and exceed expectations - yours and those of others."

Education is an equalizer, a leveler of the field. It can mold our behaviors and inform our understanding of our fellow man.

The greater the emphasis on and active support of education the better our world can become."

Suzanne Schofield Connolly '65
CORE program supporter

A Collaborative Effort

Wakeley maintains regular communication with parents, advising them of their student's progress and outlining specific support for the upcoming semester or academic year.

"The idea is that everybody is really involved in this child's success. The student is invested, the family is invested, and we are invested," she said.

Wakeley says she enjoys getting to know the students and figuring out the best ways to support them. "The relationship building that occurs during the academic skills classes and in our meetings is really impactful over their four years," she said. "Every student is different and needs different levels of support. Being able to support students in the way that is best for them is really rewarding."

Suzanne Schofield Connolly '65

A Trailblazer in the Field of Dermatology

The first woman on the staff in the department of dermatology at Mayo Clinic in Rochester and the founding chair of the department of dermatology at Mayo Clinic Arizona, **Suzanne Schofield Connolly '65** has blazed trails throughout her career in medicine, persevering in the face of gender bias.

For example, when Connolly's husband, Peter, helped prep her for medical school interviews, he peppered her with questions that she thought would never be asked in the real world. She was wrong. "I was asked by one professor about prospects of pregnancy!" she recalled.

"There were just 10 women in my medical school class of 120, and we worked and studied hard," she said. "Looking back, one regret is that there were not female physician mentors at the ready. That would have been helpful. Fortunately the importance of mentoring is now emphasized."

Connolly graduated from Santa Clara University, where she pursued pre-med studies, and then earned a master's degree in immunology with an emphasis on virology (study of viruses) at UC Berkeley.

She received her medical degree from University of California, San Francisco, and did her dermatology training at Mayo Clinic Graduate School of Medicine in Rochester, Minnesota.

Connolly switched to medical school from the PhD track to have greater opportunities working with people, rather than mice. She chose to specialize in dermatology because it encompasses all medicine including microbiology, virology, oncology and immunology – and all age groups. It also involves patient interaction as well as surgery.

The Path to Professional Fulfillment

When Connolly initially decided to pursue a career in medicine she didn't fully consider the years she would have to invest completing the requisite training – four years of medical school and four years of residency. "My husband was and is my 'rock' and my biggest supporter," she said.

Yet Connolly relished every opportunity for learning – in particular working at the renowned Mayo Clinic in Rochester alongside the world's top physicians. "A breadth of clinical cases are seen and the strength of care is really founded in working as a team - within a specialty department and among different departments - to address the needs of the patient," she said. "Continuous professional development and learning were the real benefits of working in that type of environment. It was both humbling and stimulating, and there was always more to learn."

After 12 years at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, Connolly was asked in 1987 if her family would consider a move to Scottsdale, Arizona, where Mayo Clinic was establishing a branch.

“We were thrilled to return to the West and it was an opportunity for me to head the Department of Dermatology at Mayo Clinic Arizona (where she remained until her retirement in 2010). It was a big task, but so worthwhile. I experienced lots of challenges and personal growth,” she said. “Although I’m now retired from active practice, I continue to work with residents and mentor medical students. Medical students from many schools across the country rotate at Mayo, but with Mayo’s opening of a medical school campus in Scottsdale, there is the opportunity to mentor individuals over their four years of med school training here which is terrific.”

“Patient care has always been my focus,” she said. “But education - working with medical students and residents as well lecturing on a local, regional, national and international basis - and clinical research have always been a part of my activities,” she said.

Working in the field of medicine has been rewarding on a number of levels, Connolly said. “It’s a very service-oriented career,” she said. “And it was great to have the ability to be both a problem solver and a teacher.”

Connolly treated Senator John McCain from the time of the diagnosis of melanoma on his temple until she retired. “It was a privilege to participate in his care,” she said.

There are several precautions people can take to minimize the risk of skin cancer, said Connolly, including:

- » Cover up
- » Wear sunscreen- even on cloudy days (UV rays penetrate cloud cover) and reapply about every 2 hours when active
- » Generously apply a broad spectrum (protects against UVA and UVB wavelengths of light), SPF 30 water resistant sunscreen to all exposed areas of skin
- » Seek shade
- » Be skin aware - know your “spots” and be aware of changes in them, such as itching, bleeding, change in size, color or shape
- » Wear sunglasses



During her career Connolly held a host of leadership positions, including serving as vice president of the American Academy of Dermatology - the world’s largest dermatological society. She has also chaired the American Academy of Dermatology Task Force on Appropriate Use Criteria for Mohs Micrographic Surgery. Mohs is a precise surgical technique in which thin layers of cancer-containing skin are progressively removed and examined until only cancer-free tissue remains.

“I’ve actively participated, giving lectures, preparing posters and writing articles for peer-reviewed journals in my specialty in local, regional and national dermatological organizations,” she said. “It’s important to participate. Be there and be engaged.”

The opportunity to make a difference in the lives of patients has been the most rewarding aspect of her career, says Connolly. The most challenging? “There were never enough hours in the day.”



Patrice Wakeley '01

7things ABOUT *Patrice Wakeley '01*

What inspired you to do this kind of work?

I was inspired to become an educator because of the countless teachers and advisors who positively impacted me throughout my educational journey. These experiences, combined with my summer work at a local youth center, solidified my passion for working with and impacting the lives of young people. Seeing the students I work with learn, grow and reach the goals they set for themselves inspires me to continue this work daily.

What is your position here and how long have you worked at O'Dowd?

I serve as a Counselor and CORE Program Coordinator. This is my 4th year at O'Dowd.

What is the best piece of advice you ever received (*generally—it doesn't have to be related to O'Dowd*)?

The best piece of advice I have received was to love the work that I do. Following my passion has led me to a career that allows me to feel energized, fulfilled and challenged.

What is your favorite thing about your job?

I love establishing relationships with the students I work with and seeing them grow and mature as young people over the course of their time at O'Dowd.

What about your field or position do you think would surprise people the most?

As a school counselor nothing is ever boring or stagnant. I am constantly learning and growing in my profession; there is always new information to learn, new problems and dilemmas I encounter, and new best practices for me to implement. Every day is different and every day brings a new adventure.

What is the most interesting or surprising thing about you?

Something that is a huge part of my life is travel. That being said, one thing that might surprise people is that I have traveled to over 30 countries and stepped foot on every continent except Antarctica.

If you could rescue only one thing from your burning office, what would it be?

Honestly, nothing in my office is so valuable it can't be replaced. If anything, I would grab my bag with my keys and wallet.

Bonus questions:

What is your favorite sports team or who is your favorite individual athlete?

My favorite team is at the collegiate level. A graduate of the University of Miami, I bleed orange and green. Go Canes!!!

O'DOWD



left to right: Jerry Knott '57, Ron Dirito '57, Ivan Rabb '15, Don Dirito '57, Greg Johnston '57, Frank Souza '57 and Joyce Allencastre Souza '57.

O'Dowd Basketball Celebration 2017 **DRAWS BIG CROWD**

Brandon Walker '07 vividly recalls attending an O'Dowd men's basketball playoff game held at Laney College in February 2003. Walker arrived early so he could sit as close to the court as possible to get a good look at Dragon superstar **Johnnie Bryant '03** in action. Sitting in a packed gym, with fans cheering wildly, Walker, in 8th grade at the time, dreamed of the day when he would wear the black and gold and represent O'Dowd like Bryant.

What struck Walker on a much more profound level, though, was the alumni devotion to and support of the Dragon hoops program.

After the game, as Walker hung out by head varsity coach **Lou Richie '89**, he noticed dozens of people coming up to greet Richie and the players. "I knew these people weren't parents or other coaches, so I asked Lou who they were," Walker recalled.

Richie told Walker they were alums, and quickly rattled off their graduation years and athletic and professional accomplishments. "At that moment, I realized O'Dowd basketball was a family and I wanted to earn my way into that family," he said.

Walker was one of several former players who reflected on the school's hoops legacy at the O'Dowd Basketball Celebration 2017, held on campus on September 2.

Events

“Coming together to celebrate our basketball history allowed us to pause and remember. Understanding the linkage between the past and present is not just useful, it is a profound reminder that today’s players and coaches stand on the shoulders of those who came before them and will provide the foundation for the accomplishments of those who will follow,” Richie said.

Former O’Dowd player, coach and teacher **Kevin Donahue ’63** talked about how O’Dowd has been a consistent Bay Area basketball powerhouse dating from school’s inception in 1951. “O’Dowd went undefeated in league play in 1956. What made that so memorable was that O’Dowd was a start-up school at that time, going against schools like St. Mary’s, St. Elizabeth and St. Joe’s which had been established for years,” he said.

Donahue said O’Dowd’s continued success is due to a combination of great coaching, great athletes and a strong tradition.



Jasen Powell '90 and Johnnie Bryant '03.

Women’s hoops star **Jamilla Churchill ’95**, who went on to play basketball at UC Berkeley, talked about how her Dragon Pride evolved into a personal sense of pride - pride in herself as a woman, pride in her work ethic, and pride in her character. “Of course my parents set the foundation for the concept of pride, but O’Dowd did a great job of fostering it,” she said. “And that sense of pride continues today. I see the same seeds planted in me as a 13-year-old in current O’Dowd students.”

Added Walker, “For me, being part of the Dragon family meant accountability, motivation and inspiration. I knew at any given moment I had people like **Chris Cobb, Tim Kees** (Class of 2005) and **Jamil Muchell** (Class of 2003) looking at me with high expectations to represent, as well as younger people looking up to me. That always motivated me and drove me to take the extra step, go the extra mile and work as hard as I possibly could.”

FORMER O’DOWD PLAYERS AND COACHES AMONG THE 300 EVENT ATTENDEES:

Eric Bjornson ’90, former Dallas Cowboy

Johnnie Bryant ’03, Assistant Coach for the Utah Jazz

Chris Cobb ’05, Associate Head Coach for the University of Montana Men’s Basketball Team

Mike Phelps, former O’Dowd basketball coach

Jasen Powell ’90, Head Athletic Trainer for the Los Angeles Clippers

Ivan Rabb ’15, Memphis Grizzly

Chris Rivers ’86, Director of Global Basketball Sports Marketing for Adidas

Tony Ronzone ’83, Director of Player Personnel for the Dallas Mavericks

Shelley Russi ’88, Referee Performance and Development at WNBA

Brian Shaw ’83, former NBA player/current Los Angeles Lakers Associate Head Coach

O’DOWD BASKETBALL CELEBRATION 2017 COMMITTEE

Chairpersons

Lou Richie ’89

Hillary Kigar

Cathy McFann

Mike Bowler Zachary Hile

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Grantland Bailey ’75

Mike Bannister

Tracey Broadhead Frith ’85

Lisa Brue ’85

Jamilla Churchill ’95

Kevin Donahue ’63

Shannon Donahue ’95

Tony Freccero ’96

Sara Lillevand ’86

Geoffrey Pete ’69

Laurie Bjornson Slez ’88

Mike Waldrip ’81

A delicious catered lunch was provided by **Tami Rabb** of DeVaughn’s Cajun Kitchen.

EVENTS

CONTINUED

O'Dowd Supporters Learn the Impact **OF THEIR PHILANTHROPY**

Eric Yu '18 first heard the words “social justice” in his religion class. At that time, he didn't think much about what they really meant - he simply memorized the definition for an upcoming test.

Later, while participating in a St. Anthony Justice Education Day, where Eric helped pass out free lunches to homeless people in San Francisco, he began to truly understand that social justice ensures equality for all.

“I am now part of our school's social justice club (Solidarity in Action) leadership team, and work with other club leaders to help raise social justice awareness in our school community,” Eric said.



Eric Yu '18 and Devon Meyer '18.



left to right: Deborah Ravetti, Paul Ravetti and Sarah Tunik.

Eric and classmate **Devon Meyer '18** thanked supporters of Bishop O'Dowd High School, who were gathered for a reception held at the Center for Environmental Studies (CES) on September 14, for helping providing transformative learning experiences for O'Dowd students.

More than \$3 million was raised during the 2016-17 school year, with alumni, current and past parents, faculty and staff, grandparents, organizations and friends of the school contributing. These funds allow O'Dowd to create and enhance programs that foster student growth and leadership.

Director of Service Learning **Beth Mueller** provided an overview of the service learning program, detailing how each program is integrated with a Religious Studies course, and talked about desired outcomes for students.

On average, each graduating class contributes close to 40,000 hours in service to our community. While the individual student requirement for service is 100 hours over the course of four years, many students spend extra time in their program placement sites or

seek new service opportunities in the local or global communities. For example, Eric sought out an opportunity in Detroit, Michigan, where he participated in a community rebuilding project during the summer between sophomore and junior year.

But the numbers only tell part of the story. "We want the kids to have a heart-centered, relational experience," Mueller said. "The whole service learning program is designed to help students learn how to deepen relationships with the people they serve because that is how they will learn the most."

Volunteering at a camp for foster children, Devon was struck by the fact that the children had never had a camp experience – an opportunity she took for granted as a youngster. "Although I am now done with my service hours for school, I want to continue to volunteer for various organizations, especially ones serving kids," she said.

Devon is now inspired to major in sociology in college and hopes to pursue a career that focuses on advocating for human rights and dignity.

EVENTS CONTINUED



left to right: Melissa Heller, Lionel and P.J. Vaughn, Amy '89 and Kevin '88 Hester, Lousia and John Tallarida, Tina Canales and Greg Onken.

Transforming Lives Dinner 2017
**EVENT RAISES A
RECORD \$550,000
FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

The Bishop O'Dowd High School community last fall celebrated its most successful Transforming Lives Dinner fundraising event in its history. Held on campus on November 2, 2017, the event raised \$550,000 in support of the school's financial aid program.

Funds were raised from a combination of corporate and personal sponsorships, ticket sales and paddle raise donations. The event raised 90% more than the prior year and saw an additional 55 attendees.

The event was chaired by **Greg Onken** and **Tina Canales** and **Kevin '88** and **Amy '89 Hester**. The committee included **Annette** and **Tom Counts**, **Melissa Heller** and **Steven Douglas**, **Louisa** and **John Tallarida** and **PJ** and **Lionel Vaughn**.

The Transforming Lives Dinner drew parents, Board members, past parents, faculty and staff and over 50 alumni to the school. Guests were treated to a reception in the small gym and a formal dinner in the large gym with the O'Dowd String Orchestra providing beautiful music. We were fortunate to have three eloquent speakers share remarks about the importance of financial aid and the impact of an O'Dowd education.

Elizabeth Cabraser '70, the co-founder of the powerhouse law firm Lief Cabraser Heimann and Bernstein, is one of the nation's leading class action litigators. She spoke about her career in law and passion for justice, and discussed her involvement in landmark litigation on behalf of Holocaust survivors.



left to right: Isaiah Henry '18, Elizabeth Cabraser '70 and Sabine Schoepfer '18.

She was among class counsel for the nearly \$1.5 billion reparation settlement for survivors, their families and successors against banks, private manufacturers, and other corporations who looted the assets of Jews and other minority groups persecuted by the Nazi Regime.

"Anything that I have been able to accomplish in my career that is good I think owes itself to the experience I had and the benefits I received from my education at O'Dowd," she said. "I would fervently hope that each of us will do everything we can to make sure that as many students as possible have that opportunity as well because we need them to be forces for justice and love in action in our world more than ever before."



left to right: Laurie Slez '88, Sharon and Tom Bjornson.

Cabraser jumpstarted the paddle raise portion of the program, committing \$100,000 for financial aid.

Guests also heard from two current O'Dowd students who shared moving stories about the academic opportunities, growth in confidence, and community of support they have received while at O'Dowd. Added **Isaiah Henry '18**, "Without you I wouldn't be the man, the student and the friend I am today."

Following the speaker testimonies of the impact of an education that transforms lives, emcee and past parent Steve Burke led the paddle raise portion of the evening. The powerful testaments to transformative power of an O'Dowd education inspired the community to raise \$326,000 during the paddle raise.

President Steve Phelps remarked "The O'Dowd community, once again, demonstrates the incredible impact of a community coming together to achieve a goal. As we saw here tonight, O'Dowd students and grads are the extraordinary citizens needed to create a healthy and hopeful future. We are enormously grateful for the generosity we've seen tonight."

EVENTS

CONTINUED



Sell Out Crowd
**ENJOYS CRAB
FEED**

More than 540 people came together for the 50th anniversary Crab Feed, held on February 3, to have fun and support O'Dowd's co-curricular programs such as sports, clubs and retreats.

The Crab Feed netted a record-breaking \$170,000-plus, including nearly \$55,000 in support of the "Fund A Need" paddle raise benefitting the **Stephen Phelps Memorial Scholarship Fund**. This fund will ensure that an O'Dowd education is accessible to all deserving students.

New this year was an online auction that provided community members the opportunity to bid on exciting items - including some exclusive online offerings - in advance of the event. The Super Bowl drawing was won by **Tommy Speer** (1st quarter), **Tom Borst** (2nd quarter), **Sebastian Grady** (3rd quarter)

and **Peter Scott** (4th quarter and final score). **Brian Elgin Smith** was the lucky winner of the Instant Wine Cellar with more than 70 bottles of wine with a value in excess of \$3,000.

Thanks to all those who donated items for the live and silent auctions, the Gift Card Board and the Instant Wine Cellar. And special thanks to everyone who devoted hours in support of the event - the hardworking O'Dowd maintenance and security staffs, Epicurean for their assistance in the kitchen, the numerous volunteers, and the fabulous event chairs, **Laura Grady**, **Sarah Holliman** and **Monica Marcone**, who together with the entire Crab Feed Committee and members of the Advancement team, led by Director of Events and Stewardship **Elizabeth Horpedahl**, ensured a successful event.



left to right: Sean and Kim Walsh, Shana Daum, Carlos deMelo and Julianna Stone deMelo.

O'DOWD



Janet Huff.

News

Faculty and Staff Celebrate **SERVICE ANNIVERSARIES**

More than a dozen faculty and staff members were recognized for their service to Bishop O'Dowd High School at a staff meeting held on February 7, 2018.

Counselor **Janet Huff** was celebrated for an incredible 40 years of service. During her tenure at O'Dowd, Huff has served as a Spanish and French teacher, Counseling Department chairperson, Director of Curriculum, and Assistant Principal. She also developed the initial Learning Disabilities Counselor position at our school, helping prove that students with learning disabilities and ADHD can be successful at a college preparatory high school.

As the Counseling Department chairperson, Huff changed the face and function of the department, current Director of Counseling Fran Warmerdam said, incorporating more academic and college counseling into what had traditionally been mostly personal counseling.

"Today, she continues to establish nurturing relationships with her students and families. She shares in their joys and triumphs and skillfully supports them through difficult times," Warmerdam said.

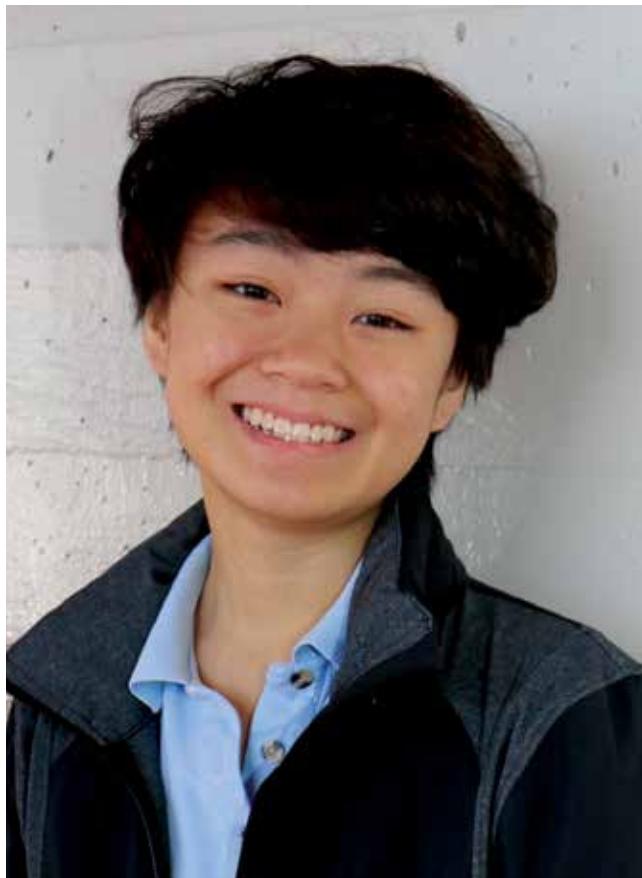
Added Warmerdam, "She hired me many years ago, and still serves as a great mentor and example to me."

Religious Studies teacher **Lina Schoendorf** was honored for 20 years of service, while Assistant Director of Student Activities **Marguerite Green**, Social Studies teacher **Ray Lehner** and Fine Arts teacher and department chair **Thien Pham** were recognized for 15 years of service.

Those celebrating their 10 year anniversaries with O'Dowd included Office Manager **Jeanne Dupont**, Director of Student Activities **Starr Gray**, English teacher **Martha Hawkins**, Religious Studies teacher and department chair **Diana Murray**, Director of Instrumental Music **Fred Randolph** and World Languages teacher **Michael Turnacliiff**.

Associate Director of Campus Security **Michael Dixon**, security staff member **Luke Renfroe Jr.**, PE teacher **Lou Richie**, Art teacher **Chris Roscoe** and Academic Coordinator **Darling Vinavong** were acknowledged for five years of service.

NEWS CONTINUED



ALICIA LIU '18 NAMED NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

In February, Bishop O'Dowd High School's **Alicia Liu '18** was named a finalist in the 63rd annual National Merit Scholarship Program. The selection of some 7,500 Merit Scholarship winners from the group of more than 15,000 finalists is now in progress.

About 1.6 million juniors in more than 22,000 high schools entered the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/ NMSQT), which served as an initial screen of program entrants.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

COMMENDED STUDENTS ANNOUNCED

Nine Bishop O'Dowd High School seniors were recently named commended students in the 2018 National Merit Scholarship Program.

Morgan Cluff, Anna Dubon, Nathan Francis, Julia Hub, Nishantha Jayasuriya, Georgina Pease, Sophia Rodriguez, Samuel Roth and Shawn Schulz are among some 34,000 students throughout the nation being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

Although they will not continue in the 2018 competition for National Merit Scholarship awards, the commended students placed among the top 50,000 scorers of more than 1.6 million students who entered the competition by taking the 2016 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).



NATIONAL HISPANIC RECOGNITION PROGRAM

HONORS O'DOWD STUDENTS

Seniors **Anna Dubon** and **Sophia Rodriguez** have been recognized by the National Hispanic Recognition Program.

Each year, the NHRP honors more than 5,000 academically outstanding students from the more than 250,000 Hispanic/Latino juniors who take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

To be eligible, students must be at least one-quarter Hispanic/Latino (based on the program's definition), achieve a minimum PSAT/NMSQT score for their region, and earn a cumulative grade-point average of 3.5 or higher by the middle of their junior year.





left to right: Senior Class Philanthropy Officers Anna Dubon '18, Jayla Goler '18, Luke Ditzler '18, Kameela Hall '18 and Sabine Schropfer '18.

ONE WORD ONE GIFT

For 2017-18, the Annual Fund campaign theme was One Word, One Gift.

ONE WORD. It's a simple concept. Tell us one word that describes what O'Dowd means to you. One word can make a difference and tell a story, your story.

ONE GIFT. Make one gift to the Annual Fund in honor of what O'Dowd means to you. Just one gift can make a difference and give future O'Dowd students the chance to write their own stories.

Thank you for sharing your words and gifts with us:

of new donors = **93**

of donors who sent in a word = **54**



PAY IT FORWARD

"O'Dowd pays it forward. I appreciate knowing that my gift to O'Dowd will, among other things, provide an under-served student with the complete O'Dowd experience: not just an excellent education, but resources like books, polos and support services not otherwise accessible to those students."

Ivy LeBlanc Wagner '75

CLASS OF 2018 SENIOR GIFT CAMPAIGN

If charity begins at home, Bishop O'Dowd High School is fortunate to have five senior students and a group of senior parents who have stepped forward to advocate for philanthropy and participation among their peers.

The team's mission is to cultivate a culture of generosity and paying it forward within the community with the Class of 2018 Senior Gift Campaign, making it possible for the next generation of students to benefit from an O'Dowd education by providing the gift of financial aid.

And, we are excited to share that we have raised **\$92,480** as of January 31, 2018, in this effort. We were fortunate to have a \$25,000 match which was met in December.

More than 30% of O'Dowd students need financial aid – many families need just a little help, while others need more substantial assistance.

“Applying to be on the Senior Philanthropy Team felt like the right way to give back to the community that has given me so much. I believe that no one should be denied all that O'Dowd has to offer due to financial ability,” Senior Class Philanthropy Officer **Anna Dubon '18** said.

“The O'Dowd community has helped me flourish into an independent, optimistic and compassionate person. Not only have I been given the resources to excel within the classroom, but I've been given opportunities to explore and discover what my true passions are outside of the classroom as well,” Senior Class Philanthropy Officer **Jayla Goler '18** said.

“As a recipient of financial aid, I wanted to do everything I could to make it so that students like me have the chance to flourish and develop in an environment that is nurturing and encouraging.” Goler added.

Senior parents have played a key role. “I have enjoyed serving as the chair of the Class of 2018 Senior Gift Campaign and working with a great team of fellow parents. We are grateful to the senior parents and grandparents who have made a gift in honor of their senior. I know my family is looking forward to graduation and celebrating the wonderful accomplishments of the Class of 2018 and the hard work of the O'Dowd faculty and staff,” **Leslie Francis**, parent of Cosette '18 and Renzo '20 Backus, said.

Thank you to our volunteer parent committee: **Leslie Francis (chair), Michelle Brinnon, Kate Dolan, Dan Francis, Kevin Leader, Ana Moure, Deborah Ravetti, Deb Waterhouse and Heather Wu.**

We hope all seniors and their families will make a gift to demonstrate their support and appreciation for four memorable years at O'Dowd and leave a legacy for future students. Our final push is happening in April and May. Your gift - no matter how large or small - is important to the Senior Class Gift Campaign.

NEWS CONTINUED



STUDENTS FLOCK TO NEWLY RENOVATED **BURKE FAMILY LIBRARY**

Students are flocking to the Burke Family Library, which now offers increased space for both individual and group study.

The library can now accommodate 180 students at any given time (previous capacity was 140) and is heavily used during the student flex periods introduced this academic year, as well as before and after school and at lunchtime.

In the past, students heading into the library often found all the seats occupied. “They would come in and just turn around and leave,” Head Librarian **Annette Counts** said. “That isn’t happening now.”

Designed by architect **Trina Goodwin**, mother of Stephanie '10 and Matt '13 Goodwin, and renovated last summer, the space now features a variety of seating options – high top café-style tables (equipped with power outlets so students can charge their de-

vices) with low back stools, lounge-type seating, and round and rectangular tables with standard chairs. A second glass-enclosed study room was added to provide more space for collaboration.

Counts made way for the additional seating by weeding the library collection - getting rid of outdated materials, duplicate copies, and books that were in disrepair. When possible, the books were given away to students, faculty and staff, or donated.

An associate principal at Noll & Tam architects and planners, Goodwin specializes in library design. She oversaw space planning and interiors for Los Gatos Library and Castro Valley Library, among others.

Goodwin generously donated the bulk of her time to the O'Dowd project, while current parent Kathryn Danish, mother of Cole Danish '18, facilitated the purchase of the lounge chairs - which have an armless design and unique back-to-back configuration - in the fiction section of the library.

Even though the world is becoming more digital, and people can access resources with the touch of a finger to their smart phones, people still need places like libraries to work, Goodwin said. "And there is something about working alongside other people who are working that inspires us all," she said. "It's just like going to a gym - you might get a little bit more inspired to work hard if other people are doing it."

Goodwin visited the Burke Family Library last fall to see how students were responding to the new space, and was pleased with what she observed - a library filled to capacity at 4 p.m., long after students were dismissed for the day. "It's wonderful to come back and see all the kids in the space, and it's nice to feel like I got to have an impact," she said.

"O'Dowd has a wonderful theater and puts money into the sports program, but people send their children to the school so they can have access to a great education. Having a library space like this, along with the personalized services offered in the library, are really key in helping kids achieve their potential."

Counts says that students are very respectful of and appreciative of the new space. "It shows them that we value the work they are doing, and that we want to provide quality work space for them," she said. "It really elevates the learning experience."



Head Librarian Annette Counts and Trina Goodwin.

Looking Ahead

Counts says last summer's renovations were the first in a series of improvements planned for the library. Phase 2 will focus on improving comfort by replacing fixed windows with windows that open, along with ceiling fans, for improved ventilation. Wood paneling on the ceiling and walls will further elevate the look of the Burke Family Library. And doors that provide more visibility to the outside will be added.

"There is serious learning going on here all the time, and we want to continue to encourage that by providing a beautiful place for students," Counts said.

NEWS CONTINUED



JEREMY BRUNEL '03 DESIGNING BUILDINGS THAT BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER

Legos were always at the top of **Jeremy Brunel's** birthday wish list. That's not surprising given that his grandfather had a woodshop where Brunel spent countless hours making model planes, boats and buildings out of whatever materials were available.

As a high school student, he spent weekends and summers on construction sites helping his father, **Rob Brunel '70**, who owns a land surveying business.

Encouraged in his passion for the arts and sciences at O'Dowd, Brunel decided to pursue a career in architecture and earned a bachelor's degree in the discipline at Cal Poly Pomona. He's currently working at Pfeiffer, a firm that specializes in cultural and educational projects such as performance arts buildings, concert halls, music conservatories, libraries, museums and schools.

"I really enjoy working on these types of projects because they present unique and diverse design opportunities to deliver a building that is tailored to the specific goals of the client. It is also particularly rewarding when designing spaces that are used by students, teachers and the public to pursue their interests - whether it is a library that helps a university provide state of the art study environments, or practice rooms for dancers to hone their talents," he said.

Since joining Pfeiffer in 2013, Brunel has worked on the Kaufman School of Dance at USC and the Chapman University Musco Center for the Arts. His most recent project was the \$45-million Colorado College Center for Immersive Learning and Engaged Teaching, an expansion and transformation of the existing Tutt Library, which was completed in August 2017.

"The Tutt Library was about much more than just books, although 25 percent of the college's permanent collection still resides in the building," Brunel said. "The project goals were to dramatically increase the available study space while providing updated spaces for the college's academic services. The renovation was also an opportunity to upgrade the library's technology for the 21st century."

The library was designed as a Net-Zero Energy facility, meaning that in one year it will produce as much energy as it consumes, and takes the shape of a ribbon that begins at the entry courtyard and climbs up and over the existing structure. "The ribbon cladding was inspired by the local geography of the Garden of the Gods Park and the rich sandstone that is ever present throughout Colorado Springs," he said.

Design of the library took approximately a year and included four phases - programming, schematic design, design development and construction documents.

"I was fortunate to have worked on the project for conception to completion," Brunel said. "I got a tremendous sense of satisfaction and joy when I overheard the students walking throughout the library commenting on how many cool study spaces there were."

Next up for Brunel is an addition to the University of Colorado, Boulder, Warner Imig Music Building. "The addition is approximately 72,000 square feet and includes rehearsal/performance spaces, practice rooms, and administrative offices. We are currently in the programming and concept design phase. The project is scheduled to open in 2020, which coincides

with the music school's 100th year anniversary," he said.

Brunel says his professional challenges include managing deadlines and working within budget. "We have a responsibility to our clients to deliver a project that is constructible and within their budget. Often our design aspirations and the budget do not line up. While this is a challenge it forces us to think critically to develop alternate methods, details, designs or approaches to the same problem," he said.

"But one of the best parts of being an architect is that you never stop learning. A day rarely goes by where I don't encounter something new. Architecture is a fun and creative field with limitless opportunities," he said.

Meanwhile, Brunel has keenly followed recent O'Dowd library upgrades.

"I am proud to see the commitment that O'Dowd is making to students and their study spaces. People do not learn the same way they did 10, or even five years ago. Libraries across the nation are making the transition from book repositories to places for people. It is clear that O'Dowd is keeping up with the times by purging some of the outdated/uncirculated collection in exchange for study spaces," he said.

"A student's learning environment can have a significant impact on their success. Not all students thrive in the same type of study spaces. Some may excel in individual/quiet study, while others may be better suited in a group/social setting. An inspiring learning space can quickly become a student's favorite place to spend time. Any environment that engages students and promotes their curiosity is a significant asset. O'Dowd's commitment to their students and their education is evident in the library renovation," Brunel added.

Brunel believes that his O'Dowd education set him up for professional success.

"Architecture and design is a process driven profession, and having the ability to rapidly analyze and assess design decisions, details, and materials is essential," he said. "It seemed like every instructor at O'Dowd was always pushing us to think critically at all times. In math, science and art - my three favorite subjects - I was constantly pushed to do my best. I am very proud to be an O'Dowd alumnus and know for a fact that the education I received while there was an important stepping stone in my career," he said.

NEWS CONTINUED



O'DOWD SUMMER ACADEMY 2017 HITS THE MARK

Students attending last year's retooled Summer Academy for middle schoolers not only had the opportunity to study, learn new skills and have fun. They had a chance to engage in meaningful community time with their peers and counselors, essentially experiencing campus as Bishop O'Dowd High School students.

Dragon Community Time - a one-hour program that provided a safe space for students to work in small groups around topics that fostered inclusivity and well-being - was introduced. Guided by trained adults and teen camp counselors, students had the opportunity to explore topics such as social media, inclusion and mindfulness with the goals of staying healthy, maintaining positive social practices and respectfully engaging in the world around them.

The program was crafted to intentionally reflect O'Dowd's charm - core values. These include Community in Diversity, Strength of Character, Academic Excellence, Kinship With Creation, Social Justice, and Joy. Such framing allowed for a very unique growth experience for students Summer Academy Principal **Jase Turner** said.

Nearly 50 O'Dowd faculty and staff served as instructors for the academic and enrichment classes, including current varsity coaches who headed the sports classes.



The nearly dozen teen camp counselors were all O'Dowd students, mostly rising seniors, who went

through a rigorous application process that included submitting a resume and teacher recommendations and sitting for an interview. They also participated in a three-day orientation/training.

New middle school courses introduced included 3-D Modeling and Animation, Brain Games, Reading the Write Way, Doing Good, and Sports Medicine.

Doing Good was modeled on curriculum from the San Francisco-based non-profit - The Forgotten International (Compassion Education Project) - and focused on positive actions students can take locally, regionally and nationally. "Its purpose is to encourage young people to care for others and work to make the world a better place," Turner said.

Based on survey feedback, the middle school students' families were quite pleased with the program and many are now seriously considering O'Dowd for high school. "Thank you so much for running such a great program. Our daughter fell in love with O'Dowd and is super excited at the thought of being an O'Dowd student," commented one parent.

Middle School program lead **Hillary Kigar** explained that students started the day with two academic

sessions, had lunch, and then participated in Dragon Community Time before moving on to sports or art offerings.

Each day was built around a theme, which was introduced in a skit created by the counselors. Students then broke into small groups for discussions, where they had the opportunity to delve deeper on the topic. Sometimes, games or larger group activities were incorporated. "This structure created an intentional space where all the middle school students - regardless of what classes they were taking - could be together," Kigar said.

The nice thing about O'Dowd's middle school Summer Academy is that it offers something for everyone, Turner said. "Many other camps have specific focuses, like art, or are strictly academic or athletic," he said. "Ours offers a broad range of options."

About 270 middle school students participated in the two two-week sessions offered during July.

You can register for Summer Academy 2018 at www.bishopodowd.org/summer2018 now.



Bishop O'Dowd High School
A Catholic College Preparatory School
Oakland, CA

Sports classes offered too!

With Your Child In Mind

Middle School and High School
Prep Summer Programs

Experience our whole-child
approach and ease the way
to high school!

Register today at
www.bishopodowd.org/summer2018

NEWS CONTINUED



HOW THE DRAGON PARENTS SUPPORT OUR COMMUNITY AND COMMITMENT

A glittering Christmas tree in the Quad. An interactive safe-driving seminar for teens. Timely and targeted grade-level communications.

What's the connection between these seemingly disparate elements of the O'Dowd experience?

The answer is they are all brought to you by the Dragon Parents Board, a dedicated group of parent volunteers.

With the mission of strengthening the O'Dowd parent community and supporting the advancement of O'Dowd priorities, the Dragon Parents manage an

ambitious slate of programs which promote parents' active engagement with school life.

"During these formative and fleeting high school years, it takes patience and determination to stay connected to your kids," says **Molly Natsues**, the Dragon Parents Board President. "We are wholeheartedly focused on getting parents more involved in the school community. We're all in this together."

This past year, several new programs introduced by the Dragon Parents illustrate this focus.

Consider the partnership the board has forged with the school's Parent Education program and its sponsor **Mark Lederer**, Director of Health & Wellness.

"Supporting parents as the primary influencers of their children is a collective effort that attends to the social, emotional, and intellectual development of the whole child," says Lederer. "It's heartwarming to partner with the Dragon Parents volunteers who not only create a hospitable feeling at our events but also contribute a valuable point of view which informs our programming."

"We explore topics and issues that all parents are grappling with at this stage in their kids' lives," explains Parent Education Chair **Metra Vaba** — filling

this new position on the board this year.

Examples of parent forums include the well-attended Impact Teen Drivers presentations and the ever-popular TeacherTalks, which showcase our talented faculty and our students' classroom experiences to both current and prospective parents.

Welcoming new parents to the school community is another emphasis for the Dragon Parents. Each incoming freshman family is assigned a seasoned parent-mentor as a friendly resource for questions and insights. Monthly newsletters from the mentors provide a helpful road map in the transitional first year.

This year, the Dragon Parents extended this supportive peer-to-peer network. Representatives were recruited for each class, the newsletter program was expanded to all families, and off-campus parent mixers have been organized.

Five-year board veteran and Junior Class Rep **Tere Hanson** puts it this way: "I use my tenure at O'Dowd to share hard-won tips that hopefully help parents track the important things going on at school. Also, our socials have created a new opportunity for parents to experience our wonderful community."

Each year, the Dragon Parents welcome the holiday season with a festive tree-lighting ceremony. Arts Chair **Andrew Danish**, who has worked with the administration to bring interesting and provocative sculptures to the campus grounds, was the brainchild behind last year's tree lighting event.

"I grew up in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and am inspired by that community's tradition of bringing light to the world this time of year," says Danish. The most recent celebration featured a soaring – and sustainable – LED-illuminated tree, individual beeswax candles and holiday caroling. A Dragon Parents committee coordinated hospitality and entertainment.

Approximately 20-strong this year, the Dragon Parents Board is comprised of a diverse set of personalities, professions and perspectives. But there is something shared by all – a willingness to make a positive difference.

"I serve as a way of giving back and to show my appreciation of the staff, faculty and everyone involved in the education of my sons," says Retail Coordinator **Sheron Campbell** who heads up Spirit Wear sales at games and other events, another new position as of this year.

Other Dragon Parents deserve notice as well. Hospitality Co-Chairs **Nicole Paez** and **Mary Schirmer** organize parent receptions and appreciation events for faculty and staff and Kairos Reception Coordinator **Ana Raphael** provides invaluable support for this keystone retreat program.

Also, without the work of long-serving Volunteer Coordinator **Kasia Ekstrand**, many other programs and events at O'Dowd would be without the needed support of parent volunteers.

Senior class representative **Lisa Thompson** sums it up like this: "I feel truly blessed by the people I am surrounded by on the board. I see their dedication and admire their passion."

To learn more about upcoming activities including Board nominations for 2018-19 and how to get involved, be sure to visit the Dragon Parents page on the school website.

Dragon Parents 2017-18

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

President Molly Natsues
Vice President Kim Hoglund
Secretary Christine Marke
Treasurer Courtney Shepler

CHAIRS

Communications Chair Skip Fogarty
Development Chair Chris Bunn
Parent Education Chair Almetria Vaba
Volunteer Chair Kasia Ekstrand
Hospitality Co-Chairs Nicole Paez & Mary Schirmer

COORDINATORS & REPRESENTATIVES

Kairos Reception Coordinator Anna Raphael
Retail Coordinator Sheron Campbell
Arts Representative Andrew Danish
Freshman Mentor Parents Laura Post & Alex Murphy
Freshman Class Representative Peggy Desler
Sophomore Class Representative Abby Franklin
Junior Class Representative Tere Hanson
Senior Class Representative Lisa Thompson
Tech Support Sunny Lal
Fundraising Coordinator Michelle Flynn

ALUMMIN



Dear O'Dowd Alumni,

As you may have read, we are rolling out exciting initiatives for O'Dowd Alumni! Throughout this entire process, we made sure everything was **created by alumni for alumni**.

In November 2016, we formed an Alumni Task Force with the intention of strengthening alumni relations with clear strategies for the next 3 to 5 years. Along with Rhonda Morris '83, Board of Regents member Chris Johnson and O'Dowd staff, we researched and interviewed peer institutions, examined successful alumni programs of high schools and hosted two Alumni Advisory Summits to discuss plans with alumni. We also e-mailed and mailed all alumni requesting your feedback. **It was truly heartening to receive over 650 responses with your opinions and ideas.**

And we listened to you.

Our work isn't done. In partnership with O'Dowd Alumni Relations, the Alumni Task Force will continue to ask for alumni feedback, review and measure success of new initiatives and create ways to meet your needs and make your ideas come to fruition.

Go Dragons!

John Valva '84

2017 Alumni Task Force Chair

E-mail us at alumni@bishopodowd.org



News

COMMUNICATION

You want more stories about alumni and information specific to alumni. **We are rolling out a monthly e-newsletter just for you this spring.** Be sure we have your current e-mail address. E-mail us at alumni@bishopodowd.org if you haven't been receiving emails from O'Dowd or want to be on the list.



EVENTS

75 % of alumni stated reunions are by far the most important events to you. Moreover, 75% of you said you'd like O'Dowd to take the lead in a reunion hosted by O'Dowd at O'Dowd. As a result, O'Dowd's first Grand Reunion is scheduled for June 2, 2018. Reunion organizers can focus on reaching out to their fellow classmates and leave the event logistics to the Office of Alumni Relations. Would you like to volunteer with the roll out of a Reunion Day in 2018? E-mail us!

VOLUNTEERING

Speaking of volunteering, you want more meaningful ways to volunteer at O'Dowd. As a result, **we are collaborating with colleagues planning Career Day to develop more opportunities for alumni to give of their time and talent.**



For Classes 1958, 1963, 1968, 1973, 1978, 1983
1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, 2008 & 2013



Saturday, June 2nd
Bishop O'Dowd High School

YOU'RE INVITED!

This summer O'Dowd will be hosting its first ever Grand Reunion, welcoming 2018 reunion classes to **PARTY ON THE QUAD!**

Catch up with old friends and some of your favorite O'Dowd faculty. Mingle with fellow alumni and sit with your classmates at designated grad year areas.

Enjoy good food and drinks, a campus tour, class photos and a Living Lab cooking workshop.

Earlybird tickets are \$35/person until April 12 then \$45/person; \$25 for classes 2008 and 2013

On sale at
www.bishopodowd.org/grandreunion2018

Questions?
Contact alumni@bishopodowd.org

ALUMNI REUNIONS

CLASS OF 1957



Members of Bishop O'Dowd High School's Class of 1957 kicked off their 60th reunion on Friday evening, October 20, 2017, at the Sheraton Pleasanton Hotel with a small group of classmates, spouses and friends. On the following afternoon, 75 guests enjoyed a catered lunch on campus in Dominican Hall. The 55 classmates in attendance enjoyed reminiscing and all remarked what a special day it turned out to be.

our Memory Book may be added to or down loaded by accessing bbuck527@comcast.net. Classmates should give complete contact information and memories to be shared.



CLASS OF 1962



Class of 1962 Cheryl Roberts Sweet and Theresa MacMillan Hanifen.

The class of 1962 celebrated its 55th reunion at the Center for Environmental Studies on October 20, 2017. A great time was had by all 55 attendees! Big thanks to long-time reunion organizers, Pam Mack and Wes Smith.

CLASS OF 1977



Members of the Class of 1977 celebrated their 40th reunion last August. The festivities started with a gathering at Crogan's on Friday, August 25. The reunion was held at Sequoyah Country Club on Saturday, August 26, and a brunch at the Claremont Hotel took place on Sunday, August 27. More than 65 classmates were in attendance, as well as alumni from other graduating years. The reunion was organized by Kim Ramos Cano, Linda Thompson Verdun and Kelly Tatum.

CLASS OF 1967

The Class of 1967 reunion was held on Saturday, October 14, 2017, at Trader Vic's, and spanned two banquet rooms and the deck. Some 130 classmates feasted on great food, drinks from tiki bars and live music. We were so excited to see one another that we forgot to take a group photo. A DVD (compiled by Mike and Francie Costa) of photos of couples and smaller groups can be requested by e-mailing sarnhart@gmail.com. Thanks to Barbara Frates Buckley,

CLASS OF 1981



The Class of 1981 shared 36 years of friendship on August 19, 2017, with a Summer Soirée! The gathering was hosted by Diane Mascote McRae and Leslie Robertson at Leslie's home.

CLASS OF 1982



On October 21, 2017, a crisp fall evening, the Class of '82 gathered together for their 35th Reunion on the beautiful O'Dowd campus. It was the first reunion on the campus, and some of the class had not been back for many years. Steve Phelps, Rest in Peace, took groups on a tour of the campus, which has seen numerous improvements and expansion since our time at O'Dowd. Classmates came from all over - Indianapolis, Nevada, Colorado, North Carolina, Ohio, Davis and Los Angeles - to enjoy an evening of camaraderie, sharing memories and dancing the night away in the Gym, once again to an 80's cover band, Busta Groove. Thank you to Debbie Furino Marshall, Sharon Eversole MacLean, Sandrine Chaumette and Sam Bellicini for organizing another Dragon-worthy reunion. Several alumni attendees were touring the campus when the group photo was taken and are not pictured.

CLASS OF 1987

The class of 1987 gathered on November 3, 2017, at Plank in Jack London Square. There were 75 alumni in attendance, about 1/3 of the class! The impromptu after-reunion dance party at Lagomare was a huge, unexpected hit, with dozens of Dragons taking over the bar and dance floor and dancing the night away to music from our high school days.

"I think we all remembered what a special class full of extraordinary people we were part of. 1987 was an exemplary class, and many rekindled and new friendships were formed that night. The class is even talking about quarterly meet-ups!" said Joel Julien and Tim Rosefield.

CLASS OF 1990



Some members of the Class of 1990 met for a casual 27.5 year reunion this summer at Rocky's Market in Oakland. Corinne Kinczel took over the ownership of Rocky's in 2016, and every other Sunday during the summer provides food trucks in the parking lot. The setting was just right and it was a great opportunity to catch up with friends and support her local business.

CLASS OF 1997



The class of 1997 celebrated its 20th reunion in October with a gathering at an Oakland classic, The Kingfish. With over 60 people in attendance it was a wonderful opportunity to catch up with many old friends and classmates.

CLASS OF 2007

Members of the Class of 2007 gathered at Oakland's Kingfish Pub & Cafe on Saturday, December 23, 2017, to celebrate their 10th reunion. Nearly one-third of the class attended, as well as O'Dowd faculty and staff including Mike Bowler, Brian Judd and Michelle Hawkins.



Many alumni traveled from far away locations to visit family and attend the reunion, while others were able to show-up despite having little future Dragons at home. Thanks to all who attended!

CLASSES NO

1955

For their annual trip, the “Good Time Gals” from the Class of 1955 chose Portland, Oregon, as their destination. Attractions the classmates visited during their stay included the famous Rose Garden, Multnomah Falls, the Columbia River Gorge and St. Mary’s Cathedral, and concluded with a farewell high tea. Back row: **Roberta (Souza) Andersen, Maxine (Silva) Crowley and Beth (Sullivan) George**; front row: **Donna (Rucker) Healy, Marlene (Rugaard) Bingham and Bev (Mello) Rettus**.



1969 and 1970

Friends for more than 50 years, **Joe Romani '69, Barry Brynjulson '69 and Pat Romani '70** (from left to right) took a golf trek through Ireland in August 2017, playing the great courses of Lahinch, Ballybunion, Waterville, Tralee and Killarney.



1975

Anne Symens-Bucher and her children, **Catherine '07** and **Timothy '15**, visited Roundstone in County Galway, Ireland, in October and took a photo in front of O’Dowd’s Seafood Bar and Restaurant.



1976

Tom Allen performed with the band Foghat during the 2017 Lodi Grape Festival.



1995&2000

Joe Manifesto '95, Rachel Nethercott-Manifesto '00, and their four-year-old daughter, Giuliana, welcome the newest addition to the family on June 24, 2016 - Joseph Rocco Manifesto. He is the fourth Joe Manifesto with his middle

name coming from his 2nd great grandfather, Rocco Manifesto, who came to the U.S. from Francavilla al Mare, Italy, in 1909. The Manifesto family moved to their new home at Wallis Ranch in Dublin in April 2017.



1997

JP Stoops recently founded Pixl Toys. The company mission is to develop affordable tech toys with companion apps - like Pixlplay that turns a smartphone into a fun kids’ camera - that get kids active and creative.

1999

Class of 1999 members **Kira Belanger** and **Nate Vieira-Ducey** were married on August 26, 2017. A host of Dragons attended the wedding.



Front row, left to right: **Courtney Belanger '02, Colleen (Powers) Peterson '02, Erika Gelini '00, Mike Wood '99, Ryann (Hannigan) Goldberg '99, groom Nate Vieira-Ducey '99, bride Kira Belanger '99, Annie Belanger '09,**

otes

Hayley Dieckmann '09 and **Drew Hansen '09**.

Second row, left to right: **Casey Klein '00, Lauren Davis '02, Sarah (Brett) Schwartz '98, Matt Vella '98, Marisa Vierra '00** and **Stefanie Ball '97**.

Third row, left to right: **Bob Saunders '01, Tony Vella '95, Nick Vella '00, Kevin Ahern '94, Nils Hansen '97, Luke Erickson '99, Kevin Klein '99, Eric Ryan '99** and **Paul Franco '99**.

Back row, left to right: **John Ahern '92, John Zile '94, Adrian Mateo '98, Kaitlin Ball '02** and **Eddie Vieira-Ducey '97**. Missing from picture: **DJ Vierra '99**. Guest appearance: O'Dowd dad Ron Dieckmann, father of Lauren '99, Marlowe '05 and Hayley '09.

2001

Burl Toler III was named running backs coach for the Cal football team on January 8, 2018. Burl was a four-year letterwinner at Cal and began his coaching career with three seasons on the school's football staff following his professional playing career. He spent time in



the NFL on the rosters of the Oakland Raiders (2006) and Washington Redskins (2007-08). He also played in NFL Europe (Cologne),

the Italian Football League (Bologna), the Canadian Football League (Hamilton) and Arena League (San Jose, Orlando, San Antonio) before retiring as a player in 2013. He most recently coached for Fresno State and UC Davis.

2003

Dr. Brandon Trapp graduated from Albert Einstein College of Medicine in May 2017. He is currently a medical resident in Emergency Medicine at UC Davis Medical Center, Sacramento.



2005

International award-winning author **Jesse Byrd** teamed up with illustrator Anastasiia Ku to create a new picture book titled *Sunny Days*. And his book *King Penguin* was awarded the Los Angeles Book Festival: Top 10 Book of the Year, and the Paris Book Festival: Top 3 book of the Year.

2006

John Murphy spent the summer working at the Oakland A's home games in Stomper's Fun Zone.



2013

Tealanie Baldwin graduated Magna Cum Laude from Loyola Marymount in May 2017, where she double majored in Political Science and African American studies. She had the highest grade point average in her African American Studies program, and was awarded a plaque with distinct honors. She is currently living in Washington, DC, where she works at Waxman Strategies. Read more about Tealanie: waxmanstrategies.com/team/tealanie-baldwin/



In May 2017, **Ruby Rose Lee** graduated magna cum laude from Barnard College with a bachelor's degree in English Literature and

NOTES CONTINUED

Asian Middle Eastern Culture. She was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and awarded three academic prizes: Columbia's Oscar Lee award for her EALC honors theses (A+ grade); the Barnard William Haller prize for excellence in the study of English; and Barnard's Katherine Gridd prize awarded to a student focusing on international aspects of her major. She is currently working as an editorial assistant at Henry Holt & Company Publishing in New York.

Cal football player **De'Zhon Grace** was named a Jonathan & Judy Hoff Scholar-Athlete of the Week in February. This award recognized



De'Zhon for exhibiting a committed personal and professional interest for social justice at the local, national and global scale, and for being a positive and influential figure among his peers who

embraces the value of community and the role of individuals within it. UC Berkeley said De'Zhon leverages his human relations skills to help peers tap into their potential talents and experience growth in different aspects of their lives, and that his compassion and care for those less privileged is apparent through his tailored commitment to education, community service and program development.

2015

Emma Shilliday (fourth from left) had the honor of being a seat filler at the 69th Primetime Emmy Awards. Emma attends Belmont University in Nashville, but was in Los Angeles last semester participating in an internship so she could gain hands on experience in the film and television world. "Being able to seat fill at the Emmys was extra special as I got to sit with the people whose shows, films and miniseries I work on," she said.



Kaytlyn Lozano was chosen to be Victoria's Secret PINK Campus Representative for The University of Oregon. "After finishing the College Scholars Honors Program as a sophomore, I went on to apply to positions with different companies. Out of the thousands of girls that applied, I am proud to say I am one of the 2017-2018 Victoria's Secret PINK Campus Representatives," Kaytlyn said.

Dating since freshman year of high school, **Shavonne Rogers '15** and **Bryce Grandison '15** were married on July 22, 2017. The ceremony was held at Destiny Christian Fellowship in Fremont, with a reception at Hayward City Hall. Shavonne's sister, **Raeshawn Rogers '18**, served as Maid of Honor.



"I gained a unique experience at O'Dowd because of the diverse background of all the students. I interacted with many people who had different life experiences. Understanding them allowed me to open my mind and see past myself, broadening my own perspective. This prepared me for college and life since our country is made up of many different views."

Kenneth Kwak '90,
Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

Shavonne is currently attending the University of La Verne, majoring in Broadcast Journalism with a minor in Theatre, and will graduate a year early. She plans to pursue a career in ministry and in the entertainment business.

Bryce is a student-athlete at Azusa Pacific University playing football. He is a Business Management major with a minor in Family Ministry. He is a pastor and preaches in Southern California, where the couple has purchased a home. Af-

ter completing his undergraduate studies, Bryce plans to continue on to graduate school, seminary, and get his doctorate, and pursue a career in ministry and athletics.

2016

Azaria Baldwin is in her second year at the University of San Diego, where she is majoring in psychology. Her goal is to become a pediatric nurse.

2017

Quinnipiac rugby player **Layla Scott** tallied three tries in her team's 52-7 victory over Norwich on September 16, 2017. Her first try of the first half was the first ever of her collegiate career. It was also her first ever three-try day.



HAIR
THE MUSICAL

O'DOWD ALUMNI 

NIGHT at the
 THEATER

Date: FRIDAY, MAY 4TH 

Time: 5 - 7 PM

Where: CES, BISHOP O'DOWD HIGH SCHOOL

RSVP NOW:
WWW.BISHOPDOWD.ORG/ALUMNI-RECEPTION-2018

LET THE SUN SHINE IN

ALUMNI CONTINUED



left to right: Tony Freccero '96, Adria Ibarra '90, Steve Brown, Vince D'Onofrio '04, Gerard D'Onofrio '04 and Don Keeley '68.

ALUMNI AND COACHES SHARE MEMORIES **AT BEER GARDEN EVENT**



left to right: Dante Rodriguez '84 and Alex Teekel '95.

“O’Dowd provided me with the skills to succeed in college and confidence to follow my dreams. In fact, my first job out of college was at a biotech company called Genentech that was highlighted to me by my amazing O’Dowd AP Biology teacher Brad Goodhart. I did not know it at the time, but that class ultimately led to my current career in biotechnology.”

Peter Virsik ’89,
Chief Operating Officer, ESSA Pharmaceuticals

Some of **Alex Teekel’s ’95** favorite high school memories are tied to his participation on the cross country and track teams – particularly the running camps held during the summer to prepare for cross country season.

“Teamwork and accountability were reinforced with communal living in one cabin and division of chores, double workouts, and the dreaded assault of Emigrant Gap on the final day,” he said.

Teekel was among 15 former O’Dowd cross country and track athletes and coaches who were honored at the 5th Annual Alumni Beer Garden, held in Dominican Hall Courtyard prior to the varsity football game versus Tennyson High School on October 20, 2017. In all nearly 130 people attended the event.

Coaches **Steve Brown** and **Tony Green** enjoyed sharing memories and reconnecting with the athletes they coached.

Brown started at O’Dowd as an interim distance coach for the track team in the spring of 1986, and Green became head track coach in 1987. Both served as cross country and/or track coaches for nearly 30 years. Green continues to help out with the track team and is the strength and conditioning coach for the cheer team.

Over the years, the pair developed the two programs into some of the most successful in the area, winning numerous league and sectional titles, as well as placing at the State Meet.

“I could talk forever about Tony, but suffice it to say he has been an elite coach, motivator, team builder, mentor, role model and inspiration for both coaches and athletes at O’Dowd for many years,” he said.

From 1986-2007, the women’s track team went undefeated under Green, and in 1994 the girls’ team was selected national champions according to “School Marks,” the national track and field recording agency. He’s been named National Coach of the Year, State Coach of the Year, Section Coach of the Year and League Coach of the Year.

Meanwhile, Brown said that while having successful teams was great, that’s not what kept him coaching for so long – even during the years when he had a young family at home.

“We take a lot of pride in those banners up in the Dragon Dome, but that was not the reason that I continued. It was because of the tremendous people who I was privileged to spend time with during all of those practices, meets and after hours. I truly appreciate the opportunity and good fortune to have been part of O’Dowd for all of those years,” he said.



left to right: Tony Green, Steve Brown and Turshika Bennett '96.

Teekel said Brown and Green were great role models. “They were always encouraging, but pushed us to never be complacent with our achievements,” he said. “There was always a new goal to strive for as individuals and as a team.”

A coach at O’Dowd for several years, Teekel helped continue the legacy. “Carrying on the tradition of dedication and hard work to future generations of O’Dowd athletes is something I was glad to be part of,” he said.

PLANNED GIVING

A COACH'S GENEROSITY EXTENDS TO FUTURE GENERATIONS



Former O'Dowd softball coach **Dale Isaacs** considers himself a fortunate man. He has led an interesting life, including serving in the Navy on a submarine stationed in Hawaii, working in real estate, and playing competitive fast pitch adult softball - even participating in national tournaments - and today is retired and living in the Oakland hills.

Dale and his wife are among a growing group of alumni, parents and friends in the Heritage Society - those who have included Bishop O'Dowd High School as one of the charities in their will or trust. Heritage Society donors make a generous personal investment to ensure O'Dowd continues as a premiere Catholic high school in the Bay Area and to benefit future generations of students.

A chance encounter with **Gil Atkinson**, whose daughter **Lynn '79**, played on the varsity softball team led to Dale's involvement with O'Dowd athletics.

After serving as an assistant coach for a couple of years, Dale served as head varsity softball coach from 1984-1996. "I never missed a practice or a game in my time at O'Dowd," he said.

As a head coach, Isaacs led the Dragons to four league championships, seven second-place finishes, and made nine appearances in the North Coast Section playoffs. His league won-loss record was 163-36 (overall record 183-89), including a perfect 17-0 mark in 1992.

Dale coached some of the most accomplished softball players in O'Dowd history, including **Jennifer Liza-**

ma '96, who for many years held the California high school record for home runs with 38, and **Veronica Nelson '99**, a two-time All American who led Cal to a national championship and is in the Cal Athletic Hall of Fame.

His positive experience with O'Dowd students played a large part in his decision to make a legacy gift to the school. "I was always impressed by them and how serious they were about their studies," he said.

Making a legacy gift is a very personal decision, Dale said. "My wife and I feel fortunate we are able to share the proceeds from our trust with several charities," he said.

But Dale encourages everyone to consider setting aside a portion of their estate - even a small amount - for charity. "You should certainly give if it's possible," he said.

MIKE CUSORTELLI '75 INSPIRED TO INCLUDE O'DOWD AS A 401K BENEFICIARY



"Culture shock" is how **Mike Cusortelli '75** describes his first impressions of O'Dowd. "I came from a public school and for the first time in my life I was encouraged to excel academically. Mediocrity and 'just getting by' weren't accepted," he said.

Mike learned this the hard way when journalism teacher **Randy Kinavey '68** sent home a mid-term unsatisfactory progress report to his parents. "That shocked me, because I wasn't failing his class and had

thought I was doing quite well. When I told him this, he said, 'Yes, you are doing well, but you're not doing as well as you could be doing.' And he was correct. I was, to borrow a contemporary phrase, 'mailing it in,'" he recalled

Mike eventually earned an A grade in the class and also served as sports editor of *The Crozier*, O'Dowd's student newspaper which was moderated by Kinavey at the time.

Kinavey became a mentor, encouraging Mike during his senior year at O'Dowd to apply for an entry level sports writing positions at the local newspapers, and he was hired at the *Fremont Argus*. He's had a rewarding career that has included working as a publicity writer for Portland Meadows Race Track, serving as racing information coordinator for the American Quarter Horse Association, working various positions at Bank of America that involved writing, and currently as a media consultant for several horse racing industry companies.

Fond high school memories inspired Mike to name O'Dowd as one of the beneficiaries of his 401K plan.

"I had a profoundly positive experience there, one that I still think about today. Every time I see a Facebook post from O'Dowd or read through the *Dragon* magazine I am reminded of it," he said.

"I get the impression that the same commitment to excellence is instilled in students as was instilled in us. I see the academic honors and athletic honors earned by today's students, as well as the commitment to community service, and it still inspires me to this day. I also see that most, if not all, current O'Dowd graduates go on to a college or university," Mike said.

"I'm hoping that I can help a young person who is filled with curiosity about the world and values intellectual development to get a good education and have the same positive experience that I did. I want to help young people develop themselves and reach their potentials without being concerned about money," he continued

Mike hopes to encourage others to think of including O'Dowd in their estate plans. "If you had as positive an experience as I did, do it. Your generosity will have a lasting impact on the world for years to come," he said.

PLANNED GIVING

Estate gifts offer significant tax advantages while allowing donors to make important contributions to the future of Bishop O'Dowd High School. These gifts qualify donors for membership in the O'Dowd Heritage Society.

We are profoundly grateful for the support provided by donors who have made gifts to O'Dowd. Through their generosity, they continue to propel the school forward for generations to come.

HOW DO I INCLUDE O'DOWD IN MY ESTATE PLAN?

There are several ways to include O'Dowd in your estate plans - the most common of which is a gift in your will or living trust. Leaving a gift through your will, trust, IRA, investment or banking account, or life insurance policy is a relatively simple process. O'Dowd can be named as the beneficiary of a set dollar amount, a percentage of your estate, or specific assets. Through such a charitable bequest, your estate is entitled to an estate tax deduction for the value of the donation.

To include a bequest to O'Dowd in your will or living trust, simply provide your attorney or advisor with the following language:

"I hereby give (percentage, residuary, share or specific amount or asset) to Bishop O'Dowd High School, 9500 Stearns Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605, a 501(c)(3) organization, tax identification #94-1547088."

How do I notify O'Dowd that I have already included the school in my estate plan?

Contact Jen Ripley, Donor Relations Officer, at jripley@bishopodowd.org or (510) 553-8619.

For additional information, visit www.odowdheritagesociety.org.

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



WORDS TO LIVE BY **RHONDA JACKSON MORRIS '83**

O'Dowd taught me the power of four magic words.

The lesson came early during my transition to O'Dowd from my previous school, where I'd always gotten the highest grades. Ninth-grade Algebra, however, felt more like a foreign-language immersion class. And it was teaching me something new – how it felt to be entirely lost. Finally, I sensed it didn't have to be that way. One day after school, I explained my dilemma to my teacher, Mrs. Vulpi, saying the four magic words: "I need your help."

For months, she worked with me every day until I caught up. My B+ in Algebra seemed like my best grade ever.

"Take advantage of the close knit community at O'Dowd and use it as a springboard for trying out new things. Be part of different clubs and friend groups, and take time to bond with your teachers because some of them will become your lifelong mentors. I spent so much time at O'Dowd trying to prepare for the next stage of life, college, but looking back the most valuable things I remember are the relationships I built, not the things I checked off on my college apps."

Molly Montgomery '14,
graduate student pursuing a master's in Creative Writing (Fiction) at UC Davis.

“O’Dowd offered so many opportunities for me to gain skills that were critical in my field of study and career (Public Relations/Marketing/Partnerships). From yearbook editor, to spirit committee and student council, to swimming/diving, each activity was relevant and offered me a chance to hone important skills. I was prepared academically and socially, as O’Dowd allowed us ample opportunity to thrive!”

**Dana Young ’83,
Vice President of Strategic Partnerships for One World Play Project**

Looking back, I see how fortunate I was to taste failure at age 13, especially in a classroom where it was safe to be vulnerable. Today, I see the larger truth: teachers care about students who care about their studies. Caring, like Mrs. Vulpi’s, that converts into action teaches us more than a particular subject – it teaches us how to be good citizens of the world.

That lesson transfers to the workplace. Employers care about employees who care about their work. I often tell new employees: there isn’t one person in our company who, if you ask, won’t stop what they’re doing to help.

As citizens of our communities, many of my colleagues extend that caring spirit into mentoring youngsters in local schools. Our outreach places a special emphasis on the pursuit of STEM subjects: science, technology, engineering – and math. One of my proudest moments came during a new movie at the same Grand Lake Theater in Oakland where I spent many Saturdays with my sister and cousins. Only this time, I was with Chevron colleagues, our STEM partners from Techbridge and some very special guests: 60 grade-school girls.

We adults witnessed how the girls were mesmerized by the story of three black women whose brilliance and calculations allowed John Glenn to become the first American to orbit the earth and return safely home. We saw the girls absorb how the “Hidden Figures” helped each other face all sorts of obstacles to achieve incredible things, proving science sees neither color nor gender. And being smart is cool.

One girl came up to me later to talk about the film. When we were done, she handed me a coin. As I read the words on it – “You just made the world a better place” – her initiative and gratitude improved my world. The same virtuous circle was playing out all around me among our adult volunteer mentors and these representatives of a new generation. I imagine now how Mrs. Vulpi must have felt when her careful guidance helped a new idea gain a foothold in a young mind.

When the man I succeeded in my current role retired recently – a man whose remarkable career took him to the top Human Resources posts of both Ford Motor Company and Chevron – he likened himself to a turtle on a fence post. “If you see him sitting there, you know he didn’t get there by himself,” he said, his prelude to acknowledging people who’d been there when he asked for guidance. It’s the kind of help, when you accept it, that can change the trajectory of your life.

Now, as I step into a role that’s stretching me far beyond anything I’ve done before, I won’t be shy about saying “I need your help” – or being there when someone else does, or needs, the same. I’ve seen the power of those four words.

I’m so grateful it’s a lesson I learned at O’Dowd.

Rhonda J. Morris is vice president of Human Resources for Chevron Corporation. She oversees Chevron’s human resources, diversity and ombuds, and global health and medical groups worldwide.

ATHLETIC

Team Records and **ALL-LEAGUE HONORS**

A host of Dragons were recognized as All-League players by the West Alameda County Conference (Foothill League). The All-League selections are listed below by sport:

Football, 4-0, 1st in WACC

ALL-LEAGUE

Kenyan Branscomb Jr., Quinn Brinnon, Tyler Garay-Harris, Isaiah Henry, Jevon Holland, Austin Jones, Chris Lucas, Miles Owens, Sterling Stokes, (first team); Isaiah Pitre, Lonnie Turner and Jelani Warren (second team); Branden Owens and Darryl Walker, (honorable mention). **Defensive Player of the Year: Jevon Holland.**



MEN'S CROSS COUNTRY, 10-1, 1ST IN WACC

ALL-LEAGUE

Spencer Berkins, Cole Kretlow and Thomas Murphy (first team); Julian Jensen (second team). **Runner of the Year: Cole Kretlow**



MEN'S WATER POLO, 5-5, 3RD IN WACC

ALL-LEAGUE

Nick Entrekin, Kai Kirsch and Luke Pfeiffer (first team); Colm Connolly and Luke Ditzler (second team); Alex Berger and Remington Wood (honorable mention)



Volleyball, 10-0, 1st in WACC

ALL-LEAGUE

Nadia Pace, Michelle Ohwobete and Lauryn Vaughn (first team); Alexandria Hoglund, Isabella Hoglund and Annabella Pirrotta (second team)



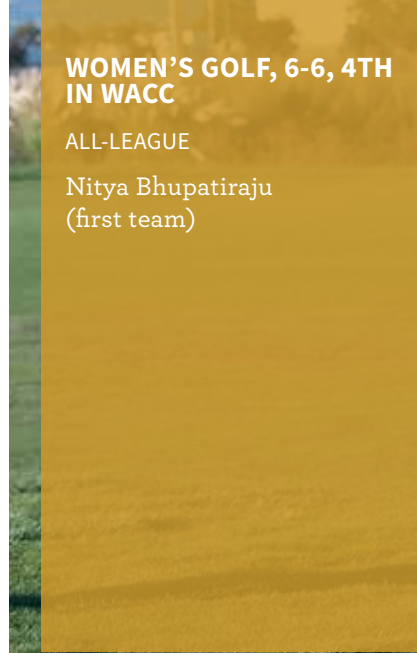
CS News



WOMEN'S CROSS COUNTRY, 8-3, 2ND IN WACC

ALL-LEAGUE

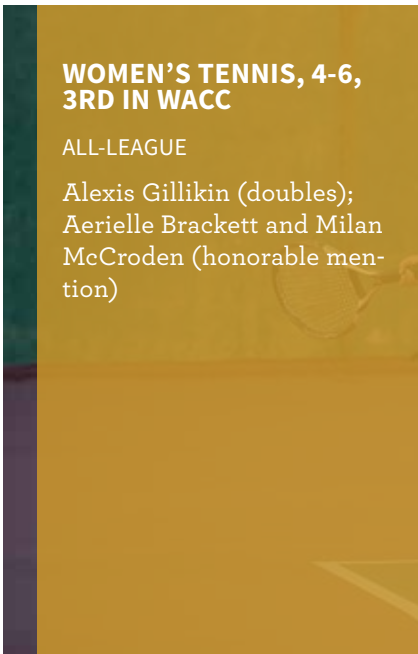
Isabella Brusco and Jeneva Toolajian (first team); Kalea Fong and Abigail Gonzalez (second team)



WOMEN'S GOLF, 6-6, 4TH IN WACC

ALL-LEAGUE

Nitya Bhupatiraju (first team)



WOMEN'S TENNIS, 4-6, 3RD IN WACC

ALL-LEAGUE

Alexis Gillikin (doubles); Aerielle Brackett and Milan McCroden (honorable mention)



WOMEN'S WATER POLO, 6-1, 2ND IN WACC

ALL-LEAGUE

Avery Collard (first team); Katie Isola, Alex Kuesel, Mia Lauer and Valerie Naas (second team); Cat Moseley and Katie Rehberger (honorable mention)

ATHLETICS

CONTINUED

O'DOWD STUDENT-ATHLETES SIGN NATIONAL LETTERS OF INTENT



Five Bishop O'Dowd High School student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent/committed to play sports in college in a ceremony held in Dominican Hall Lounge on November 8.

Family and friends were on hand to congratulate **Michael Edwards-Gonzales**, softball, Loyola Marymount University; **Naseem Gaskin**, basketball, University of Utah; **Francesca (Frankie) Hammoude**, softball, Oregon State; **Elijah Hardy**, basketball, University of Washington; and **Emily Mattoon**, beach volleyball, University of Oregon.

Gaskin and Hardy are the first two Bay Area guards from the same high school to go to Pac-12 Conference schools in the same year, and Mattoon is O'Dowd's first collegiate beach volleyball player.



Six Bishop O'Dowd High School student-athletes signed National Letters of Intent/committed to play sports in college in a ceremony held in Dominican Hall Lounge on February 7.

Family and friends were on hand to congratulate **Quinn Brinnon**, football, Colorado State University; **Madison Burke**, crew, Villanova University; **Jevon Holland**, football, University of Oregon; **Harrison Kepp**, soccer, University of San Francisco; **Spencer Leader**, golf, Trinity University; and **Miles Owens**, football, University of California, Berkeley.



REMEMBERING SAM TAYLOR '17

More than 500 people gathered at O'Dowd on December 30 to celebrate the life of a beloved member of the Class of 2017, Sam Taylor.

Sam was a four-year varsity rugby player at O'Dowd and was a member of the UC Santa Cruz rugby team. His family requested donations to be made in his memory to the Sam Taylor '17 Memorial Rugby Gift, which will provide equipment and supplies to the O'Dowd rugby teams and help ensure that every young man or woman who wants to play rugby at O'Dowd has the financial support to do so.

www.bishopodowd.org/give-in-memory-of-sam-taylor-17

Father Paul Waldie, OMI A Man For His People

By Jack Dold
O'Dowd Teacher and Administrator from 1963-1974



Father Paul Waldie, who served as principal of O'Dowd from 1972-1978, died on November 11, 2017, in San Antonio, Texas, where he had been working as the director of the seminary for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. In this tribute, Jack Dold shares the impact Fr. Waldie had on him personally and the O'Dowd community.

Paul Waldie was the finest priest I ever met - a liturgist with great imagination, a lecturer who was always current, and a man who considered only the good in others. He was a priest who was the essence of the Christianity he preached; a man who lived what he believed.

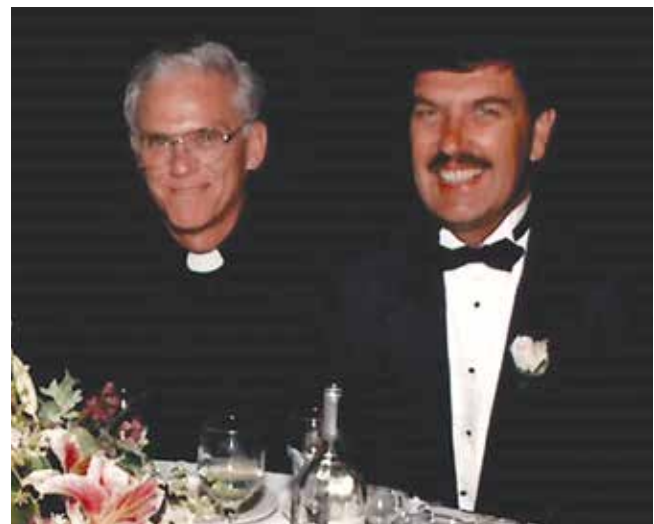
I had the incredible good fortune to call Paul Waldie my friend, and he became, over decades, one of the most important figures in my life. He baptized my daughter, Anne, and my grandson, Joshua. He married both of my daughters, and he celebrated the funeral masses of both of my parents.

As a teacher, principal, parish priest and counselor, and seminary director, Paul was always thinking of the people around him, constantly considering their well-being over his own.

Paul started at O'Dowd when I was serving as Dean of Boys. When we first met we had an immediate argument—he proposed to be in an office full-time as the school's counselor; I insisted that he had to teach some classes if he wanted to gain the trust of the students. Even Father Wagner, the principal at that time, taught a class or two, and the vice principals and deans taught nearly full loads of four classes. At the time he didn't have a disciplinary bone in his body and the students pretty much took over his classes. I spent more time in the back of his room than in my own office. But if Paul did anything beautifully, he listened. And before long, using a

laser glare when necessary, he worked his way to the control of his classroom. And that is when the students realized the treasure they had in their religion teacher. Paul could call up a withering indignation if he had to, but it was his empathy that soon became evident to the whole student body. His masses became events, with students taking major parts in the liturgies—serving, singing, praying with this impressive priest who seemed to know exactly what they needed.

Paul Waldie was always current. He worked Simon and Garfunkel, the Beatles, and other rock groups, into his masses, aided by students on piano, drums and guitars, even harmonicas. He urged the students to hug one another instead of a handshake for the Kiss of Peace. And before long, those students were hugging parents and teachers who happened to be around them. And his sermons spoke to the very real problems students were facing and gave them guidance that was useful and immediately applicable. This was no rehashing of the bible passages of the day; his words went to the core of what was on the mind of his community. And in this case, his community was the student body of Bishop O'Dowd High School.



left to right: Fr. Waldie and Jack Dold.

In a few years, Father Paul was asked to become principal. He no more wanted to be principal than he wanted initially to be a classroom teacher. But he accepted with humility, and he served as principal for six years, during which time the school thrived.

Read more about Fr. Waldie and his service after he left O'Dowd on our website: www.bishopodowd.org/father-paul-waldie-omi-man-people

In Memoriam

John Andrews '72

Husband of Margaret Langum Andrews '74, father of John (Janel) Andrews, Jennifer (Kevin) Rose, and Kelly (Alexander) Casella, and grandfather of 10

Dolores Brandt

Wife of Louie Norman Brandt Jr. and mother of Michael Brandt '78, Lawrence (Erin) Brandt '80, Terri (Greg) Brandt Stiner '83, Louie (Beyana) Norman Brandt III '85.

Ross Cadenasso

Husband of Lillian Cadenasso and father of Peter (Mary) '75, Scott (Erika Wanenmacher), Richard (Marian) '77, Anne '78, Carl (Lisa) '80, Mary (James Maness) '83, Joseph (Deborah) '88 and Gina '90, and grandfather of 14, including Matthew '16 and Samantha '19 Cadenasso

Patricia Ann Menzel Colombe '57

Mother of Leroy and Audrey Colombe

Rose Crosetti

Mother of Douglas Crosetti '72 (deceased), Rosalind Christenson '73, Richard (Pete Kushmeider) Crosetti '79 and Monica (Jim) Lalanne '79, and grandmother of Max and Jerrad Lalanne and Gina and Lucas Christenson

Nancy Caroline Walters DeTurk Pittenger

Wife of Donald Pittenger, mother of Charles (Lori) and Thomas (Doris) DeTurk and grandmother of Jenna '16 and Corinne DeTurk

Susan Sirhall Durant '63

Sister of Maureen Sirhall '69

Lillian Gardenhire

Mother of Sandra Erle '59, Sister Judith Lynn Gardenhire, DC, '60 and Patricia Boegel '61 (deceased)

Jill Gurrea Griffiths

Wife of Scott Griffiths, mother of Gabriella and Tristan Griffiths, daughter of Prescilla Gurrea and Raymond Gonzalez, and sister of Christian '89 and Jamie '97 Gurrea Gonzalez

Brian Harkness '67

Brother of Mark '68 (deceased) and Diane Harkness '69, and uncle of Regina Harkness '06

Richard Helm '67

Brother of Robert Helm

Nelson Lawson Hickling

Husband of Catherine Vollmer Hickling '64, father of Rex (Mary) Hickling, Forrest (Bonnie) Hickling, Leisha Hickling (Wayne) Harrelson and Leif (Luciana) Hickling, stepfather of Sean (Andrea) Kelleher, and grandfather of five

Julie Benedetti Holt '60

Mother of Eileen Holt Groff '85, Erin Holt-Widner '92 and grandmother of Alexander Groff '20

Mary Slakey Howell '80

Daughter of Paul and Margaret Slakey, niece of Linda Slakey '56, and sister of Susan Slakey Scallon '82, Monica Slakey Hogland '84 and Laura Slakey '85

Carole Cruz Jobe '60

Wife of Thomas and mother of John and David Jobe

Edward Kovach

Husband of Kathleen Cogan Kovach and father of Margaret Kovach '80, Anne (Christopher) Hebling '81, Marty (Amy Lee) Kovach '83, Kate (James) Gerard '85 and Alex Kovach '88

Victor "Vic" Anthony Lagorio '65

Husband of Laurie A. Lagorio, brother of Sandra Avilla, Ronald Lagorio and Terry Lagorio (deceased), and father of Julie Lagorio, Aimee Gouveia, Sheri Lagorio, Charles Taliaferro, Vittorio (Natalie) Lagorio and Angelo (Monica) Lagorio

Kevin Lancaster

Husband of Neuritsa Lancaster and father of Anoush '00, Shana '02, Sam '05 and Grace '08 Lancaster

Steven Mark LeBlanc '79

Son of Maude and Joseph LeBlanc Sr. and brother of Joseph (Jane '74) LeBlanc Jr. '74, Marvin (Gena) LeBlanc '76, Harold (Diane) LeBlanc '77 and Rachelle (Fred) LeBlanc Cunningham '89

Karen Cantele Magdalinos '74

Edward J. Murphy Jr.

Grandfather of Matthew (Peter) '19, Lauren '19 and Ava Murphy '21

Arthur W. Palmer

Husband of Linda Brown Palmer '58, father of Kevin (Debbie), Tim (April) and Randy (Sue) Palmer, and grandfather of Kyle and Courtney Palmer

Mary Montesano Paradiso '55

Sister of Virginia Accardo Montesano '56 (deceased)

Robert Francis Peña '69

Father of Rachel (Steve) Peña Roos and Jared Peña, and grandchildren Arlo and Ava Roos

Nicolas T. Prepouses

Husband of Mary Chris (Stephens), and father of K.C. (Jim) Econome '74, Barbara (Mark) Fridell '75 and Vicki (Robert) Kiningham '78

Joseph Sacramento '76

Husband of Stella Sacramento

Dr. Ernest Simms

Grandfather of Jarin Edwards '21 and Malcolm Mackey '21

Michael Singleton '62

George "Jez" Stratton

Husband of Britta Stratton and father of Nicholas '02 and Lucas Stratton

Samuel Taylor '17

Son of Robert and Julie and brother of Matthew Taylor '13

Bishop O'Dowd High School encourages The *Dragon* readers to forward to the school copies of obituary notices about the passing of O'Dowd community members so that the names of the deceased can be listed in the In Memoriam section of this magazine. Please send the notices to Lisa Coffey Mahoney '76, c/o Bishop O'Dowd High School, 9500 Stearns Ave., Oakland, CA 94605, or e-mail them to lmahoney@bishopodowd.org. Note: Listings are based on information known at press time and may not include all surviving family members.



Bishop O'Dowd High School
A Catholic, College Preparatory School
9500 Stearns Avenue Oakland, CA 94605

www.bishopodowd.org



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Honoring Dr. Phelps

Stephen Phelps Memorial Scholarship Fund

This endowed scholarship fund, named in memory of Stephen Phelps, Ed.D., recognizes his decades of service to Catholic education and to the O'Dowd community. Throughout his career, Steve helped countless students to transform their lives through education and to develop into future leaders.

Join us in honoring Steve's legacy and his dedication to ensuring that an O'Dowd education is accessible to all deserving students with a gift to the Stephen Phelps Memorial Scholarship Fund.

We invite you to give online at
www.bishopodowd.org/phelpsfund

