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EXPANDING
HORIZONS

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The O'Dowd
Annual Fund

EXPANDING HORIZONS

Your Gift Helps Students Grow

Every day, students at O'Dowd are gaining new knowledge, mastering academic, artistic, and athletics skills, and discovering how to make our shared values come alive. Every year, our graduates leave O'Dowd prepared to take on the challenge of college, to pursue their gifts and dreams, and to bring joy, justice, and excellence to every community they serve.



Thank you for making O'Dowd a place where all students thrive.

Make your gift today at www.bishopodowd.org/dmg

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WRITE US!

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Charism

Finding God in all things calls us to:

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

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EVER EXPANDING: THE FUTURE OF O'DOWD

As we finish our second full school year within the pandemic, I'm proud of how we've cared for our community, protected each other, and found our stride in the new normal. It's been a time of tremendous growth and change, and in this issue we celebrate all the ways that O'Dowd continues to be a pioneer in Catholic education, leading the charge to create a more just, joyful and sustainable world.

Our theme is *Expanding Horizons* because as a community, and as an institution, O'Dowd is always evolving. We support students to discover their strengths and act in service to their communities. Our faculty and staff design cutting-edge curriculum and programs that equip students to succeed in college and beyond, while playing a pivotal role in shaping Catholic education across the globe. We invest in enhancing and modernizing our campus to ensure that our students, faculty, and staff have the environment they need to excel. In all ways, we are ever expanding, looking towards the future with faith.

In light of our commitment to growth, I am especially pleased to share that our Board of Regents has just approved the launch of a significant teacher compensation initiative, which not only honors the profound learning experiences our exceptional faculty create for our students, but also establishes O'Dowd as a competitive institution for attracting and retaining the teachers who are the lifeblood of the school.

And as we reflect on the key institutional strengths highlighted in this issue, I want to thank our outstanding Board of Regents. Through the years, these dedicated parents, alumni, and civic leaders, both past and present, have provided critical financial and strategic oversight for our school, always through the lens of our Charism values. Our past Board members brought O'Dowd to where we are today, and our current members are devoted to continuing to expand O'Dowd's horizons. We are incredibly grateful for each member of our community who has stepped into this leadership role for our school.

Finally, I want to thank all the members of our extended community—students, parents and grandparents, alumni and their families, our faculty and staff, and all the many friends of O'Dowd. Because of your commitment and investment in O'Dowd, we will continue to grow and change in the years to come. We will continue to be a transformational place where students and families, faculty and staff, carve out exciting new paths, and make ever greater contributions to our community and our world.

I look forward to continuing on the journey with you all,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Childs'. The signature is fluid and cursive, written on a white background.

J. D. Childs
President, Bishop O'Dowd High School



THE O'DOWD CENTER

A NEW HOME FOR PERFORMING ARTS, ATHLETICS & COMMUNITY



GRAND OPENING!

August 28, 2022 | 3:00 - 6:00pm

We invite you to join us at this joyous and energetic event, celebrating the grand opening of the new O'Dowd Center.

RSVP AT 





ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE: O'DOWD'S INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS CENTER ON STUDENT GROWTH

As a college preparatory high school, academic excellence is the cornerstone of O'Dowd. "For us, academic excellence is firmly rooted in the Catholic educational philosophy of *formation*," says President J.D. Childs. "We believe that every student comes to our community endowed with their unique gifts, talents, and story. Our role as educators is to draw from within what the student already has inside."

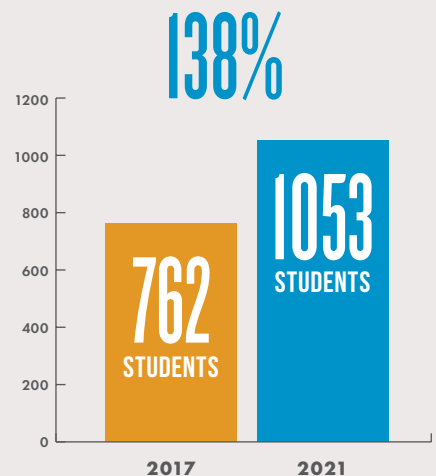


In that vein, academic excellence is not only about what students learn. It's about *who they become* — how they take what they learn and make it a gift to the world. "At O'Dowd, the purpose of education is to nurture students in discovering and unlocking their potential," Childs continues. "Then they engage their learning to serve our community and the greater world."

O'Dowd's commitment to academic excellence has led the school to both expand offerings for Advanced

Placement (AP), and ensure that incoming students build the strong foundational skills they need to pursue those opportunities. Over the last five years, the number of O'Dowd students taking AP courses has increased by 138%, from 762 students in 2017 to 1053 students in 2021. "We've seen our Department Chairs intentionally broaden AP preparedness and access to great success," reports Childs. "The ultimate goal is to spark student curiosity, connect them to their values, and create pathways for Dragons to excel in college and beyond."

OVER THE LAST FIVE YEARS,
THE NUMBER OF O'DOWD STUDENTS
TAKING AP COURSES HAS INCREASED BY



STRENGTH OF CHARACTER: THE 9TH GRADE ENGLISH JOURNEY

“This coming fall, O’Dowd’s English Department is introducing an enhanced 9th grade curriculum designed around our Charism value *strength of character*,” says Damian Barnes, Chair of the English Department. “Our students will grapple together with thought-provoking texts that all essentially ask one question: how do I stand up for what I believe?”

The course focuses on honing strong writing and critical thinking skills while making O’Dowd’s community values come alive in an exciting way. “Through literature, our students examine characters who undergo various forms of social pressure,” Barnes explains. “They watch those characters make poor choices and face tragic consequences. And they write reflective essays examining what drove their characters to act.”

In English 1, O’Dowd students get excited about literature and prepared to push themselves academically. “We’re laying the academic groundwork for students to move on to AP Language and Composition as juniors, and ideally AP Literature as seniors,” notes Barnes. Both courses give students a head start for college, and over the last five years the English Department has increased the number of Advanced Placement students from under 40 to over 120 a year, a gain of 300%.

English 1 at O’Dowd takes students on a journey of self-discovery. Through literature, they examine their lives, articulate their values, and explore what it means to be true to themselves. “We want English to be a joyful and rewarding experience,” declares Barnes. “Beyond making sure that our students succeed in college, we’re building lifelong readers, writers, and thinkers.”

Opposite: Sarah Firestone ’13 teaches trigonometry. **Above:** English teacher Ricca Sarmiento (center) discussing *The Great Gatsby* with students. **Right:** Damian Barnes, English Department Chair, explains ‘The Hero’s Journey’ to students.



“When I came to O’Dowd, I wasn’t much of a reader. But the passion our teachers brought to class was contagious, and the way we got to connect literature to our own experiences made me love reading. I’m a peer tutor in English now, and I’m hoping to go into environmental or political journalism.”

—ELLA ANDREWS, 12th Grade



FALL

- Short Stories
- *The Alchemist*, Paulo Coelho
- *Inherit the Wind*, Jerome Lawrence and Robert E. Lee

SPRING

- Shakespeare’s *Romeo and Juliet*
- *Of Mice and Men*, John Steinbeck
- *A Raisin in the Sun*, Lorraine Hansberry



DYNAMIC FUTURES IN MATH: MOVING STUDENTS AHEAD OF THE CURVE

“There’s a problem with how we teach math in the United States,” explains Carlos Trujillo, Chair of O’Dowd’s Math Department. “The standard course sequence dates back to the Industrial Revolution. It’s not setting students up to master the skills they need to succeed in today’s world.”

In an effort to accelerate student access to upper level courses like Pre Calculus and Finite Math, the Department made a decision in 2018 to eliminate the more basic Algebra 2 for 10th grade, instead offering the upleveled Algebra 2 Trigonometry to all students. “By shifting every student into this more advanced class, we opened the gates for them to engage earlier in college prep courses that lean more towards their interests, whether that’s traditional STEM, business, or social entrepreneurship,” says Trujillo. Along those lines, the Department also added AP Computer Science Principles in 2016. “We’ve seen that course jump from 24 students in 2016, to 100 students this year,” Trujillo reports.

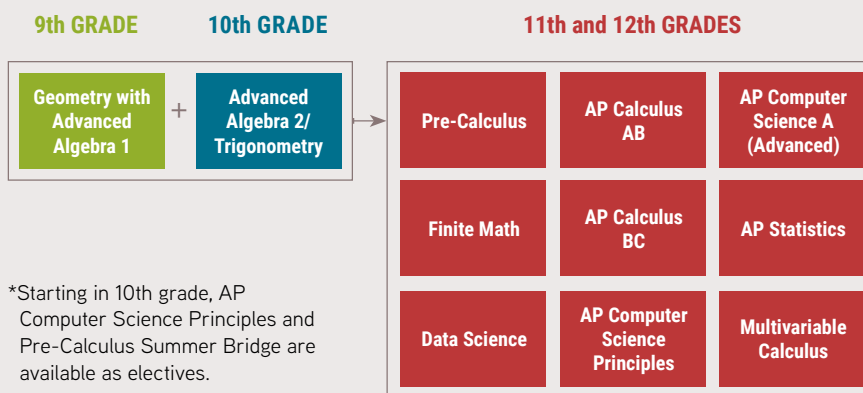
The Math Department has also intentionally modernized its teaching methods, transitioning the classroom to a “flipped model” where students might watch a teaching video the night before class to preview the concepts, and then come to class prepared to practice. “One of the most necessary skills in today’s world is collaboration,” Trujillo notes. “We’re supporting students to work in groups and attack a problem together. We want classes to be spaces of active learning, instead of passively taking lecture notes. And we’ve found that students master and own the material much more deeply through this model.”



Last year, in accordance with leading-edge research from the Stanford Graduate School of Education, The University of Chicago, and a growing cadre of mathematicians, data scientists, teachers, and education policy leaders, O’Dowd’s Math

As it stands now, most U.S. math students learn a sequence of Algebra 1 (one year), Geometry (one year), Algebra 2 (one year). “This math track is like learning to play piano one year, switching to cello for another year, then going back to piano as though you

Sequence and Course Offerings*



Department developed a new two-year geometry, algebra, and trigonometry sequence — an innovative course remodel designed to prepare students to be problem solvers in today’s tech and data economy.

never stopped practicing,” Trujillo says. First, the sequence doesn’t support a true command of fundamental math concepts. “It’s how students get frustrated with math,” Trujillo notes. Second, this sequence usually doesn’t



create enough time for students to take multiple upper division courses, like Data Science and Multivariable Calculus. “These are the courses that have a big payoff for students,” Trujillo explains. “They start solving real world problems, thinking creatively, *and* strengthening their college applications.”

O’Dowd’s two-year math sequence eliminates the gap in learning algebra. “Our goal is that every student comes out mastering the concepts,” Trujillo states. “We don’t want students who just know how to do the mechanics. We want them to gain the technical vocabulary, notational fluency, the analytical skills, and the conceptual thinking that matter for problem solving. It’s like an exponential function. Our student’s mastery will compound and accelerate over four years and put them at an advantage when it comes to pursuing STEM careers.”

The shift also opens the pathways for all students to take AP Calculus by their junior or senior year — something less than 10 percent of students were previously able to achieve.

O’Dowd’s move to modernize the Math Department is already ahead of the curve. Last year, the University of California and the California State Universities made changes to accept courses in data science as equivalent to Algebra 2, pointing towards the relevance of data science to analyze and tackle social problems, from climate change to crime. Other elite colleges may follow soon.

“Our Math Department is reading the economic landscape and leading innovation,” declares O’Dowd Board member and alumna **Melinda Eisenhut-Dunn ’74**. As the former CFO of Sequoia Capital, a \$20B global investment firm, Melinda knows how important it is for education to expose young people to disciplines that connect to our emerging marketplace. “O’Dowd is looking ahead,” she says. “We’re equipping our graduates to become leaders in the next generation of our society.”

Opposite: Carlos Trujillo, Math Department Chair, teaches AP Calculus. *Above:* AP Calculus students preparing for finals together.

“I took AP Calculus and AP Computer Science Principles in 11th grade. O’Dowd’s math teachers don’t just explain concepts like the quotient derivative rule, they support us to develop a growth mindset. Through math, I’ve learned that brains and talent are a good starting point, but it takes hard work and dedication to succeed. Teachers like Mr. Trujillo have given me confidence to meet any challenge - in an equation or in life.”

—DIEGO WHITEHILL, 12th Grade



STUDENT VOICE: THE BEAUTY OF MATH

Every fall, O'Dowd's Counseling Department prepares roughly 300 seniors in applying to college. "We encourage students to focus on colleges that are *the best fit for them...* not just the best colleges," explains Fran Warmerdam, O'Dowd's Director of Counseling for the last 36 years. "Find your passion and follow it," she advises.

The following college application essay is by **Hannah Elenteny '22**. Hannah has taken AP Calculus BC, AP Statistics, Multivariable Calculus, and AP Physics and maintained a weighted GPA of 4.36. She plans to major in Chemical Engineering.

There is an austere, icy beauty to pure mathematics. This beauty is evident in the elegant derivation of Euler's formula using the Maclaurin series, and in the aesthetics of a clean, neat proof.

But math can be messy, too, and that is fine – and fun. Teaching math to my peers in my school's academic support center, I run back and forth excitedly and scrawl all over a whiteboard with multiple shades of dry erase markers. While I try to explain how to find implicit derivatives, I receive some flat requests like, "Hannah, please just give me the answer."

I always reply with a smile, "I'll show you how to get yourself the answer."

Confidence is key. Knowing yourself to be capable of doing math is the remedy to Math Hatred Syndrome, in my opinion. This is what I try to impart in our lunchtime peer tutoring lessons.

I tell people, "Math is beautiful because it is logical. Math doesn't sometimes work; it always works." But even if I can't make my personal passion for math contagious, I can help my fellow students to feel good about their success in preparing for a quiz.

By the end of our calculus tutoring sessions, I usually hear my peers exhale in relief: "I finally understand..."

I see math as an amazing tool. And even when I am deep in the weeds working out the binormal vector and curvature of a particularly crunchy vector problem, the math still works. Even when I can't immediately see where the problem will go, I know that if I take the derivatives and find the cross-product correctly, I will get the solution. This truth also translates to life, and to my view of the world: I can't immediately visualize where I will end up, but I know I will end up where I need to be.

I fully admit to being a math nerd. For fun, I have silently worked out a strategy for extrapolating three-digit potential primes from more accessible two-digit prime patterns. Indeed, I am always up for an impromptu prime number challenge, and I'm intrigued by the current lack of a definite pattern to primes.

My enthusiasm for seemingly impractical calculations is mystifying to my mother, who works as a hairdresser, and to my grandmother, who raised six children; however, they have always been happy to listen to descriptions of parabolas, factoring, and multi-variable word problems on car rides home from school. Even after my attention has shifted away from the dream of becoming a human calculator, my family still indulges my desire to share the ideas hopscotching throughout my brain.

Each of us has our own interests – my grandmother crochets; my mother attends Bible study; my twin sister bakes; I visualize math problems.

The way I see it, the pattern of math is a reminder of its ubiquity in life. From fractals and the Fibonacci sequence in the heads of sunflowers to the logarithmic spiral of seashells to the Golden spiral in the arms of galaxies, math is everywhere in our natural world. Whether it is chaos theory or the Golden angle, which aligns perfectly with Fermat's spiral, math is a logical glimpse into the ineffability of the universe.

Math delights me – but showing others why math is wonderful also has an intoxicating effect. And I am certain that math is not meant to only be thought about in a math classroom: it is all around us. Even on Twitter, I saw a tweet that read, "Mathematically speaking, you could be scared half to death an infinite number of times," and I laughed. This immediately reminded me of limits and half-life: math and chemistry, my two favorite subjects!

Math \ni proof
proof \ni truth
truth \ni beauty (John Keats)
life = beauty
 \therefore math is central to life ■ (Q.E.D.)

ENVIRONMENTAL LITERACY: O'DOWD'S "KINSHIP WITH CREATION" CURRICULUM INSPIRES CATHOLIC EDUCATORS AROUND THE WORLD

Droughts, heat waves, wildfires, tropical storms and hurricanes, rising oceans and shrinking Arctic ice caps. These climate change catastrophes continue to devastate communities. Their effects are inescapable.



“Environmental education should facilitate making the leap towards the transcendent which gives ecological ethics its deepest meaning. It needs educators capable of developing an ethics of ecology, and helping people, through effective pedagogy, to grow in solidarity, responsibility, and compassionate care.”

— Pope Francis, *Laudato Si*

O'Dowd has been at the forefront of environmental education and activism since the sixties, when we introduced our first Environmental Studies course. In 1970, students founded the Ecology Club, and hosted O'Dowd's very first Earth Day celebration. The school's deep commitment to our Charism value of *kinship with creation* ultimately led to the development of both our 4-acre Living Lab and LEED Platinum Certified Center for Environmental Studies, which work in tandem to offer students a pioneering education in ecology, environmental science, and environmental justice. Today O'Dowd holds the distinct accolade of being the first Catholic school to earn the highest-level honor — “Green Achiever” — from the California Department of

Education. And now we are taking our leadership further.

“Because of O'Dowd's innovative approach to environmental education, we are participating in the California Catholic Conference's (CCC) Committee on Environmental Stewardship — the only school to be asked,” reports Michael Downs, O'Dowd's Director of Kinship and Justice, and the sole educator at the table. “Inspired by O'Dowd's leadership, the committee has developed an environmental justice curriculum model for Catholic elementary, middle and high schools across the state,” he continues. “And we're also designing a first-of-its-kind Catholic environmental literacy hub, which will host hundreds of lesson

plans and opportunities for community partnerships, free for educators and students across the state.”

Downs, alongside O'Dowd's Creation Care Team and O'Dowd senior EcoLeaders, have been thoughtfully framing O'Dowd's celebrated Kinship with Creation curriculum in alignment with Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si*. “*Laudato Si* calls us very clearly to care for our common home,” explains Downs “It's our responsibility, our mandate, to take action against climate change.”

Top: Michael Downs, Director of Kinship and Creation, working with O'Dowd EcoLeaders **Zorah Chappel '22** (middle) and **Meilin Nelson '22** (right) in the Living Lab.



When 9th graders begin their education at O'Dowd, our Charism value of *kinship with creation* is woven through the math, science, religion, and service learning courses. It grows from there. In partnership with over a dozen environmental agencies and nonprofits, O'Dowd students have participated in a range of projects, from cleaning up local parks and watersheds, to growing take-home gardening kits for low-income families. Students harvest fruits, herbs, vegetables, and fresh laid eggs from our Living Lab to be used in the school's cafeteria meals. "We send students to Appalachia to learn about the effects of the coal industry," Downs describes. "And then we sent students to Washington D.C. to advocate for environmental justice." The point is to create a holistic education model where students learn in the classroom and take action in the world. "That's how we're going to make an impact," Downs asserts. "Our vision with the California Catholic Conference is to educate all California students in an integrated approach that protects nature, combats poverty, and restores dignity to marginalized communities."

In a parallel effort, Downs is also a member of the Vatican's Laudato Si

Action Platform Working Committee on Educational Institutions, which is tasked with empowering Catholic schools around the world to implement the call of Laudato Si. "It's an invitation for these institutions to begin their journey towards total sustainability," Downs describes. When the Action Platform launched in November, O'Dowd was one of the first high schools in the country to sign on. "So far I've presented to 130 teachers and 40 administrators in the Diocese of Oakland, as well as Dioceses across the state," Downs reports. "It's been a great opportunity to share how other schools can learn from O'Dowd's model." And while Downs sees that many institutions are daunted and overwhelmed with how far they need to go, he also sees a growing desire for connection and collaboration. "The spirit is moving," he says. "Students everywhere are hungry for educators to catch up. And to have the whole of the Catholic Church moving in this direction is really, really powerful."

In addition to his leadership with the California Catholic Conference and the Laudato Si Action Platform, Downs also contributes to the National Catholic Reporter and the National Catholic

Education Association on issues of environmental literacy. At the Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice, which is the largest Catholic social justice gathering of the year, Downs and O'Dowd students are presenters.

"I fully took Laudato Si to heart," Downs proclaims. "There was a vocational upwelling when I read it. It was one of the few moments in my life when I truly knew what I was called to do — to work at the intersection of ecology, spirituality, and justice."

Today, Downs sees school campuses as laboratories for climate resiliency. "We need a radical mindset shift," he declares. "The model we've developed at O'Dowd, it has the power to scale, it has the power to inspire. We're creating hope, and that has a ripple effect. We can affect people's hearts and minds, and ultimately protect our common home."

Above left: O'Dowd's 2021-2022 EcoLeaders. *Above top:* O'Dowd Creation Care Team, *left to right:* Michael Downs, Otis Johnson, Anton Brammer, Patrick Cody-Carrese, Isabel Rodriguez-Vega, Annie Prutzman, and Devra Laner. *Bottom:* Isabel Rodriguez-Vega, Sustainability Programs Manager, caring for plants in the Living Lab greenhouse with EcoLeader **Hannah Rivera '22**.

*“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”*

—MATTHEW 5:3

STUDENT VOICE: ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN EL SALVADOR

The Catholic social tradition is central to Catholic faith. This tradition calls us to stand in solidarity with people who have been marginalized, to honor and respect the dignity of all. O’Dowd’s service learning curriculum is grounded in Catholic social tradition and spans all four years. The unique projects (one for each grade level) invite students to meet real needs in our local communities, building relationships that transform themselves and others. The following service learning reflection is from **Gabby Mira ’22**. It has been edited for length.

My father is originally from El Salvador, and although I wasn’t born there, I see it as a second home. Ever since I was little, I have gone to visit at least twice a year. El Salvador is a beautiful country with great weather, lovely beaches, delicious food, and amazing people. But unfortunately, whenever I visit I notice that there is a lot of trash almost everywhere I go, and very little recycling.

Unfortunately, the problem with trash in El Salvador is so big that one who even wishes to address this problem may feel defeated before they even start. This is why I came up with my pilot project, Reciclalo. My idea was to beautify communities in El Salvador by partnering with businesses to implement a recycling program inside of their facilities. Reciclalo provides guidelines, training, and supplies. This in turn provides a clean environment, benefits businesses, gives civic pride to the community, and educates marginalized groups on the importance of clean up and recycling. My objective was to build an educational program that the local community can build and grow over time.

In order to begin my project, I had to formulate and pitch my idea to Rebecca Parker, the head of Asociación Escalón, a non-profit organization that works to improve the neighborhood and conditions of people and businesses in El Salvador. She agreed, and put me in touch with Andrea Osorio, an environmental toxicologist who investigates the impact that toxic materials have on the environment. With her guidance, I was able to further educate myself on environmental issues in

El Salvador. I also received training on how to lead recycling workshops via Zoom, that I would later be hosting and presenting to businesses.

The first business that I worked with was a tech office called Web Informática and a member of Asociación Escalón. The owner gave me permission to observe their facilities and see what their recycling system was like. I was shocked to find out that they didn’t have one; all their trash went into the same bin. For the next week, I worked with him and his employees, providing them with training about recycling, how it affects the environment, and what materials go into specific bins: Trash, Compost, and Recycling. At the end, I gave them a sign of certification that they could hang outside their building saying that they are recycling, gaining good will and name recognition.

The second business that I worked with was a restaurant called Onili, another member of Asociación Escalón. Since Onili is a restaurant, they produce a lot more waste, and the employees move at a quicker pace. This was something that I had to take into account when providing their employees with training, trash bins, and certification.

A second part of my project is “Adopta Una Cuadra” which translates to adopt a block. This was inspired by the Adopt a Highway model, where businesses take responsibility for cleaning up the streets outside and nearby their facilities. Both the managers of Onili and Web Informática participated

through a program which encourages businesses to hire locals from marginalized communities.

Lastly, I created a website to allow local businesses in El Salvador to more easily connect with Reciclalo and Asociación Escalón, keeping their block clean and recycling. The website is www.reciclalosv.com/reciclalo-en/.

Through Reciclalo, I have been able to build my knowledge on environmental justice. I learned that this is an issue in El Salvador that is a lot deeper than recycling. It’s about awareness and education. It’s also about class and structure of society. I hope that by starting to clean one block or business at a time, it could eventually lead to cleaning and educating the entire country.

When we care for God’s Creation, we are called to protect people and the planet. Reciclalo is a perfect representation of this Catholic social teaching because I worked to better protect the environment through education and recycling.

Solidarity is about recognizing others as our brothers and sisters no matter our differences, and working together for justice and dignity. With Reciclalo, I was able to work in solidarity with members of these businesses to reach a common goal, despite the language and culture barrier. It’s not like I was doing something for them, I was doing it with them, so that we could grow and prosper together.

Above: **Gabby Mira ’22**. Gabby and the owner of Web Informática sign a recycling agreement.





A MAGICAL SPACE: O'DOWD'S NEW BLACK BOX THEATER

When the new O'Dowd Center opens its doors in August 2022, it will reflect an unprecedented achievement for the entire O'Dowd community.

Above: Under Construction! Our new Black Box Theater, a 2,000-square-foot room, is a virtual tabula rasa for the artistic imagination. **Opposite:** Alex Cuthbertson '98 reviews the day's shooting pages on the set of *New Girl*; Drama students practice character development through improvisation.

Raising over \$40 million from more than 1,000 donors, this stunning multi-purpose facility will serve every one of our students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Across a broad range of academic, performance and athletic interests, the O'Dowd Center is a place for our entire student body to grow, to learn, and engage.

One important example of the O'Dowd Center's impact on the school's mission of "whole person education" is the state-of-the-art black box theater, housed on the second floor of the new building. With this feature, O'Dowd's performing arts program is poised to build on its rich history, providing space for intimate theater and dance performances, rehearsals, and creative collaboration.

ART IS ESSENTIAL TO THE HUMAN EXPERIENCE

The strength of our arts programs enhances our academic excellence and competitive athletics, enabling students to perform in full-scale musicals, plays, and ensembles. Such arts engagement is one reason that many talented students are drawn to our school.

Each year, more than 200 students participate in drama, and O'Dowd produces at least two major productions, as well as

smaller performances. Beyond performing, students learn production work such as lighting, sound, costumes, props, make-up, and stage management.

“O’Dowd was the first place I learned to improvise, which is an important skill for me as a TV writer because, unlike film screenwriters, we sit around in a room with other writers, bouncing ideas off each other. My experience with drama at O’Dowd changed my trajectory, for sure.”

—Alex Cuthbertson '98, writer and producer on *New Girl*, *Community*, *American Dad*, and *Single Parents*. Show-runner for *Fraggle Rock* reboot.

Performing arts create the space and opportunity for students to express themselves, to be seen and applauded for their achievements. Studies by the Brookings Institution confirm that engaging with art is essential to the human experience. The arts challenge us to explore different perspectives, encourage us to empathize with others, and inspire us to reflect on the human condition.



THE BEAUTY OF AN EMPTY SLATE

Now that opportunity for expression will be deepened even further. “To enter a theater is to be inducted into a magical space, to be ushered into the sacred arena of the imagination,” the British actor Simon Callow has said. The versatile new black box theater will be such a “magical space.” Its potential for testing new forms of performance is one advantage that excites O’Dowd’s Director of Dramatic Arts, Ashkon Davaran. “This space will have the intimacy of a classroom while also being a highly adaptable performance space,” he says. “Black box theaters are great for experimental projects and provide a more intimate experience for the audience.”

Alex Cuthbertson '98 agrees. “These venues encourage the idea of just getting up on stage and saying, ‘I don’t know what this is, but let’s find it—let’s find the character, let’s find the situation, let’s find the conflict, let’s find all of it,’” he says.

According to Kevin Hart, who led design on the O’Dowd Center with Studio Bondy Architecture, the theater’s value lies in its flexibility—it’s a virtual tabula rasa for the artistic imagination. The 2,000-square-foot room has a 20-foot ceiling with a pipe grid suspended 16 feet above the floor. This feature means that lighting, curtains, speakers, and scenery can be hung in any formation, allowing unlimited possibilities for set design. The



“There is that smaller world which is the stage, and that larger stage which is the world.”

—Isaac Goldberg, journalist and author

sprung wood floor absorbs shocks, reducing dance injuries and enhancing performance. A projection screen, whiteboard, and wall of full-length mirrors will make it the ideal classroom for performing arts students.

O’Dowd drama teacher Trina “MizzO” Oliver is also looking forward to the vastly increased capabilities of the new space, enabling a much broader range of projects. “It will open up the potential to add smaller, student-written and directed plays, as well as dance, theater sports, and performance art pieces,” she says. “Works that are timeless, thought-provoking, and relate to the psychology of being human. Shows that recognize, check, and question our humanity.”





THEATER SKILLS ARE LIFE SKILLS

“One of the first and most important lessons I learned is that my growth as an actor and performer can only come with my growth as a person,” says current junior **Ethan Lupoff '23**. “I’ve learned so much about myself within the drama department, and that’s helped me to develop as an actor and performer.”

At O’Dowd, we recognize that the arts cater to different styles of learning, uniquely engaging students in intellectual growth apart from standard academics. In particular, drama can have a positive effect on neurodiverse students with diagnosed learning disabilities. Other learned skills include self-discipline, time management, teamwork and cooperation, and a broadened capacity to think beyond norms and experiment with new ideas. Theater and music skills, it turns out, are also great life skills. Strengthening this program is another way that O’Dowd seeks to invest in its diverse and multifaceted student community.

“The directors and teachers within the drama department make every person feel like they’re worth something,” says **Anna Challberg '23**. “Teachers like MizzO have built up my confidence and the drama department has taught me that if I work hard enough, I can succeed.”

Engagement with the arts not only improves our personal well-being, but it gives meaning to our lives. The arts can also unify our communities and help us to better understand other cultures. In that way, it’s a manifestation of our Charism.

“The drama department overflows with the kind of people who will say ‘hi’ to you in the hallway, even if you’ve only met them once,” says Anna. “That kindness has changed my life and my entire experience at O’Dowd.”

The black box theater is just one feature of the coming Center that demonstrates O’Dowd’s commitment to educating the whole person, offering students unlimited opportunities to develop their unique interests and talents. Join us as the curtain rises this fall on an exciting new act in our performing arts program.

Above left: Students practice Fosse choreography for their spring *Chicago* show. **Above right:** Performing Arts Director Ashkon Davaran works on a scene with **Vince Iniguez Howell '25** in Performing Arts 1. **Opposite:** O’Dowd’s new black box theater offers unlimited possibilities for set design.

CELEBRATING O'DOWD'S FRANK LAPORTE GYM

A.K.A. "THE LARGE GYM"

AS OUR COMMUNITY TRADITIONS MOVE TO THE NEW O'DOWD CENTER, WE HONOR THE LEGACY OF THE FRANK LAPORTE GYM.

This coming fall, O'Dowd will unveil its new, state-of-the-art, 38,000 square foot Center. And at the heart of the building is an NBA regulation gymnasium that nearly doubles the size of O'Dowd's current gym, and triples the seating capacity. With an advanced digital scoreboard, a controlled daylight system, and a beautiful stained glass backdrop, the new gym will be a gathering place for Mass, rallies, community events, and of course, athletic competition. "This expansive, modern gym will allow our community to come together in all the ways that matter most," says President J.D. Childs. "Our traditions will have a new home to grow."

O'Dowd's Frank LaPorte Gym, referred to on campus as simply "the large gym," and historically known as "the boys gym," was built in 1953. Over the last 69 years, the Frank LaPorte Gym has held championship basketball games, live concerts, annual Crab Feeds, spirit rallies to remember, and inspiring Mass celebrations. When the O'Dowd Center opens, the Frank LaPorte Gym will still be used for training and practice, but O'Dowd's competitive sports, worship, and community traditions will move to the new gym.

The following memories from our coaches, chaplains, teachers, and alumni honor just how important the Frank LaPorte Gym has been to the life and community of O'Dowd. And we look forward to the new memories we'll continue to build together when the new gym opens.



"I remember being in the cage, yelling for hours, during my first night rally. I was next to all my friends, having the time of my life, and I just realized: I'm exactly where I'm supposed to be. Now, as the parent of a senior, I'm truly touched that Avery has experienced O'Dowd too. When our family participated in the Senior-Family Mass, it felt like everything had come full circle."

— MERIDITH FORRISTAL '92, wife of Jerry Forristal '90, and mother of Avery Forristal '22 and Erin Forristal '24



“Nothing comes close to the feeling of running up the stairs from the locker room, through the double doors, to the sound of cheering. Having our fans right next to the court always gave our team the support we needed to play competitively. The gym is also where I learned the importance of academic excellence. Coach Lou held me accountable as an athlete and as a student. He modeled the leadership skills that I use today with my team.”

– JOHNIE BRYANT '03, basketball player and NBA coach



“The Black History Assemblies were the foundation for my career path. I’ll never forget the opportunities to tell the stories and share the joy of the Black experience. When the movie *Selma* came out, we marched through the gym, reenacting that historic civil rights moment with signs speaking to the struggles of modern-day. Our small group imagined how to create a place of justice, with an audience of our peers. The learning and empowerment that happened in that gym have stayed with me, and inspired me to change the future.”

–PAYTON SILKET '16



“The Frank LaPorte Gym has been an amazing space to celebrate Dragon pride. Over the years, so many students have taken risks to represent their class and perform in front of their peers at Night Rally. And performance after performance, the students are lifted up and reminded they are part of the Dragon community. To hear the juniors and seniors cheer for the 9th graders always gives me goosebumps. It is the traditional way of telling them that they belong.”

– STARR GRAY '98, Director of Student Activities



“When I was on Campus Ministry Team we had a blast putting on a Shrek-themed Thanksgiving skit before the Mass began. Being in the gym together, we just wanted every single person to feel a sense of welcome and belonging. The Frank LaPorte Gym will forever remind me of Mass and the messages of forgiveness and appreciation that we got to share as a student body. I look back on my time with so much love and pride, and I’m excited for what the O’Dowd Center holds for future Dragons.”

– YALDA RAFIE '12



“Being back in the Frank LaPorte Gym for the annual Crab Feed with my triplets, when they were at O’Dowd, was surreal. I love how the Crab Feed is so communal. I am 100 percent Italian and the Crab Feed reminds me of a giant family dinner—not formal, not fancy, just good friends and such joy!”

– DANA CIRAULO YOUNG '83, with Keale Young '20, Makana Young '20, Maile Young '20, and husband Kaipō Young



“One of my deepest and most joyful memories is the Thanksgiving Liturgy of 2019. We were graced and gifted to have the presence of music minister Jesse Manibusan, playing with the O’Dowd choir. When Jesse and the choir launched into song, the music had such a soaring sense of lightness that everyone in the gym was swaying. To me, it felt like a liturgical dance. We clapped and caught each other’s eyes and beamed with radiant smiles. It was a true moment of communal grace; joyful, full of bright hope, real celebration.”

– Fr. Jim, O’Dowd Chaplain



“The Frank LaPorte Gym has held our Black History celebrations for 30 years. It has been a sacred space for members of the Black Student Union to share the power, creativity and knowledge that our ancestors possessed and whose shoulders we all stand on. In the gym, through spoken word, song and dance, I’ve watched students realize how much they can shine.”

– MARGUERITE (“MAMA”) AND TONY GREEN, Black Student Union, Parents of Antonia Green ’00 and David Green ’03



“My most meaningful moment in the Frank LaPorte Gym was volleyball senior night. The bleachers and the cage were absolutely PACKED with family and friends. The entire football team was cheering us on. The energy and excitement was incredible, and it never died down. I aced my serve during game point of the third set, and the highlight was the O’Dowd community being right there, supporting us.”

– LYDIA OLGUIN ’22, volleyball player



“The Frank LaPorte Gym has been a space for celebration, heartache, camaraderie, and grit. Thousands of moments of growth have happened there, but one particular moment stands out. Lucas Cortez ’14 had a heart defect that kept him from playing basketball competitively, but he became the team’s equipment manager for all four years at O’Dowd. He practiced with the team and gave as much effort as anyone else. In his senior year, Lucas dressed for the Senior Night game against Berkeley High School and played in the second half—where he made the final shot of the game, scoring a 3-pointer in front of 1,200 people! Right then, it didn’t matter who the fans had come to see. They were there for Lucas. The Frank LaPorte Gym has shown us, time and again, that we are all a part of something bigger. We are connected to one another through moments big and small.”

– LOU RICHIE ’89, Head Basketball Coach

LEADING WITH INTEGRITY

ERIN DANGERFIELD '99 REFLECTS ON HOW O'DOWD PREPARED HER TO HELP BUILD A WINNING CULTURE WITH THE GOLDEN STATE WARRIORS.



Every year, our Transforming Lives Dinner raises funds to support tuition assistance for students who might not otherwise be able to receive an O'Dowd education. This generous commitment to tuition assistance, which provides a financial bridge for 30 percent of O'Dowd students, enriches our whole community. Every day, students are transformed by a learning community that values our diverse families heritage and traditions, religious backgrounds, and ethnic identities.

This school year's Transforming Lives Dinner featured keynote speaker, **Erin Dangerfield '99**, Senior Vice President of People and Culture for the Golden State Warriors. While at O'Dowd, Erin was the State Finalist in Track and Field. She was introduced by her coach, Tony Green.

It's hard to believe that I graduated over 20 years ago. Sometimes it seems like just yesterday.

From O'Dowd, I went on to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas. I got an attractive scholarship for being a track and field athlete, which covered 85 percent of my tuition. And because of O'Dowd's amazing academic program, I had the SAT scores, strong transcripts, and an essay that not only granted me entry into the honors college, but also earned me an academic scholarship for the remaining 15 percent of UNLV tuition. And to be honest, I excelled. Being a Division I athlete and in UNLV's honors college was easier than some of the things O'Dowd teachers threw at me.

For the last 17 years, I've been building my career in human resources. Now I work as the Senior Vice President for People and Culture for the Golden State Warriors. It is an absolute thrill of a lifetime to work for my hometown team. I still remember having a Run TMC poster on my wall as a kid.

People frequently ask me, "What is it like to work for the Warriors?" They want to know if that winning culture exists on the business side. And I won't lie. It's an awesome role, but it doesn't come without a ton of work. It can be very intense.

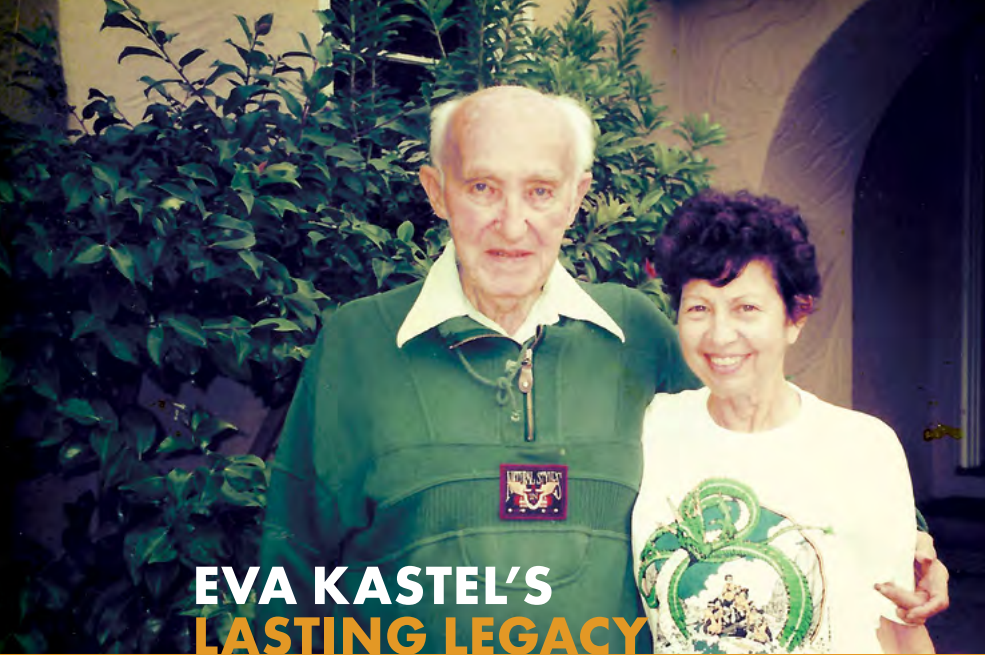
When the pandemic hit, we went from a live entertainment business to shutting our doors. Everyone was looking to me,

as an HR leader, to figure out the answers. People wanted to know: "How do we navigate this situation? How do we take care of our employees? How do we make sure that everything is okay?" And I didn't have the answer to those questions. I was dealing with my own personal questions. Like what's going to happen with my son's school? Will I have a job? Will my family be safe? And then we had the murder of George Floyd, and all the pain and uprising in response.

We had to figure out what role the Warriors, as an organization, played in our community. But I personally had to figure out what role I played, as an HR leader, guiding all of these folks through what was an incredibly difficult time for me. But we made it and we're here, reopening. And when I think about why we were successful, and what a successful employee of the Warriors is, I think about leading with integrity. I think about always pushing to do better, and keeping service at the center of everything that you do. And that brings me back to O'Dowd.

What made O'Dowd most special for me, beyond the opportunities to connect to my passions and interests and do things I might never have been exposed to, was the relationships. In particular, I think about the relationship I had with Green. "Coach Green," to me.

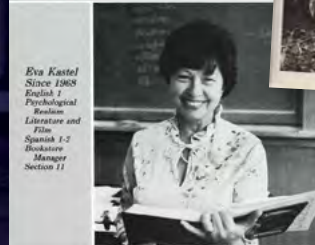
He was a person who pushed me as an athlete, as a student, and as a person. He held me accountable in all of those ways. I still remember when there was some teenage nonsense and he pushed me to reflect on the kind of person I wanted to be. That's what makes O'Dowd really special. It's not just about creating great students or creating great athletes or great artists or great debaters. It's about creating great people. People who will go out to do amazing things, who will lead us through incredibly difficult times. And in supporting O'Dowd, we can each create this opportunity for as many students as possible.



EVA KASTEL'S LASTING LEGACY



Boris Kastel
Since 1972
Bay Area Social
Concerns
Chess and
Checkers Club
Moderator



Eva Kastel
Since 1968
English 1
Psychological
Reading
Literature and
Film
Spanish 1-5
Bookstore
Manager
Section 11



Above, and at left:
Eva and Boris Kastel

Below: Eva's passport photo

When Eva Kastel died in November at the age of 99, she left a generation of O'Dowd alumni who remember her fondly as an exceptional Spanish, English, and film teacher. She also left behind a provision in her will that has created the Eva and Boris Kastel Scholarship Fund to support our tuition assistance program, preserving her commitment to students and her long legacy to the school.

According to Eva's close friend, Jack Dold, she led a far more adventurous life than many of her students would ever suspect. Dold is the author of *Eva and Boris*, two novels based on the couple's colorful lives.

Eva Rothschild was born in Berlin to a prosperous Jewish family. But the rise of the Nazi party robbed the family of its business and wealth and, by the time they emigrated to South America in 1937, they had little more than the clothes on their backs. Eva lived with her family in Uruguay for 13 years before she sailed for New York, where she soon met Boris Kastel in 1950. The handsome Croatian, who had competed in both 1936 Olympics as a swimmer and cross-country skier, had been traveling around the world as a member of the secret police for Josip Broz Tito, who would soon become president of Yugoslavia.

When Boris met Eva, he proposed immediately, and the two were married within a few months of meeting. They ran a New Jersey chicken farm for a year or two, then spontaneously decided to move to California. Eva graduated from Berkeley High School at the age of 32—her fifth high school on three continents—and went on to earn her bachelor's degree in English literature from UC Berkeley and her master's degree from Holy Names College in Oakland.

Eva came to O'Dowd in 1968 to teach Spanish and English, immediately earning respect as a teacher. "She had unlimited energy," Dold recalls. "She was extremely intelligent and was

very well prepared. And she read everything. I think the kids learned very quickly that you didn't fool around with Eva." Boris also became a popular teacher at O'Dowd from 1971 to 1995, teaching German, Bay Area Social Concerns, Religious Studies, and supervising the chess club.

He died in 1997 and, after her retirement, Eva became a well-known yoga teacher in Castro Valley and San Leandro. "She was a citizen of the world," Dold says. "She was born Jewish. She taught in a Catholic school for 30 years. And she practiced a kind of Buddhism. I remember once she told me, 'I don't really belong anywhere.'"

"Eva Kastel is the reason I became a Catholic high school English teacher," remembers former O'Dowd instructor **Chris Dempsey '72**. "I taught *The Great Gatsby* in the room where I first read that novel, which was such a privilege. What an outstanding woman and role model Eva was."

Now, with the Eva and Boris Kastel Scholarship Fund, the Kastels' connection to Bishop O'Dowd will live on in a meaningful way. To make a gift in memory of Eva, visit bishopodowd.org/kastelfund, contact Rebecca Bischoff at rbischoff@bishopodowd.org or (510) 553-8628, or use this QR code:





ENSURING ACCESS TO O'DOWD FOR ALL JOHN AND HANNA VALVA

Since graduating from O'Dowd in 1984, John Valva has been a valued member of our alumni community. Now he and his wife have made a lasting contribution to O'Dowd with the Hanna and John Valva '84 Scholarship Fund. We sat down to ask him about what inspires his continued dedication to the school.



You graduated from O'Dowd in 1984. What has kept you connected to the school over the years?

O'Dowd has meant a lot to me in my life. I'm the youngest of eight children, and all eight of us went there, which was not unusual for families at that time and that brought a sense of multi-generational community to the experience. Not only during my high school years, but ever since, there have been those shared experiences, teachers, administrators, family connections. I'm an alumni director by profession, and I believe in the value that an alma mater brings at times when you most need something in common with others.

You recently served on the O'Dowd Alumni Task Force. What did you do in that capacity?

I was in the initial task force group and I was part of a group of classmates who spearheaded our class reunions. I also had the pleasure of working with school leadership and the development staff to develop a thoughtful alumni relations strategic plan that envisions engagement opportunities for alumni to lay the groundwork and create the infrastructure for philanthropic and volunteer support of O'Dowd.

The John and Hanna '84 Scholarship Fund is an endowment that will support students who need tuition assistance, with a preference for students residing in Oakland. What prompted you to make this gift, and to structure it in this way?

We have both been fortunate to have great teachers and educational experiences in our lives. It's critical to us that others have that same access. O'Dowd's academic education, college preparation, and community-focused experience instill values and connections that we think really matter. We wanted to try to ensure that local students have access to that level of education at the most pivotal point of their lives. The focus of our gift was to ensure that academically prepared students in Oakland, who otherwise could not afford the O'Dowd experience, have a chance to succeed academically. Because when they do, they'll benefit from it for the rest of their lives.

How do you hope this fund will benefit O'Dowd in the years ahead?

We believe it's really critical that an institution of learning remains diverse in its voice, in its service, and in its makeup—beyond just those families who can afford it. Qualified students with financial need from the local community play an important role in diversifying the student base and reflecting upon O'Dowd what's cool about Oakland. We think this enriches the high school experience for everyone.

CLASS NOTES

1950s



Mari Lyn Henry '59, author, theater historian, actor and educator lives in NYC and was recently featured in Episode 7 of the YouTube series, "There Will Be Bowling."

1960s



Phyllis Michael Wong '68 authored *We Kept Our Towns Going*, the story of how Michigan women in the 1940s stepped into new roles at garment factories to help support their families and keep the local economy afloat at a time when the timber and mining industries were struggling and many men were out of work. Phyllis interviewed over 100 women, now in their 90s. Her book highlights their joys and challenges in leading a time of change in America. *We Kept Our Towns Going* is published by Michigan State Press.

Terry Adami '66, CLU Senior Advisor, began his financial service career over 44 years ago, with the goal of improving his clients' financial situations today to help them build a more secure tomorrow.

Donald Pouliot, AIA '66 operates a consulting firm, Don Pouliot and Associates, to assist state level law enforcement in procuring alcohol breath and drug testing systems. He also owns a small horse ranch with his wife Catherine.



Ron Cerruti '67 recently retired from the IRS and is now working part time for alliantgroup as a Senior Technical Advisor. He is also the author of five books, including one semi-autobiography and four western fictions.

Dan Pitta '67 is active in the Diocese of Fresno as the former Athletic Director & Sports Booster, President at St. Helen's School, and as a Eucharistic Minister and Catechist.

1970s



Greg Herrick '71 is the Head Women's Basketball Coach at College of the Canyons (CA) and recently won his 600th game.



Kevin Bixby '74 recently started Wildlife for All, launching a national campaign to reform state wildlife management to be more ecologically-driven, democratic and compassionate.



Dave Worm '75 is an original member of Bobby McFerrin's Voicestra and Gimme5.

Dave and longtime collaborator McFerrin recently held singing sessions at Freight & Salvage in Berkeley.

Nancy Pruitt Jones '76 spent over 30 years in development, marketing and communications, working extensively with non-profit organizations and for-profit businesses. She now lives in Reno, spending time with her family and volunteering as an adoption counselor for a German Shepherd Rescue group. She is also a dog handler for the JAX Humane Society.

Mary Buty Johnson '79 is a seasoned realtor with more than 20 years of experience in the Charleston real estate market. She also served on the Folly Beach Zoning Board of Adjustments as well as the Planning and Zoning Commission, Trident Realtors Board of Professional Standards.

1980s



Regina Jackson '80 was named in *Ebony's* 2021 Power 100 List and recently retired from her role as the CEO of East Oakland Youth Development Center.

Kevin McCarthy '81 is a partner at Oles Morrison Rinker & Baker LLP Law Firm and has been practicing for 31 years. He played four years of Division 1 baseball at the University of San Francisco before graduating as class valedictorian in 1985. He earned his J.D. from Santa Clara University in 1989.



Kathy Canty Brown '84, former O'Dowd math teacher (1989-1998), daughter of **Tim Canty ('58)** and parent of

Joshua '12 and **Rebecca '18**, rejoins O'Dowd as the Senior Director of Development.



Michael Roche '85, an architect, was featured in the *Napa Valley Register* for his direct influence in growing brands around the Bay Area and globally, including The Gap. He is the co-founder of Life and Branding, where he offers a diverse selection of design services.



Dr. Reginald C. Stewart '87 is Chapman University's newest Vice President of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.

Stewart, a TEDx Speaker and recipient of the Ames Humanitarian Award, brings decades of experience to implementing DEI initiatives in education.



Remi Watson Adams '88 is the founder of The Madame X Academy, guiding African-American girls through unique and immersive experiences to stimulate their imaginations and express their authentic selves.

Michelle Delphey '88 and her horse won blue and gold ribbons at a recent equestrian contest.



Elizabeth Leslie '89 is the Communications and Partnerships Manager for the League of Women Voters of California. At a

recent O'Dowd Career Day she inspired students to get involved in voter registration efforts, which ultimately launched a new student club focused on voting.

Laura Palmer '89 and husband Todd Palmer celebrated 22 years of marriage this past fall.

1990s



Hans Riemer '90 is a current member of the Montgomery City Council and is now running for Montgomery County Executive

on a platform for social and economic change. He is the founder of 2030 Center, a nonprofit organization that aims to save social security for Generation X.

Nalo Jones '90 recently received her California Real Estate Broker License.

Nicholas Williams '90, Director of the Oakland Department of Parks, Recreation, and Youth Development, recently co-led a panel discussion at the Urban Institute of Policy on creating inclusive public spaces in urban environments.

Jennifer Montague Clark '91 is the Founder and President of Home & Co., an interior design firm that offers diverse renovation, furnishing, and staging services.

Zuri Williams '91 started with the Houston Rockets in August of 2021, after scouting for five years with the Washington Wizards.



Darrin Ballon '94 recently celebrated the grand opening of his new restaurant Tribune, located in the iconic

Tribune building in downtown Oakland. He brings years of experience in Michelin-star restaurants to Tribune, and hopes that this will be the first of many restaurants he and his partners at the OJD Group bring to Oakland.

Alex Cuthbertson '98 is a writer and producer for award-winning shows on ABC, Bravo, and 21st Century Fox, including the TV series *New Girl* and *Community*. Most recently, Alex was a showrunner for the Apple TV reboot of the 80's classic *Fraggle Rock: Rock On!*



Jose Feroso '98 is a reporter and a recent recipient of the Knight Wallace Fellowship from the University of Michigan. His work focuses on the systemic causes of violence in Oakland's streets.

D'Lonra Ellis '98 was recently promoted to the role of Chief Legal Officer of the Oakland A's.

Starr Gray '98 and husband Christopher welcomed baby boy Chase Richard James to the family on December 28, 2021.

Christianna Toler '98 and partner Suf Sigg welcomed baby boy Hayes born on September 8th, 2021. He is a little brother to Hendrix, four years old.



Veronica M. Nelson '99 is a Houston based prosecutor and is running for Judge of Harris County, Texas.



Mary Anthenien Yelnicker '99 recently completed her command tour at the 532nd Training Squadron at Vandenberg Air Force Base and has moved to the DC area to serve as a National Defense Fellow for the Stimson Center Think Tank. Mary's research topics include nuclear signaling, nuclear deterrence theory, and South East Asia security studies.

2000s

Dwight Taylor Sr. '00, a TedX Speaker and award-winning communicator, has partnered with his wife Kia Taylor to launch the nonprofit Our Investment Now, which supports youth and young adults with time, resources, and encouragement.

Valerie Woo '00 married Damon Anderson in Kaulua-Kona, Hawaii.



Catherine Carter '01 was featured in *Forbes* for her co-owned wine company The Sip.



Megan Medlock '01 is a graduate student of the school of business at the University of

Oxford, specializing in organizational leadership.

Lauren Israel '03 and husband Ro Pascual have welcomed a new baby girl. Morgan Michelle Israel joins her big brother, two year old Jacob.



Adam Briones '02 is the new CEO of California Community Builders, an organization that works to expand access to home

ownership in communities of color. In his role, Adam will help create pathways out of poverty for families across California.



Courtney Burris '03 recently began in a new role as a prosecutor in the Homicide Unit with the San Francisco District Attorney's Office after two years serving in the Child Assault Sex Assault Unit.



Jaclyn Gross '03 previously worked in employment law at Seyfarth Shaw in San Francisco, CA. She now serves as the City of Richmond's newest Deputy City Attorney.



Lindsay Nakano '03 is KGO-TV's newest producer for the 5 O'Clock News Hour. She has worked as a writer and producer for

news stations across the Bay Area, including KRON and KTVU.

David Green '03 is the new Fire Engineer of the Oakland Fire Department. He has served as a firefighter since 2014.



Lauren Sugayan '03 is the new Deputy City Manager for the City of Martinez. Lauren manages economic development, community outreach, senior services, and recreation services for youth and families.



Elliott Jones '04 is the new Program Manager for Mobile Assistance Community

Responders of Oakland (MACRO).

Michelle Florian '04 and husband Juan Florian welcomed baby girl Camila Joanna on October 10, 2021.

Erin Twomey Lunde '04, comes back to O'Dowd as the Assistant Director of Communications and Marketing. She previously held roles teaching and marketing around the Bay Area.



Briana Weiss '05 is USA Women's Basketball's newest National Team Director. Weiss, a communications professional and former basketball player, previously led logistics for the U.S. Olympic Women's Basketball Team, which won gold at the 2020 Summer Games.



Deidre Wright '06 is the new Corporate Communications Director at LOOP, an inclusive car insurance company.



Jon Carrasco '07 married Lauren Yannucci on October 2, 2021 at Sunnyside in Lake Tahoe with many Dragon alums in attendance, including: immediate family **Marianne Mosher Carrasco '78, Al Carrasco '76, Matt Carrasco '05, Mia Carrasco '10;** and **cousins Jill Mosher Jackson '96 and Kaylee Mosher Everson '08.**

Bobby Thompson '07 has started a new role as Director of Operations & Engagement for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging & Justice (DEIBJ) of Cal Athletics.

Brandon Walker '07 is the new Sports Partnership and Marketing Professional at Meta, bringing years of experience in sports marketing, including specializing in Global Basketball during his time at Adidas.



Adam Butterfield '08 executive produced the animated film. "The Bones" alongside director Ari Aster ("Midsommar,"

"Hereditary"). The film had its world premiere at the 78th Venice International Film Festival in Italy.

Sean Eberhard '08, a doctoral fellow at the University of Cambridge, was recently quoted in a *Quanta* Magazine article with the solution to the n-queens math problem.



Kaamil Al-Hassan '09 is the new Diversity and Inclusion Business Partner at Genentech. Prior to her new role, Kaamil

worked in education, non-profit organizations, and technology.



Madison Ornstil '09 made *The Athletic's* 40 Under 40. After 10 years with Adidas, Madison now works at Wasserman.

She leads talent marketing and client services that focus on the future of women's basketball.

2010s

Alexandria Love '10, a communications and public relations professional, is the newest staff writer for *The Tonight Show with Jimmy Fallon*.



Kalina Bryant '10, Global Head of Customer Advocacy for Asana, is the first-ever African American woman to join Asana's revenue executive leadership team, where she pioneered the Employee Resource Group for Black employees at the company. In 2022, Kalina was named to *Forbes* 30 Under 30.



Alex Finch '10 is a cofounder of Tri-D, which was recently sold to Australia's Titomic. Alex was named to the 2022 *Forbes* 30 Under 30.



Shelby Duarte Walton '10 and her husband, Niqlas Walton were married on November 13, 2021.

Carey Appeldorn '10 officiated the ceremony and **Rachael Chiappetta '08** was MC. The following alumni were guests: **Allie Chiappetta '10**, **Darla Campi '10**, **Rachel Stier '10**, **Valerie Axworthy '10**, **Mia Carrasco '10**, **Asher Hoffman '10**, **Drew Hansen '09**, **Marina Chrys '10**, **Kaitlin Clancey '09**, **Laurel Ransom '07**, **Tyler Anzilotti '09**, **Ryan Duarte '08**, **Cameron Corwin '10**, **Charlie Ranahan '10**, **Drew Ranahan '10**, **Greg Rattray '10**, **Christian Halstenrud '09**, **Kelsie Halstenrud '12**, and **Anthony Iglesias '09**.



Lydia Asrat '11, cofounder of 10Q Management and publishing company Lost + Found, oversees musical artists, including Doja Cat. Additionally, Lydia co-wrote Doja Cat's viral hit "Say So." Lydia was named to the 2022 *Forbes* 30 Under 30.



Asya Brown '11 works as the Product Inclusion & Equity Program Manager at Google. She recently collaborated with Doodle Delight to create an interactive Kwanzaa google doodle.

Tori Burns Gracey '12 and husband Craig Gracey welcomed their daughter Addison in July 2021.

William Kendall '12 relocated back to the Bay Area in 2021 to work for the San Francisco Giants.



Jazmin Villanueva '12 was recently promoted to Manager, Community Relations for the Golden State

Warriors. In her role she serves the Bay Area community through programs, initiatives and resources, with an overarching lens of advancing equity.



AJ Robert '13, writer and educator, published a new book *Prayers: Finding Power in Vulnerability*. A.J. is an ordained

minister and is currently pursuing his second master's degree in Education from UC Berkeley.



Justin "J Hawk" Hawkins '14 is a guitarist and musical director for Duckwrth.

MJ S. Agudelo '15 is a creative producer whose short film, *Little Drummer Boy*, was nominated for best narrative short at the San Francisco Black Film Festival. Agudelo is currently working for David Glasser, executive producer of *Yellowstone*. She also works as the VP of Guest Relations and Experiences of The TerraVita Collection.

Aerial Chavarin '16 is playing professional soccer for Icelandic team Knattspyrnufélag Keflavíkur.

Cormac Kelly '16 recently published "Existential Crisis and Mass Movements" in *Interzine*. His writing seeks to draw parallels from the past, informing and inspiring the collective action we must take to protect our future.

John Scott '16 is a guitar musician and plays weekly at the Seven Grand in Austin, TX. He recently released a single, *Ain't Nothing Wrong*.



Matts Benson '17 opened his first sneaker store, Showroom LA. He styles celebrities and athletes in LA and beyond.

Claire Kelly '17 is an assistant golf professional and merchandiser at the Sequoyah Country Club in Oakland.

Julie Truong '17 has received her Bachelors from UC Riverside.



Alijah Vera-Tucker '17 (Jets G) and **Jevon Holland '18** (Dolphins S) were named to the NFL Pro Football Writers Association (PFWA) All Rookie Team for 2022.



Jason Brown '18 started a company, Game OVA, that provides data analysis services to sports teams.

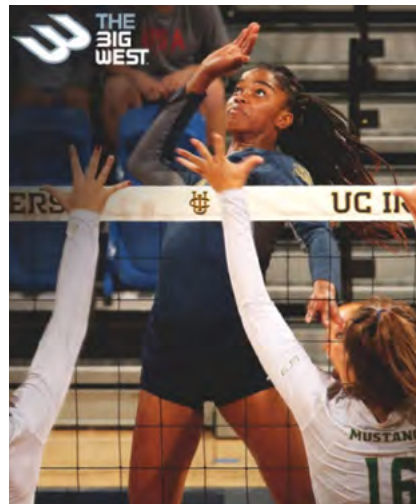
2020s



Trin Cooper '20 was named a 2021 Doris Duke Conservation Scholar at UCSC and spent 10 weeks over summer with a cohort of 20 other students doing field research all over California. The highly selective paid program is focused on getting underrepresented minorities to have a larger voice in conservation.



Tia Ravara '20 is a member of the UW-Eau Claire Women's gymnastics team and recently won first place on beam with a score of 9.65.



Michelle Ohwobete '21 was recently named Big West Freshman of the week. The volleyball player had an incredible performance at the UniWyo Invitational, where she was named Tournament MVP.

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

DENNIS BOEGEL '62

Sibling of Eileen Boegel Martines '69 and sibling-in-law of Patricia Gardenhire Boegel '61 †

JOHN BUONO '60

Sibling of Julieann Buono Ogan '62 and Nancy Buono Conroy '65

ANN BURNS

Spouse of William Burns '57 and sibling-in-law of Arlene Burns Rhine '55 and David Rhine '55

HELEN BUTY

Parent of Louis Buty '75 and Mary Buty Johnson '79

MICHAEL COMIC '72

Sally Costello
Grandparent of William Blades '11

PATRICIA COUTURE

Parent of Aaron Couture '87 and Damien Couture '85

SANDRA BURROWS DETATA '60

Sibling of Karen Burrows Martin '62 † and grandparent of Erin Thomas '21 and Nathan Thomas '19

JOHN DITTMER

Parent of Else Dittmer Johnson '96, Franziska Dittmer Dutton '90, Gretchen Dittmer '91 †, Heidi Dittmer '91, James Dittmer '05, John Dittmer, Jr. '95, Magdalena Dittmer '03, Meta Dittmer '93, Otto Dittmer '99, Peter Dittmer II '02

TIMOTHY DOLD '78

Sibling of Edward Dold '73, Carolyn Dold Berg '80 and Elaine Dold Theobald '72

LEO DUMMER, O.M.I.

Former Faculty

AMADI EMEH '07

Sibling of Onyekachi Emeh '02 and Ijeoma Emeh '02

BILL EUBANKS '70**MIKE FLANAGAN '67**

Sibling of Patrick Flanagan '63 †

AILEEN MONIZ FOKES '63**DONALD FOLEY**

Parent of Matthew Foley '95

YVONNE FOLEY

Grandparent of Zindzhi Montgomery '22

SHIRLEY FREEMAN '66

Sibling of Donald Freeman '62 and Kenneth Freeman '56 †

MARLENE FREITAS '55**KATHLEEN GARDNER**

Parent of Jacqueline Gardner '08 and John Gardner IV '11

PAUL GLATZE '82

Sibling of Kristine Glatze '89

SHIRLEY KOZIK GORDON '57**CAROL LESTRANGE HAMPTON '56**

Sibling of Joyce LeStrange Lewis '58

PETER HEGARTY '83**KELLI STEPHENS HERMANN'S '82**

Sibling of Lori Stephens Slaybaugh '76

PAUL HERTING '60

Sibling of Robert Herting '67 and sibling-in-law of Marie Eustis Herting '67

KATHLEEN WATTERS HORSELL '60

Spouse of Arthur Horsell '59, sibling of Patricia Watters Imburgia '56, Mary Watters Rea '55 †, Daniel Watters '65 †, George Watters, Jr. '63 †, and sibling-in-law of Mary Ann Horsell Strait '57 and Barbara Horsell Koon '68 †

EVA KASTEL

Former faculty

RHONDA KIM

Parent of Max Kim '22

DEBRA LISERRE '72**JORDAN MACKEY '09**

Sibling of Drew Mackey '06

JOHN MADDEN

Grandparent of Aidan Madden '22, Jesse Madden '21 and Samuel Madden '19

RICHARD MAGARIAN

Parent of Thomas Magarian '07 and Nicholas Magarian '05

JOAN MCCARTHY '56

Sibling of Thomas McCarthy '61

MAXINE MCDONALD

Parent-in-law of Roderick Gabriel '87 and grandparent of Joshua Gabriel '25

RICHARD MEAGHER '59

Spouse of Leah Paulo Meagher '61 †

KATHERINE WEHNER NARANJO '60

Sibling of William Wehner '59 and sibling-in-law of Donna Bellows Wehner '62

THOMAS NEATH '72**ANTHONY NICHOLAS '87****BEV OCHSNER**

Grandparent of Damian Ochsner '01

WILLIAM OPSAHL '72

Sibling of Linda Opsahl Hunter '70 and James Opsahl '68

REVEREND HENRY A. ORMOND '60**RICHARD PERRY '56**

Spouse of Rose Marie Triplett Perry '58

LOIS PHELAN

Parent of Sheila Phelan Johnson '88 and grandparent of Hillary Johnson '23 and Jake Johnson '24

NOELLE DAWE PILAT '65**PAULA SCHUYLER PLEVIN '58****BRIAN POWELL '67****JOSEPH RATTO**

Parent of Ronald Ratto '80 and Christopher Ratto '84, and grandparent of Caitlin Ratto '16, Matthew Ratto '20, and Nicole Ratto '13

CHRISTINE RENNIE

Parent of James Rennie '97

ROBERT ROBSON '57**RICHARD ROGERS '16****BEVERLY SEREDA**

Parent of Kathleen Sereda Glaub '71, Carl Sereda '74, Christopher Sereda '74, Claire Sereda '77, David Sereda '78 and Robert Sereda '72, and grandparent of Karl Glaub '02, Kristen Glaub Potter '00 and Lisa Sereda '95

CAROLYN SERRAO '65

Parent of Greg Scott '95 and sibling of Cathryn Serrao Kope '73, Daniel Serrao '68 † and Robert Serrao '69

MARGARET SHIMADA

Parent of David Shimada '84 and Jon Shimada '87

DAVID SOUZA '85**CARLO VECCHIARELLI '60**

Parent of Chuck Vecchiarelli '89 and Veronica Vecchiarelli-Valleau '91

CAROL LYNNE WALLACE

Parent of Christopher Wallace '80 and grandparent of Catherine Wallace '21

† DECEASED



Bishop O'Dowd High School
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GRAND OPENING! THE O'DOWD CENTER

August 28, 2022 | 3:00 – 6:00pm

We invite you to join us at this joyous and energetic event,
celebrating the grand opening of the new O'Dowd Center.

RSVP at:

