

# FOREVER STRONG

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Years  
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Kairos

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# Remembering Gary “Mace” Mason

*A Rock for Students and Staff*



The O’Dowd community wishes to honor our beloved Dean, Gary Mason, who passed away this March. Known as “Mace,” he served O’Dowd with pride and distinction for over 37 years, showing class after class of students steady compassion, fairness, and love. We will always remember him for the joy he carried, the leadership he brought to our community, and the great love he gave students.

*Rest in Eternal Peace, Mr. Mason.*



*This issue went to press in the days following Mace’s passing.  
We will have a full story honoring his legacy in the next issue of The Dragon.*



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## WRITE US!

*Dragon Magazine* is published twice a year for parents, alumni and friends of Bishop O'Dowd High School. We welcome your comments and suggestions at [krose@bishopodowd.org](mailto:krose@bishopodowd.org) or by mail to:

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## 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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ONCE A DRAGON,  
ALWAYS A  
DRAGON

Dear Dragons,

I announced in the fall that, with a full heart and confident in the strength of O'Dowd, I have accepted an offer to lead the Marist School located in Atlanta, Georgia, beginning this summer.

I want to thank all of you, alumni, parents, grandparents and friends, for your continued commitment and partnership with O'Dowd. Over my years at this esteemed school, first as principal and then as president, I have been continually inspired by the heart and dedication of the Dragon community. Your deep belief in the power of an O'Dowd education has been central to strengthening this institution over the years.

In my time at O'Dowd I have been especially inspired by our Catholic charism, and have been proud to support our faculty and staff to integrate our charism into our academic and co-curricular programs. Notably, O'Dowd's Equity and Belonging work has strengthened our community and supported our students. Our signature spiritual ecology and creation care initiatives are top in the country. O'Dowd's excellent and dedicated faculty serves a broad range of students. Our thriving Spirit Week is a joyful celebration of student talent and class-level competitions. Our Kairos retreats are student-led, well-attended, and deeply transformative. I know that your Dragon dedication to these core values is the lifeblood of O'Dowd, and ensures that this school becomes, year after year, better than ever.

In partnership with you, we have achieved tremendous success over the years. From launching an unprecedented multi-year teacher compensation initiative, to successfully bringing the new Cummins Center to our campus, fulfilling our commitment to support families through tuition assistance, and in acquiring the Seneca property for future development, O'Dowd will continue to shine bright because of your support.

I'm so grateful for the opportunity to have served in this community, and I am forever proud to be a Dragon. Please keep me and my family in your prayers, just as I will continue to hold the O'Dowd community in mine.

You have my best,

J. D. Childs  
President



# STRONGER TOGETHER

## SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION

This past fall we welcomed our new Principal Dr. Doug Evans and academic Associate Principals Ethel Burton and Roberta Havens. Together with Associate Principal Brian Judd, who has held faculty and administration positions since 1985, the team has built a strong bond and continues to focus their efforts on supporting students, teachers, and families. "It's been a great first year," says Dr. Evans. "We're excited to keep strengthening this community together."



## FAMILY AFFINITY DAYS: ALL DRAGONS WELCOME

"A true sense of belonging begins when we see ourselves in others," says Associate Principal Ethel Burton. For the third year in the row, we celebrated our charism of *community in diversity* with affinity days for Latino, Asian, and Black students and families. Our quad was lit up with cultural celebrations, including delicious foods, fun games, and energizing music and dance. "We're proud to be a community that creates spaces for our students and families to share and honor their cultural backgrounds and gifts,"

shares **Patrice Wakeley '01**,  
Director of Equity and Belonging.

## PLAY BALL! DRAGONS NEW UPPER FIELD UNVEILED

This spring, we were proud to showcase our renovated Upper Field, which features new batting cages, new dugouts and bleachers, new safety netting, and a brand new home field for the softball team—who played in the NCS playoffs last year and aim to do the same this season. "It's exciting to have this new field serving both our baseball and softball teams," says Athletic Director Carlos Reed. "Both teams have consistently dominated in our league over the years, and we are proud to support both programs on campus."



*"It's been a great first year. We're excited to keep strengthening this community together."*

—Dr. Doug Evans, Principal



CELEBRATING OUR SUCCESS:

# THANK YOU J.D.!



As we look ahead, the O'Dowd community extends a heartfelt thank you for the leadership of President J.D. Childs. Over the course of his tenure, our school achieved a number of significant milestones that continue to secure the future of our school and will serve students, families, faculty and staff for generations to come.

Let's join in celebrating our accomplishments, and look towards the next horizon. We look forward to welcoming our next president, and to the dreams we will realize together, as one Dragon community.



## MULTI-YEAR TEACHER COMPENSATION INITIATIVE

Teachers are O'Dowd's greatest asset. To ensure that we continue to attract and retain the best and the brightest, O'Dowd has launched a three-year faculty compensation initiative. The second such initiative within five years, we are proud to invest in the teachers who embody O'Dowd's charism for *academic excellence*.



## CAMPUS DEVELOPMENT: CUMMINS CENTER AND SENECA

Built in 1951, O'Dowd continues to modernize its facilities. In August of 2022 we opened the state-of-the-art Bishop John S. Cummins Center, a premier space to gather for Mass and community celebrations, host our championship athletics, and support our award-winning performing arts. We also acquired the adjacent Seneca property above O'Dowd's Living Lab, which will be a site for O'Dowd's future development.



## STRONG ENROLLMENT

As a Catholic community, O'Dowd is deeply committed to ensuring that our tuition remains accessible for families across the East Bay. We have maintained our strong enrollment by keeping our tuition affordable, investing in a strong academic and co-curricular program, and supporting a robust tuition assistance program. Our student-focused curriculum continues to attract families who recognize that the bonds of O'Dowd's uniquely diverse community last a lifetime.



## ENGAGED COMMUNITY

Once a Dragon, always a Dragon. We are proud of how deeply invested our parents/guardians and alumni are in our school community. Every day, Dragons from the past and present engage in the work of the school. From serving on the Board of Regents to volunteering at Career Week, from supporting our faculty and staff to guiding prospective families through the admissions process, and much much more, the support of our parents/guardians and alumni guarantees the success of our current and future students.





# 15 YEARS OF KAIROS

Ask many of our alumni for a single high point of their time spent at O’Dowd, and chances are good that their answers will be one word: Kairos. Loosely translated from the Greek in Christian scripture as “God’s time,” Kairos refers to the three-to-four-day spiritual retreats that students attend in their junior year at many Catholic high schools nationwide.

Although it’s considered a Catholic program—similar to Curcio for adults—Kairos welcomes students from any religious affiliation, or even no affiliation at all. It offers participants the chance to examine themselves, their relationships with others, and their connection to God in a safe, trust-building environment. This year, as O’Dowd’s Kairos program turns 15 (with 43 retreats complete!), we reflect on the power this deeply rewarding retreat holds for our entire school community.





Typically held in September, November, and March at the Franciscan San Damiano Retreat Center in Danville, each Kairos usually accommodates 55 students broken into ten small groups, each led by one student facilitator supported by one adult.

“The small group is a really important component of the retreat experience, because there’s a lot of deep sharing in which people bond and feel very connected,” says retreat coordinator Karen Yavorsky, who has directed or coordinated Kairos retreats—at O’Dowd and elsewhere—for 12 years. Behind the scenes, student leaders work with Yavorsky to run logistics such as scheduling, supplies, and announcements. And a “home team” back on campus supports the effort as well. It’s a well-oiled process, largely overseen by the students themselves.

Within the small groups, participants are led through scripted prompts, questions, prayers, and spiritual reflections, each activity building on the next. But while the groups are directed through parallel experiences, the outcomes are varied—people’s stories are different, after all. Not only students but adult leaders open up too, creating a unique space for students to explore and be vulnerable.

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**“ IT WAS AN EMOTIONAL MILESTONE IN MY LIFE BECAUSE IT GAVE ME MY ‘WHY.’ KAIROS CREATED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR DEEP PERSONAL GROWTH THAT TRULY MADE ME READY TO BECOME THE PERSON I’VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE.”**

— GABE TARANTINO '20

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“Something magical happens in those small groups,” Yavorsky says. “Students begin to recognize things about themselves. There are invitations for reconciliation, so they’re starting to think about how they’re in relationship with themselves, with others, and with God.”

**Gabe Tarantino '20** continues to feel the impact of his Kairos experience today as a student at the Naval Academy, where he’s a Kairos leader himself. “It was an emotional milestone in my life because it gave me my ‘why,’” he says. “Kairos created an opportunity for deep personal growth that truly made me ready to become the person I’ve always wanted to be.”

*Opposite:* Students climb the hills at San Damiano Retreat Center, with **Sydney Toler '23** (left) and **Finn Morse '23** (right) leading the way.

*Left, Above:* **Gabe Tarantino '20** helps to lead O’Dowd’s 39th Kairos retreat.

*Right, Above:* **Jack Larsen '23, Peter Tanaka '23, Matthew Rugiero '23** meet in a peaceful courtyard at the San Damiano Retreat Center.



# 15 YEARS OF KAIROS

Father Jim Sullivan, O'Dowd's chaplain, has been participating in the school's Kairos retreats since 2015. "It's a special structure that allows students to open up, both to themselves and to others, in ways that most have not experienced before," he says. "There's real power in telling your story and, for many students, this may be the first opportunity they've had to experience that power."

O'Dowd's curriculum sets a high bar for academic performance and the school's wide array of co-curricular and extra-curricular opportunities challenge students to develop their talents both in and outside of the classroom, Sullivan says. Beyond this, campus ministry helps students to discover and develop their spiritual potential, and Kairos is a key element in that process. "All of our retreats encourage our students to go deeper in terms of their personal understanding and growth," he says. "And Kairos in particular offers the greatest opportunity for self-reflection."

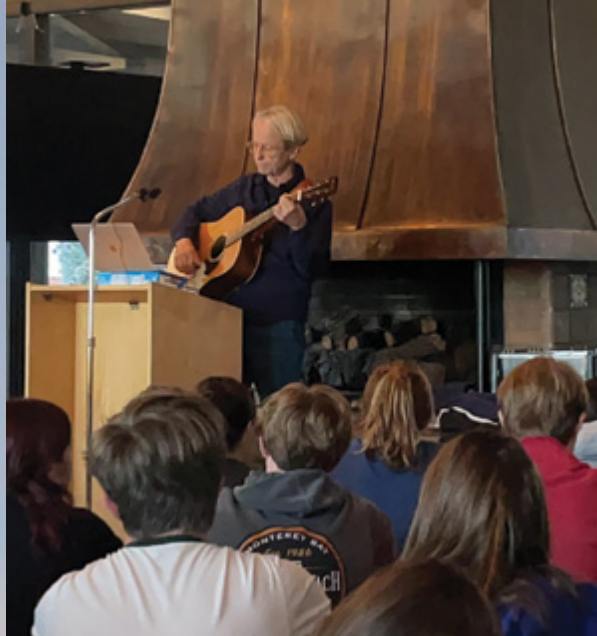


Father Leo Edgerly, O'Dowd's Vice President of Catholic Mission who has served as pastor for Piedmont's Corpus Christi Church and taught at O'Dowd's largest partner school, Corpus Christi, for 23 years, attended his first Kairos in September as the adult leader of a small group. In that group were three students from his Corpus Christi parish. "These are kids who I baptized, who I gave first Communion to, so for them to intimately share who they are with me, you know, it took some adjustment," he says. "I had them call me Leo, not Father Leo, and eventually they were able to embrace it."

Edgerly is also the director of the Curcio movement for the Diocese of Oakland, so he's deeply familiar with the retreat process. In order for people to make a positive difference in the world, he says, they must feel good about themselves. Through Kairos, students who have a sense of God's existence receive the message that they're loved by God. For students with different beliefs, the message is that they're loved by their brothers and sisters, by their fellow students, and by the surrounding O'Dowd community.



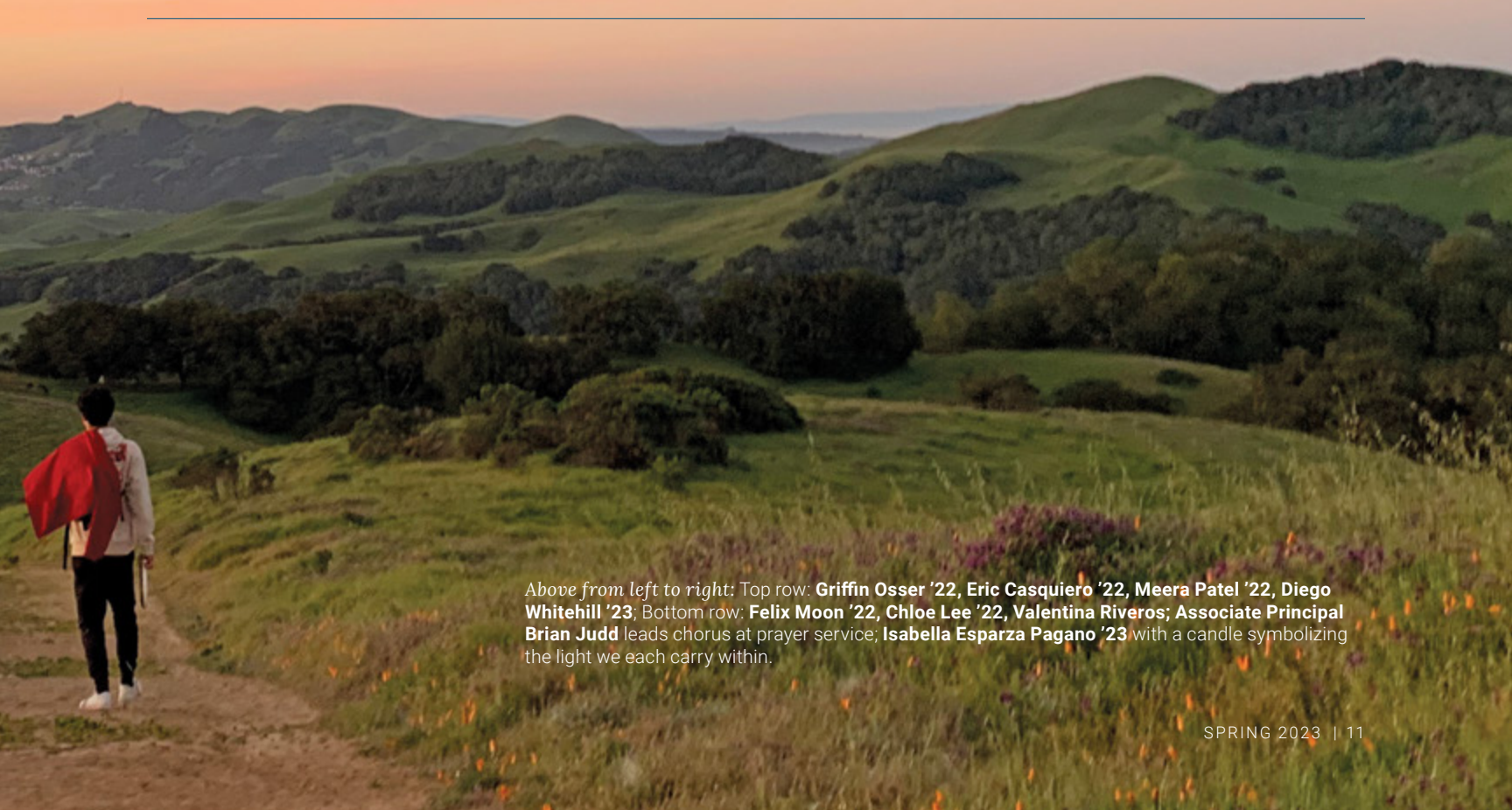




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*“That sense of being loved, it’s critical to a person being able to share their own love with others,” Edgerly says. “I really believe this: You do not need to believe in God. You can live a good life without believing in God. But you must believe in love. Love is essential to life. And it is central to having a successful life.” Love can’t grow in isolation, he explains. Love grows in a communal environment where we open up, share, and push ourselves to be vulnerable. It requires people to go beyond themselves.”*

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*Above from left to right: Top row: **Griffin Osser '22, Eric Casquero '22, Meera Patel '22, Diego Whitehill '23**; Bottom row: **Felix Moon '22, Chloe Lee '22, Valentina Riveros**; Associate Principal **Brian Judd** leads chorus at prayer service; **Isabella Esparza Pagano '23** with a candle symbolizing the light we each carry within.*



# 15 YEARS OF KAIROS

"That sense of being loved, it's critical to a person being able to share their own love with others," Edgerly says. "I really believe this: You do not need to believe in God. You can live a good life without believing in God. But you must believe in love. Love is essential to life. And it is central to having a successful life." Love can't grow in isolation, he explains. Love grows in a communal environment where we open up, share, and push ourselves to be vulnerable. It requires people to go beyond themselves.

Although "what happens at Kairos stays at Kairos," Edgerly, Sullivan, and Yavorsky can generally say that they've all witnessed dramatic student transformations during the retreat. "I've seen quiet, reserved students really open up to their peers," Sullivan says. "I've seen natural leaders take a deep look at their gifts, and what they might offer others through them. I've seen students, who came to the retreat convinced that there is nothing beyond that which we can experience



via the senses, embrace the possibility that there is 'something more'—something that can't be measured or quantified by math or science."

In fact, many students find the Kairos experience so powerful that they come back as student leaders themselves, helping younger classes to navigate the experience. Typically, students receive six to eight weeks of training before attending as leaders.

**Connor Tamor '18** participated in Kairos as a junior attendee, returned

as a student leader, and came back again as an adult leader. "It was important for me to keep the tradition alive of being a mentor to students who are going through some of the same emotions and feelings that I once held," he says. "Kairos had a significant impact on my life, and I felt called to create the same experience for other students."

**Yalda Rafie '12** is another Kairos alum who returned as a student leader, and then led similar retreats at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.



## SENIOR RETREAT

**BEFORE KAIROS WAS CREATED AT O'DOWD IN 2008, THERE WAS SENIOR RETREAT. RYAN BROCKBANK '88 SHARES A FEW MEMORIES.**

"Senior Retreat was an important part of my O'Dowd experience. We were encouraged to be vulnerable, to share, and to connect with ourselves and each other on a personal and spiritual level. I remember being surprised with what some students were willing to share, and that instead of judgment or snickering there were hugs and kind words. The experience strengthened my existing relationships and I connected with new people I wouldn't have otherwise. So many faculty and classmates fundamentally impacted who I am and what I stand for, even to this day. And decades later, both Kairos and Senior Retreat have positively and meaningfully impacted my two sons."





"It's always amazing to reflect on what you learn about yourself—and others—as both a retreatant and a leader," she says. "I'm a leader by nature so it was an obvious choice for me to want to pass on what I'd learned on my retreat to others. There was no better opportunity as a student that allowed you to be your best, most authentic self."

The Kairos effect lasts long after students return to campus, Yavorsky says. New friendships are formed, students are visibly more confident, and relationships are improved. "I had one mom who told me, 'Thank you so much for giving me my daughter back,'" she says.

Wherever students may be in discovering their spirituality, the experience of Kairos brings a deeper understanding of our interconnectedness, Sullivan says. "How life itself, though a mystery, is charged with meaning and with a great potential to deepen our capacities for love," he says. "All of that, I think, can only deepen a teen's spiritual growth."



Above, from left to right: **Conor Tamor '18** (top right) with his Kairos student group. Top row left to right: **Joshua LaForce '24, Isaac Tokarz '24, Isabella Esparza Pagano '23, Connor Tamor '18**. Bottom row left to right: **Alex Strozier '24, Marisa Simas '24, Lara Lancaster '24, and Ava Harrison '24; Cami Restagno '22** taking time to write and reflect; Students gather at daily reflection.





## SOCIAL STUDIES: A SPRINGBOARD FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

It's not just history. Or sociology or economics or political science. Rather, the broadly named "social studies" comprises all these subjects, uncovering the lessons of the past and identifying themes to understand our current world.

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Above: Teacher Howard McCoy with Quincy Hare '26 and Lizzy Quinteros '26

Opposite, left to right: Lily Black '24 talks with teacher Matt Lane about her group's Emancipation Proclamation project; Howard McCoy and Matt Lane meet to plan their curriculum for the semester.



"Our goal is to make each historical period deeply engaging for students," say social studies teachers Matt Lane and Howard McCoy. Lane has been at O'Dowd for seven years and McCoy joined the staff three years ago, at the onset of COVID. While they teach separate classes, the two have found they enjoy collaborating professionally on their lesson plans. "We work in partnership to make our classes creative and empowering, developing unique themes and projects that support students to interact deeply with the subject matter." McCoy notes.

Lane and McCoy begin lesson planning by asking themselves what they want their students to take away from a particular historical period. Once they've agreed upon the "big idea," weeks of lunch meetings, phone calls, and texts ensue as they hammer out projects and logistics. Lane's strength is in

the creative concept, while McCoy excels at breaking down the step-by-step methodology. "Matt and I ask ourselves, out of this whole period, what do we want students to walk away with?" McCoy says.

As one example, during a fall semester class on U.S. history, the essential theme was "how free is America?" By exploring our nation's freedoms and limitations from the colonial period to the present day, students were able to examine our modern-day voting-rights issues with more depth and context.

When a project concludes, Lane and McCoy look closely at what worked, what needed refinement, what didn't turn out as planned. And they always ask for student feedback to strengthen the content going forward. "We want students to share their experiences and voices, so we can make adjustments for the next time," Lane says.



For a Marginalized Peoples Project, students research how a particular group has been politically, socially, economically, and culturally marginalized in the U.S. Here **Ava Pearson '22** created t-shirt designs to demonstrate what she learned about Susan B. Anthony and the equal pay for equal work movement.



### Consider a few of the projects Lane and McCoy have presented in the last year:



#### Historical Theme Park

Design detailed theme parks featuring the Renaissance, Reformation, Age of Exploration, or Scientific Revolution.



#### “Mix-Tape” Edu-tainment Challenge

Competing teams write, produce, and record songs and music videos based on events or people of the late 20th or early 21st century.



#### Virtual U.S. History Museum

Learn the history of slavery and abolition by creating QR-coded classroom and campus exhibits.



#### Voting Activism

Research past and present voting laws from three U.S. states, create graphics to organize/compare findings, write letters to senators based on how they voted.



#### Manifest Destiny Podcast

Teams research, write, and produce a podcast episode on Manifest Destiny, the 19th-century idea that the U.S. should spread democracy and capitalism across the entire North American continent.





## SOCIAL STUDIES: A SPRINGBOARD FOR STUDENT ENGAGEMENT



**London Gopalakrishnan '24** learns more about the history of slavery and abolition by touring curated classroom and campus “exhibits” — each with their own QR code for more information about the people, places and events that led up to the Civil War.



“Last semester in Mr. Lane’s U.S. history class, a group of us made a music video about the Emancipation Proclamation,” says **Lily Black '24**. “The assignment had many different tasks for students who enjoy writing, art, or performing, which I loved. It allowed me to show off my creativity while also learning to do in-depth historical research.”

The advantages of such innovative, theme-based curricula are many: Students can be creative in the process, learning the subject at a deeper level. They’re able to draw a stronger connection between past events and their own daily lives. And it teaches them other soft skills that they’ll need in the future, such as collaboration, time management, and learning new technology. “In adult

life, you don’t get multiple-choice tests once a month,” Lane says. “You have to learn how to work with people, how to build timelines, or how to think outside the box, so we try to incorporate a lot of that into our assignments.”

“I really enjoyed the Theme Park Project because it allowed us to utilize the creative side of our brains, to research and collaborate with each other,” says **Tristan Valdez '23**. “I learned more about the implications of past events and that helped me think about how we can improve our communities, society, and world.”

Both teachers describe themselves as hands-on, interactive learners, and their innovative approach arose in contrast to the traditional lecture/notes/test format with which they

were raised. “One of our goals is to create a student-centered classroom where the kids have some autonomy in demonstrating what they’ve learned,” Lane says. “Another is teaching through an anti-racist lens, looking at how the systems and practices of the past have led to the world we’re in now, and how those systems might be dismantled or improved.”

In terms of conventional instruction, McCoy says, “I’ve learned that less is more.” As a result, he gives students room to create their own learning processes. “If someone were to come to my classroom, they’d see kids in the hallway, or spread out all over the room,” he says. “I’m usually not at the front doing a PowerPoint presentation.”





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**“ YOU HAVE TO LEARN HOW TO WORK WITH PEOPLE, HOW TO BUILD TIMELINES, OR HOW TO THINK OUTSIDE THE BOX, SO WE TRY TO INCORPORATE A LOT OF THAT INTO OUR ASSIGNMENTS.”**

—MATT LANE, SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER

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O’Dowd’s student-focused culture supports this approach, fostering students’ passions whether they’re into athletics or performing arts or social justice—or some other pursuit that might merit a new extracurricular group. In turn, McCoy’s and Lane’s teaching methods support the school’s charm by tapping into individual gifts that might not be revealed by traditional assessments.

“These young people are our future, they’re going to be impacting and serving our world in the years ahead,” Lane says. “A social studies class is the perfect environment for discovering the spark of that service.” McCoy agrees. “This is what got me into education,” he says. “I’ve been teaching for nearly 26 years, and I’ve never seen my kids show this kind of joy in the classroom.”

For a unit on the Revolutionary War, students created their own movie using the events, people, and places from that time period. Here **Hailey Tom ’19** designed a movie poster, also submitting a plot summary for her fictional film.

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Above, far left: **Tristan Valdez ’26** works on the Theme Park Project in Advanced World History.

Above, left: Teachers Howard McCoy and Matt Lane review a presentation before class.



# Transforming Lives

## Investing in the Future

Last November, over 300 current families, alumni, faculty and friends gathered in O'Dowd's new Knauss Gymnasium for the annual Transforming Lives Dinner.

"I am a proud third-generation Oaklander, and equally a proud graduate of O'Dowd," said keynote speaker **John Valva '84**, who has devoted the last 25 years of his career to the successful transition of college students to their professional lives. He now serves as Vice President of Alumni Engagement and Executive Director for the Oregon State University Alumni Association.

"O'Dowd prepares students to become strong citizens. The leaders. The problem solvers. The cohesion-builders. The poets, lawyers, doctors, engineers, professors and community builders of the future," Valva declared.

This year's event raised \$500,000 for tuition assistance, ensuring that nearly 30% of our students receive the financial bridge they need to unlock their unique potential, explore their strengths, and discover the power they have to make an impact in the world.



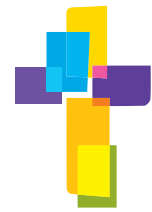
Student speaker **Lenny Gustavson '24** plays on the football and baseball teams, and also plays trombone in O'Dowd's Advanced Jazz Band. His course load includes seven honors classes and Advanced Placement Language and Composition. "At O'Dowd I've learned that in order to thrive I need to step up and give it my all," Lenny announced from the stage. "I've been able to succeed because the faculty and staff really care about my whole self. They support me to grow and discover who I am becoming." He told the audience that he plans to double major in business and philosophy, and build a meaningful career giving back to his community.



"We met so many new people at this event and enjoyed being there because it's truly inspiring to hear the student speakers," said Ann McFarland, parent to **Liam '22** and **Quinn '24**. "We love to see our friends, and know that we're giving to a tremendous cause. An O'Dowd education is a critical gateway for so many students."

**Hailey Hayes '23** strode confidently across the stage, smiling. "I know I can make my life whatever I want it to be, because I've built such a strong community here," she said. Hailey participates in Varsity Cheer and is the Vice President of the Mathletes Club. She is also a member of the Black Student Union's executive board and a Dragon Ambassador Captain.

SAVE THE DATE



TRANSFORMING LIVES  
DINNER

November 2, 2023





*“O’Dowd prepares students to become strong citizens. The leaders. The problem solvers. The cohesion-builders. The poets, lawyers, doctors, engineers, professors and community builders of the future,” Valva declared.*



Upon graduation, Hailey will have completed seven Advanced Placement courses, including AP Psychology and AP Statistics. She plans to go on to college and medical school to pursue her goal of becoming an OB-GYN.

Thank you to all the parents and grandparents, alumni, faculty and

friends who attended this year’s Transforming Lives Dinner. Your laughter and joy shone throughout Cummins Center, and your passionate commitment to tuition assistance has paved the way for over 3,650 students to receive an O’Dowd education since we launched the Transforming Lives Dinner ten years ago.

*Opposite, far left:* student speaker **Lenny Gustavsen '24**; student speaker **Hailey Hayes '23** with her parents Dominique and Rashad.

*Top row, from left:* Celia Green, Maisha Wilson (committee co-chair), Kellie Jackson (committee member); **Sara Varni Bright '96**, **Anthony Varni '57**, Andrea Varni Ramiza; Libby Schaff, **John Valva '84** (keynote speaker)

*Above, from left:* Group; Colleen Kavanagh and Vincent Marletta; Kellie Jackson (committee member), Rachel O’Marra, Karin Ondricek (committee member);

*At right:* Annette Counts and Thien Pham (faculty)





THE BISHOP JOHN S. CUMMINS CENTER:

# A HOME FOR ALL DRAGONS

Students passing through the Counts Family Welcome Hall greet one another as they move between classes. In the distance, sneakers squeak as P.E. students warm up for an epic game of basketball. Each nook of the new building's main level has become a favorite studying spot for students on Flex Period. Since opening in August, the Cummins Center has become a home for all Dragons.



## THE COUNTS FAMILY WELCOME HALL

Students gather on the beautiful entry benches or review digital announcements as they walk to class in this warm entrance to Cummins Center.



## THE KEVIN AND DEBORAH SWEENEY ATHLETIC PERFORMANCE LAB

Rugby student-athletes cross-train during their season with **Jay Beito '92**, Strength & Conditioning Coordinator.





### THE ELIZABETH CABRALL CABRASER '70 MUSIC STUDIO

String Orchestra students practice a piece for their performance.



### THE KELLY FAMILY AND ERIN JAEB BLACK BOX STUDIO

Drama students freeze during a scene to get direction from Ashkon Davaran, Performing Arts Director.



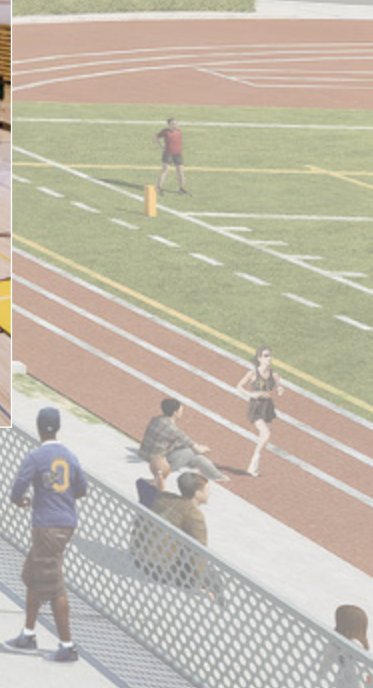
### THE KOVACH FAMILY COMMUNITY ROOM

AP Psychology students learn the concept of classical conditioning and behavioral impact in this multimedia classroom and community gathering space.



### THE KNAUSS FAMILY GYMNASIUM

10th grade physical education students run basketball drills on the Steve Phelps Memorial Court.





# FOREVER A DRAGON

In January, we welcomed over 100 alumni and friends to campus for O’Dowd’s Alumni Happy Hour!

The crowd enjoyed watching our student-athletes compete in soccer and basketball, while spending time in community, taking tours of the new Cummins Center.

*“It was great to have conversations with fellow alum, board members, and President Childs. The upgraded facilities speak to the standard of excellence O’Dowd has always stood for, and helps to ensure that future Dragons will lead successful lives long after they leave O’Dowd.”*

— TESLIM IKHARO '00



From top: **Cathy Jorgensen Martinsen '86, Dionne Millet '86, Greg Promes '86,** and **Patrick Russi '86** reminisced about their time together as O’Dowd classmates; **Tim Brophy '69** and **Petra Camacho '87** took a moment to take in the view from the Cummins Center’s classroom balcony; Buscovich brothers **Dan '69, Nick '67,** and **Tom '74** enjoyed their time together at the Alumni Happy Hour; **Roxie Hardeman** and **Aalia Hardeman '11** are all smiles.

We look forward to welcoming our alumni to campus in the months and years to come. Dragon pride lasts a lifetime, and alumni presence gives so much to O’Dowd’s community—strengthening our students and our campus forever.



**O'DOWD REUNION DAY  
MAY 6, 2023**

## JOIN US SATURDAY, MAY 6, 2023

All alumni, current and former faculty (21+) are invited to join us for an afternoon celebrating our milestone reunion classes of '3s and '8s. Enjoy the afternoon with classmates, reminiscing days on the quad, touring our new Cummins Center, and much more.

### ENCOURAGE OTHERS

Help us spread the word about O’Dowd Reunion Day. Let’s see what class will have the biggest turnout and bring the most Dragon Pride!

Visit [bishopodowd.org/reunion](https://bishopodowd.org/reunion) or **scan the QR code** for tickets and additional information!





# A NATURAL LIVING LEGACY



“To live in hearts we leave behind is not to die,” wrote the poet Thomas Campbell in 1825. That sentiment has been beautifully manifested since the sudden death of O’Dowd senior, **Anna Costa ’90**, in 1989. Her father, Steve Costa, and stepmother, Kate Levinson, responded to their family’s tragic loss through their generosity to O’Dowd, demonstrating how creative philanthropy can build a lasting legacy.

Anna was a passionate nature lover, and over the last three decades her family and friends have honored her memory in ways that have enriched O’Dowd and created reverberating benefits for our students. That commitment began with the establishment of the Anna Costa Endowed Scholarship Fund in 1989. With over 60 scholarships awarded to date, the Fund has supported two outstanding students each year, now with a focus on Eco Leaders.

“Receiving the Anna Costa Scholarship made me feel that I was on the right track, making a positive mark in the community,” says **Peter Van Tassel ’94**, now an Oakland school principal. “To be recognized by the Costas was an honor of which I remain very proud to this day.”

The family’s creative commitment to remembering Anna has inspired the broader community over the years. In 2000, one of Anna’s favorite teachers, Tom Tyler, invited her family and friends to celebrate O’Dowd’s upcoming Fifty Year Founders Day by establishing the Living Lab. Together they planted 50 trees, including a ring of redwoods which would define the



future Anna Costa Memorial Circle. In 2012, **Katelyn O’Keefe ’14** worked with volunteer landscape architects and students to complete the Memorial Circle, which has become a peaceful sanctuary for community members to remember loved ones.

This past December, recognizing what would have been Anna’s 50th birthday, another 50 trees were planted at O’Dowd, bringing the total number of trees in memory of Anna on our campus to 400. Recently, the Costas used part of their living trust to establish the Anna Costa Tree Endowment, providing permanent support to maintain the trees planted at O’Dowd. And the Costa family remains connected to O’Dowd through the next generation: Anna’s niece, Cecilia, graduated in 2022 and her nephew, Sam, is in the Class of 2026.

“O’Dowd has helped our family to heal over these past 33 years,” says Steve. “The scholarship fund supporting so many students, and the hundreds of trees that have been planted, are a living legacy to both Anna and our family.”



*From Top Left:* The Costa Family at the 2022 Memorial Tree Planting; Friends of the Costa family plant a tree on campus; Annie Prutzman, co-founder of O’Dowd’s Living Lab, has been a pivotal supporter of the Anna Costa Endowed Scholarship Fund and Memorial Tree Planting; In the Memorial Circle, where community ceremonies are held, Anna’s ashes sit in a container under a hummingbird mosaic.





**PAUL NUTI '89:  
A STEWARD FOR THE FUTURE**



Thinking back on his O'Dowd education, **Paul Nuti '89** names a long list of teachers who nurtured his interest in math and science. "Mr. Parks always pushed me to think about mathematical concepts from different perspectives, so I learned that there's more than one path to the correct answer," he says. Such creative thinking inspired Nuti to pursue his B.S. in civil engineering from Santa Clara University and to build a successful career as an environmental engineer.

"I entered college thinking I would build bridges or high-rises, but found geotechnical and environmental classes more interesting," he remembers. As a college senior, he scheduled informational interviews from several engineering firms to get a sense of the professional landscape. When one of those firms, Weiss Associates, followed up with a job offer, Nuti's career began before he'd even graduated. He went on to become licensed in the states of California and Washington and a LEED® accredited professional in green building strategies.

After six years at Weiss, Nuti spent the next 20 years working for other Bay Area engineering firms. Then in 2013, he and colleague Alborz Wozniak co-founded their own environmental engineering consulting firm, Veritas Environmental Consulting, Inc., where Nuti continues as CFO and principal engineer. The company consults nationally to a variety of private and

public clients, providing services to move contaminated properties through investigation, clean up, and closure so they no longer threaten human health or the environment. It's a great source of satisfaction, he says, to be a good steward for the environment. "That's our goal, to make sure that sites get cleaned up and back to being good community resources."

Nuti and his wife, Elizabeth, a pediatrician, met while they were students at Santa Clara University and have two daughters, Julia and Emma. Nuti's parents were strong advocates for Catholic education, and all five of their children attended O'Dowd. "The school positively impacted each of us, and we've all sent our own children to Catholic schools," Nuti says. "Having multiple generations attend O'Dowd strengthens our family's connection to the school and, as alumni, we want to continue our support for the amazing work of O'Dowd's faculty and staff."

That support is recognized with the endowed Norma and Caesar Nuti Memorial Scholarship Fund. When Nuti's mother passed away in 1992, his father created the scholarship; when he died in 2014, the family added his name.

Looking back on his own educational path, Nuti has a message for today's students, who are under so much more pressure to excel in school. "I was a good student at O'Dowd, but I didn't get straight A's," he says. "It's about effort and attitude, not about getting the A. With effort and attitude, you can be very successful in life."

At top, left: Elizabeth and Paul, with daughters Emma and Julia Nuti; Paul and his wife Elizabeth.

Above right: **Quinn Cavalli Silberman '89** and **Paul Nuti '89** in the hallway of the main classroom building while students at O'Dowd; Paul Nuti and Alborz Wozniak - Veritas Environmental Consulting, Inc.



## 1950s

**Harry McCarthy '58** and wife Carole moved to Kauai in 2017 after living in Seattle for over 40 years. Harry served as a Superior Court judge on the King County Superior Court, following a career as an Assistant United States Attorney in Washington D.C. and Seattle. In 2021 he was appointed by the Governor to serve as a Commissioner on the Hawaii State Ethics Commission.

**Pam Howard Schaecher '58** founded Amaya 15 years ago. Born in the US, her career began as a successful primary school teacher in Ohio and then in London. With a passion for textiles, she studied both fashion and design while in London. Extensive world travel gave her the unique ability to integrate styles and colors from around the world, creating a collection of unique, comfortable, and timeless clothing.

## 1960s

**Ann Feyen Walsh '62** and husband Jerry left beautiful central California in July after living there for over 50 years, to be close to their daughter, son-in-law, and two grandkids.



**Jim Kelly '63** with wife Robin and their daughter Julie built Nokia Resort and Dive from the ground up. They have Taveuni Ocean Sports in Taveuni, Fiji and **Fr. Paul Vassar '63** was able to visit and learn more about his family owned business and decades of diving experiences.

## 1970s



**Elizabeth Cabrall Cabraser '70** was selected as an Inaugural Recipient of UC Law SF's Awards for Excellence in Ethics in Complex Litigation. Elizabeth is one of the top class action litigators in the United States and says her dedication to social justice was ignited while a student at O'Dowd.



**Donald Cromwell '70** celebrated the 10th anniversary of his radio show, *Don Cromwell LIVE*.

**Carole Hahn Bennett '71** retired from McLane Company after 34 years, with the last 10 years as HR Manager for the Southwest Division in Temple, TX. After working for Visiting Angels for two years as a personal caregiver, she retired once more and moved to Reno, NV to help her son with his business.



**Julie Giangrasso Steele '76** retired from a 40 year career, with 31 years at Kaiser Hospital as Lead Sonographer.

**Daniel Grayson '76** is the Treasurer and Secretary of Tasmania's Beauty Point Uniting Church in Australia.

**Dan Bender '78** retired after 35+ years in education, both inside the classroom and as an administrator.

**Marion Johnston Ekpuk '78** is back in the United States after serving three years at the U.S. Embassy in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo. She became Associate Dean at the Foreign Service Institute's Leadership and Management School in Virginia.

## 1980s

**Russell Boltwood '81** was recognized as a Certified Licensing Executive (CLE) by the Licensing Executives Society. With nearly 25 years of professional experience, he is the author of several published articles regarding intellectual property, corporate governance, and competitive intelligence matters.



**Stephen LaBrie '82** is currently teaching high school Biology and Special Education in the Greater District

of Columbia area and serves as an Adjunct Professor at Howard University School of Education. LaBrie was recently appointed to serve as a NASA Education Ambassador for research into the causes of climate change, collaborating with NASA staff and other educators to teach students.





**Dante Rodriguez '84** shared his early interest in engineering as a feature in the Air Force Civil Engineer Center's

*Stakeholders Report*. Dante went to Stanford University and has worked as an EPA Superfund Remedial Project Manager for 25 years. He is currently working on the Anaconda Copper Mine in Yerington, Nevada.

**Kimberly Beacham Champion '86** had her artwork featured in an exhibition honoring the 25th anniversary of Art of the African Diaspora. Curated by Demetri Broxton, "New Visions" included four artists: Kimberly, Tiffany Conway, Ashara Ekundayo, and Bertrell Smith.



**Angie Lewis-White '89** joined Myovant as the new VP of Contract Manufacturing. She manages a

team to ensure Myovant has access to the right materials for manufacturing.

**Patrick Malkassian '89** served as producer for the film, *Amerikatsi*, with O'Dowd classmate and director, **Michael Goorjian '89**.

**Brian Tippens '89** was featured on episode 8 of the *Core Intentions Podcast*. At minute 27, he shares the impact O'Dowd had on his journey.

## 1990s

**Amy Grant Ahlers '91** is a women's leadership coach, speaker, and the author of two bestselling personal growth books. She has expanded her business to include coaching people through real estate transactions.

**Jonathan Gruen '92** was named CEO of Fortem Technologies, a leader in airspace awareness, security, and defense. He has more than twenty-five years of experience in the military and defense industry, having led Special Operations teams in Afghanistan and Iraq, and serving as COO for all Special Operations Force engagements in the Arabian Peninsula. Jon is also a U.S. Navy Reserve SEAL Captain.



**Benjamin Patterson '92** played "Skinny Teth Adam" in the DC Studios film *Black Adam*. Instead of

Dwayne Johnson miraculously losing 110 pounds, certain scenes used the magic of CGI to put Johnson's face on Patterson's body.

**Jasmine Guillory '93** was featured in a *New York Times* article, "A Lawyer Finds Her Happily-Ever-After As a Romance Writer," noting that she is publishing her eighth novel, *Drunk on Love*.



**Dr. Daniel Stephens '94** is now a NY-based pediatrician and educator, and has been named Executive Director

of Ramapo for Children's at the Rhinebeck campus. The 100-year old organization is dedicated to creating inclusive communities that provide opportunities for children and young people with a range of social, emotional, developmental, and neurological differences. Prior to joining Ramapo, Dr. Stephens was the interim National Director of the Wellness & Equity Alliance and Deputy Commissioner for Children and Families at the NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

**Albert Hodge '95** starred as Pierre Bezukhov in the West Coast premiere of *Natasha, Pierre, and the Great Comet of 1812* with Shotgun Players at The Ashby Stage in Berkeley.

**Ellyn Marsch '96** hosts a new podcast with Rabia Chaudry called *Rabia and Ellyn Solve the Case*. They had special guest Gaten Matarazzo from *Stranger Things* in an episode about the Chris Watts case.

**Aimee Cantero '98** ran unopposed in the 2022 election and will serve on the Black Butte Union Elementary School Board of Trustees for another four years.



**Sean O'Shea '98** and wife Joyce welcomed baby girl Daniela Jean on December 2, 2022.

**Steven Romero '98** began working at Apple in September 2022, after working at HP and ServiceNow.

**Alex Woodward '98** was promoted to Vice Principal at The Phillips Academy in Alameda, after teaching in the classroom for the last 18 years.



**Scott Eanes '99** founded The Hawksbill Project, a U.K. based sea turtle charity created to focus on the most at risk or unique Hawksbill populations under threat. This past year,



The Hawksbill Project raised funds to assist Ocean Spirits (research aided by the University of the Virgin Islands Sea Turtle Research and Conservation) in completing the first in water assessment of the population of sea turtles around the island of Carriacou.

## 2000s



**Tillie Adelson '03** works for her family's Bay Area business: Mr. Plastics. She also has a fashion blog

called *My Stiletto Life*, sharing her work in sales and social media marketing.



**Sean Fong '03** married Noel Ong-Robinson on July 23, 2022 in Moraga, CA. Groomsmen included O'Dowd alumni: **Ryan Gee '05, David Green '03, Zachary Walker '03, Joseph Shaps '03,** and the officiant was **Drew Beito '03.**

**Douglas Hirschman '03** is teaching English, History, and Latin at Fusion Academy, a one-on-one junior high and high school for students who might have difficulty in a more conventional academic environment.

**Anne Pierpoint Mertz '03** celebrated eight years as an ordained Episcopal Priest on December 6, 2022.

**Ashley Cowl '04** played Gloria Estefan in Woodminster's rendition of "On Your Feet!" this past August.

**Vincent D'Onofrio '04** and Sydney Blank welcomed son Leo Sullivan D'Onofrio on August 31, 2022.



**Drew Glover '04** and wife Michelle welcomed baby girl Coco on June 28, 2022.



**Alexis Jackson '04** served as The Nature Conservancy's Ocean Policy & Plastics Lead and played an integral part in getting Senate Bill 54 passed in 2022. The bipartisan bill requires all packaging in California to be recyclable or compostable by 2023.

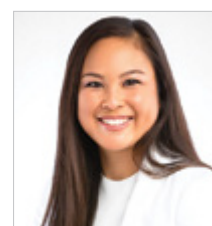
**Chris Ardoin '05** is an advisor with Northwestern Mutual, where he has been recognized as one of the top wealth management advisors and financial advisors in the company over the last decade. He helps individuals and families (including many O'Dowd alum) with their insurance and investment planning needs.



**Alex Balanza '07** is the Senior Account Director of Agency Development at Magnite, and was featured in the company's "Day in the Life" series, sharing experiences throughout his career.



**Mark Jastrzebski '07** married Emanuela Theodoro on October 1, 2022 in Sorocaba, Brazil. O'Dowd alumni in attendance spanned from the classes of 2007–2012.



**Hillary Nakano '07** was selected by the California Lawyers Association for the New Lawyer of the Year Award

in Workers' Compensation. The selection pool included every attorney in California who has practiced workers' compensation for five years or less.

**Laura Passmore '09** and her husband Alex Steady were married on October 14, 2022 in Winters, California. Her twin brother, **Danny Passmore '09,** officiated the ceremony and performed music for their first dance. Her sister, **Kimberly Passmore '07** was her maid of honor. Guests included O'Dowd alumni from classes of 2006 to 2010.



**Kaitlin Clancey Zazueta '09** and her husband, Neaj Zazueta were married on November 4, 2022 in Carmel, California. **Ryan Bosque '09** officiated the ceremony and **Danny Passmore '09** performed music for the ceremony. Guests included O'Dowd alumni from classes of 2006–2011.

**Laureina Toler '09** married Devin Farmer on July 17, 2022 in Walnut Creek. O'Dowd alumni in the wedding party included **Christianna Toler '98**, **Burl Toler '01**, **Cameron Toler '04** (officiant), **Bobby Thompson '07**, **Maurita Toler '07**, **Keji Fatona '09**, and **Sara Brathwaite '10**.

## 2010s



**Shanel Jones '10** and daughter Ava (3 years old), welcomed twins Alani and Alaya on October 5, 2022.



**Molly Kennedy '10** is a full-time special education teacher at Bay View Academy Charter in Monterey, a

full-time student at California State University Monterey Bay earning a second credential in special education, and is now the owner of a new cycling studio, Fuel Cycling.

**Daniel Xuli '10** is an attorney at Littler Mendelson, the largest global employment and labor law firm representing management, where he provides clients with advice, counsel, and representation in litigation in state and federal courts. Daniel was selected as a Super Lawyers Rising Star for Northern California for his work in employment law and litigation defense in 2022, his second consecutive selection.

**Lauren Lewellyn '11** married Aaron Barnes on June 10, 2022 in Sebastopol, CA.

**David Brown '12** married Kayla Mork at the Main Lodge at Grand View in Minnesota on September 10, 2022.



**Joshua Canty Brown '12** and **Laura Marie (Graham) Brown '14** were married October 1, 2022. As a legacy O'Dowd family (mother **Kathy Canty Brown '84**), many alumni were present, including some members of the wedding party: sister / best man **Rebecca Brown '18**, bridesmaid **Sienna Parker '14**, and groomsmen **Ethan Corley '12** and **Coby Sippel '14**, as well as many additional Dragon family members.

**Amina Scott '12** and The Amina Scott Quartet performed at the Oakland Public Conservatory in October of 2022.



**Ariana Donaville '13** earned her BA in Public Relations in 2017 and an MA in Strategic Communication

in 2020 at the University of Oregon. She is now the Senior Account Manager at Rebellious PR & Consulting. Ariana is also a board member of the UO Black Alumni Network, as well as the owner of Whiskin' Things, her online bakery.

**Sarah Frei '13** started as an Experience Designer for Think Company, a digital design and development consulting company, in 2021.

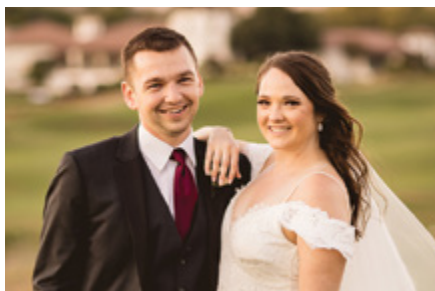
**Sydnei Jones '13** traveled to Burkina Faso with her fiancé for a multi-day celebration and beautiful wedding with family and friends.



**Cayla Whitley '13** was named an Orange County Visionary by the *Los Angeles Times*. An associate in

Tressler's Labor & Employment Practice Group, Cayla provides management-side labor and employment litigation defense to a broad range of clients. In her free time, Cayla serves as a "Big Sister" with the Orange County chapter of Big Brothers Big Sisters of America (BBBSA), working to create and support one-on-one mentoring relationships that ignite the power and promise of youth.





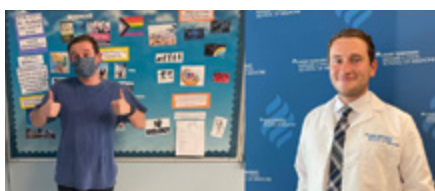
**Dominic Drury '14** married Jessie Bever on August 13, 2022 in Moraga. The wedding party included O'Dowd alumni **James Reynes '14** (best man) and **Ryan Seideman '15** (groomsman).



**Isabella Frediani '14** is a Senior Project manager at ServiceNow and participated on a panel entitled "The

Diversity of Latinidad: Celebrating Intersectionality," for the networking company Power to Fly.

**Emily Brazis '15** is a Corporate Recruiting Coordinator at Salesforce, a top cloud-based software company with offices around the world.



**Sebastian Hurtado '15** is one of 50 students out of 11,000 applicants to receive a full-ride scholarship to the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine. Kaiser started the medical school in 2020 and is providing full tuition support to all students in the first five graduating classes. While at O'Dowd, Sebastian pursued a number of science courses, including Biology and Advanced Placement Environmental Science.

**Elsa Savant '15** married Montana Kurahara on August 21, 2022 at Mt. Hood Organic Farms.

**Ruby Perez '18** has served on the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion's Student Advisory Board, and as the Basement Arts' Diversity Officer, which is a student theater organization housed within the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre and Dance. She now serves as the Basement Arts' Artistic Director.

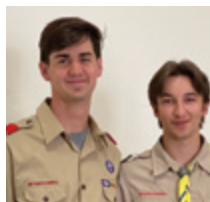


**Connor Tamor '18** began teaching at O'Dowd as a long-term substitute in 2022 and is now a

full-time math teacher as he continues his law school education.

**Lauryn Vaughn '18** graduated magna cum laude from Loyola Marymount University in May 2022 with a major in International Relations and two minors: Spanish and Health and Society. She is now in the Bay Area working for a legal tech company in the People Operations/ HR department.

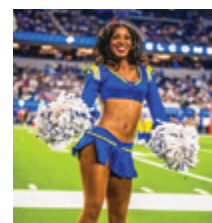
## 2020s



**Nicholas Ferry '20** and **Matthew Ratto '21** were awarded Eagle Scout honors on July 30, 2022

during the Eagle Scout Court of Honor ceremony at Corpus Christi School.

**Kevin Newell '20** accepted a 6-month internship with the City of Portland through the Multiple Engineering Cooperative Program.



**Jasiya Brown '21** is a cheerleader for the Super Bowl LVI Champions, the Los Angeles Rams. In between rehearsals and

game day performances she balances class as a student at California State University Long Beach.

## ALUMNI, STAY CONNECTED!

You may be getting the *Dragon Magazine*, but make sure that we also have your email address to be included on alumni updates and events!

[bishopodowd.org/update](https://bishopodowd.org/update)

## Connect With Us on Social Media

-  [facebook.com/odowdalumni](https://facebook.com/odowdalumni)
-  [instagram.com/odowdalumni](https://instagram.com/odowdalumni)
-  [linkedin.com \(O'Dowd Alumni\)](https://linkedin.com/O'DowdAlumni)



# IN MEMORIAM



*Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May their souls and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace.*

**JULIAN ABSALOM '06**

Sibling of Ashley Absalom '05

**LOUIS ALBERTI**

Parent of Anne Alberti '75, Stephen Alberti '72 and Lisa Alberti Johnston '79

**ROBERT ANDERSEN**

Spouse of Roberta Souza Andersen '55 and sibling-in-law of Carol Souza Putnam '57

**SHIRLEY BARNES BELL '58**

**SUZETTE BERTRAND**

Parent of Sabrina Chaumette '82, Sandrine Chaumette '82 and Suzette Chaumette '90, and grandparent of Christian Chaumette-Brown '12, Lehen Chaumette-Brown '14, and Xavier Chaumette-Brown '22

**ROBERT CLIFTON BRACKINS, SR.**

Parent of Robert Brackins '06

**JULIE SCALISE BURKE '77**

Sibling of James Scalise '84, John Scalise '85 and Patrick Scalise '88

**NOREEN BARBAGALLO BYRD '63**

Sibling of William Barbagallo '75, James Barbagallo '70 † and Lynn Barbagallo-Phalan '60 †

**LILLIAN CADENASSO**

Parent of Anne Cadenasso '78, Carl Cadenasso '80, Gina Cadenasso '90, Joseph Cadenasso '88, Mary Cadenasso '83, Peter Cadenasso '75, and Richard Cadenasso '77, and grandparent of Matthew Cadenasso '16, Robert Cadenasso '22, and Samantha Cadenasso '19

**JOSEPH CARSON '58**

**CLARE COFFEY**

Parent of Sheila Coffey Kilty '79 and Lisa Coffey Mahoney '76, parent-in-law of Robert Mahoney '76, and grandparent of Jenna Kilty '20, Shannon Kilty '15, Daniel Mahoney '03 and Katherine Mahoney '06

**KIT MARGOSSIAN COLE '58**

Sibling of Stephan Margossian '60 †

**GREG CONGER '05**

**SHEILA MOYLES CUSHING '57**

Parent of Brian Cushing '84 and former faculty Kevin Cushing, sibling of David Moyles '57, and grandparent of Colleen Cushing '19 and Robert Cushing '20

**TILIN DEMPSTER**

Parent of Denise Dempster Kubicek '71, Chris Dempster Cherrington '70 † and Gail Dempster '82 †

**HAROLD DOBBINS '59**

Sibling of Phillip Dobbins '62 †

**PATRICIA DOBBS**

Grandparent of Holden Dobbs '16 and Parker Dobbs '13

**GLORIA LEMOS EDMONDS '62**

**VIRGINIA CURTIS FIOCK '66**

**ATIS FOLKMANIS**

Grandparent of Hannah Folkmanis '22 and Sarah Folkmanis '17

**MICHAEL GADDIS '73**

**SCOTT GALLAGHER '91**

**MELANIE GOULD '58**

Sibling of Dennis Gould '59 † and Paul Gould '62 †

**JOAN GRAZZINI**

Spouse of Robert Grazzini '55 † and parent of Paul Grazzini '94

**MICHAEL HERRICK**

Parent of Leo Herrick '95 and Mark Herrick '99 †

**BURR HILSABECK '94**

Sibling of Brent Hilsabeck '91

**BERNARD JAMES, SR.**

Parent of Bernard James '81, Kevin James '83 and Michael James '82

**PHILIP MICHAEL JARDIM '69**

Sibling of Judy Jardim Greenhouse '65, George Jardim '58 and Sister Irene Jardim '58

**JUDI JOHNSON**

Grandparent of Dalton Davis '22

**LAUREN KAPLAN**

Parent of Trevor Kaplan '26

**MARY KELLEY '58**

Sibling of Elizabeth Kelley Daley '58 †

**LINDA TEJADA KINCAID '66**

Sibling of Ronald Tejada '72

**KATHLEEN MAILLIARD SOLMSEN**

Parent of Mark Wayland '88 and Scott Wayland '86 and grandparent of Alexandra Wayland '22 and Conor Wayland '20

**STEPHAN MARGOSSIAN '60**

Sibling of Kit Margossian Cole '58 †

**LENORE MCLEOD '66**

Sibling of Kathryn McLeod Barger '67 and Nancy McLeod Rogers '63 †

**KATHERINE MEYERS MORGAN '95**

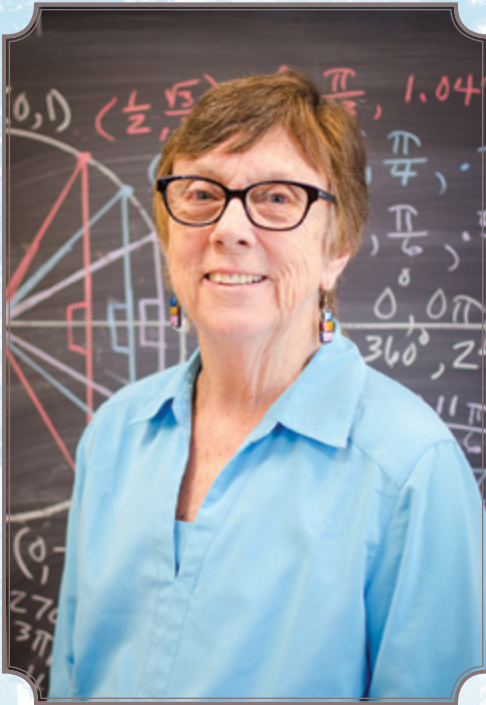
Sibling of Michael Meyers '02 and Steven Meyers '97

**RACHELE CAPPUCCIO PATTERSON '71**

**DENNIS REIDY '55**

Spouse of Patricia Challoner Reidy '55





## KATHLEEN RILEY

*Remembered for Her Passion  
as a Math Educator*

Beloved O'Dowd math teacher and mother to three O'Dowd alumni – **Megan Riley '01, Matt Riley '99** and **Erin Riley '95** – Kathleen Riley passed away November 30, 2022. Beginning her career at O'Dowd in the fall of 1994, and retiring in June of 2020, Kathy was a loving and passionate educator, inspiring both students and her colleagues. A mentor in the Math Department, Kathy is remembered as a woman of courage and integrity who gave fully and tirelessly to all of her students, and O'Dowd as a whole.

An anonymous donor has created a fund to honor the teaching legacy of Kathy Riley. "Mrs. Riley's classroom was one of high expectations and plenty of encouragement. Just as importantly, Kathy Riley was a mentor and inspiration to her colleagues. This fund is intended to support math teachers interested in further developing math education skills and knowledge." If you would like to honor her legacy with a gift, we will include it in this fund.

Rest in peace Kathleen – you remain forever in our hearts.

### IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

#### **KATHLEEN RILEY**

Former Faculty and parent of Erin Riley '95, Matthew Riley '99 and Megan Riley '01

#### **GARY RINEHART**

Spouse of Sharon Duffy Rinehart '57

#### **JOHN ROBINO '60**

Sibling of Barbara Robino Pacheco '58

#### **JUSTIN ROSS '18**

#### **RICHARD LEE RUFFELL**

Parent of Kimberly Walsh, Incoming President and Chief of Campus Planning & Development, and grandparent of Brendan Walsh '19, Caitlin Walsh '14 and Sean Walsh, Jr. '16

#### **ANNE-MARIE ZABEL RYAN '63**

#### **FATHER LES SCHAEFER**

Former faculty, appointed to O'Dowd 1978–1981 and 1988–2006

#### **WILLIAM SELWAY**

Grandparent of Cassidy Kepp '15 and Harrison Kepp '18

#### **RICHARD SHLEGERIS '60**

#### **JACQUELINE TARANTINO**

Grandparent of Gabriel Tarantino '22 and Lucia Tarantino '22

#### **BONNIE PERRY TEIXEIRA '60**

#### **FRANK THIRION**

Parent of Laura Thirion Billups '93, Debra Thirion '93 and Tracy Thirion '89, and grandparent of Dominic Ramsey '25

#### **JOHN THORLAND '58**

Parent of Charles Thorland '81, Karen Thorland '86 and Robert Thorland '97, and sibling of Karen Thorland Porcella '63 and Charlotte Sagouspe '67

#### **LUIGI TINONGA**

Parent of Alessandro Tinonga '03

#### **KATHLEEN O'HARA WALKER '63**

#### **PETER WATSON '76**

#### **TAMIKA WILLIAMS-CLARK '91**

#### **DAVID WOOLSEY '59**

#### **AUDREY WULFF**

Spouse of David Wulff '84, parent of Hannah Wulff '15 and Hayden Wulff '20, child-in-law of Fred Wulff '60, and sibling-in-law of Christine Wulff Scherer '83, David Scherer '83 and Michele Wulff '88

† Deceased





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

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## ANNOUNCING KIMBERLY WALSH, O'DOWD'S NEXT PRESIDENT

**It is with great pleasure we announce that Kim Walsh has accepted the offer from Bishop Michael Barber, S.J., to become the next president at Bishop O'Dowd High School.**

Kim is known in our community as an attentive listener and collaborator. Since 2010, when her oldest of three children became a Dragon, she has shown her dedication and leadership to O'Dowd, first as a Board Member (2011–2012), then as Board Chair (2013–2017). She was instrumental in building the Center for Environmental Studies and the initial steps to acquire Seneca, O'Dowd's new adjacent property. Kim was appointed Interim-President when Steve Phelps unexpectedly passed, and remained with O'Dowd, serving as Chief of Campus Planning and Development before accepting the role of President.

Kim's leadership philosophy is built on a foundation of team mission alignment; a culture of trust through collaboration and transparent communication; processes and systems to bring the right people together at the right time for effective decision-making; and metrics and feedback for growth and innovation. As Chief of Campus Planning and Development, Kim masterfully managed the construction of the Bishop John S. Cummins Center, as well as significant improvements to our Upper Field.

This July, Kim will thoughtfully step into her new role, prepared to lead with head and heart, purpose and conviction. With deep commitment to our shared values and dedication to our mission and charism, we trust Kim to confidently guide O'Dowd into the future of Catholic education.

*"I believe an effective leader is always a role model for others. I am both humbled and excited to bring my leadership gifts to O'Dowd as President."*

—Kim Walsh, President