

# TRADITIONS

A PUBLICATION FOR THE COMMUNITY OF JUNIPERO SERRA HIGH SCHOOL | SPRING/SUMMER 2020



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TRADITIONS  
SPRING|SUMMER 2020

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## Dear Alumni, Parents and Friends of Serra,

"What a year it will be," I wrote with excited anticipation in my *Traditions* letter one year ago. Little did I know.

None of us could have imagined the worldwide tumult caused by the global pandemic. None of us could have predicted the social upheaval in the light of national protests over racial injustice. None of us could have predicted that we would be starting the fall 2020 school year in a remote environment.

But there was one thing we could have predicted—Serra, as a community, would respond to any challenge with grace, courage and a total focus on our mission. Amid the challenge, we continued to walk with our incredible young Padres as they journeyed to become the men who God has called them to be. Our teachers worked tirelessly to ensure their students' success throughout the year—and they pushed even harder in the last three months of distance learning. Our families rolled with the plans and gave us insightful feedback to help us adjust the program. Our students' success tells the story—100 percent college acceptance, stellar achievement in classes, excellence in AP testing and \$22 million in scholarships.

More important, these teachers walked with their students as they struggled to adjust to the crisis affecting every aspect of school and family life. As our graduating seniors approached Principal McGrath in Mary's Courtyard to receive their diplomas, they took off their masks, and their faces revealed the joy of a challenge met and a goal accomplished. They are Padres, and we are proud.

This summer has been like no other. We have set plans, adjusted, and then adjusted again—as we designed an excellent educational environment while safeguarding the health of our community. Now we head toward another year marked by societal change and a pandemic that continues. We do not know the future, but we know the character of the community, and we know the strength and resilience of our Padres. We know the faith and unabiding commitment of the families. We know the deep faith that forms the basis for our community and gives meaning and hope to Serra.

*Siempre Adelante*—our plans continue. We are excited to roll out the tremendous upgrades we are executing across all areas of the campus—from the electrical infrastructure that prepares the facility for future renovation, to facilities for our robotics and design-led innovation program, to a comprehensive upgrade to our technology program for teachers and classrooms. The projects are in process for the 2020-2021 school year. We are meeting the needs of the crisis now, and we are boldly planning for the future.

Just recently, we received a message from a parent that stated, "This is Serra's finest hour." Our students, families, teachers, alumni and supporters deserve nothing less.

Barry Thornton, Ed.D.  
President



*Siempre Adelante  
Always Forward*

**"AS OUR GRADUATING SENIORS APPROACHED PRINCIPAL MCGRATH IN MARY'S COURTYARD TO RECEIVE THEIR DIPLOMAS, THEY TOOK OFF THEIR MASKS, AND THEIR FACES REVEALED THE JOY OF A CHALLENGE MET AND A GOAL ACCOMPLISHED. THEY ARE PADRES, AND WE ARE PROUD."**

**—BARRY THORNTON, ED.D.  
PRESIDENT**





"MY GOAL AS PRINCIPAL IS TO BE SURE THAT EVERY STUDENT WILL GROW TO BE A SUCCESSFUL YOUNG MAN WHILE FEELING VALUED, SAFE AND RESPECTED."  
—CHARLIE MCGRATH



CONGRATULATIONS TO SERRA'S  
**CLASS OF 2020**

## MAKING PADRE HISTORY

The traditional St. Mary's Cathedral processional typically experienced by Serra graduates each May was replaced with three virtual events and a physical drive-through diploma conferment on the Serra campus. With the COVID-19 pandemic making in-person graduation ceremonies and celebrations impossible, Serra had to shift into high gear to provide a virtual baccalaureate prayer service, awards ceremony and graduation commencement for its high school graduates.

Although those graduating were forced to miss a major traditional milestone, the Class of 2020 did so with grace, perseverance and an attitude that made our entire community proud. These Padres tackled adversity and will forever be known as the class that overcame the unthinkable, making Padre history. We applaud these graduates, their supportive family and friends, and Serra's faculty and staff for coming together to celebrate the incredible successes of our seniors.



"The graduation ceremony was memorable and heartfelt. My son was beaming that day, despite not having seen his friends for months. The online ceremony was a loud celebration in our home—even if there were just five of us there. We saw a bit more personality from every senior and we felt a bit closer to them in those moments."

—Alvin and Genevieve Desuasido, parents of Alec Desuasido '20





# CLASS OF '20 GRADUATION AWARDS

**KEVIN BRYAN**  
GENERAL SCHOLASTIC  
EXCELLENCE MEDAL  
MUSIC MEDAL  
SCIENCE MEDAL

University of Pennsylvania



**JACK DUGONI**  
ENGLISH MEDAL  
MATHEMATICS MEDAL  
SCIENCE MEDAL  
SERVICE MEDAL  
SOCIAL STUDIES MEDAL  
THEOLOGY MEDAL

Duke University



**WILLIAM MAUER**  
ACTIVITY MEDAL

Colorado State University,  
Fort Collins



**DAMON LEWIS**  
SHEA SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

University of Colorado,  
Boulder



**CORY SYME**  
CAMPUS MINISTRY MEDAL

University of Oregon



**ADRIAN ENDERS**  
WORLD LANGUAGES MEDAL

University of California,  
Berkeley



**MAXIMILIAN LEININGER**  
DRAMATIC ARTS MEDAL

New York University



**ADAM WILLIAMS**  
VISUAL ARTS MEDAL

Seattle University



## 2020 Class Valedictorians

Three exceptional seniors represented the Class of 2020 as class valedictorians.

**Paul Mansfield '20**, who is preparing to study at California Polytechnic State University at San Luis Obispo this fall, plans to study general engineering.

At Serra, Paul was involved in theater his sophomore, junior and senior year, was on the diving team as a junior and senior and was involved in Campus Ministry as a big brother junior year and an Encounter leader as a senior.



**Sriyash Erra '20**, who will begin his college career at Dartmouth College, plans to study economics.

At Serra, Sri was a qualifying member of the varsity tennis team all four years. As a sophomore, he was named the doubles MVP, and as a junior, he was a blanket award winner, WCAL 2nd team.

A member of the National Honor Society, Sri was on the executive board senior year, a co-tutor chair and the historian. He was a member of the Trivia Club all four years

and the Bowling Club freshman through junior year. A life member of the California Scholarship Federation, Sri is also a National Merit Commended Scholar and an AP Scholar with distinction.

**Jack Dugoni '20** will attend Duke University, where he plans to study mechanical engineering with an aerospace engineering concentration.

While at Serra, Jack was active in student government council, serving as the student body president his senior year, and class president as a sophomore and junior. He is the founder and president of the Exploring Physics Club, executive editor of the *Serra Friar* his junior year and a freelance reporter for the school paper his junior year.

As a freshman, Jack was on the freshman rowing team and then jumped to the varsity team his sophomore and junior year. He also ran cross country junior and senior year. As a junior and senior, Jack was a co-president of the Trivia Club and was Block Society President his senior year. Jack was a yell leader junior year, a speech and debate member sophomore year. A National Honor Society member his junior and senior years, Jack is also a life member of the California Scholarship Federation.



### 2020 SHEA AWARD RECIPIENT DAMON LEWIS

Damon Lewis '20 has been honored as this year's Shea Sportsmanship Award winner. The award was named in 1966 in honor of James P. Shea '58, who was killed in action while fighting in the Vietnam War. It is the highest athletics honor that can be bestowed upon a graduating student-athlete at Serra High School.

An integral part of the football, basketball and golf programs, Damon was recognized as a leader who displayed outstanding sportsmanship, athletic ability and excellence in the classroom. A teammate described Damon as "a great guy who is thoughtful and charismatic. Whenever he spoke to the team, he was always positive and an excellent motivator."

Damon etched his name in Serra's football record book numerous times during his career at Serra. He joined the varsity team during his freshman year and served as the team's kicker and an elite defensive back through his senior season. He has the most extra points in school history for a season and career, and is fourth in all-time scoring with 248 total career points. He stands second in career field goals at 13 with his longest being 44 yards in 2017. This past season, he earned WCAL All-League honors and was named WCAL Kicker-of-the-Year for the WCAL, CCS and Nor-CAL championship Padres.

Damon was also a key member of the Padre basketball program. His fierce determination and selfless play were evident on the court. Well respected by his teammates, the

scrappy guard helped propel the Padres to an 18-9 season. Damon also played on the Serra golf team from sophomore to senior year and was considered a leader and a role model for his younger teammates.

In addition to maintaining a 4.2 weighted GPA, Damon served as a Big Brother, was a member of the National Honor Society and a four-year member of the Trivia Club. He will attend the University of Colorado at Boulder this fall, where he hopes to study business.





# SENIOR PROFILES

## and the Adopt a Senior Program

Once it became apparent that a formal graduation would be canceled due to the global pandemic and county health protocols, the Serra community rallied in support of the graduating Class of 2020. Families in the Serra community, under the direction of Serra moms Christin Lindberg and Mary Denning, participated in an Adopt a Senior program that brought a unique experience to each of Serra's graduating seniors.

From drive-by parades, to college sweatshirts and dorm room start-up kits, families got creative and brought community spirit to our seniors, who spent the final days and weeks of their senior year at home, instead of relishing their final high school victory lap.

**"The outpouring of support from our community was incredible," Lindberg said. "We had little trouble assigning people to students in a matter of weeks from when we started."**

The Serra High School Communication Team also found a way to celebrate the graduating students. Each senior who filled out a questionnaire was featured on all Serra social media platforms, including Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, LinkedIn, and a special page on the Serra website. A unique, creative profile was written for each student, detailing each student's incredible achievements and special memories throughout their high school years. Below are just a few profiles that we are sharing in this issue of Traditions. To view all of our senior profiles, visit [www.serrahs.com/seniorprofiles](http://www.serrahs.com/seniorprofiles).



### Jackson Lataimua '20

Jackson Lataimua was an irreplaceable cog in the Padre football machine, which fought its way to the 2019 WCAL, CCS and Nor-CAL championships. The running back/defensive back and team co-captain earned WCAL Co-Defensive Back-of-the-Year honors as well as First Team

All-WCAL recognition.

Highly respected by teammates, opponents and all who watched him play for his selfless play and determination, Jackson stood out for his contributions on both sides of the ball. His talents as a football player surfaced early. During his sophomore year, he was moved up to play for the varsity squad and was part of the 2017 State Championship team. As a freshman and sophomore, Lataimua also participated in track.

Jackson will head to Washington State University in the fall, where he has committed to play football. In the next decade, he hopes to play pro football for the Tennessee Titans.

"My greatest accomplishment to date is receiving my first scholarship offer to play football for a Division I football program. I was lucky enough to rack up a few," he said.

Jackson's favorite Serra tradition is Poly Day, and if he had to recall a favorite high school memory, he said, "I will always remember the 2019 summer football workouts and our road to glory."

Jackson holds his Padre values dear to him.

**"Serra has constantly engrained the true meaning of brotherhood into my life," he said.**

**"This school has helped me develop my lifestyle and relationship with God, family and friends. Here at this school, I was reminded of some character traits a man should have and develop."**

Theology teacher Ed Taylor has been another instrumental force in Jackson's growth as a man. "Mr. Taylor taught me to embrace humility, but be the true beast I am on the field," he said. "He reminded me of my cause and why to work so hard in everything I do. He reminded me of how brave I am," Jackson said.



### Mitchell Nabeta '20

It's a home run for Mitchell Nabeta, who will play baseball for Puget Sound this fall. Mitchell was one of 11 Serra athletes from the Class of 2020 to sign to play collegiately.

Playing baseball in college stands as one of Mitchell's greatest accomplishments. While at Serra,

Mitchell played baseball all four years. He said that his favorite memories are with his teammates, "hanging out in the clubhouse, the practices and the games."

**"Serra has taught me what it means to be a true man," Mitchell said. "Serra has also given me great friendships and a great education."**

Mitchell plans to study kinesiology in college. His favorite quote, "Take advantage of opportunities because they don't come around too often," will serve him well in his journey.



### Nate Azzopardi '20

Nate Azzopardi's strength and tenacity were a significant reason Serra's offense racked up more than 5,000 yards this past football season. Number 74 was a huge presence on Serra's offensive line and an integral part of the Padres' WCAL, CCS and Nor Cal

championships. A team leader and co-captain, the highly respected lineman earned first team All-WCAL honors.

Nate is off to University of Idaho, where he plans to play football and study communications with an emphasis on television broadcasting.

Nate played baseball as a freshman and sophomore, and he played football all four years at Serra. It's no wonder his cherished high school memories are with his football teammates.

"The long hours I spent with my football teammates, whether it was in practice, in the weight room, the locker room, or on game day, those are bonds that can never be erased, and ones that I will always remember," Nate said.

A Serra tradition that Nate takes the most pride in is simply put: The brotherhood. His gratitude for his school, fellow Padres, family, teachers and coaches is immense.

"Serra helped me realize the principle of accountability and responsibility, as well as showing me how to work for my goals," he said, adding that his greatest accomplishment to date is earning a full-ride scholarship to play Division 1 football.

**"The coaches I had during my four years at Serra all helped me become the man that I am," he said. "For that, I am forever indebted to them. Without them, I would've never reached my full potential on or off the field. They helped push me and motivate me to embrace the grind, embrace the misery. By doing that, it led to me making my dream come true of becoming a D1 athlete."**



### Charles Matthews '20

There are few things Charles Matthews cannot do. An outstanding student, incredible athlete and gracious and kind man, Charles has proven that there are no limits to his achievements.

Charles will continue his academic and athletic career at the

University of Iowa, where he hopes to study finance and wrestle for the legendary Hawkeyes.

Charles was a four-year varsity starter for the Padres and was a four time WCAL champion finalist. He was a three-time champion, with his only loss in the finals as a freshman. Charles placed fourth and sixth in the Central Coast Section Championships.

Charles was a leader on and off the mat. He served as class president for three years and was a wrestling team captain for three years. Charles was in the BBQ Club his freshman year and he coached at the Peninsula Wrestling Club this past year.

Charles excelled in the classroom with a GPA of 4.1, is a 2020 National Honor Society inductee and was accepted to 10 colleges. He chose Iowa to continue chasing his academic and wrestling career goals.

Charles was co-MVP in 2019 and the 2020 MVP for the Padres. During the 2019-20 season, Charles placed at every tournament he entered. He was the Cupertino Bianchini Tournament Champion; placed second at the Peninsula Invitational, Weber Lawson, Coast Classic, and Jim Root; and placed sixth at Mid-Cals. Charles was named in the *San Mateo Daily Journal* as "Athlete Honor Roll" multiple times.

One thing Charles will never forget about Serra are the friendships. "I will always remember the bonds I have built in the past four years that I believe will stand the test of time no matter how far we are from each other," he said.

**"Serra taught me how to operate on my own as a man. That people aren't going to carry me through life and that I have to be responsible for myself and everything I do," he added.**



### Eric Yin '20

Eric Yin will attend Tufts University in Massachusetts this fall, one of the country's premiere universities dedicated to educating new leaders for a changing world.

An Eagle Scout and senior patrol leader in the Boy Scouts of America, Eric played on Serra's

varsity soccer team for three years and served as the team's captain. He has also sung choir since first grade at Kids Connection School in Foster City.

Eric's quote to live by is, **"There's no need for stress when you believe in God's plan,"** something that will serve Eric well as he heads to the East Coast to study economics at Tufts.

Serra taught Eric important values—integrity, the quality of being honest and having strong moral principles. Eric has his family to thank for the support he received throughout his high school years.



# Serra's Strategic Plan Moves Forward Amid Pandemic

When Barry Thornton started his position as president in the summer of 2019, he had a clear vision of Serra's future, but he wanted a strategic plan to go with it. Thornton was focused on a five-year strategic plan that would encompass more than his vision alone—rather, something that would incorporate the wisdom and support of all of Serra's constituencies.

"The Serra community is incredibly passionate about the school's history and even more enthusiastic about its future," Thornton said. "I want to develop a strategic plan that incorporates everyone's ideas of what we do well, where we need to improve, and how we can become an even more dynamic and successful school moving forward."

Thornton recruited two Serra board members, Rekha Hemrajani and Jen Ullyot, to help him lead the effort. He also enlisted Kathleen Casey of Partners In Mission to share her experience and framework of developing strategic plans for Catholic schools across the country.

Hemrajani said she believes that a strategic plan is critically important.

"A strategic plan will provide Serra with overarching goals and objectives to efficiently and effectively continue its development into a leading college preparatory high school," she said. "Serra's bold strategic planning process

engages a multitude of stakeholders to cooperatively create a plan that builds community engagement and support while driving toward a collective vision."

Casey detailed the process she successfully facilitated in the corporate sector and with more than 30 schools across the nation.

"Because the Partners in Mission strategic planning process involves all school constituencies, from parents to alumni to faculty to students, it results in an authentic vision that is owned by those invested in the outcome of the plan," Casey said. "The participative and collaborative process is well suited to Catholic schools and involves not just goals and objectives, but a clear road map for implementation as well."

Serra's official strategic planning process kicked off in January 2020 with 30 alumni, parents, faculty, staff and community members. The volunteers were divided into nine subgroups called domains, each tasked with analyzing their areas through research, interviews, surveys and focus groups. The nine domains cover all aspects of Serra including academics, advancement, facilities, technology, Catholic identity, enrollment, finance, student

life and governance. The domain committees worked exceptionally hard this spring. The collective, summarized findings have become the Steering Committee Report.

Original plans to review the steering committee report this fall and identify five-year goals and objectives for each domain were disrupted by the pandemic. The next planning session will take place in the spring. The additional time will also allow the school to address the national discussion about race and inclusion in the strategic planning process.

"We will take a little extra time this fall to update the report and gather more feedback from current families given the change in current events," said Benay Todzo, who also sits on the strategic planning committee. "We are now targeting a workshop in early 2021 to refine the plan, which will then be presented to the larger community."

While new issues will continue to arise, the process has yielded a number of actionable recommendations. From technology improvements to staffing reorganizations to admissions outreach efforts, the staff has taken suggestions from the planning process and put them into effect.

"We were fortunate to work with a great team of teachers, administrators and parents to collect a lot of data about Serra before Covid-19 struck," Ullyot said. "Serra's leadership has been bringing to life many of the committee's 'low hanging fruit' suggestions."

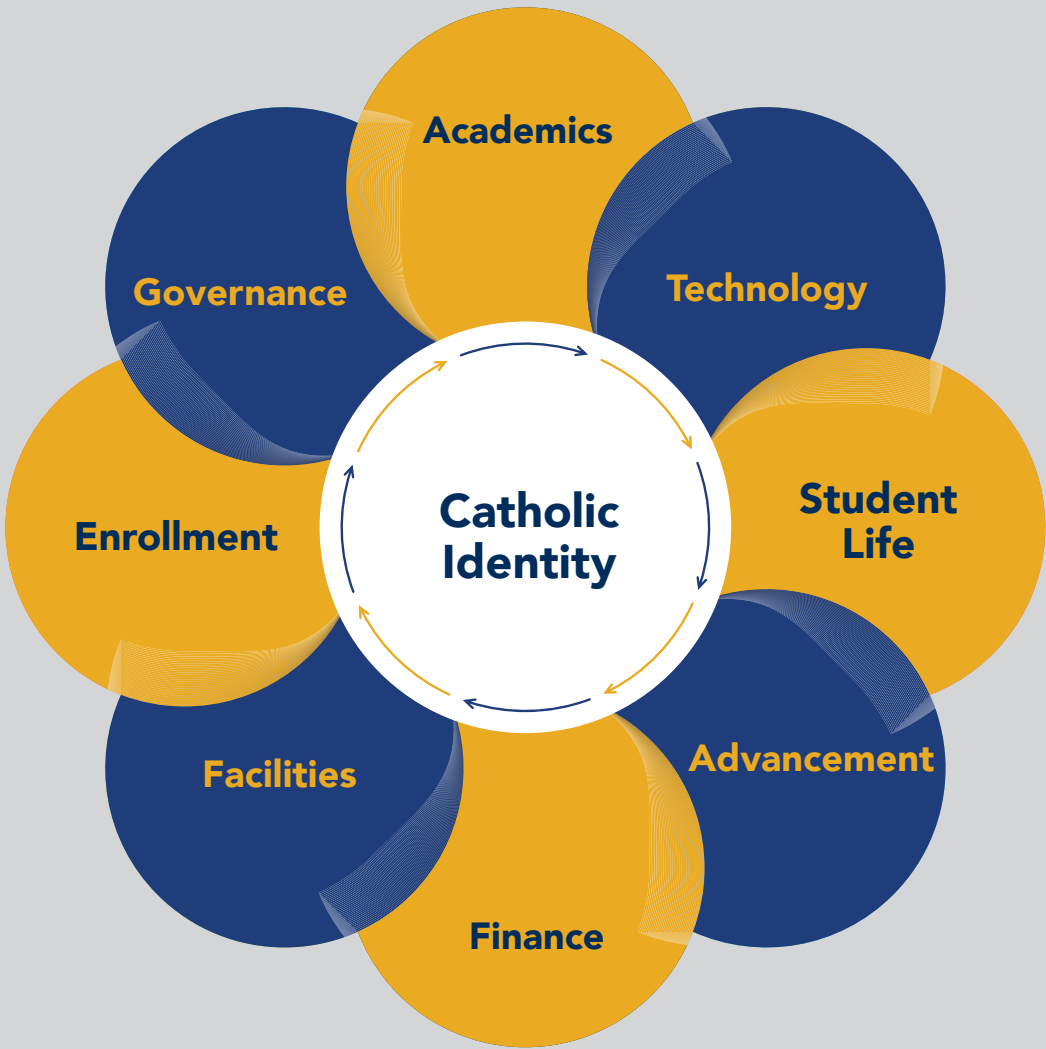
The new Serra Parent Ambassador Program, which launched this spring, matches current parents with new

families to welcome and mentor them as they become immersed in the Serra community.

"It's gratifying to see improvements put in place while we wait for the larger, strategic discussions to happen in spring of 2021," Ullyot said.

Thornton said that the contributions and suggestions offered during the research phase in the spring were invaluable. More information about the strategic plan will be forthcoming, as well as additional opportunities to review the findings and refine the goals and objectives.

For more information, contact Benay Todzo at [btodzo@serrahs.com](mailto:btodzo@serrahs.com).



**"SERRA'S BOLD STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS ENGAGES A MULTITUDE OF STAKEHOLDERS TO COOPERATIVELY CREATE A PLAN THAT BUILDS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SUPPORT WHILE DRIVING TOWARD A COLLECTIVE VISION."**

—REKHA HEMRAJANI

PHOTO (left): Members of the Strategic Planning Finance Domain Committee gathered at the official kick-off meeting held in January, 2020.

Pictured front table (l-r): Richard Van Doren '95 (Board of Regents member); Rekha Hemrajani (Strategic Planning Committee co-chair, Board of Regents member); Shannon Nash (Serra parent); Jason Connell (VP of finance).





We are sad to say goodbye to three members of our Serra community who inspired many generations of Padres with their wisdom, kindness and positivity. These men encouraged students with important life lessons such as taking healthy risks, overcoming fears and encouraging Padres to become the best versions of themselves.

The biggest lessons don't come from books, but from leaders like these men. We are so grateful to Steve Farren, Tom Monaghan and Alan Pometta for their years of service at Serra. You will be missed. Congratulations on your hard-earned retirement!



### Steve Farren

Years at Serra: 17  
Department: Counselor, NHS moderator, SAT coordinator

**Favorite memory?** Some of my most favorite memories were of the rallies over the years. I loved the energy, the spirit and the electric nature of them. I especially enjoyed the Prune Rally that was so steeped in the tradition of the rivalry with Bellarmine that dates back to the early 1950s.

**What will you miss the most?** I think what I will miss most is the opportunity to meet our boys as freshmen, to support them over the years and watch them grow into young men of strong character and high values—Serra graduates of whom we can be so proud.

**Retirement plans?** Aside from not setting my alarm clock, I have no definite retirement plans. I will probably take a year off. However, since I have worked all my adult life in Catholic schools, I know that I will miss it and return to Catholic schools in some capacity on a part-time basis—perhaps as a volunteer or substitute teacher.

**Final words?** "I feel fortunate and privileged to have been part of the community at Serra over these many years, and to have had the chance to work with so many fine educators and wonderful families."



### Tom Monaghan

Years at Serra: 38  
Subjects/Departments: Theology, Driver Education, baseball coach

**Favorite subject to teach?** Sophomore morality and ethics class.

**Favorite Serra memory?** A favorite is Serra sports in general, and all the success they have had. I have loved being involved with Serra baseball and the success that our alumni have given to the school.

**What will you miss the most?** I will miss my colleagues and the daily interaction with them. I will also miss teaching every sophomore. I have always had the unique experience

of having taught almost every student at Serra.

**Retirement Plans?** I have plans to travel in the off season and spend my time volunteering, fishing, getting a dog and never commuting again at 5:45 a.m. every day.



### Alan Pometta

Years at Serra: 34 (41 total teaching)  
Subjects/Departments: Assistant campus minister, student activities director, world language department chair, cross country, track and wrestling coach

**Favorite subject to teach?** My favorite subject to teach was discovering science because I didn't have a clue what I was doing. Mr. Carboni said I would be teaching two sections of discovering science. I said I hadn't had a science class since high school, and even then wasn't good at it. His response is old school. 'You can read a book right?' Yes, I answered. 'You can teach it, he said.' So, I taught it."

**Favorite Serra tradition or memory?** Student tradition, the old wart rally. Teacher tradition, the old Christmas skit new teachers had to put on for the faculty. (Obviously, I am out of date, insensitive and believe that

feelings are overrated, which they are).

My favorite memory was coaching wrestling with Paul Bristow as his assistant, 1987-90, as I recall the years.

**What will you miss the most?** The students and members of the faculty and staff.

**Retirement plans?** I hope to move to the Seattle area and have fun at a part-time job that I don't need. You know—stay busy, because in my case, idle hands are dangerous. Lunchtime bartender is an offer in play, or the guy on a construction site that holds the stop and go traffic sign, but I might be underqualified for that job.

**Final words?** Not dead yet. Yesterday is gone, tomorrow, at best is a maybe, today is what counts.

*It takes a special person to teach a student in class,  
To keep his full attention, in a world that moves so fast.*

*To show him he is unique, with many talents deep inside,  
To help to build his confidence, so he can beam with pride.*

*To show a little patience, for a student who has lost his way,  
To a student who feels abandoned, who has seen a better day.*

*To inspire and to motivate, so a student can learn and grow,  
To go into this big wide world, with many highs and lows.*

*You are a special person, who always gave their best,  
And for every student who was in your class, their life is truly blessed.*

—Author Unknown

*Happy Retirement!*



# NAVIGATING THE VIRTUAL TIDES

## SERRA'S SUCCESSFUL MOVE TO DISTANCE LEARNING

**W**hen students left school on March 6, they had no idea that it would be the last day of on-campus learning at Serra High School for the 2019-21 academic year.

March 9 was the first day that Serra shut its doors, a voluntary safety measure to combat the threat of the COVID-19 pandemic that would quickly force Bay Area families to shelter in place for several months thereafter. It would be just a week later when all schools in San Mateo County and Northern California received strict government orders to shut down as well.

No one could have predicted that students at Serra would be forced to adapt to a virtual classroom through Zoom, a video technology that allows real-time web communication.

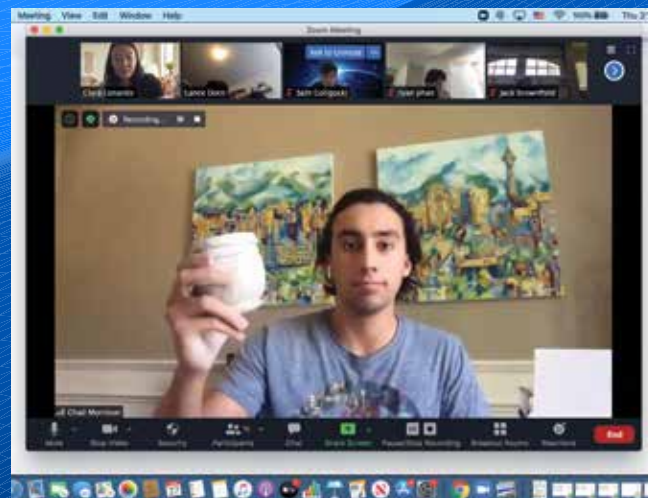
Serra teachers who had developed an engaging semester curriculum to teach students in a classroom environment had to quickly pivot and create new lesson plans equally as engaging, but for delivery through a screen. Some were scared, others disappointed, but everyone remained committed to success.

For then-English Department Chair Joel Ferrando, current assistant admissions director, while the virtual delivery differed from a traditional classroom, he said Serra was very prepared to make the switch with finesse.

"In all departments at Serra, we have incorporated best practices where the student is engaged, using matrices, worksheets, small and large group learning," Ferrando said. "We are also lucky that our kids have Internet access and that Serra has a very experienced and adaptive staff with many advanced degrees. These teachers were able to transfer these best practices and continue to reinvent ways to better teach our students."

After all, Ferrando added, "If you're not learning and reinventing, you're not teaching."

New technology such as NoRedInk and Notability helped the English department and certain math classes to aid students in their lessons. Art classes also continued creating, despite not being on campus. In the first few weeks of the 2020-21 school year, which was in distance learning, the Foundations in 3-D Sculpture in Clay class taught by Clara Lonardo studied ancient pottery.



"We studied slides of famous ancient pottery pieces and learned about where they were created, the date they were made, and what materials were used to make them," Lonardo said. "Students then built a pot by using a combination of the pinch pot and coiling methods. We used paint in a similar color palette as ancient pottery to decorate them."

Students picked up supplies on campus and were given instructions via Zoom.



### Future Learning Models for Padres

This spring, Serra's Distance Learning model scheduled each class to meet twice a week through Zoom online at a specified time. Students were required to log in at the start of class time, and teachers took attendance. Classes met virtually on an A-day, B-day (Monday, Tuesday) with Wednesday as a "flex day" for counselor meetings, office hours, homework and student activities. Thursday and Friday were another A-day, B-day sequence. Classes ran for 60 minutes.

Throughout the summer, the Serra administration developed three schedules for the 2020-21 school year. Recognizing that the COVID-19 transmission numbers were unpredictable and, therefore, might place the school on a list that would preclude students from attending class in person, the administration perfected its distance learning model and added a hybrid model that could co-exist with distance learning, while maintaining its traditional Serra block five-day schedule.

Principal Charlie McGrath said that throughout it all, the focus remained.

"Maintaining the quality of education that Serra has always offered—a strong, college preparatory academic curriculum—is core to our mission and will not be compromised," McGrath said.

This academic year, Serra will have three scheduling alternatives. According to President Barry Thornton, this will allow Serra to balance the health and safety needs of the students and faculty with an ability to move seamlessly from one schedule to another with minimal disruption to student learning and teacher readiness.

The three schedules are the Hybrid AB Schedule, the Distance Learning Schedule and the Traditional AB Block Schedule.

A Hybrid AB schedule allows groups of students in two cohorts to attend on-campus learning on two consecutive days each week with a Padre Core Day on rotating Wednesdays.

The hybrid academic schedule divides classes in half, with one group participating in on-campus instruction at Serra on two consecutive days while the other half of the class participates from home.

It is anticipated that Serra will need to shift to distance learning at times throughout the school year. If this becomes necessary, the students' schedules will remain the same as their Hybrid AB Schedule, but all classes and Padre Core Day activities will be virtual.

For Padre Core Days, students will gather on campus in established cohorts on rotating Wednesdays to participate in a variety of activities such as Mission and Brotherhood advisories, counseling support, college advising, community building activities, and teacher office hours.

### Enhanced Services and Teacher Technology

In order to enhance Serra's teaching in a distance learning setting and to prepare for what is likely to be a virtual classroom for some or much of the school year, Thornton said that it was necessary to offer teachers an integrated technological environment to provide excellent instruction.

"Industry professionals from many Silicon Valley tech firms helped us determine the best platform and design professional development programs in support of our teachers now and in the future," he noted.

Serra invested more than \$400,000 in Macbook Air 2020s and iPads for all teachers, Apple TV projection, new projectors and cameras in all classrooms, and professional development to make teachers successful in any teaching environment.

*continued on next page*



## NAVIGATING THE VIRTUAL TIDES

continued from previous page

"Providing our faculty with professional development that will ensure engagement, rigor, and equity for all of our students is paramount to success in anticipation of a shifting landscape," McGrath said.

### Students Adjust to New Environment

For students, being sent home in March was a shock. For seniors, it was difficult to fathom. What was supposed to be many months of memory making disappeared under the cloud of a virus that no one could have predicted. Senior parties, proms, award ceremonies and Serra graduation traditions were canceled.

Athletics were halted, clubs had to go virtual and service could not be performed in person.

These disappointments, however, were weathered by Serra students with incredible courage and perseverance, according to McGrath.

"While we understood that the worldwide health crisis might be the defining event of this year, and possibly even the century, we maintained that it does not define our students," McGrath said. "Our students forged ahead and achieved remarkable success on all levels, and their response to the challenges presented to them will always be remembered."

Sophomore Ryder DiTargiani said that as a freshman ARC student, when he heard that there would be learning from home, he was immediately nervous about the outcome.

"Serra did a great job with creating a schedule, with classes Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday with a Wednesday catch-up day—it was good because there was access to teachers for help and office hours," DiTargiani said.

Sophomore Connor Strain said that what he missed most was Serra's traditional classroom environment.

"Everyone adapted to the conditions, and I still felt academically challenged in the classroom with all that the teacher was presenting even though it wasn't in person," Strain said. He added that he is very hopeful for the day when he can be back on campus with friends, teachers, and all that makes Serra so special.

Teachers, faculty and students look forward to the day when things seem normal—but, until they do, one thing is for sure . . . Padres will persevere.

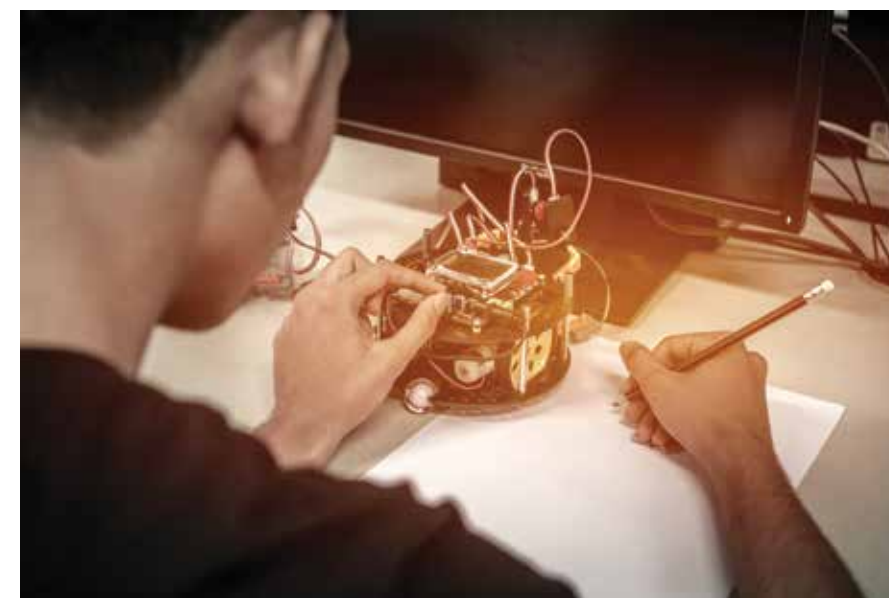


"While we understood that the worldwide health crisis might be the defining event of the year, and possibly even the century, we maintained that it does not define our students. Our students forged ahead and achieved remarkable success on all levels, and their response to the challenges presented to them will always be remembered."

—Principal Charlie McGrath

# Campus Upgrades

## New Robotics Lab, Electrical Upgrade Among Improvements to Serra Campus



A complete revamp of the design-led innovation and robotics labs has tripled the existing square footage of the robotics space. This project includes a state-of-the-art facility for students and will improve STEM programming throughout the Serra education program. The \$520,000 project includes clear, see-through garage doors at the back side of campus near the basketball courts and features working space, tools, and new technology to support robotic design needs.

Robotics combines software, electronics, mechanical engineering, power tool use, game strategy, marketing and community relations to form a team of students who compete annually against Bay Area schools by constructing a robot.

The absence of students over the spring and summer didn't halt the momentum to improve Serra's campus.

Last year's improvement efforts included upgrades to the Gellert Auditorium with new curtains and aesthetic improvements to Serra's iconic Mary's Courtyard with the re-introduction of namesake bricks and landscape improvements to make the courtyard more welcoming.

Even amid the school shutdown caused by the pandemic, improvements to the Serra campus continued.

A massive \$600,000 upgrade to the electrical infrastructure was necessary to set the stage for the next steps in building renovations, according to Serra President Barry Thornton. This project was a critical component to support upgrades to the academic wing, and was part of a larger strategic plan that includes an electrical upgrade—critical to the future campus modernization.

**"We are fully committed to moving forward with modernization of the physical plan at Serra to provide the best learning environment for the students," Thornton said.** "A key component was upgrading the electrical infrastructure for the planned renovations of the academic wing. We are excited that we could execute this project on time and under budget in the midst of a challenging environment."

"Serra's robotics program engages students at the highest level—critical thinking, real world applications, industry partnerships, adult mentoring and coaches and collaborative problem-solving," said Thornton. "Our students have been excelling in this area, and we needed a first-class facility to support this tremendous learning experience."

The completion of the robotics lab is expected in October.

A few months later in December, the Design Innovation Lab is expected to be completed. Serra began design-led innovation classes five years ago. Design Thinking is taught by Barbara Luis and Design Solutions is taught by Rita Lee, along with technology consultant Rushton Hurley.

This space, adjacent to the Zoph Library, will accelerate support for the design-led innovation program at Serra. The equipment will include 3D printers, laser cutters and technology to support the design process.

"This is only the first phase of construction that provides critical space and equipment to support this dynamic program. It will eventually be part of the learning and innovation center and support all programmatic areas of the school," Thornton said.

More modernizations are on the horizon, as the board of regents and the strategic planning group identify other areas that will enhance the learning process for all students at Serra.





## Fund a Dream 2020 . . . A virtual success!

With intentions under way for another memorable Fund a Dream community event on March 14, 2020, Serra officials were forced to cancel plans as local health guidelines banned large gatherings due to a spike in cases of COVID-19.

While the news was disappointing, the uncertainty that permeated every social norm in late March preempted school officials to predict that the tuition assistance needs of Serra students could potentially be greater than ever.

With that in mind, a quick decision was made to host a virtual event, with hopes of bringing our generous community together in whatever possible capacity to raise money for the nearly 36 percent of Serra students who rely on tuition assistance.

**More than 180 generous donors came together to raise \$436,000.**

The virtual event consisted of powerful videos of past speakers and of graduates who have benefited from the money raised at past Fund a Dream events. A slideshow commemorated the events as well, reminding the Serra community of the power of philanthropy.

Fund a Dream is more than just a fundraiser. It's the community coming together to help make a young man's dream of attending Serra a reality.

We are so grateful for our generous donors and we look forward to next year when we can all come together in person to celebrate this great benefit.



"We are so impressed with the outpouring of support, particularly during a time when everyone's future seems uncertain. We had so many people come to us at the very beginning of the pandemic and encourage us to move ahead with plans."

– Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fadelli '88



## ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING

THIRD ANNUAL  
**THANKSGIVEDAY**  
A PROUD PAST . . . POWERING OUR FUTURE

NOVEMBER  
**19**

At Serra, we build men of faith, virtue, leadership and philanthropy. Teaching our students the rewarding privilege of giving back is fundamental to their overall high school experience.

ThanksGIVEday is an opportunity for the entire Serra community to unite and show its support.

On our third ThanksGIVEday, we hope to have the support of our alumni to celebrate Serra and offer contributions to better our programs now and in the future. A Proud Past, Powering Our Future.





# Thirteen-Year MLB Draft is a Homerun for Serra Padres

Most people go their entire lives without having a personal connection to a Major League Baseball player. And then, there are the Serra Padres.

Since 2008, a Serra Padre or a Serra alumnus has been selected every year in the MLB Draft, topping one of the most impressive 13-year streaks in Padres athletics. Varsity Head Coach Chris Houle '92 said this remarkable streak blends many factors.

"It starts with really talented players committed to working hard and improving their skills," Houle said. "Add to that the opportunity to compete at Serra in a high-level, structured baseball environment that helps develop a strong work-ethic."

Houle said that the players put themselves in a great position—whether from here or from their colleges—to get that chance to be drafted and play professionally.

The 2020 Major League Baseball First-Year Player Draft took place on June 10-11. MLB shortened the 2020 draft from 40 rounds to five rounds this year in a cost-cutting move amid the coronavirus pandemic.



The Pittsburgh Pirates selected Padre alumnus Nick Garcia '17 with the 79th pick in the third round. After graduating from Serra, Garcia played college ball at Chapman University.

A *San Mateo Daily Journal* article captured Garcia's gratitude for the work ethic he honed while at Serra. He thanks Serra for helping him to build a great work ethic. Playing with one of the best programs in the state, Garcia was forced to work as hard as he could to get the limited opportunities he did. But he realizes he would not be where he is now without Serra sharpening his game.

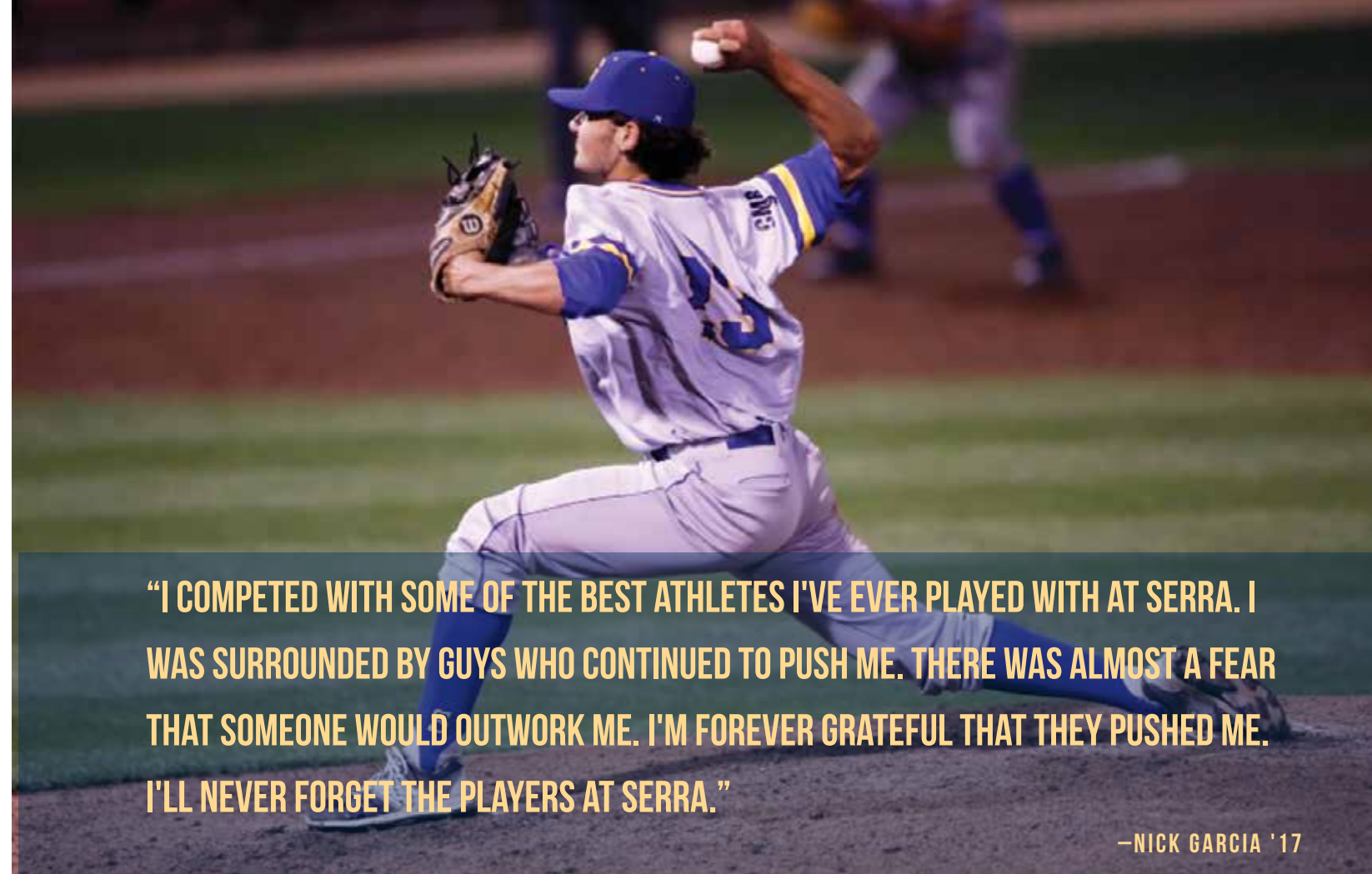
"I competed with some of the best athletes I've ever played with at Serra," Garcia said. "I was surrounded by guys who continued to push me. There was almost a fear that someone would outwork me. I'm forever grateful that they pushed me. I'll never forget the players at Serra."

MLB picks include 2019 first round pick of the San Francisco Giants, Hunter Bishop '16 and 2012 second-round pick Tony Renda '09 by the Washington Nationals, to highlight just a couple.

"What is really meaningful and special is that all of our guys who have played professionally seem to enjoy coming back to continue being a part of the Serra community," said Houle.

During the Class of 2020 virtual graduation ceremony, Bishop was quick to produce an inspirational video message for the graduating Padres.

"These athletes truly are Padre alumni mentors for our student athletes—willing to share their experiences with our current players, talk to them about the commitment it takes to keep playing at a high level." Houle said. "They will even practice and work out with our players. These are great connections for our young men to make during their high school days."



"I COMPETED WITH SOME OF THE BEST ATHLETES I'VE EVER PLAYED WITH AT SERRA. I WAS SURROUNDED BY GUYS WHO CONTINUED TO PUSH ME. THERE WAS ALMOST A FEAR THAT SOMEONE WOULD OUTWORK ME. I'M FOREVER GRATEFUL THAT THEY PUSHED ME. I'LL NEVER FORGET THE PLAYERS AT SERRA."

—NICK GARCIA '17

## PADRES DRAFTED EACH YEAR SINCE 2008



**2008**

Jimmy Parque '06

**2009**

Tony Renda '09  
Jon Karcich '06

**2010**

Stephen Lumpkins '08

**2011**

Richie Mirowski '07  
Stephen Lumpkins '08

**2012**

Tony Renda '09  
Zach Edgington '08

**2013**

Grant Nelson '09  
Justin Maffei '09  
Jordan Paroubeck '13

**2014**

Matthew Page '10  
Julian Merryweather '10  
Don Andre Clark '10

**2015**

Collin Theroux '12

**2016**

Hunter Bishop '16  
Michael Tinsley '13  
Collin Theroux '12

**2017**

Orlando Razo '13  
Mickey McDonald '13  
Sean Watkins '14

**2018**

Cameron Barstad '18  
James Outman '15

**2019**

Hunter Bishop '16  
Nolan Dempsey '14  
Scott Ota '15

**2020**

Nick Garcia '17



# 2019-20 WRESTLING WRAP

HEAD COACH  
MIKE KLOBUCHAR '90

VARSITY  
WCAL: 4-2

BLANKET AWARD WINNER:  
CHARLES MATTHEWS

JR. VARSITY  
WCAL: 3-3  
MVP: NICO SAENZ

FRESHMAN  
WCAL: 3-3  
MVP: ROCCO FORTE

## ALL-WCAL

1ST TEAM ALL WCAL:  
CHARLES MATTHEWS

2ND TEAM ALL WCAL:  
ENZO CAPPABIANCA



# 2019-20 SOCCER WRAP

HEAD COACH  
MIKE KELLER '98

VARSITY  
WCAL: 4-8-2

OVERALL: 6-11-3  
BLANKET AWARD WINNER:  
ERIC YIN

JR. VARSITY  
WCAL: 8-5-1  
OVERALL: 11-7-1  
MVP:  
ANDREW ALEXANDER

FRESHMAN  
WCAL: 2-4-4  
OVERALL: 4-5-5  
MVP:  
XAVIER VAN LOBEN SELS

## ALL-WCAL

1ST TEAM  
ERIC YIN



# 2019-20 BASKETBALL WRAP

HEAD COACH  
BRIAN CARSON

VARSITY  
WCAL: 9-5  
OVERALL: 18-9

BLANKET AWARD WINNER:  
ANTONIO ABEYTA

JR. VARSITY  
WCAL: 7-6  
OVERALL: 12-11  
MVP: JETT LALIC

FRESHMAN BLUE  
WCAL: 10-3  
OVERALL: 16-5  
MVPS: JIMMY HOUSE  
AND JOEY VILLAROMAN

FRESHMAN GOLD  
WCAL: 7-6  
OVERALL: 11-10  
MVPS: MARCEL  
ELICAGARAY AND  
GRANT MCGOVERN

## ALL-WCAL

1ST TEAM  
ANTONIO ABEYTA



## 2019-2020 Blanket Award Winners

**Tommy Rogers**  
2019 Cross Country

**Mike Smoot**  
2019 Water Polo

**Nate Sanchez**  
2019 Football

**Antonio Abeyta**  
2020 Basketball

**Eric Yin**  
2020 Soccer

**Charles Matthews**  
2020 Wrestling

**Senior Athletes  
Class of 2020**  
2020 Golf

**Senior Athletes  
Class of 2020**  
2020 Tennis

**Senior Athletes  
Class of 2020**  
2020 Lacrosse

**Kevin Bryan**  
2020 Crew

**Senior Athletes  
Class of 2020**  
2020 Volleyball

**Senior Athletes  
Class of 2020**  
2020 Track & Field

**Senior Athletes  
Class of 2020**  
2020 Swimming

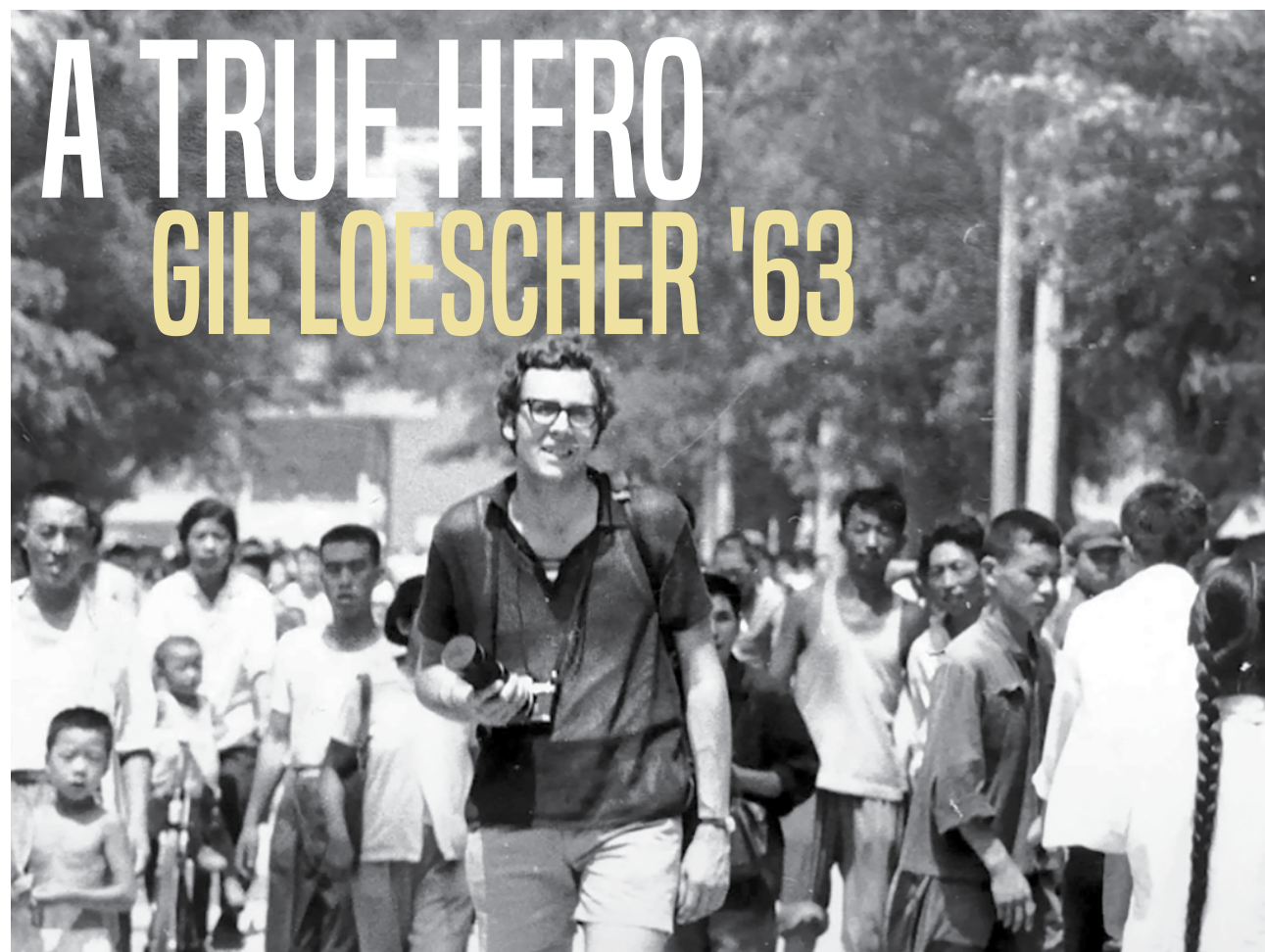
**Senior Athletes  
Class of 2020**  
2020 Baseball







**"SINCE REFUGEES ARE A GLOBAL PROBLEM, THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS MUST ALSO BE GLOBAL."**  
—GIL LOESCHER '63



The world lost a true scholar, peace-builder and humanitarian in April when Gil Loescher '63 passed away in England due to heart failure. He was a global leader on world refugee issues and humanitarian crises.

With a Ph.D. from the London School of Economics, Loescher was an Emeritus Professor of Political Science in the Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies at the University of Notre Dame.

His 25-year career as a professor, however, did not prevent him from his mission—he continued to travel the world to better acquaint himself with the conditions of refugee camps and to be a catalyst for change in his lectures and writings.

From 2003 on, Loescher served on the European Council on Refugees and Exiles and as a fellow in the Refugee Studies Centre at the University of Oxford.

On August 19, 2003, he nearly perished in Baghdad when a United Nations administrative building, where he had been working as a consultant on refugee issues for the United Nations, was blown up by a terrorist suicide

bomber in the wake of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. More than 150 people were killed or wounded in the bombing.

Barely alive, Loescher was found trapped and hanging upside down in the rubble. It took four hours to free him, as rescue personnel had to amputate his legs above the knee to do so.

The firefighters "had nothing except a pocketknife to do that," Loescher wrote in an account on openDemocracy's website. "They also found an old rusty saw in the building," he added, "and that's how they did the amputations."

Loescher was flown to a U.S. military hospital in Germany, where doctors gave him only a 25 percent chance of survival. But, defying the odds, he was recovering at home within three months of the attack.

It was later pointed out that being upside down prevented Loescher from bleeding to death. Although the attack severely injured him and left him in a wheelchair, it did not deter him from continuing his scholarship and field work on behalf of the world's displaced.



The United Nations headquarters in Baghdad after a suicide bomber driving a truck packed with explosives blew up the building on August 19, 2003. Gil Loescher was rescued from the rubble after both of his legs were amputated.

In a 2004 essay for *Notre Dame Magazine* titled "Sole Survivor," he wrote, **"Despite the injuries I sustained, I do not dwell on the past, but remain focused on the future."**

Loescher daughter, Margaret Loescher, who was a film student at the time, released "Pulled From the Rubble," a documentary she produced and directed that chronicles her father's painful trials of recovery.

Loescher, who grew up in Burlingame, was focused on academics and basketball when he was a student at Serra. He was awarded a full basketball scholarship to attend St. Mary's College in Moraga in the 1960s.

He was honored in 2005 with Junípero Serra's Alumni Award of Merit for Public Affairs. Awards of merit were created to honor Serra alumni who have distinguished themselves, through their accomplishments, in their

professional fields and who have brought honor and distinction to our school. Awards are given in the areas of the arts, business, public affairs, and science and technology.

Loescher is survived by his wife, Ann, and two daughters, Margaret and Clare.



**"DESPIITE THE INJURIES I SUSTAINED, I DO NOT DWELL ON THE PAST, BUT REMAIN FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE."**

—GIL LOESCHER '63



**“This is one of those times in history where science and societal practice collide. If we don't protect our elders, it will be a huge cost to our society.”**

## Mark Hernandez '80

### Helps Design COVID-19 Building Disinfection Systems

In the age of COVID-19, there are so many questions and so many unknowns. We know that the virus can be transmitted through droplets in air, and we know that it's spreading like wildfire. But, are we exposed to viruses from touching surfaces?

“Probably,” according to Mark Hernandez, Ph.D., PE '80, who holds the S.J. Archuleta Professor Chair in civil and environmental engineering at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Hernandez has been on Colorado's flagship university faculty since 1996.

“It depends—exactly how much virus exposure is associated with the surfaces we commonly encounter, well, the jury is still out on that,” said Hernandez, who directs an Environmental Engineering Microbiology and Disinfection Lab. “There are three ways to get exposed to the coronavirus—direct contact, inhalation and touching [certain] surfaces. We are currently studying how coronaviruses persist in the air and on surfaces. If it's a high contact surface, such as doorknobs or handrails, these objects can effectively host infectious agents and serve as a transfer vehicle to others.”



Hernandez and his colleagues are focusing on the characterization and control of microbiological air pollution. They are spending long days designing disinfection systems for occupied indoor surfaces, which includes novel applications of ultraviolet lights. Spaces include medical and dental offices, transportation hubs, waiting rooms, and classrooms.

“We're specifically studying the coronavirus in the air indoors; we know that we have to learn how to disinfect our built environment quickly,” Hernandez said. “Our team is using large environmental chambers to track how the virus moves, and we're testing how different disinfectants work against this virus. It's important for all of us to follow the guidelines laid out by our public health agencies—keep social distancing, wash your hands and wear your mask in public spaces. We need to get back to following basic Montessori rules with each other.”

Hernandez' research lab develops genetic, biochemical and toxicological techniques to assess the efficacy of new disinfection practices for the military, industrial hygiene and sanitary engineering sectors.

“There is special focus on aerobiology science for wide-area surveillance, indoor cleaning technology and the design of aerosol disinfection systems in the built environment,” he explained. “This coronavirus can be lethal to a lot of people, and it's unlike its modern counterparts. The Polio epidemic our grandparents' generation experienced is probably the closest thing we have seen to this in our generational memory. Polio had similar immediacy and vaccination efforts much like this coronavirus has precipitated; it's frightening and it's real. Today, we have more population density and transportation challenges to consider than we did with Polio.”

Although the past few months have been daunting, Hernandez is confident that things will get better.

“The medical community is working feverishly on a vaccine,” he said. “It's going to get better if we all do our part. Societal hygiene is what this is about now—everybody playing by the rules at the same time can help tremendously. This is one of those times in history where science and societal practice collide. The scientific community is developing a vaccine, as well as informing



societal hygiene practices. We're going to see new practices of cultural hygiene that will be permanent; there will be a lot of change in this next year. COVID-19 is particularly pernicious for older people. If we don't protect our elders, it will be a huge cost to our society.”

Over the years, Hernandez has enjoyed his career immensely. As a scientist, he enjoys being on the cutting edge of breakthroughs that benefit society. He also enjoys inspiring the young scientists he teaches.

“It's awesome,” he said. “I enjoy the teaching charter of this job, while training the next generation of engineers. You form very rich relationships when you train graduate students, and that has been such a joy.”



### Padre Mentors

Hernandez' love of science began at Serra. There, he found mentors of his own—biology teachers Rob Solari and Dave Carlomagno, geometry teacher Jesse Freitas, and algebra teacher Jim Monahan.

After Serra, Hernandez attended Humboldt State University, where he majored in environmental engineering. He earned a master's degree and a Ph.D. in environmental engineering from UC Berkeley, where he also served a postdoctoral fellowship. Hernandez went on to be a civil engineer for the city and county of San Francisco. After obtaining his professional engineering license (PE), he moved to accept a faculty position in the College of Engineering and Applied Science at the University of Colorado.

**“Without Serra, I wouldn't be here—spiritually or skillfully,” Hernandez said. “While my parents raised me with Catholic values, I learned a lot about fortitude and perseverance at Serra. When you go into the sciences, the training is hard. But, the deeper I got into science, the more I understood how miraculous this planet is. Spirituality goes hand-in-hand with science. I didn't get that until much later in life.”**

Hernandez' wife, Alina, is a native of Romania and is an engineering professor at the Colorado School of Mines. They met when they were substitute teaching thermodynamics for each other.



“My wife was raised in Bucharest and is an Orthodox Catholic,” Hernandez said. “We got married in Romania, where I was surprised to learn how similar the Orthodox and Roman Catholic rites really are.”

Hernandez is praying for the day when COVID-19 will be a mere memory. “In the age of COVID, civil engineers are working hard so that we can go back to work and back to school safely,” he said. “Disinfecting our built environment in new ways will be a big part of it.”

Hernandez is the lead inventor on several patents that support various start-up companies. One of his inventions is a rapid method to disinfect indoor air. Another involves a new generation of corrosion resistant concrete, and a third removes toxic metals from industrial wastes.

“Some of those companies employ our students,” Hernandez noted. “For an engineering professor, that's a dream come true and one of my most satisfying accomplishments.”

For more information about Mark Hernandez' research laboratory, visit <https://www.colorado.edu/faculty/hernandez/>



## All That Jazz: Grant Grech '18 Releases First Solo EP

"Just don't give up trying to do what you really want to do. Where there is love and inspiration, I don't think you can go wrong."

—Ella Fitzgerald

When Grant Grech '18 wants to unwind, he listens to the sultry jazz sounds of Ella Fitzgerald and Chet Baker. The UCLA junior is making his mark on the Southern California jazz scene. In February, the old-school guitarist released his first solo EP, "Grant Grech Plays Guitar."

"I really like romantic songs," Grech said. "Ella Fitzgerald was one of the first jazz artists I listened to—she stayed true to the melody. 'My Old Flame' is the first song on the new EP."

Other songs on the EP include Gene DePaul's "Teach Me Tonight," "Won't You Be My Neighbor" by the beloved Fred Rogers, and "People Will Say We're in Love" from the musical Oklahoma.

"When I was choosing songs for the EP, I already had an established repertoire of my own solo-guitar arrangements," Grech noted. "I chose my favorite songs to play with varying tempos and harmonic complexity. I learned all of these songs by listening to and copying various recordings including those of Charlie Parker, Ella Fitzgerald, Doris Day, Blossom Dearie, Fred Rogers and Chet Baker."

"Trumpet player Chet Baker is my favorite jazz artist," he added. "His music is just very cool. It's melancholic, but very lyrical. In my mind, especially when I first heard him on CD, adapting the lyrical playing of Chet Baker to guitar was my goal. This prompted me to learn every note he played and sang on my favorite album, titled 'Chet Baker Sings.' I have learned many lessons about phrasing, lyricism and simplicity by copying Baker, one of my greatest musical influences."

### Serra Jazz Band Roots

When Grech first arrived at Serra as a freshman, he was rocking out to Led Zeppelin and Weezer. Although he had taken piano and guitar lessons as a child, he had lost interest. That all changed when his passion for music was reignited in Jay Jordan's guitar class, which prompted Grech to audition for the Serra Jazz Band.

"It was ear-opening to hear the power that a bunch of horns can have behind guitar, bass and drums," he recounted. "I enjoyed my time in the jazz band and also started writing big band pieces. They played them at Aragon High School and also at a high school in Missouri."

Grech went on to perform in Serra's energetic Battle of the Bands, where he joined fellow Padres in the bands Quinoa on my Mind and America's Finest.

"I really did enjoy my time at Serra," Grech said. "A lot of my musical interests developed when I was in high school. There was so much musical talent at Serra, and it was so cool to play music with people my own age."

### California Dreamin'

Grech was accepted to UCLA as a music major, but he quickly recognized that he had developed a keen interest in psychology. After changing his major last year, he actually enjoyed music even more because he can now just play for fun.

It's exciting for Grech to be part of the vital Southern California music scene, and he has met a few kindred spirits along the way. Musicians Matt Witek and Katie Thiroux have encouraged Grech to pursue his dreams while introducing him to many interesting people. Another friend, Konrad Paszkudzki, introduced him to one of the world's greatest guitar players, Pasquale Grasso. Grech was thrilled when he was asked to open for Grasso in the fall of 2018 at a private party in Hillsborough.

"I'm also very fortunate to take lessons from Graham Dechter, a very accomplished and incredible musician," Grech said. "He has taken me under his wing and has taught me so much about musicianship."

So, has it been challenging to play music during the COVID-19 pandemic?

"Yes, it has, but some of my buddies and I have been using Jamulus, a software program that enables us to play online almost as if we're live," Grech explained. "Usually, there are about three or four of us online at a time. It's good fun and it keeps us playing actively."

In the meantime, Grech will continue to market his EP on Instagram, Apple Music, Spotify and YouTube.

"It's very cool to be in L.A. for music right now," he said. "I look forward to learning more old songs, meeting new old souls, and getting back on the scene when the world reopens. I'm just going to keep playing and see where it goes."

"I really did enjoy my time at Serra. A lot of my musical interests developed when I was in high school. There was so much musical talent at Serra, and it was so cool to play music with people my own age."

—Grant Grech '18







## WHY COVID-19 MIGHT MAKE YOU RETHINK YOUR SMOKING HABITS

Opinion by John Maa '86, featured first on CNN

A college friend who is now a physician first introduced me to an electronic cigarette in 2008. He purchased his online from China with the hope of transitioning from smoking to vaping but found himself using both instead. A few years later, he shared a pleasant surprise—he had succeeded in quitting both vaping and smoking.



The breakthrough came one winter while he was recovering from a cold. As he reached for the e-cigarette, he realized the hazard of exposing his recovering lungs to a cloud of smoke. He gave his e-cigarette away, and never vaped or smoked again. His success story highlights the power of a second event to break the nicotine addiction. The current COVID-19

pandemic might serve as a similar warning call to smokers and vapers to stop promptly.

Over the past 10 months, three serial waves of severe acute respiratory illnesses have strained the American emergency care delivery system from either EVALI, e-cigarette, or vaping product use associated lung injury, the influenza season, and COVID-19. Around June 2019, US hospitals first noted a rise in respiratory illnesses linked to e-cigarettes. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tracked this EVALI outbreak into early 2020, ultimately counting 2,807 hospitalized patients in all 50 US states, with 68 deaths as of February. Overlapping with the EVALI crisis has been the influenza season, which runs from October through May. So far, the CDC estimated there have been at least 39 million US cases of the flu, leading to 400,000 hospitalizations, and 24,000 deaths. The third stress has been the worldwide pandemic of COVID-19, totaling, at press time, 5,750,000 cases in the U.S. and 177,000 deaths.

Smoking has many negative effects on respiratory health, and the possibility of a relationship between smoking—both traditional cigarettes and marijuana—or vaping with COVID-19 were raised by early observations in China. One report, looking at 1,099 laboratory confirmed cases in China, revealed that 12.4 percent of smokers either died, required ICU admission or needed intubation, compared to 4.7 percent among never

smokers. Another study found that among Chinese patients diagnosed with COVID-19 pneumonia, the odds of disease progression, including death, were an order of magnitude higher among smokers compared to non-smokers. The World Health Organization has noted that cigarette smokers are likely to have more serious illnesses if infected with COVID-19.

The Federal Drug Administration has advised that cigarette smoking and vaping might leave users with underlying health conditions and increase the risk of coronavirus pneumonia and increase its severity. Further research should be undertaken to determine the extent. The U.S. Surgeon General has reported that smoking is strongly linked to asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, or COPD, pneumonia and coronary artery disease, all of which impair the immune response and the ability to fight COVID-19.

Active research is ongoing to assess the long-term health risks of marijuana use and vaping, including pediatric chronic bronchitis. In addition, the National Institute on Drug Abuse has included vapers on the list of groups who could be most impacted by COVID-19.

A related question is whether previous vaping-related lung injuries might predispose to a higher risk of contracting COVID-19. EVALI patients who survived might develop long term respiratory issues. If they were to contract COVID-19, they might also be at greater risk for respiratory failure, prolonged intubation and mortality.

As they recover from the coronavirus, smokers and vapers should make every effort to stop to protect their lung health. Repeatedly inhaling from an e-cigarette, possibly coated with viruses or bacteria, violates the principle of minimizing contact with one's mouth and face to reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19. Sharing an e-cigarette with others only increases that risk further. While the cigarette butt is discarded after each use, e-cigarette devices are used repeatedly. Perhaps e-cigarettes should be designed to be disposable, to minimize the risk of infection transmission. Another area to study further is whether the plume of vaping aerosol generated might deposit virus particles on surfaces in the environment.

The majority of cases from the EVALI outbreak were associated with vaping of marijuana/THC contaminated with vitamin E acetate. But the CDC did not exclude that other causes might exist, as 14 percent of the EVALI patients "exclusively used nicotine-containing products."

Some of the mysterious EVALI cases from the winter of 2019 should now be re-analyzed, to determine if the coronavirus might have played a role. Bronchoscopy biopsies and lung specimens stored in pathology labs across America could be assessed to see if coronavirus RNA is present. Similarly, reanalyzing influenza cases from the winter might reveal if the current cases of infection we are witnessing are actually a second wave.

The initial impact of COVID-19 on the e-cigarette industry was an interruption of the supply chain. About 90 percent of the world's e-cigarette hardware is produced in China, and many factories in Shenzhen were closed during the coronavirus outbreak there. More recently, many vape shops across America have closed, having been defined as non-essential services. This likely made it more difficult for youth to acquire vaping devices from peers or older siblings, or at school. Another unintended benefit of mandatory school closures has been the opportunity for parents to monitor, and have conversations with their children while they are at home to curb youth vaping.

**Given the adverse effect on respiratory health, the current coronavirus pandemic should serve as a message to smokers and vapers to quit promptly and take immediate action to reduce their risks of viral transmission.** If doing so immediately seems like too big of a task, at the very least, other measures like regularly sanitizing e-cigarettes and cannabis smoking devices should be taken.

Smokers and vapers should also be more mindful of the secondhand smoke and clouds generated, avoid generating large clouds in public from vape tricks, and follow clean indoor air laws. Social distancing could be extended to the vapor generated to maintain a six-foot distance from others when in public spaces, or to smoke and vape only in confined spaces. Active research is ongoing but difficult to conduct while simultaneously treating a pandemic, and many questions about the risks to smokers and vapers and those around them will be answered over time.

Ultimately, COVID-19 presents a teachable moment to break the cycle of nicotine addiction and accelerate our nation toward the dual goals of smoking and vaping cessation.

JOHN MAA, MD, IS A PAST PRESIDENT OF THE SAN FRANCISCO MARIN MEDICAL SOCIETY. THIS OPINION ARTICLE FIRST APPEARED ON CNN ON APRIL 6, 2020.



# COVID-19 VS. SAN MATEO COUNTY STRONG

**“Although I had spent 37 years preparing for major emergencies, including earthquakes, major fires and active shooters—first as a police manager and then in county government—nothing could have prepared me for the magnitude, complexity and longevity of a worldwide pandemic.”**

**—Mike Callagy '80**



**San Mateo County Manager Mike Callagy '80 has worked in public service for his entire career, first as a police officer who moved up the ranks to become the county's leader. Never in his career has he had to face something as monumental as a global pandemic. Callagy details in this account the fast actions that were witnessed by county leaders and the silver linings that exist amid the disappointments.**

I had just completed my first year as the San Mateo County manager when word started to spread of a mysterious illness that was spreading quickly in China.

By January 21, the first cases were being reported in the United States, and by March 2, the first case was reported in San Mateo County. It became clear within days that the Bay Area would face the ravages of COVID-19, and that quick action needed to take place to save lives.

Just one day later, on March 3, it was decided to open our Emergency Operations Center to coordinate myriad operations and needs. Within days, the EOC was fully functioning with the support of hundreds of county employees in roles they had only practiced for in the past.

Although no one in the history of the county had faced a pandemic in the past, we had extremely dedicated and seasoned managers who hit the ground running. It was ironic that just three months earlier, we opened our new state-of-the-art, \$65 million EOC, and it allowed us to coordinate in a way that was unparalleled in the past. Our astute county board of supervisors had the foresight to invest in a phenomenal facility that would allow us to handle any emergency in a comprehensive way.

Our county is fortunate to have an amazingly seasoned staff in the County Manager's Office that hit the ground running. Three deputy county managers immediately took the lead as major initiatives were split up. Our health office was also doing an incredible job managing a crisis of epic proportion. As the crisis unfolded, the following actions were taken immediately and over time.

There was a race to find Personal Protective Equipment as supplies were quickly drained. Imagine competing with the entire world for the same items. Orders would be made and canceled as higher bidders stepped in to pay higher

prices. I was extremely disappointed by the greed of foreign companies as they raised their prices and created a worldwide bidding war. I was also dismayed and shocked how much of the manufacturing of critical PPE was no longer in our own country. Dealing with foreign companies was a complex and frustrating proposition, and the lives of our medical personnel depended on PPE. It was remarkable how the public stepped up in those early days—as dentists, tattoo parlors, construction workers, beauty salons and so many others donated PPE to our frontline workers.

The San Mateo County Board of Supervisors took immediate action and coordinated with all elected officials in the county. We are lucky in San Mateo County in that we have a sophisticated electorate who are used to working together and getting things done. This was a major necessity, as everyone needed to be rowing in the same direction as we all collaborated on addressing major issues that would continue to need attention. We immediately established a process whereby every day we would conduct a Zoom briefing for all San Mateo County elected officials, city managers, police and fire chiefs. Rep. Jackie Speier, D-San Mateo, Democratic Sen. Jerry Hill of San Mateo and Assembly members Kevin Mullin '88, D-South San Francisco, and Marc Berman, D-Palo Alto, appeared daily to give us a briefing from Washington and Sacramento. Those briefings still occur weekly as we approach almost six months of full operations.

Staff took over a hotel in San Mateo County and brought in a specialized medical staff to treat COVID-19 patients. This was a major feat by the team, as we were the first in the state to accomplish this major task. We also secured other hotels and set up operations to get the homeless off the street and to decompress the shelters in order to stop the spread of COVID-19 in congregate living situations.

Through the emergency powers of the County Manager's Office and as the head of the EOC, the health officer and I

issued emergency orders to shelter in place. This was a major step that was taken after great thought and debate, but it was absolutely necessary to try and stem the spread of the disease in San Mateo County. This was an extremely difficult decision for all involved, as we tried to weigh the need to try and save lives and deal with a virus we knew very little about, while trying to balance the economic damage a SIP would bring. This involved many sleepless nights as we prepared to take this major step.

The need associated with a SIP was great and immediate. We put together the San Mateo County Strong (SMC Strong) campaign and the board allocated \$3 million to seed that fund. The fund has grown to more than \$8 million as others from around our community contributed. That money has been distributed for rental assistance, small business grants and to assist nonprofits as they are inundated with requests for service. We also set up, literally overnight, a call center staffed by incredibly dedicated county attorneys who handled thousands of calls by members of the community wanting information on how the SIP impacted their businesses. I can't begin to describe the thoughtful approach these attorneys took to help the public understand the hundreds of exceptions and why this SIP did or did not apply to them.

The board took the extraordinary step to try and stop mass evictions by putting in place a rent moratorium so the county would not suffer mass evictions.

**We were one of the first counties to adopt the Great Plates Program. Funded in large part through FEMA, this program was a way to feed our hungry seniors three meals a day as so many were afraid to shop. This program has truly been one of the bright spots of this pandemic. It feeds more than 2,000 of our seniors a day, has 65 restaurants up and running and has pumped \$6 million back into the local economy while keeping restaurant employees working.**

Early on in the crisis, we established a free, county COVID-19 testing process. We have been moving this service around the county in an effort to reach those hard-to-reach, poor residents who might not have access to health care.

The county pivoted overnight and had to figure out how to move the majority of our 7,500 employees out of the worksite

and continue to conduct business from home. There were major innovations along the way that have allowed us to better serve the public through many new resources.

We immediately started planning for our recovery and hired consultants to work on different scenarios in case we were struck by another crisis in the midst of the pandemic. We now have five committees of elected officials and staff working on various parts of our recovery.

The county has spent more than \$150 million on this crisis and will suffer a \$100 million budget deficit next year because of the steep reductions in sales tax. I put a hiring freeze in place in March and have been trying to navigate through this crisis without layoffs.

We have put a whole media campaign together to try and educate folks on COVID-19 and we have an entire team working on effective, daily communications.

While there continues to be a million different decisions that need to be made on a weekly basis by the board of supervisors and the County Manager's Office, we continue to attempt to navigate a situation no one in modern history has faced. To use a baseball analogy, we are likely in the third inning of a nine-inning game and this could go extra innings! But, without a doubt, I couldn't be prouder of the way our supervisors and elected officials have responded to this once-in-a-lifetime crisis. I could not be prouder of our medical staff and first responders who put their lives on the line every day treating those who have been inflicted with this disease. The men and women in my office and in every office at the county have stood tall during this crisis and have never shied away from their responsibilities. Every day, these county ambassadors come to work filled with energy and think of creative ways to deal with the latest problem of the day. Every day brings heartbreak, exhilaration, collaboration and exhaustion.

Every Padre can do his part to help us win this battle—wear face coverings when outside, socially distance yourself and loved ones from others and continue to sanitize your hands. This is a crisis that no one could have fully prepared for, but I assure you we will get through this crisis together and be a better county government and society knowing that we all worked together to defeat this unprecedented pandemic.



# Padres on the Frontlines

Alumni Director Bob Greene '85 reached out to Padres in March and asked them to share photos of themselves during the COVID-19 shelter-in-place. The photos below are just some photos shared of our Padres on the frontlines. Can you guess who's who? (See the legend on the bottom of following page.)



1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



11



17



12



13



15



16



18



19



20



21



22



23



24

## Padres share photos at the start of shelter-in-place



### Did you guess the frontline Padres on the previous page correctly?

(1) Tom Leddy '08, (2) Dan Twomey '97, (3) Jim Moll '68, (4) Jim Davis '82, (5) Joe Azevedo '85, (6) Gavin Woodman '02, (7) Gino Lavezzo '03, Ron Lavezzo '72, Giorgio Lavezzo '05, (8) Kevin Powers '04, (9) Jeff Bacigalupi '93, (10) Arimig Palomar '03, (11) John Maa '86, (12) Brian Philip '92, (13) Pete Lewis '74, (14) Chris Wettstein '04, (15) Tim Houweling '90, (16) Damian Bortolotti '85, (17) Hanna Malak '08, (18) David Peruzzaro '90, Matt Earnshaw '89, (19) Lionel Lucas '87, (20) Jeff Butts (parent of Ethan Butts '19), (21) Jess Roberts '04, (22) Matt Turturici '88, (23) Joe Valiente '02, (24) Stephen Cappa '03





## 1949

DAVID STRONCK is still working as a part-time professor at Cal State University, East Bay. He supervises four student teachers, all high school science teachers. At age 89, David says that he's in good health.



## 1956

JOHN PAQUETT and his wife live in Lake San Marcos, located in the north county region of San Diego. John retired from a 50-year career as a structural engineer. He and his wife have three adult children, nine grandchildren and two great grandchildren. He said, "Life has been very good to us." John enjoys playing golf and staying close to his extended family. He hopes that all grads will be well and stay safe.

## 1957

MICHAEL KOEPF just finished a new novel, available through Amazon, called *Shelter Cove*.



LARRY PENNA and his wife are living in their new home after the Paradise "Camp Fire" swept through their town and took everything they owned in November 2018. At the age of 80, and after 44 years as Paradise residents, Larry and his wife are starting a new life.

## 1958

PAUL KEMPER just turned 80 and shared "I am still rocking out—well, at least playing oldies with my band The Shenandoahs!"



## 1962

ROBERT BOZZOLO is enjoying retirement in Sacramento.

## 1963

CHARLES WATERS and his wife have 14 grandchildren and just welcomed their 13th great-grandchild to the family.

## 1964

BRUCE ADORNATO recently passed his U.S. Coast Guard 50-Ton examination in Sausalito, qualifying him for a Master's License. He is not embarking on a new career, but rather something he has always wanted to do. His partial retirement from his neurology practice has given him time to work on his bucket list.



CURT MIGNACCO and his wife, Sue (Ricci), celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 13.

## 1966

PAUL CRIQUE and his wife, June (Mercy '69), celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on April 11. The celebration was a drive-by celebration. Paul and June are playing it safe and have been working on their backyard. Their oldest grandson graduated from high school in June in an online virtual event.

ALLEN OSTROFE is living part time in San Diego while handling some health issues. Allen sold Ostrofe Financial Consultants, Inc. and is focusing on his kids and grandchildren. He shared that he has pretty much stayed quarantined in his condo, having most things delivered. He asked, "Who ever imagined that going to Mass on television would be a thing?" His prayers are for all to be safe and healthy.



## 1967

JIM HANSEN and his wife are back in their rebuilt home following the Tubbs fire in October 2017. It took two years and eight months for the construction to be completed. Jim is also celebrating the birth of his first granddaughter, who was born in October 2019. His first grandson, Jack, is 12. "Better days ahead; keep the faith, Padres," said Jim.



## 1970

ART COLIN is alive and well and living the lifestyle in sunny Las Vegas. With COVID-19 still raging, his wife and children are still doing well. He is working full time to pay for another daughter going to college, but is really loving his job. Art is on Facebook and encourages his fellow Padres to reach out and get reacquainted after 50 years!



## 1971

WILLIAM AHERN set the date of December 4 to retire from the SFPD after 45 years in law enforcement. He will be moving from Moss Beach to Novato to be closer to his private psychology practice. William is also working on two psychology textbooks to create cultural competency for practitioners when dealing with PTSD with special warfare operators (SEALs and Green Berets). He is looking forward to a trip to Hawaii to renew his wedding vows with his wife and to Surf. Life is good!

## 1972

CHRIS MORASCI has been retired for six years after working eight years in the Air Force, followed by 32 years with Lockheed Martin.

TOM TENGE has four children and six grandchildren. His youngest daughter was all set for her wedding on July 31 at Nestledown in Los Gatos; however, it was canceled due to COVID-19 restrictions. A smaller wedding in Lake Tahoe is planned. Tom is still working and loves living in the Sacramento area. He shared that his father passed away in November, which he said was "tough."

## 1973

COL. JOHN GUMBEL, USMC (retired) commissioned his third son, Cameron, as a 2nd LT in the Marine Corps following Cameron's graduation from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, on May 8. Cameron's brothers Capt. Evan Gumbel, USMC and LTJG Andrew Gumbel, USN, were both deployed and unable to attend the commissioning.



## 1975

STEVEN MAGGI is the executive producer and host of *Vegas Never Sleeps*, a weekly radio series that explores world-class attractions from Las Vegas, including hotels, dining, gaming, attractions, special events and conventions.



## 1976

JOHN WALSH is retired and traveling blue highways.





## 1980

RUBEN BARRALES has been named senior vice president, external relations for Wells Fargo and Co. The new position is based in Washington, D.C. Ruben had previously served in Washington as deputy assistant to the president and director of the White House Office of Intergovernmental Affairs. Ruben was also recently elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), the leadership organization of the nation's more than 6,000 Latino elected and appointed Latino public officials throughout the United States.



MARK HERNANDEZ is an Environmental Engineering Professor at University of Colorado at Boulder, working on COVID-19 disinfection of the built environment. (See page 26 for full story.)



## 1982

LIAM COLLOPY, multi award-winning publicist, has been inducted into the prestigious *Marquis Who's Who* biographical registry. Individuals profiled are selected on the basis of noteworthy accomplishments, visibility, and prominence in their field. An award-winning public relations executive, Liam serves as executive vice president of Harden Communications Partners, LLC, managing the firm's West Coast operations. Previously, he worked for 10 years as the president of Levine Communications Office (LCO PR) in Beverly Hills, a leading entertainment publicity firm which has represented 58 Academy Award winners, 35 Grammy Award winners, and 43 *New York Times* Best Selling authors including such iconic musical artists as Michael Jackson, Prince, David Bowie, Ozzy Osbourne, KISS, Guns 'n' Roses and Barbra Streisand and legendary sports stars Manny Pacquiao, Mike Tyson, Tito Ortiz, Laila Ali and Strikeforce (now Bellator MMA).



ROBERT RUDDEN retired on December 13 from the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office after 30 years of service. The day he finished up at work, Robert and his girlfriend, Roxanne, flew to the Bahamas. Three days later he proposed and Roxanne said, "yes." Robert shared that "Retirement is nice!"



## 1990

RYAN MONAGHAN graduated in December 2019 from the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security. He graduated after completing a rigorous master's degree program in Homeland Security for local, state and federal government employees serving in leadership roles.



## 1991

MIKE TOGNOTTI lives in Santa Barbara with his wife, Audrey, and three children Sofia (17), Charlie (16), and Addy (13). In 2008 Mike founded Raindance Partners, a leading nationwide biotechnology executive recruiting firm. Additionally, in 2016, Mike co-founded VivaHire, a specialized recruiting firm focused on the technology and Internet industries. Mike loves to spend time with his family, surf, golf, and hike the mountains of Santa Barbara.



## 1997

RYAN LEE celebrated his daughter, Avery's, first birthday on July 14.



## 2001

MIKE HANSEN and his wife, Kathryn, celebrated the birth of their first child, Cooper John, on March 18, right after the shelter-in-place began. The future Padre weighed in at 9.1 pounds.



## 2003

MIKE PRESCOTT shared a Padre photo taken at his wedding last August at Zephyr Lodge in Northstar. Pictured (l-r): Chris Lewis '11, Brian Morton '83, Brendan Morton '11, RC Lewis '03, Matt Prescott '90, Mike Prescott '03, Nick Terry '09, Blair Jamieson '03 and Pat Nagle '02.



## 2004

KEVIN POWERS works at the Cal Guard Joint Operations Center as a Battle Staff non-commissioned officer. He serves as the plans chief of Cal Guard's maritime component, where many Northern California service members were mobilized serving as JOC Surge Battle Staff, County Emergency Operations Center Liaison officers, and Medical Strike Team members. Kevin works for the California State Assembly in his civilian job, along with his colleagues who are working night and day to address the challenges that COVID-19 brings to our state.



JOSHUA MARX left his job working as a communication and speech consultant for VIPs, celebrities, and politicians, and was hired by Facebook to manage their leadership development program. He is looking forward to the birth of his baby girl in October.

## 2011

GREG GROGAN wanted to reach out and say that he is working away during this pandemic. Go Padres!



SEAN MCTAGGART completed his chiropractic studies at Palmer College and has completed all state tests. Sean practices at Peak Performance Chiropractic in Menlo Park.



## 2015

GABRIEL CABEZON graduated with a degree in kinesiology from SSU with honors in 2019. He is starting his master's in exercise physiology in the fall.

## 2016

Two Serra Padre alumni took to the basketball court against one another in a college match up between Menlo and Vanguard. JEREMIAH TESTA '16 and MASIE MOHAMMADI '18 battled in a game that saw an 88 to 76 win for Menlo. Serra varsity basketball coaches Chuck Rapp '86 and Brian Carson came out to support their former athletes and posed for a post-game photo.





2016

(cont'd)  
KYLE RAVELO graduated in May from Loyola Marymount University's College of Business Administration with a degree in marketing. He began working this summer for Palisades Media Group's social media team.



2017

NICK GARCIA was drafted in the third round of the 2020 Major League Baseball Draft on July 11. Nick was taken with the 79th pick by the Pittsburgh Pirates. He pitched at Chapman University after graduating from Serra and officially signed with the Pirates on July 1.



DANNY HOLLAND proudly shows off his cousins, future Padres Joey Capwell, Class of 2037 and Jax Capwell, Class of 2035.



**Alumni Track Dinner . . .** It was a night to celebrate the past, present and future of Serra track and field. Alumni gathered for a reunion dinner at Serra on December 21.

2018

REGGIE GREENE was honored by the Association of Collegiate Water Polo Coaches (ACWPC) as he earned All-Academic honors for the 2019-2020 season. Reggie was on the list under the GPA category of Outstanding (4.0–3.71 GPA). He was also one of 73 La Salle Explorer athletes who received a perfect 4.0 GPA this spring. Reggie was the only Explorer water polo player to have a perfect 4.0 GPA for the academic year.



JOIN OUR PADRE ALUMNI NETWORK

Reconnect with Serra through our new alumni network. We've built this platform with features including a complete alumni directory, job boards, invitation-only events, career mentoring, photo galleries and exclusive content from our school. Alumni connections could change your career! Take a look at our alumni map to see if any Padres live in your city or a city you plan to visit.

Are you a Padre? Sign up for an account today!

[alumni.serrahs.com](http://alumni.serrahs.com)

JULIAN MERRYWEATHER '10 MAKES MLB DEBUT

Perseverance, hard work and a spirited determination landed pitcher Julian Merryweather '10 on a Major League mound for the first time in August.

Promoted from the Minor League alternate camp by the Toronto Blue Jays, Merryweather's Major League debut was nearly flawless. He was called on in the fourth inning against the Philadelphia Phillies and proceeded to strike out three hitters, pitching an inning and a third while allowing only a single. He followed that up with a strong second outing two days later pitching two scoreless innings and striking out three.

Merryweather developed into an outstanding full-time pitcher during his varsity seasons at Serra. As a senior, he was dominant with an 8-1 mark and a 3.00 ERA. He spent some time at Skyline Community College before transferring to Oklahoma Baptist University where he excelled.

In two season for the Bisons, Merryweather was 22-5 with an ERA of 1.73 and 208 strikeouts in 182 innings pitched. His success attracted interest from Major League scouts and he was selected in the fifth round by the Cleveland Indians in the 2014 draft.

Merryweather had to overcome much adversity to reach the majors, missing nearly two seasons due to Tommy John surgery. After working his way up through the Indians Minor League system, he was sent to Toronto as the "player to be named later" in a trade involving Josh Donaldson. Merryweather is the 12th Padre alumnus to reach the Major Leagues.



ALUMNI DAY ON THE GREEN

While the best of the PGA Tour were teeing off at San Francisco's Harding Park for the 102nd PGA Championship on August 7, a group of 36 Serra alumni prepared for a tourney of their own at Mariner's Point Golf Course in Foster City. This year's Alumni Par 3 Challenge, coordinated by the Serra Alumni Association, reunited alumni from all decades to compete in a unique Par 3 tournament. The nine-hole, two person best ball format, also encompassed all the social-distancing rules and protocols enforced by county establishments during the pandemic.

According to Alumni Director Bob Greene '85, it was a fun-filled day on the green that brought together Padre alumni and friends. Golfers arrived at 12:30 p.m. and received a box lunch from our friends at Esposto's before teeing off at 1 p.m.

The Esposto's foursome of Gabe '95, Charlie, Bill and Vic '03 won the event with a score of 52 to earn alumni bragging rights, Greene said. There was a tie for second place with the Furukawa/Dees and Peruzzaro/Becker foursomes, each scoring a 56.

Alumnus Armand Kilijian '85 said, "The golf tournament was a great time. It was nice to see some old faces and an opportunity for the Serra community to get together in a socially responsible way."

Fellow Padre Mariano Bermudez '91 agreed. "Golf and hanging out with my Serra Padre brothers is a perfect combination—I had a blast!"

The Alumni Association has scheduled the next golf tournament for October 9. Stay tuned for future alumni events and be sure to sign up to attend. This is a fantastic way to reunite, reconnect and reminisce.

Stay connected at [alumni.serrahs.com](http://alumni.serrahs.com).





REMEMBERING JESSE FREITAS



by John Horgan '60

Jesse Freitas' legacy lives on at Serra High School for his contributions in the classroom and on the football field, where his name is etched proudly on the Freitas Field scoreboard.

The former Serra coaching legend and San Francisco 49ers

quarterback died on May 18, 2020 at his San Diego home at the age of 99.

Freitas was a native of Red Bluff. A quarterback and defensive back, he played football for Santa Clara University in the years after World War II. He later played professionally for the San Francisco 49ers, on their first team, the Chicago Rockets and the Buffalo Bills.

At the time of his passing, Freitas was the oldest living player from the 49ers franchise.

A decorated veteran of the U.S. Army during World War II, Freitas commanded an artillery unit at the decisive Battle of the Bulge. He was awarded a Bronze Star.

After his playing days were over, Freitas became a coaching jack-of-all-trades at Serra early in the 1950s. For several years, he coached football, basketball and baseball. He was also a classroom teacher.

But football was Freitas' specialty. He served Serra High School as head football coach during three separate stints. He also coached at the College of San Mateo for a brief period.

Freitas' teams, which featured an innovative, wide open passing attack at a time when offenses were far more conservative, captured seven Catholic league championships, four in the old CAL and three in the WCAL.

Freitas' 1954 team is the last Serra varsity to go unbeaten at 9-0. Perhaps his finest Serra team was the 1968 version, which included three future pros and produced a 9-1 record, losing only to Vallejo by a single point. His overall record at the school was 102-49-3. Serra's football field is named in his honor.

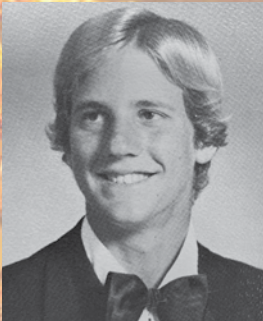


Both of Freitas' sons, James '75 and the late Jesse '69, were outstanding quarterbacks at Serra as well. The latter led the nation in passing as a collegian at San Diego State and played professionally for the San Diego Chargers. James was a standout at Long Beach State. Jesse died in 2015.

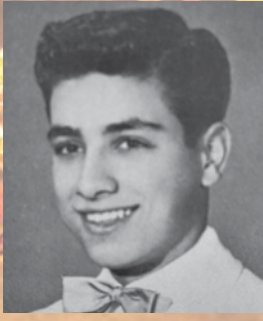
The elder Freitas is survived by his son, James, a daughter, Lynn Nichols, his devoted partner, Mena DeNegro, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



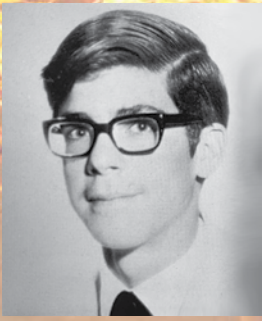
In Memoriam  
ALWAYS PADRES. ALWAYS BROTHERS.



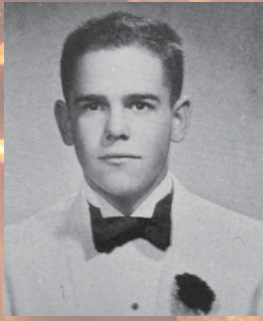
LAURENCE BARATTE '77  
May 31, 2020



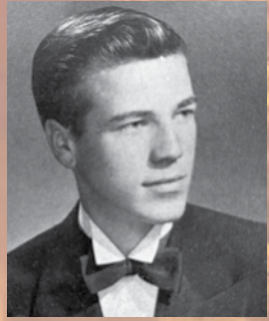
JOHN CARELLA '57  
June 24, 2020



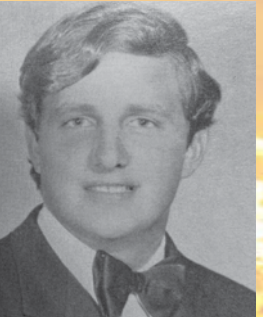
DONALD DE ROSA '70  
February 8, 2020



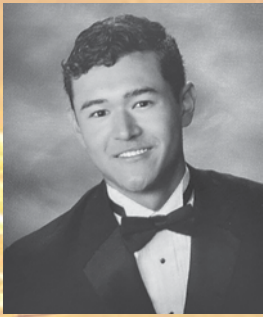
DR. FRANK GRIFFIN '55  
February 20, 2020



PATRICK KELLY '54  
June 14, 2020



MARK KETCHAM '73  
April 10, 2020



KYLE LEVENTHAL '18  
July 5, 2020



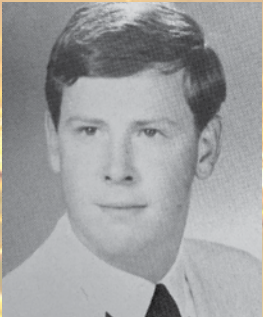
GIL LOESCHER '63  
April 28, 2020



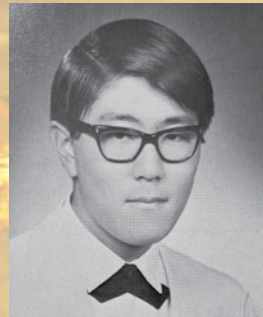
DANIEL LONERAGAN '60  
May 5, 2020



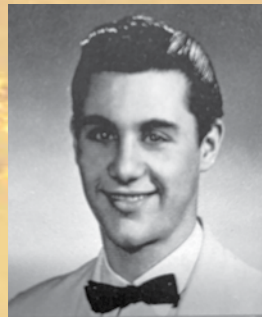
BILL MADDEN '53  
March 12, 2020



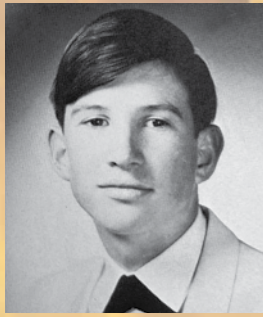
GIL "RORY" O'NEILL '68  
June 4, 2020



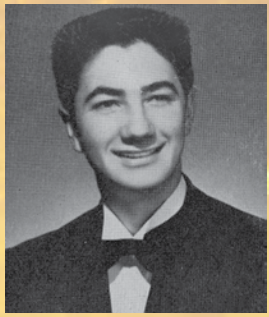
DAN OSHIMA '67  
May 27, 2020



SERAFINO JAMES PRESTA '60  
February 7, 2020



GEORGE TUCK '67  
March 23, 2020



JOSEPH VOGL '53  
June 8, 2020

FRIENDS OF SERRA

ROSE BARCELLONE  
JUNE 9, 2020

JESSE FREITAS  
MAY 18, 2020

ROBERTO "TITO"  
LANDAVERDE  
JUNE 26, 2020

ART ROSENBERG  
APRIL 5, 2020

IRENE BELL  
FEBRUARY 2, 2020

DOROTHY HURLEY  
JULY 20, 2020

DON LARSEN  
APRIL 22, 2020

ELAINE SVENDSEN  
JUNE 23, 2020

MARGARET BOESEN  
JULY 23, 2020

JACK JONES  
MAY 8, 2020

MARTIN LOPEZ  
JULY 10, 2020

KATHLEEN TONEY  
FEBRUARY 19, 2020

REV. BERNIE BRENNAN  
JULY 26, 2020

RON JONES  
JUNE 8, 2020

CONNIE MOLTHEN  
AUGUST 14, 2020

DOLORES CALLAGY  
JULY 4, 2020

BARBARA KMAK  
FEBRUARY 18, 2020





# KYLE LEVENTHAL '18 SCHOLARSHIP

## RAISES MORE THAN \$130,000

The untimely death of Kyle Leventhal '18 on July 5 devastated the Serra community. Kyle was known as a happy, inspirational and motivated student, friend and family member, who would light up the room with his genuine smile.

Kyle, a member of Serra's Class of 2018, went to college at the University of Colorado at Boulder. He was tragically killed in a car accident in Atascadero when the vehicle that he was a passenger in lost control and crashed on U.S. Highway 101.

Fueled by sorrow and a sense of helplessness, Kyle's closest friends and classmates joined forces and created the Kyle Leventhal Scholarship just days after the accident. Spearheaded by 2018 graduates Jack Damelio, Adam Joss, Patrick McGinty and Carter Norton, a fund was formed and shared on numerous social media channels and by word of mouth.

In a matter of weeks, more than 650 donors contributed more than \$120,000 to the Kyle Leventhal Scholarship, a testament to what an incredible person Kyle was. The scholarship continues to climb, with additional donations coming in each day.

News of the tragedy hit far and wide. At one point, Serra alumnus and football great Tom Brady even shared it on social media, Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fadelli said.

"The Padre family is so tight, I'm not surprised that Tom Brady mentioned the scholarship to his many followers, but it was incredible to see contributions pour in after he re-tweeted from across the country—it was an amazing thing to witness," Fadelli said.

During a time of unimaginable sadness, this scholarship helped our grieving community come together in Kyle's spirit, according to Fadelli.

**"Kyle was a true Padre, full of light, leadership, enthusiasm and happiness. He lived every day to the fullest. The outpouring of support for the Leventhal family, his 2018 Serra classmates and his many friends has truly been inspirational," Fadelli said.**

Serra High School is grateful to the friends and family of Kyle, who created this scholarship to memorialize a great young man. Thank you to everyone who has donated to this scholarship, which will help other young men fulfill their dreams of attending Serra High School. His legacy will live on forever.

KYLE LEVENTHAL '18 SCHOLARSHIP  
Donations in Kyle's name can be made through the Serra website at [www.serrahs.com/kyle](http://www.serrahs.com/kyle).



Named after Serra's patron, the Father Serra Heritage Society is a group of generous donors who have designated a gift through their estate plans to Serra High School. Below is a list of our current Father Serra Heritage Society members.

- Mr. and Mrs. Frank Abbott, Jr.  
Mr. Jack Allain '53 †  
Mr. and Mrs. James B. Araujo '61  
Mrs. James N. Ayooob  
Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Bach  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Joseph Bankovitch  
Mrs. Laverne Barrett  
Ms. Anne H. Barrows  
Ms. Nada Barulich  
Mr. and Mrs. Russell Bertetta '67  
Col. and Mrs. Lawrence E. Bielstein, USAF  
Mr. Dennis M. Byrne '55 †  
Rev. Leonard J. Calegari '52 †  
Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Chang  
Capt. Michael R. Condon  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard DeLuna  
Mrs. Nancy C. DeSmedt  
Mr. Ted DeSmedt †  
Mr. and Mrs. Steve A. Difu '60  
Mr. Gerald J. Driscoll '49 †  
Mr. Thomas O. Duffy †
- Mrs. Ellen Einarsson  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Fambrini  
Mrs. Eleanor Figoni †  
Mrs. Pam Frisella  
Mr. and Mrs. James Gogan  
Mr. Robert J. Grassilli '66  
Mr. Fred L. Guibara '58 †  
Guidici Family Trust  
Rev. Stephen H. Howell '63  
Mr. Joseph D. Hurley, Jr. '79 †  
Mr. Gary Isoardi '70  
Mr. and Mrs. James Jordan  
Fr. Jack Kavanaugh  
Rev. James P. Keane  
Mr. Edward E. Keller, Jr. '47 †  
Mrs. Addie Keller †  
Mr. George Keller †  
Ms. Kathy O. Lavezzo  
Mr. and Mrs. Ronald S. Longinotti '72  
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis M. Lucey '58  
Mr. and Mrs. Lars J. Lund
- Mr. and Mrs. Tevis P. Martin '74  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael McGinley  
Mr. Steven and Dr. Lizah McLaughlin  
Mrs. Sally Mellinger  
Mr. Carl J. Moroney '60  
Mr. Leo Nicolini  
Mr. A. James Oakes, Jr. '58  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Peterson  
Mr. Kevin Ragan †  
Mr. Bernard L. Reichmuth '53 †  
Mr. and Mrs. James J. Sherry †  
Mr. Ferencz Sipos †  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Sullivan  
Mr. Ed Taylor  
Mr. and Mrs. Michael G. Verdone  
Mr. Randy Vogel  
Dr. and Mrs. John W. Walsh '56  
Mr. and Mrs. David R. Whitney  
Mrs. Clare C. Willard †

For more information about how you can make a gift to Serra through your estate, please visit our planned giving website pages or contact the Serra Advancement Office at 650.573.9945.

## Endowed Scholarship Funds

Serra's Named Endowed Scholarship Funds exist to honor families and loved ones by supporting Serra's financial aid program in perpetuity. Each year, these funds accrue interest on their principal amounts, and scholarship awards are given to deserving families. We are grateful to the Serra families who have set up these funds and to the scores of alumni, parents and friends who have generously contributed to building them over the years.

Dennis Byrne '55 Endowed Scholarship	Junipero Serra Alumni Association Endowed Scholarship	Gregory Harrison Rosecrans '93 Endowed Scholarship
Class of 1956 Endowed Scholarship	John L. Kavanaugh Endowed Academic Scholarship	Mary and R. Kenneth Stinson Endowed Scholarship
James T. Culligan Endowed Scholarship	Fr. Jack Kavanaugh Endowed Scholarship	Andrew and Taryn Sutton Academic Resource Center Endowed Scholarship
James and Gloria Doherty Endowed Scholarship	Jay Jordan Endowed Scholarship	The Mark and Liz Vorsatz Teacher Development Award
Eleanor Figoni Memorial Endowed Scholarship	George and Adelaide Keller Endowed Scholarship	Vogel Family Endowed Scholarship
Jeff Healy '84 Memorial Endowed Scholarship	Robert '55 and Georgia Kidwell Family Scholarship	Mark L. Vorsatz '72 Endowed Scholarship
Howell-McDermott-Rach Endowed Scholarship	Jim Mellinger '94 Memorial Endowed Scholarship	Fr. Zoph Endowed Scholarship
Howell-Moran Endowed Scholarship	George K. Nagata Memorial Musical Arts Scholarship	
Archbishop Francis T. Hurley Endowed Scholarship	C. Michael Peterson Endowed Scholarship	

If you would like to make a donation to any of the above funds, please contact the Serra Advancement Office at 650.573.9945.



# THE PADRE GIFTIONARY

## A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING



### 2020-21 Giving Dates:

The fiscal year for giving to Serra runs from July 1 to June 30 each year, although gifts are appreciated anytime during the year.

### Parent Pledge Gifts:

We encourage all families to make their gifts by December 31.

(Gifts are accepted until June 30 each year.)

We host several philanthropic opportunities:

**ThanksGIVEday | Fall Appeal:** Thursday, November 19, 2020

**Fund a Dream:** February 27, 2021

**Spring Appeal:** April 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021



## Fund Descriptions

**Unrestricted Funds:** These gifts can be spent where the school believes the need is greatest. Consider this the funding of a particular need.

**Padre Fund Annual Giving:** The Padre Fund is the lifeblood of Serra's fundraising efforts each year. Serra counts on the annual year gift to the Padre Fund from our community, consisting of alumni, parents, grandparents, board members, friends and faculty, to help underwrite the cost of a Serra education. Annual gifts to the Padre Fund serve as Serra's greatest source of unrestricted income, allowing us to enhance curriculum, attract and retain the finest faculty, augment tuition assistance, and sustain the operation and maintenance of the facilities.

"The Padre Fund is the oxygen that allows the school to not only operate but to thrive."

—Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fadelli '88

### Annual Parent Pledge to the Padre Fund:

Since tuition and fees do not cover the overall cost of a Serra education, parents are asked to make an annual tax-deductible donation to the Padre Fund each of the four years they have a son at Serra. Annual gifts from parents to the Padre Fund assure the very best resources for their son. Every gift matters and makes a lasting impact on each Serra student. A high level of participation is just as important as the gift amount and visibly demonstrates the dedication of

the community to the school. Every year, Serra seeks 100 percent participation from the parent community through their generosity to the Parent Pledge for the Padre Fund.

### ThanksGIVEday—A Proud Past . . . Powering our Future:

Each November, the Serra community unites in the spirit of giving on ThanksGIVEday, Serra's own unique 24-hour day of giving. Contributions to ThanksGIVEday are directed to the Padre Fund, which helps to provide innovative programs and campus improvements for current students. While ThanksGIVEday is our alumni-centric annual fall event, it is also a day where parents and the greater Serra community can come together and make a difference. Most important, it provides an opportunity to instill in our students the collective spirit of philanthropy by implementing a 100 percent student participation challenge each year. Friendly class competitions, for current students and alumni alike, make this a fun and memorable one-day way to support Serra and the Padre Fund.

*(Please note: ThanksGIVEday donations are separate from Parent Pledge donations though they both support the Padre Fund.)*

**Restricted Gift Funds:** These gifts can be spent only for a specific purpose designated by a donor such as scholarship support or a particular academic or extracurricular program.

**Fund a Dream Scholarship Benefit:** Each year since 2005, Fund a Dream has helped raise the additional funds necessary to ensure that all qualified applicants who dream of becoming a Serra Padre are afforded that opportunity.

Fund a Dream is a dynamic event that unites Serra's alumni, current and past parents, and friends of Serra to celebrate

the school's proud history and exciting future. This evening dinner social event is held during the spring semester and is a fun-filled evening where keynote speakers have captivated the community with stories about their high school days, career highlights and philanthropic endeavors.

Due to the pandemic, the 2019 Fund a Dream had to be moved from a physical event to a virtual one. The change in platform did not stifle the giving. We raised more than \$430,000 at the 2019 virtual event.

All proceeds from this annual event, generated by donations, cash gifts, table and event sponsorships, support the Tuition Assistance Program. To date, the Fund a Dream event has helped to raise more than \$5 million.

**Endowment Giving:** Endowments are essential assets which serve as a significant source of continual support for Junipero Serra High School and its mission. Each of Serra's endowment funds are separate and distinct from other funds and only the interest earned on these investments are used to fund scholarships.

A gift to Serra's Memorial Endowment Fund can perpetuate the values and ideals that guided a loved one's life. Gifts provide a tribute in memory of a loved one's passing, or may honor a person during his/her lifetime. When a gift is made, his or her name will be entered into the Serra memorial book. The honoree will also be remembered with an acknowledgement card sent to the family. All contributions to the memorial program help fund tuition assistance for deserving families, assuring the continuance of Serra's legacy of inclusiveness and diversity.

**Endowed Scholarships:** Scholarship endowments may be designated as restricted or unrestricted.

**Unrestricted:** Unrestricted endowment funds give Serra a greater amount of flexibility to designate the use of funds toward areas most in need and can apply these to tuition assistance, advancement, maintenance, professional development and other needs.

**Restricted:** Funds can be used for student scholarships with specific criteria (e.g. Serra student with a 3.3 GPA who participates in at least one extracurricular activity and is of good character and citizenship; or simply a performing arts student.)

*A list of Endowed Scholarships can be found on page 47 and also on the Serra website.*

## Additional Ways to Give

**Planned Giving:** Planned giving can be a tax-efficient way to achieve financial and estate planning goals while leaving a lasting legacy at Serra. Planned giving donations can be made through an annuity, insurance policy, real estate, or most commonly, a bequest in a will or living trust. Donors can work with their financial advisers and the school to determine the best type of planned gift to include in their estate planning. Members of this group are referred to as the Father Serra Heritage Society.

**Capital Giving:** To maintain the leading edge of 21st Century learning requires an investment in infrastructure, technology and facilities which cannot be paid for by tuition. While capital gifts are usually for new facilities or major renovations, the term can also apply to endowment gifts as well. They can be unrestricted or designated by the donor for use in support of specific programs, initiatives or building/renovation projects. Gifts to a capital campaign may be requested along with an every year gift to the annual fund—as they are vital to Serra in their own way. The school must continue to meet its operating costs (annual fund gifts) even as it expands and makes major improvements (capital gifts).

**Gifts in Kind:** In-kind donations to Serra are greatly valued and appreciated. These gifts are defined as non-cash items such as supplies, computers, printing services, food and beverage for fundraising events, prizes for raffles, silent or live auctions that are transferred from the donor to Serra without compensation or consideration in return. In keeping with IRS regulations, these special gifts are tax deductible. Donors have the privilege and responsibility in determining the dollar value of in-kind donations and should consult with their tax advisors regarding valuation of their gift for tax purposes.

### Ready to donate now?

Visit [www.serrahs.com/padrefund](http://www.serrahs.com/padrefund) to make your contribution today!

Please contact Chief Advancement Officer Mike Fadelli '88 for additional details.





451 WEST 20TH AVENUE  
SAN MATEO, CA 94403  
650.573.9935 P  
650.345.6202 F  
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED  
WWW.SERRAHS.COM

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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SAN MATEO, CA  
PERMIT NO. 180

# UPCOMING EVENTS



MEMBERSHIP IN THE PADRE ALUMNI  
NETWORK IS ALL ABOUT PRIDE . . .

## PADRE PRIDE

JOIN TODAY!  
[alumni.serrahs.com](http://alumni.serrahs.com)

### OCTOBER 2020

VIRTUAL INFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
SERRA ADMISSIONS (ONGOING)

### NOVEMBER 2020

VIRTUAL INFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
SERRA ADMISSIONS (ONGOING)

TBD FALL PLAY  
THU. 19 THANKSGIVING DAY  
(ANNUAL DAY OF GIVING)

### DECEMBER 2020

VIRTUAL INFORMATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES  
SERRA ADMISSIONS (ONGOING)

TUE. 1 PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE RECEPTION

### FEBRUARY 2021

FRI. 12 50-YEAR CLUB LUNCHEON

### MARCH 2021

FRI. 5 HOMECOMING NIGHT FOOTBALL  
GAME  
TBD ALUMNI FATHER-SON MASS

*Due to COVID-19 restrictions, dates are subject to change.*

*Siempre Adelante  
Always Forward*