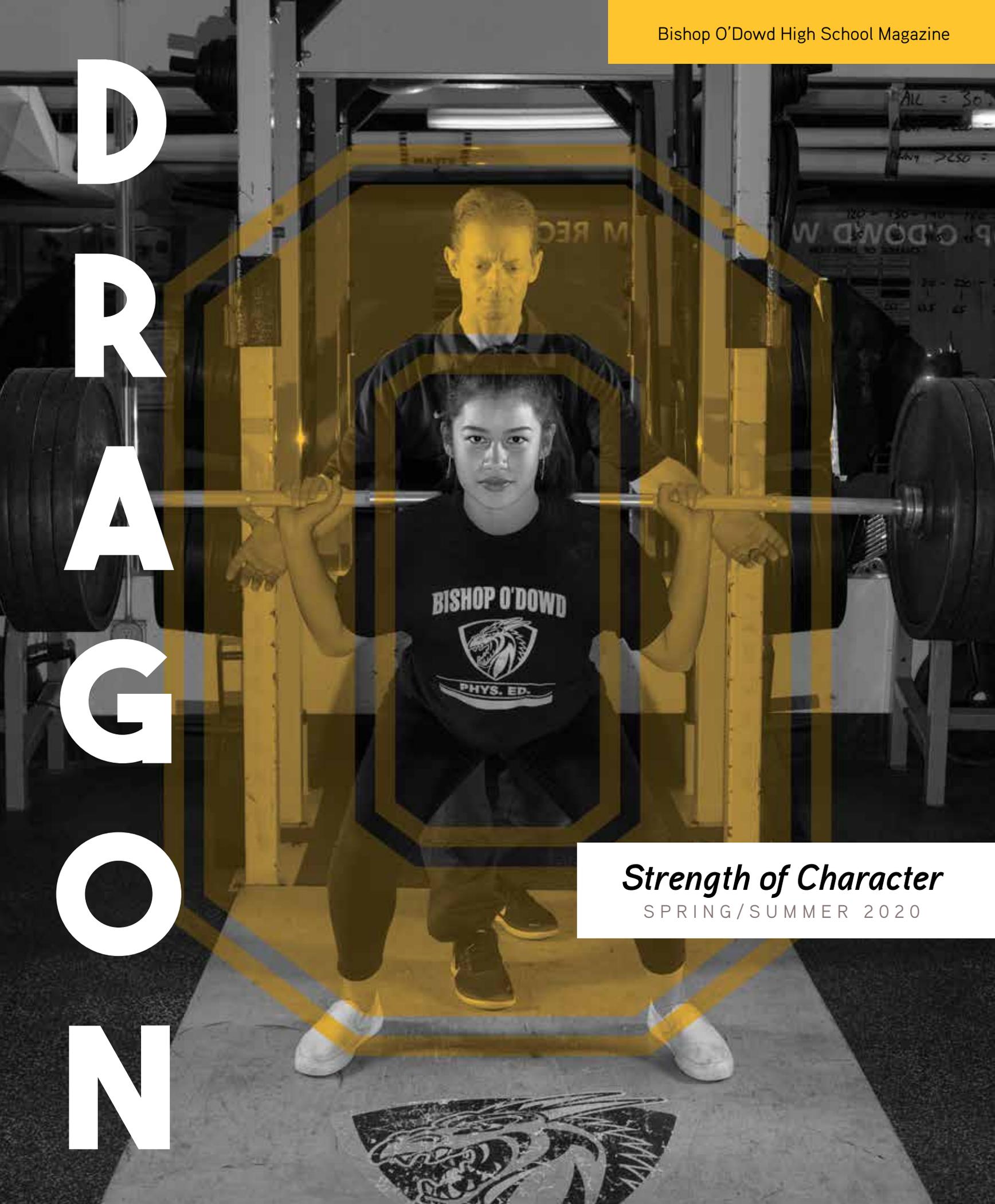


# D R A G O N



## *Strength of Character*

SPRING/SUMMER 2020



# ONE COMMUNITY. **MANY TRADITIONS.**



Your support enables O'Dowd students to pursue academic excellence and joyful community traditions as they seek to build a more just, joyful, and sustainable world.

Our greatest strength is our caring community. We would not be able to educate our young people without the continued inspiration, dedication, and generosity of our alumni, families, faculty and staff and friends.

**Thank you again for all that you do on behalf of our students and our mission.**



The O'Dowd  
Annual Fund



# FROM THE PRESIDENT JAMES D. CHILDS

Peace be with you. As I write this in March, in the midst of the Lenten season leading up to the Easter feast day, the world is changing dramatically. Families and communities around the country and across the world have committed to new sacrifices to combat the health, social, and economic impacts of COVID-19. Daily, we are finding new ways of working and being together.

Amid the vulnerability, we have watched large and small expressions of creativity and generosity, including in our own O'Dowd community, which has leaned in with support in the spirit of the common good. Alumni, parents, and friends of the school have reached out to offer myriad forms of encouragement. Our students, teachers, and staff have likewise shown exceptional resilience and approached remote learning with optimism and fortitude.

This issue, mostly assembled prior to the current crisis, includes stories of O'Dowd athletics and others through which students develop healthy minds, bodies, and spirits. Our students come to O'Dowd with emerging talents and graduate as scholars who are formed and transformed by our charisma, and who possess skill, self-discipline, resilience, and strong relationships. In and beyond O'Dowd, they use these to enhance their communities, making their growth a gift for the world.

We are beyond proud to celebrate former O'Dowd teacher and New York Times bestselling author Gene Yang's new graphic novel *Dragon Hoops*. Get a glimpse of his novel in this issue, and pick up your copy of this one-of-a-kind tribute to O'Dowd basketball.

From academics to athletics, theater, music, service, debate, and a wide variety of clubs, O'Dowd students put joy and commitment into all they do. We are pleased to share plans and a beautiful rendering of a dream in the making that will support our students' many co-curricular activities: the O'Dowd Center. Learn more about exciting plans for this project in a special insert in this issue.

We also celebrate a new milestone: the school's largest individual gift, from James T. Bill '55, a member of O'Dowd's first graduating class. Jim passed away last year and included O'Dowd in his estate plan, providing a \$5 million endowment for tuition assistance for future generations. The James T. Bill '55 Scholarship Fund will provide support for generations of Dragons. Our alumni are resolute in their support of future generations receiving the benefits of an O'Dowd education. We are humbled by this extraordinary gift.

I believe there is nothing more important than the formation and education of today's young people. What better hope today than remembering that our paths tomorrow will be shaped by leaders who carry a commitment to each other and to the common good. We wish you and your families health and well-being, and look forward to a brighter future for all.

You have my best,

## 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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- Kim Walsh

TABLE OF CONTENTS

# 6

## **STRONGER: The O’Dowd Athletic Experience**

SUPPORTING THE WHOLE DRAGON

- 9 Warriors Honor O’Dowd Teacher Tony Green as Impact Warrior**
- 10 Welcome Carlos Reed, O’Dowd’s New Athletic Director**
- 10 O’Dowd Athletics: Growth by the Decade**
- 11 Origins of the Dragon Mascot**
- 12 Strength of Character: O’Dowd Student Athletes**



# 17



## **Love, Basketball and Giving Back**

# 18



## **Dragon Hoops: Hoop Dreams and Life Lessons**

— SPECIAL INSERT —

**THE O’DOWD  
CENTER**

ONE HEART IN COMMUNITY

# 22

James T. Bill '55  
— Theater —

**O’Dowd Receives  
Largest Individual Gift  
in School History**

# 20



## **A Faith That Does Justice**

O’DOWD AND THE IGNATIAN  
SOLIDARITY NETWORK

- 16 Crab Feed**
- 24 From High School to the Rest of Your Life**
- 28 Class Notes**
- 31 In Memoriam**

## **WRITE US!**

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

Dragon Magazine, 9500 Stearns Avenue, Oakland, CA 94605

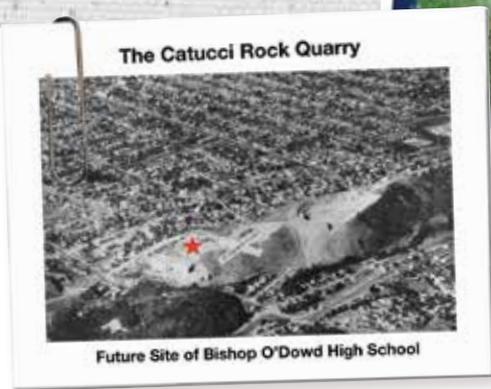
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*"You can't know who you are until you know where you are."*  
 —WENDELL BERRY



# WHERE DO YOU FIND HOME?

## FOUNDER'S DAY 2020 AT O'DOWD

At the Founder's Day Assembly, held January 30 during Catholic Schools Week, students honored O'Dowd's past and present with a highly collaborative assembly of prayer, learning, song, fun, and reflection on the theme of "Our Common Home," referring to both O'Dowd and the earth. Students led a Four Directions blessing, bringing awareness to the meaning of our shared human and natural history. Former teacher, parent, and Living Lab advocate Tom Tyler delivered a compelling presentation on the history of O'Dowd, from its geological genesis to its lively community today. Class representatives competed in an O'Dowd history trivia quiz with great cheer and fierce competition. The assembly culminated with O'Dowd choir students leading the community in a highly spirited rendition of "This Land is Your Land."

O'Dowd seniors Trinity Cooper, Korie Lynch, Howard Huo, and Shuming Xu created and screened a video presentation, "Our Common Home." In it, students, staff, and faculty answered the question, "Where do you feel most at home and at peace at O'Dowd?" Here are just a few of their answers.



I feel most at home and most myself in the Living Lab. Working at a Living Lab Work Day I feel so in tune with my peers and community, and feel like such a part of this piece of O'Dowd.

**Juliana McElroy '20**  
 Eco Leader



I feel most comfortable here at the amphitheater because of the views across the bay. The views remind me of the infinite possibilities that are presented to us at O'Dowd.

**Moriyuki Kano '20**  
 International Student Association



I feel most at home when I'm trying to make O'Dowd a home for other people. Maybe it's just a little compliment, like noticing somebody's haircut, or their new pair of kicks. I feel like it's these little things that really make people feel special.

**Sebastian Madrigal '21**  
 Dragon Ambassador Captain for Admissions



I feel most at home in the Associated Student Body office. After meetings, we're still working hard and planning, so we stay in the office, and kids come through, and I think that's what makes it really special.

**Aeon Levy '20**  
 Associated Student Body President



When students walk into my class after the weekend and say, "Ms. Sarmiento, I missed you." Oh, my heart! It makes me happy that they want to be in my classroom.

**Ricca Sarmiento**  
 English Teacher

PHOTOS AT TOP: From the Big Bang to the geological formation of the Bay Area, to the Ohlone, Catucci family, and Bishop James T. O'Dowd, students learned about the natural and human history we call Bishop O'Dowd High School.



# STRONGER

## THE O'DOWD ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE

Bishop O'Dowd is known for strength in many areas: stellar academics and co-curricular learning, a powerfully diverse student community, and a faith that does justice through service learning and sustainability. Athletics at O'Dowd represents one of our school's most powerful teaching opportunities. On the field of play, as in the classroom, the work of educator coaches is defined by our Catholic values, shared through the prism of charism.

With more than 70% of students participating on O'Dowd's 57 teams, athletics provides a vital opportunity for students' total fitness—athletic prowess, competitive spirit, teamwork, and strength of character to flourish. The O'Dowd Athletic Experience is a program designed to help student-athletes develop the building blocks of character and competition for both sports and life.

“SPORT IS A VERY RICH SOURCE OF VALUES AND VIRTUES THAT HELP US TO BECOME BETTER PEOPLE. LIKE THE ATHLETE DURING TRAINING, PRACTICING SPORT HELPS US TO GIVE OUR BEST, TO DISCOVER OUR LIMITS WITHOUT FEAR, AND TO STRUGGLE DAILY TO IMPROVE.”

—Pope Francis



# THE O'DOWD ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE

## SUPPORTING THE WHOLE DRAGON

The O'Dowd Athletic Experience encourages and supports student health and formation, animated by the school's charism. Our goal is to provide student-athletes with:

- » Transformative coaching
- » Sophisticated and professional strength and conditioning
- » Injury prevention, management, and treatment
- » Academic support
- » Self-advocacy and leadership skills

O'Dowd's intentional, sophisticated program was adapted from college and professional athletics to serve our unique, diverse population of student-athletes.

### TRANSFORMATIVE COACHING

We want student-athletes to graduate from O'Dowd with an athletic experience that moves from transactional to transformative, helping them understand how to build healthy relationships and connect with others as well as compete. Transformative coaching is achieved through ongoing professional development and regular evaluation of coaches. More than ever, today's teens need meaningful relationships that teach the value of effective communication, empathy, trust, and accountability.

### STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING

Jay Beito '92 and staff help students develop proper movement patterns and training techniques by gradually progressing an athlete through a strength and conditioning program comprising functional movement screening, online tracking of progress, and regular performance testing. Functional movement screening analyzes foundational movement patterns to assess mechanics and areas of weakness. Performance testing includes agility, vertical jump, and strength movements. O'Dowd's program is designed to ensure that, after four years of regular attendance and development, O'Dowd athletes are positively and properly developed, able to assess and regulate their needs, and ready for the next level of competition.



THE O'DOWD ATHLETIC EXPERIENCE (continued)

**“I want to empower student-athletes with a skill set that includes the integration of mind, body, and spirit through physical activity, nutrition, and recovery (restorative practices including rest and reflection) that will transform their lives for the better. My hope is that they will be happy and healthy, and in turn cultivate healthy, happy relationships and families, which benefit all of us.”**

— JAY BEITO '92  
HEAD STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH

### **INJURY PREVENTION, MANAGEMENT, AND TREATMENT**

O'Dowd's sports medicine staff coordinate with our Strength and Conditioning team, doctors, physical therapists, coaches, and our Academic Support team to provide comprehensive, collaborative care for student-athletes, integrating all aspects of performance. The sports medicine team provides emergency care at home and post-season games, and our certified athletic trainers are educated in injury evaluation and rehabilitation techniques including physical therapy, cup therapy, instrument-assisted soft-tissue mobilization, myofascial release, stretching, and prehabilitation programming. They address most sports injuries, from mild sprains to concussion evaluation and management, helping to ensure the total health of student-athletes.

### **HEALTH EDUCATION**

Athletes learn about the importance of nutrition, rest, and recovery. Strength and Conditioning staff work closely with athletes to recommend nutritious diets, meals, and snacks that ensure our student-athletes are appropriately fueled. Depending on an athlete's personal needs and athletic goals, nutrition plans are recommended using the Athlete's Plates nutrition plans developed by the United States Olympic Committee sport dietitians and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs Sport Nutrition Graduate Program. We also offer team-specific education regarding proper fuel for activity.

### **ACADEMIC SUPPORT**

Year-round drop-in tutoring, in-season grade monitoring, and personal check-ins are provided by Academic Support staff, who support all O'Dowd students year-round. Academic support for student-athletes is built upon the principle of partnership between faculty and staff, student-athletes, and parents. Providing academic support is also integral to our concussion management program, providing assistance to student-athletes through assignment planning and teacher communication.

### **SELF-ADVOCACY AND LEADERSHIP**

Throughout their time at O'Dowd, student-athletes are encouraged to understand and communicate their needs and to think and speak for themselves. While some athletes are recruited by colleges and offered scholarships each year, our athletic staff members provide guidance and support to all student-athletes who wish to play sports at the collegiate level.

Opportunities for leadership, formal and informal, abound in athletics. Team captains and leaders are identified using formal guidelines developed by student-athletes. Guidelines include supporting others as a mentor, displaying strength of character, leading by example, being an effective communicator, engaging in team-building, and leading with confidence. The overarching goal is to have student-athletes leading at the highest level as seniors. Formal self-evaluations assist student-athletes in assessing their leadership skills.



# WARRIORS HONOR O'DOWD TEACHER TONY GREEN AS IMPACT WARRIOR

At the Warriors vs. Lakers game held at the Chase Center in early February, teacher, coach, mentor, and leader Tony Green was honored at halftime as an "Impact Warrior," an award for community leaders who make a positive impact on others. Green, who began at O'Dowd in 1986, has coached and taught generations of students and student-athletes. Green has coached 13 Superbowl athletes, three World Series athletes, one Olympian, and numerous state, national, and NCAA champions. His rare leadership and mentoring continues to inspire students in his history classes today, often visited by alumni guest lecturers who return to see Green and inspire today's students. Alumna Jazmin Villanueva '12, a member of the Warriors community relations team, shared the news of the award with him. "I'm so excited to honor my very own high school history teacher and a mentor to soooooo many in front of Dub Nation," she said. Green's family attended the game where his son David accepted the award, presented by the Golden State Warriors Vice President of Human Resources and O'Dowd alumna Erin Dangerfield '99.

## THANK YOU, O'DOWD TEACHER-COACHES

More than 200 O'Dowd faculty and staff have coached O'Dowd teams throughout the years. Today, 33 faculty and staff members, including 10 alumni, have been or are currently Dragon coaches, and are listed below. Thank you to our Dragon faculty and staff for your care and consistency in inspiring and challenging O'Dowd student-athletes of yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

- |                            |                 |
|----------------------------|-----------------|
| Romeo Baldeviso            | John Kohler     |
| Jay Beito '92              | Kris Koller     |
| Gerald Bennett, Jr. '93    | Chris Kyriacou  |
| Turshika Bennett '96       | Matt Lane       |
| Laurie Thirion Billups '93 | Carmen LaRoche  |
| Leonard Bragg              | Ray Lehner      |
| Mike Bowler                | Gary Mason      |
| Shannon Correia '93        | Malik McCord    |
| Brian Cushing '84          | Tim Newman      |
| Michael Dixon              | Lou Richie '89  |
| Shannon Donahue '95        | Javier Sanchez  |
| Dennis Dougherty           | Nicole Sullivan |
| Sarah Firestone '13        | Jase Turner     |
| Tony Green                 | Doug Vierra     |
| Dominic Henry              | DeAndre Walker  |
| Hillary Kigar              | Fran Warmerdam  |
| Willie "TJ" King '11       |                 |

**"At O'Dowd, coaches are educators. Their classrooms are the playing fields, courts, pools, and tracks. Like a classroom teacher, coaches provide structure and plans, and build a program that is equally about character formation and the value of competition. We believe that if we lead with the heart, the wins will follow. Our coaching vision is that these educators continue to create spaces for learning, reflection, challenge, and collaboration. We want our athletes to have a sense of belonging and pride, and to build skills that will serve them later in life."**

—JASE TURNER  
ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL OF STUDENT LIFE

# THANK YOU, MIKE BOWLER AND WELCOME, CARLOS REED, O'DOWD'S NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR



O'Dowd is pleased to welcome Carlos Reed as O'Dowd's new Athletic Director

starting in fall 2020. After admirably leading and growing O'Dowd's program for four decades, O'Dowd Athletic Director Mike Bowler announced this fall he would be stepping into an advisory role starting next year. Our thanks to Mike Bowler for building a tremendous

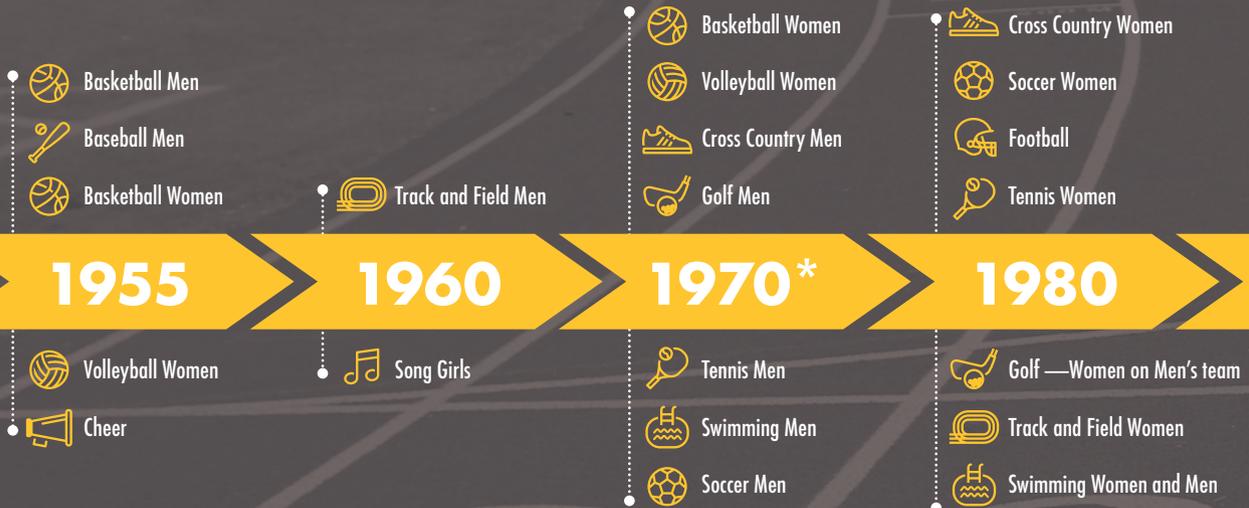
program that is such a vital part of our community. With a program consistently ranked in the top 10 of 175 North Coast Section schools, and more than 700 students participating on 57 teams in 16 sports, we embarked on a national search for an exceptional new athletic director—one who brought extensive experience leading and building an athletic program at the secondary level and who placed the highest value on equity and access, a culture of character, and the well-being of student-athletes.



"We're so happy for our dad, who after nearly 40 years is turning in the keys to the Bowler-mobile. It's been a gift to witness his impact on the O'Dowd community and see so many Dragons grow as both student-athletes and as people, under his guidance and support. We love our dad with all our hearts and are eternally grateful for all he taught us, and so many others."

— ELIZABETH BOWLER '05 & JOHN BOWLER '07

## O'DOWD ATHLETICS | GROWTH BY THE DECADE



\* In 1972, Title IX of the Education Amendments Act becomes federal law, positively growing women's athletics everywhere. It states, "No person in the United States shall, on the basis of sex, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any education program or activity receiving federal financial assistance."



Reed brings a strong record as a school leader. He comes to O’Dowd from Drew School in San Francisco, where he has led and grown the athletic program for the past 18 years, with 70% of students participating in athletics, a 25% increase from when he took over the program. As Athletic Director at Drew, Reed instituted an athlete leadership program, added a host of new sports offerings, increased participation across sports significantly, and negotiated community partnerships for athletic facilities and fields in a competitive environment.

Reed is excited to work with coaches and athletes at O’Dowd. “I look forward to helping our coaches and athletes strengthen O’Dowd’s commitment to athleticism, equity and access, well-being, and teamwork that bolsters confidence, leadership, and Dragon spirit.”

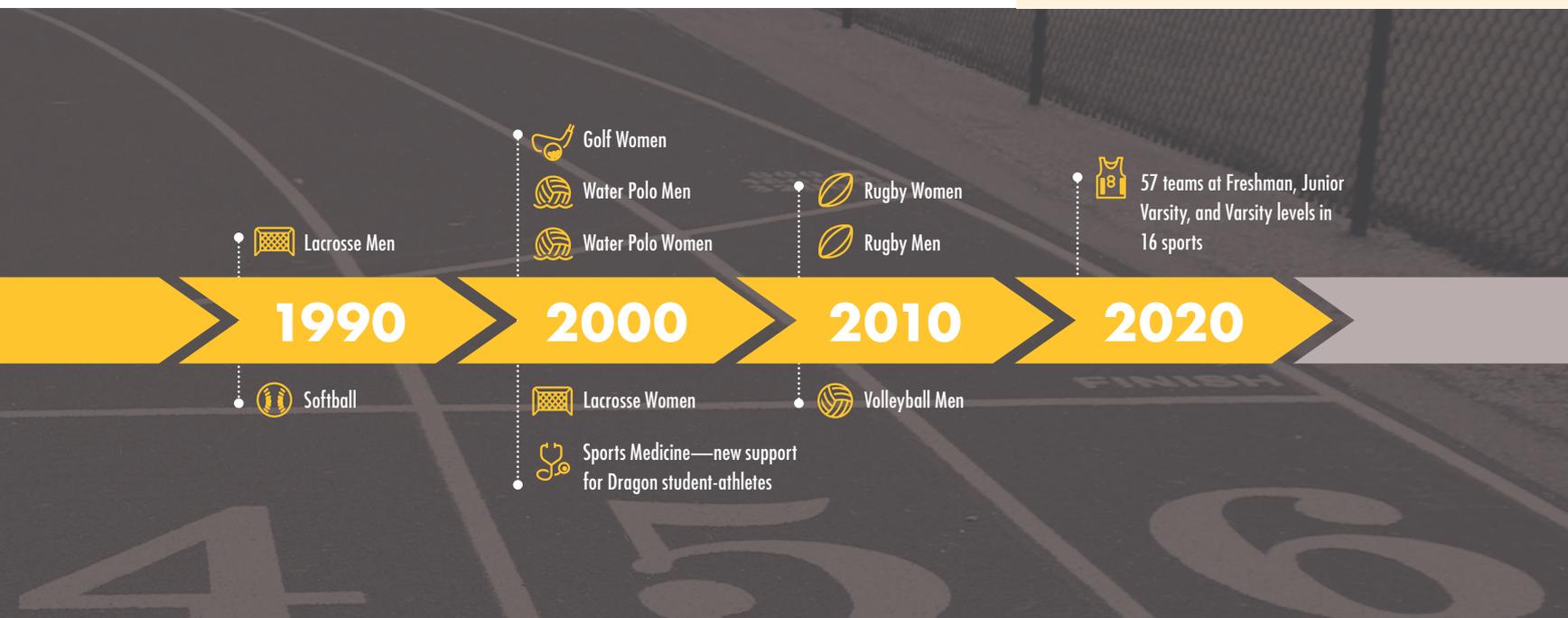
Reed also brings significant experience as a league leader and educational practitioner. He is President of the North Coast Section Athletic Director Association, where he has served as a board member and chair for the past five years. He is currently Bay Counties League Central (BCL-Central) League Coordinator and has served as a League Representative for various sports throughout his time in the BCL. He also serves as the Board Chair and a board member for various programs and nonprofits that serve youth. He is both a Certified Athletic Administrator and Accredited Interscholastic Coach.

## ORIGINS OF THE DRAGON



Contributor:  
HERM CANARIO '55

In the fall of 1952, the Year of the Dragon, O’Dowd Principal Father Mark Hurley—who later served as Bishop of Santa Rosa and held leadership roles in the Archdiocese of San Francisco—called an assembly in the gym to ask the students to choose a mascot for O’Dowd. As the sophomores and freshmen entered the gym, Father Hurley stood where the bleachers now stand and told the students it was time to pick a mascot. After much debate and consideration, the Classes of '55 and '56 chose to become the O’Dowd Dragons. “We thought it was a tough name and it was different,” Herm Canario '55 said. “Nobody had ever heard of a school with the Dragons as a mascot. It’s a great name and I’m glad we picked it!” Canario also shared that the first dragon was “not as fierce-looking as it is now.”



# STRENGTH OF CHARACTER

Among the many ways we embrace our mission and charism values, we are especially joyful when we witness our students living it in their everyday by demonstrating their strength of character through leadership, social justice, and community service. In athletics, we enjoy our scholar-athletes' ability to embrace their sports while living balanced lives and sharing their gifts in the world. Here are a few Dragons who make us proud both on and off the field.



## WILLIAM CALHOUN '22

**Baseball (2 years)**

"William is an insightful, thoughtful, and conscientious young man. He excels in the classroom while balancing the many co-curricular activities in which he participates. A natural leader, he consistently advocates for equitable practices and policies in the classroom. From the time he stepped on campus, William met with administration to voice his concerns and provide thoughts around how to address them. Over the next two years, his leadership will continue to blossom and positively impact the O'Dowd community."

—**Patrice Wakley '01** | ACADEMIC DEAN

BEYOND THE FIELD: Admissions Panelist, Volunteer in Living Lab, Tilden Park Little Farm, North Oakland Little League/South Oakland Little League/Coach and Umpire, Summer Camp Counselor for Future Star Baseball Camp, Intern for Summer Math and Science Honors Academy (SMASH)

## KAYLA HANKINS '20

**Basketball (4 years), Track (1 year), Sportsmanship Award (Basketball '19)**

"When I first met Kayla Hankins at the beginning of her freshman year, I was struck by her intelligence, maturity, and level-headedness, and she has built on this solid foundation during her time at O'Dowd, expanding her reach and developing into a multi-faceted and multi-talented young woman. A consistently excellent student, competitive athlete, and natural leader, Kayla's interests are broad and range from neuroscience to filmmaking. She loves to learn and loves helping children as well as people who are struggling. She makes strong and lasting connections with others by radiating confidence, kindness, and optimism."

—**Meredith Parry** | COUNSELOR



BEYOND THE COURT: Dragon Ambassador and Admissions Panelist, Black Student Union Executive Council, Member of Native American Alliance Club, Summer Academy Camp Counselor, Fastweb Intern/Student Contributor, Williams College Book Award 2019, Service Award, National Honor Society, Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Award Recipient, College Commitment for Basketball: Pomona College



## BRANDON FRITH '20

**Track (3 years), North Coast Section, CIF ('16-'19) President's List and Scholar Athlete, Varsity Captain, Best Newcomer Award (2018), Iron Man Award (2019)**

"Brandon is in the top 1% of student athletes I have witnessed in terms of consistently setting and achieving goals in the classroom, on the track, in the weight room, as well as in areas of leadership. Outside of academics and athletics, I have witnessed Brandon demonstrate vision, organization, excellent communication (rapport and empathy), and amazing time management across his leadership roles. Brandon truly embodies O'Dowd's charisma of Strength of Character. He commits fully to whatever he puts his mind to, sets high standards for himself and others, always gives his best effort while bringing out the best in others, leads by example, and is well-liked and respected by his teachers, coaches, and peers."

—**Jay Beito '92** | HEAD STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING COACH

BEYOND THE TRACK: Kairos Co-Rector Leader, The Crozier '17 (Newspaper), The Mitre '17 (Yearbook), Entrepreneurship Club, Eagle Scout Recipient, Oakland Youth Advisory Commission, Canticle Farms, Physicians Medical Forum, Alameda County Community Food Bank, Sunrise of Oakland Hills, Award for Outstanding Achievement in Mathematics ('17-'19), California Scholarship Federation ('17-'19), Order of the Arrow (Scout)

## EVIAN JIANG '20

**Tennis Singles and Doubles (4 years), Team Captain (3 years), Varsity Tennis MVP ('17, '18, '19), Varsity Tennis Division 2 All-League, West Alameda County Conference November 2018, 2019**

"When I first met Evian Jiang, her poise and honesty really stood out to me. I have known Evian for a few years now. I have gotten to work with her more closely this year on ASB Executive Council. I have had the benefit of getting to learn about her fearlessness, amazing work ethic, and integrity. She is a remarkable and dedicated young woman. She brings her best in all she does, from athletics to academics, being a good friend, being a true leader, and speaking up to fight for what is right."

—**Starr Gray '98** | DIRECTOR OF STUDENT ACTIVITIES



BEYOND THE COURT: Dragon Ambassador (4 years), Varsity Debate Team Captain, Associated Student Body Executive Publicist, Junior Class Publicist and Class Representative, Mock Trial, Co-Founder Red Cross Club, National Honors Society (2018-present), Wellesley Book Award (2019-present), California Scholarship Federation (2016-present), Bay Area Red Cross Youth Executive Board Chair and Fundraising Coordinator, Central Executive Committee, Intern for Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf's Office, Intern for District Assembly Member Rob Bonta's Office, Volunteer for Law and Advocacy at National Student Leadership Conference in Washington D.C., Global Leadership Adventures, Harbor House Ministries

# STRENGTH OF CHARACTER



## JULIAN JENSEN '20

**Cross Country (4 years) 2020 League Champions, Track (2 years) NCS**

"Julian Jensen is the fastest guy in the school and yet has a remarkable ability to slow down and be fully present. In the context of my classes in Christian Morality and Spiritual Ecology, Julian enhanced and deepened our discussions with stories of his unique home in the redwoods and insights into the sacred interconnectedness of all of life. Grounded in humility, humor, and hope, he has been an extraordinary leader inside and outside the classroom, perhaps most notably through his role as an Eco-leader who embodies our school's call to kinship with creation."

—**Michael Downs** | DIRECTOR OF JUSTICE AND KINSHIP

**BEYOND THE TRAIL:** Eco Leader, Eco Club Member (4 years), organized San Francisco Climate Strike with San Francisco Labor Council, Climate March, Volunteer for O'Dowd Living Lab, City Slicker Farms, Legacy Tree Planting Project, founded and organized Fire Watch Program for City of Canyon, College Commitment: California State University, Humboldt

## EDWARD KEENAN '20

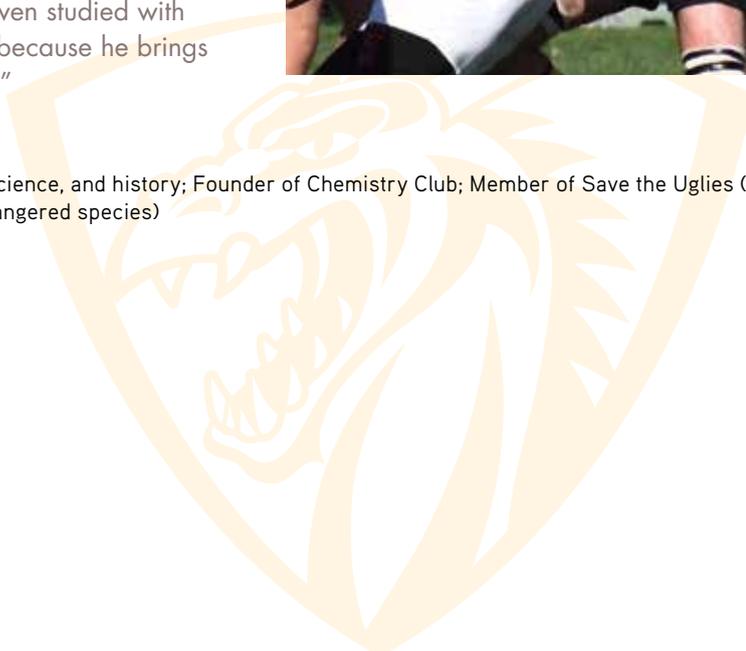
**Rugby (3 years), Martial Arts Black Belt (6 years)**

"I know Edward from the classroom. I have had him in AP Chemistry and AP Physics. He's exceptional as a student, of course, but he's much more than that. He started the Chemistry Club and diligently sets up the agendas and experiments and makes it all happen. I've never met another student like him. He's a lifelong learner. He's always coming up with new questions and wants to understand the meaning and purpose of all he does. He also leads Peer Tutoring and has quite a following of students. When my struggling students come to me to assure me they've done all they can, they consistently say, "I've even studied with Edward!" I think he'll be very successful in life because he brings the right motivation and attitude to all he does."

—**Tom Kosic, Ph.D.** | SCIENCE TEACHER



**BEYOND THE FIELD:** Peer Tutor leading mathematics, science, and history; Founder of Chemistry Club; Member of Save the Uglies (a club dedicated to raising awareness for underrated endangered species)





## MICHELLE OHWOBETE '20

**Volleyball (4 years), Team Captain, Club Volleyball**

"It has been an honor and a joy for me to be part of Michelle Ohwobete's volleyball journey for the past three years. Michelle's drive, determination, passion for volleyball, and desire to grow her character on and off the court, are all qualities that allow her to be a great leader. She has embraced the true meaning of student-athlete, finding the balance between being the best volleyball player she can while excelling in her academic studies."

—Nova Bramed | HEAD COACH, GIRLS VOLLEYBALL

BEYOND THE COURT: Dragon Ambassador (3 years), Girls INC. Volunteer, Volunteer for Nigerian organizations including Igbo and Isoko tribes, Summer Intern at East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD), College Commitment for Volleyball at University of California, Santa Barbara

## MATT WHITE '22

**Football (2 years), Varsity Track (2 years)**

"Matt White came into O'Dowd a remarkable athlete and ferocious competitor on the field. Over the last two years, I have seen him grow into a remarkable leader on campus as well as a ferocious competitor in the classroom. He's always giving 100 percent in everything he does and has become one of the male leaders in the Black Student Union as a Sophomore. As Matt continues to grow, it is clear that his future has no ceiling and I am lucky to witness his success."

—T.J. King | COUNSELING, FOOTBALL COACH

BEYOND THE FIELD: Black Student Union, Service at Hayward Elementary School, 100 Black Men Scholarship Recipient



## ISABELLA WHITTEN '21

**Cross Country (3 years)**

"Isabella Whitten brings joy to places where often joy may seem hard to find. There are few people who can be nearing the end of a 5k cross country race, pushing their body to the limit, mentally giving everything they have, and still look up and smile when you cheer for them. I have never coached someone who brought so much joy to whatever has been put in front of her. She will often remind us all of how grateful we are to be surrounded by such natural wonder in Oakland. On our team we often talk about the powerful energy that can be felt when good people come together for a shared purpose. Isa is one of our sparks, bringing out not only the best in herself, but the best in her teammates."

—Hillary Kigar | ASSISTANT ATHLETIC DIRECTOR, HEAD CROSS COUNTRY COACH, ASSISTANT TRACK COACH



BEYOND THE TRAIL: Jazz Band, Symphonic Band, Filipino Club, Volunteer Cross Country and Track Coach at Assumption School

# 2020 CRAB FEED RAISES MORE THAN \$150,000 TO ENHANCE THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

With more than 500 in attendance this year, the 2020 Crab Feed, held Saturday, February 1, raised just over \$157,000 to support O’Dowd’s robust co-curricular program offerings as well as professional development for faculty and staff through the paddle raise. The event has become one of our most powerful community fundraisers.

Board of Regents members, parents, faculty, coaches, and staff, alumni, past parents, grandparents, and friends of the school all gathered in the gyms, with the mood set for the evening by O’Dowd students singing gospel music. The volunteer committee, led by Laurel Davis and Nikki Maguire, created fun and feast for all, with 175 volunteers as a beautiful testament to our community’s heart and generosity. Thank you, O’Dowd community—for giving, volunteering, and bringing your joy to the 2020 Crab Feed!





## GATHER

The **O'Dowd Center** will be the central gathering place for the entire school community of students, teachers, and staff to come together for Mass and other faith-based activities. It will also be used for rallies that foster school pride and class unity, assemblies in which students share their diverse talents and cultures, celebrations that honor school traditions, and events with alumni, parents, and the broader community.



## LEARN

A **multi-purpose classroom** that can accommodate 50-60 people with advanced audio-visual presentation capabilities will serve as a flexible space for instruction, presentations, and events for students and faculty as well as guest speakers and professional presentations. An **additional much-needed classroom** will enhance student learning.



## PERFORM

The **Drama Studio** will provide space for classroom instruction, rehearsals, and intimate performances. With dedicated practice rooms, the **Music Studio** will provide the professional instruction, practice, and recording spaces for soloists and jazz, string, and symphonic ensembles to realize their passion.



## COMPETE

The **Gymnasium** will include a full-size court and triple current seating capacity. This will allow the school to host post-season games with ample space for fans, friends, and families. The **Athletic Performance Lab** will feature enhanced strength and conditioning equipment and sports medicine resources under one roof to accommodate more than 3,000 annual visits from students at every stage of fitness.



"The O'Dowd Center is about giving our students the physical space where they may explore their interests and passions and reveal their gifts, realizing their fullest potential as individuals, community members, and leaders."

—J.D. Childs, President



"We're excited to have the performing arts students and athletes all in one place, and to celebrate Spirit Week and Mass as a whole community. The Center will make us feel more unified, connecting us with people from every part of the school."

—Juliette Tanios '22 and Parris Bates '22

"In my professional and personal life, I am constantly forging new connections with O'Dowd alumni. Dragon pride is powerful! We are a strong and connected group and we have an incredible influence in our communities—in the East Bay and beyond. Jack and I are delighted to help ensure that O'Dowd remains a dynamic and compelling institution for future generations of students."

—Rhonda Jackson Morris '83 and Jack Morris, Alumna and Parents of Erica '21



# THE O'DOWD CENTER

ONE HEART IN COMMUNITY



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

# THE O'DOWD CENTER

**PLANS ARE WELL UNDERWAY** for The O'Dowd Center, a new building in the heart of campus where students will use a beautiful light-filled space—a new gymnasium—to come together to learn, play, perform, worship, and compete in community. We are happy to share plans for this exciting new addition to our campus, which will include multi-purpose classrooms, a music studio, a drama studio, an athletic performance lab, and a full-size gymnasium. The Center will support and enhance the heart of the O'Dowd co-curricular experience, guiding students daily to realize their full potential.

Very Exciting News! We are pleased to share that a regional foundation has made an extraordinary matching pledge to the O'Dowd Center project. This transformative gift will double the impact of every gift to the project and comes from a foundation known for its selective investments in reputable organizations and Catholic education.

If you wish to make a gift to build this dream for O'Dowd, please contact Chief Development Officer Rebecca Bischoff at [rbischoff@bishopodowd.org](mailto:rbischoff@bishopodowd.org) or (510) 553-8628.

Learn more about the O'Dowd Center project at:  
[www.bishopodowd.org/campusdevelopment](http://www.bishopodowd.org/campusdevelopment)

# BUILDING A DREAM





# LOVE, BASKETBALL, AND GIVING BACK

## THE FAMILY OF AUSTIN AND CADE RONZONE '20 SUPPORT THE O'DOWD CENTER

A powerful sense of family and the desire to make a meaningful contribution—these commitments form the core of the Lezny-Ronzone family experience and the lives of alumna Liwayway Ronzone's '83 twin boys Austin '20 and Cade '20. Liwayway's and Jan Lezny's shared enthusiasm for the education the boys are receiving inspired their recent generous gift to the O'Dowd Center.

Liwayway, Austin, and Cade lived in San Diego for the boys' K-8 years, spending a year in Australia before moving to the Bay Area to attend O'Dowd. The boys' father, alumnus Tony Ronzone '83, played basketball at O'Dowd in championship years and remains an enthusiastic ambassador and contributor to basketball at O'Dowd today. Tony and Liwayway shared their O'Dowd community and memories with the boys growing up. So when Liwayway asked the boys about a new adventure at O'Dowd, she wasn't surprised by their reaction. "The boys knew Coach Lou Richie growing up, and Mike Phelps was their godfather," she said. "So when they had the opportunity to play basketball, they enthusiastically voted yes."

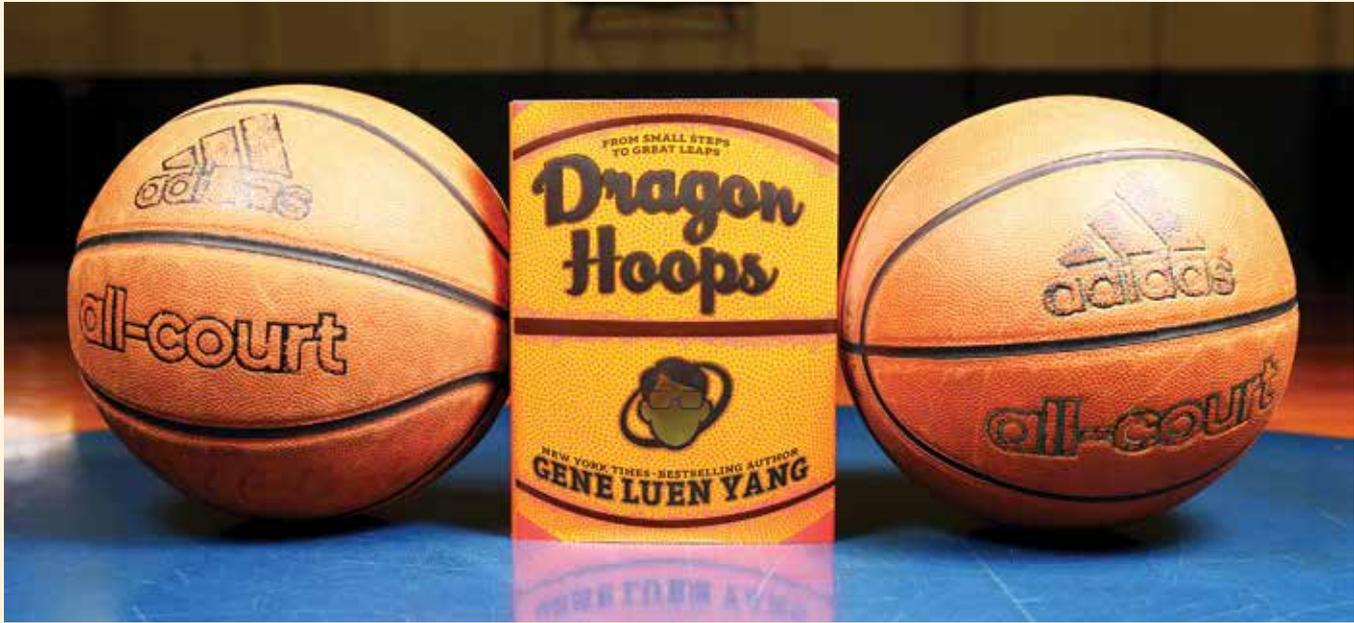
The family's generosity and gift were made possible through Jan's commitment. Though Jan is newer to the family and the O'Dowd community, he likewise values the education the boys are receiving. He attended Catholic school himself and believes in the value of Catholic education. "It gives you grounding you wouldn't get otherwise, helping you to think in any situation, 'What's the right thing to do?' It helps you think about how to participate in society."

He also believes in the importance of giving back.

"I am so impressed by both how close the boys are with their mom as well as how mature and independent they are. They were given the gift of their mother and O'Dowd, and this gift is a tribute to that. Not only do I know this gift will be put to good use and managed well, I know the boys are working hard and getting the nurturing and guidance they need in their education."

Liwayway echoes Jan's appreciation for the guidance the boys receive, particularly from Coach Lou Richie. "Lou teaches what's important: the value of relationships, making eye contact, shaking hands, volunteering. The boys have become more aware, and they are becoming fully developed young men," she said.

A bold project like the O'Dowd Center requires unprecedented community support. O'Dowd is exceptionally grateful for the generous commitment of Liwayway and Jan to the O'Dowd Center. Their contribution will create opportunities for future Dragons to receive guidance and develop lives of success and purpose.



# DRAGON HOOPS

## HOOP DREAMS AND LIFE LESSONS

Former O’Dowd teacher Gene Luen Yang’s new graphic novel is rooted in his love of O’Dowd, basketball, and the people and relationships that make a community, team, and victory. In his latest graphic novel, *Dragon Hoops*, New York Times best-selling author Yang turns the spotlight on his life, his family, and Bishop O’Dowd High School, where he taught for 17 years. We encourage you to pick up your copy at Mrs. Dalloway’s Literary and Garden Arts in Berkeley.

“One thing I loved about my high school experience is how my team and I inspired the new generation of O’Dowd basketball. We exemplified the meaning of teamwork and Dragon Pride. *Dragon Hoops* does an excellent job of telling our story.”

—ODERAH CHIDOM '13



“I think what’s so central in *Dragon Hoops* and true, as well, is how this team, and athletes in general, are like today’s superheroes. We see them perform these superhuman athletic feats as the world watches. We see their tenacity and resilience in the face of failure. No matter what happens, they get back up and get in the game again, all in the moment. That ability to fall, get up, and be right back in the game—all of which can happen in seconds—that’s superhero strength most of us are in awe of. It’s heroic.”

— GENE LUEN YANG



## ODERAH CHIDOM '13

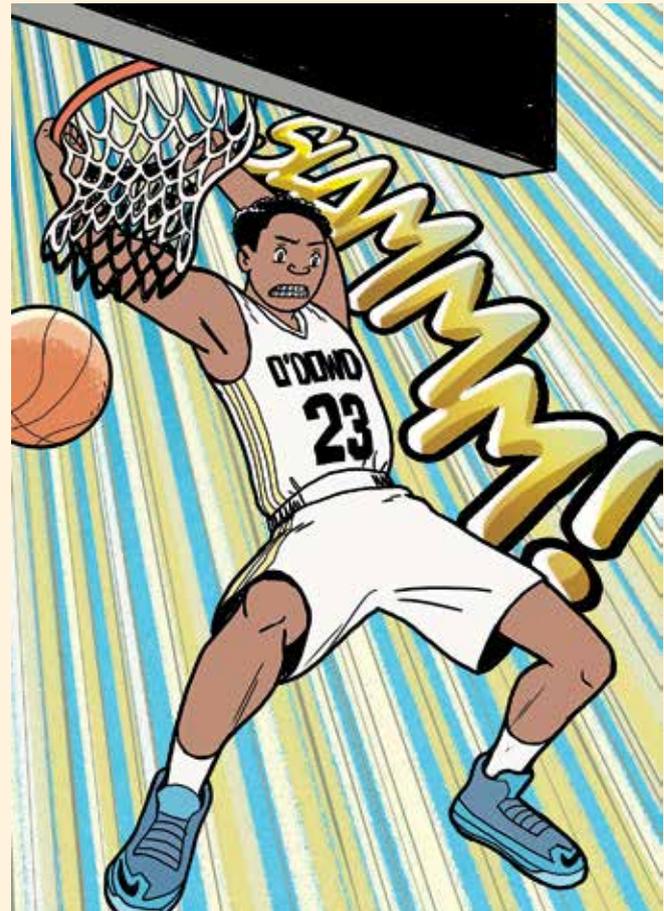
- » Over 1,000 points at O'Dowd, McDonald's All American
- » Duke University
- » Atlanta Dream, Tsmoki-Minsk, professional basketball club that plays in Eurocup and European Women's Basketball League

"Be coachable. As an athlete, you're going to have highs and lows, but you must stay level-headed and humble. Listen to those who have your interest in mind and always try and keep a positive attitude."

## IVAN RABB '15

- » All-Time Leading Scorer with 2,089 points
- » University of California, Berkeley
- » Memphis Grizzlies, Westchester Knicks

"When it comes to success, it depends on what your goal is. Is your goal to be there or excel? There's a difference between those. You have to be intentional."



# A FAITH THAT DOES JUSTICE



## O'DOWD AND THE IGNATIAN SOLIDARITY NETWORK

O'Dowd is proud to partner with Ignatian Solidarity Network (ISN), which helps young people from around the nation network and form connections for social justice animated by the spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola. ISN gatherings and workshops provide excellent opportunities for O'Dowd students to hone their leadership in solidarity and social justice. This year, O'Dowd participated in, organized, and led three ISN-affiliated gatherings to build awareness and momentum for positive social transformation and justice.

### NOVEMBER 2019 IGNATIAN FAMILY TEACH-IN FOR JUSTICE, WASHINGTON D.C.

Nearly 2,000 individuals, including an O'Dowd delegation, attended the annual Ignatian Family Teach-In for Justice in Washington, D.C., the theme of which was "Radical Hope, Prophetic Action." Known as the largest annual Catholic social justice gathering in the U.S., attendees comprise more than 130 Jesuit and other Catholic universities, high schools, parishes, and organizations in the U.S., as well as Canada, Mexico, Spain, and El Salvador.

O'Dowd's delegation helped open the gathering through prayer and activities. O'Dowd Director of Justice and Kinship Michael Downs led a breakout session on climate inaction, addressing why people who care about climate change do not do more to change their habits and actions.

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"I met some very inspiring people from all over the world who are taking action in their own communities, and this motivates me to keep fighting for justice in my own community."

—Abigail Gonzalez '21

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O'Dowd students and other attendees participated in legislative advocacy meetings on Capitol Hill, urging Congress to advocate for immigration reform and action on environmental justice issues with the offices of Representative Barbara Lee, Senator Kamala Harris, and Senator Dianne Feinstein.

 **View O'Dowd students' public prayers and presentations at <https://youtu.be/0Qd8snbsj5s>**

### JANUARY 2020 BAY AREA TEACH-IN FOR JUSTICE AT BISHOP O'DOWD

Informed and influenced by the D.C. experience, O'Dowd's Solidarity-in-Action leaders organized the 5th Annual Bay Area Teach-In for Justice, with the theme, "Rooted in Justice, Growing for Change." Nearly 150 students and teachers from Bay Area high schools gathered on O'Dowd's campus to explore the regional relevance of issues raised at the D.C. gathering.

Organization leaders from Enact Leadership and Lead to Life challenged and inspired participants. Students attended break-out sessions on environmental justice, minority



“EDUCATING FOR JUSTICE IS INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT. IT IS A GREAT PRIVILEGE TO BE IN A COMMUNITY LIKE O’DOWD THAT PRIORITIZES THIS AND TO DO THIS WORK WITH STUDENTS WHO HAVE DIVERSE BACKGROUNDS, INTELLECTUAL CHOPS, AND LIFE EXPERIENCES TO MEANINGFULLY CONTRIBUTE TO THE CONVERSATION.”

—Michael Downs, O’Dowd Director of Justice and Kinship

inequality, and law and policy. The conference culminated with Lead to Life founders Kyle Lemle and brontë velez [sic] sharing their work to transform weapons into shovels for tree-planting ceremonies at sites impacted by violence or that carry spiritual significance. Students conducted a tree-planting ceremony on campus with tools created from guns on the land of the Ohlone. Those impacted by gun violence participated directly.

“Through our D.C. conference, we hope that students are inspired to create change and momentum in their own communities when they return home. And that is exactly what O’Dowd has been doing year after year: bringing people together to learn and take action.”

—Erin Brown, Program Director, Ignatian Solidarity Network

### **BAY AREA TECH-IN FOR JUSTICE PARTICIPATING HIGH SCHOOLS**

- » Archbishop Mitty High School
- » Bellarmine College Preparatory
- » Berkeley High School
- » Cristo Reye De La Salle
- » Cristo Rey San José Jesuit High School
- » Hayward High School
- » Notre Dame Belmont
- » Piedmont High School
- » Sacred Heart Atherton
- » Saint Ignatius College Preparatory

### **FEBRUARY 2020 ARRUPE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT, MOUNT HERMAN, CALIFORNIA**

In late January, a cohort of emerging O’Dowd leaders joined others from across the nation at Mount Hermon in the Santa Cruz Mountains for ISN’s three-day Arrupe Leaders Summit, a national gathering during which new high school student leaders deepen their understanding of “a faith that does justice,” sharing ideas and resources for social justice programming, and becoming empowered to effect positive social change in their local and global communities. O’Dowd Religious Studies teacher Molleen Dominguez also facilitated a workshop for summit participants on inspiring a shared vision.

O’Dowd teachers Kaylinda Ellenwood and Kevin Anderson accompanied the group. “Seeing our students step up to represent O’Dowd in front of the entire group made a lasting impression. I enjoyed how the group’s solidarity grew over the summit weekend as they joked with and supported one another.”





# O'DOWD RECEIVES LARGEST INDIVIDUAL GIFT IN SCHOOL HISTORY

## ALUMNUS JIM BILL '55 PROVIDES \$5 MILLION FOR TUITION ASSISTANCE

The new decade kicked off with a spirit of camaraderie and celebration as members of the Class of 1955, O'Dowd's inaugural class and friends of James "Jim" Bill, gathered in O'Dowd's theater, newly dedicated in his name. Jim, who passed last year, left \$5 million to O'Dowd in his estate plan, endowed funds designated to support tuition assistance for future students. Jim's gift is the largest gift from an individual received by O'Dowd. The dedication christening the James T. Bill '55 Theater honored Jim's love of the arts and his generosity. The school was particularly honored to have Jim's former O'Dowd teacher Bishop John Cummins participate in the event.

President J.D. Childs welcomed guests, and Rev. Monsignor Valdivia, who attended seminary with Jim, opened the dedication with a prayer. J.D. Childs shared the significance of Jim's generous gift, including what inspired his generosity. Jim's father modelled for his son the habit of giving, and Jim in turn provided endowed support for tuition assistance at O'Dowd for many years prior to his estate gift.

Jim was among the first alumni to set up an endowment for tuition assistance. This new gift from Bill contributes to the James T. Bill '55 Scholarship Fund, a permanent, solid fund to support accessible education at O'Dowd.

Speaking to those at the event, J.D. Childs shared:

**"This landmark endowment will produce approximately \$200,000 in tuition assistance annually, supporting 22 students on average. Over the course of 50 years, that's 275 students who through their four years will be afforded the opportunity of an O'Dowd education as a result of his foresight and generosity. O'Dowd alumni understand that what is beautiful is meant to be shared."**

Bishop Cummins blessed the plaque and newly dedicated theater. He spoke to the theology of beauty in creation, calling for O'Dowd and Catholic education as a whole to share this beauty—of poems, music, literature, and other arts—to enhance our understanding of God. Bill Wiegmann '55, Jim's friend and executor of his estate, shared colorful stories of the Class of '55 and their friendship. Father Don Osuna, who attended both elementary school and seminary with Jim, shared details of Jim's path and character, and explained Jim's generosity to O'Dowd, quoting Matthew 6:21: "Where your treasure is, there also will be your heart." So now his treasure and his heart, which he always left here at O'Dowd, are joined together. May they remain forever."

O'Dowd is extremely grateful to Jim Bill for creating a lasting legacy that will serve future Dragons, keeping a transformative Catholic education at O'Dowd within the reach of more families for generations to come.



ABOVE: Bishop Cummins blessing the plaque and newly dedicated theater.

“Jim and I hit it off junior year and remained friends ever since. I remember he got a brand-new 1954 Buick (biggest Buick ever made) just before senior ball. Jim, me, Al Hague, and Mahoney, the nerd squad, all hopped in the car and had a fun adventure driving up to his family’s Yuba County Ranch on the Feather River. Such great memories. He was incredibly intelligent, competitive, kind, and generous. My wife and children were his family, too. He created all sorts of adventures for friends, including taking my daughter to see Lady Gaga when he was 80 years old! He was truly my dear friend.”

—BILL WIEGMANN '55



## JIM BILL

Jim was born in 1937 and raised in San Leandro, California. His family were members of Assumption Parish and he attended St. Leander’s School. After graduating from O’Dowd, he attended St. Patrick’s Seminary

in Menlo Park. He studied at the American College in Rome, Italy, was ordained as a priest there, and served in Rome for many years.

After many years of serving in the priesthood in Rome and briefly in the Bay Area, Jim stepped down from the priesthood and earned a degree in accounting. After a period at Hood & Strong LLP in San Francisco, he became Controller for Gilchrist Timber in Oregon, enjoying his leisure time in Sunriver, Oregon. After he retired, Jim moved back to the Bay Area and had the opportunity to do what he loved most: travel with friends.



## PROVIDING FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The Bishop O’Dowd High School Heritage Society honors those who have the vision and generosity to include O’Dowd in their estate plans. By designating O’Dowd as the beneficiary of a bequest, trust, retirement plan, life insurance policy, or other estate provision, generous individuals become members of this special group committed to securing the future and preserving the past. These unique gifts provide transformative learning opportunities for future generations of students.

If you would like more information about including O’Dowd in your estate plan, please contact Michelle Hawkins, Senior Director of Development, at (510) 553-8630.

# FROM HIGH SCHOOL TO THE REST OF YOUR LIFE

## DRAGON ATHLETE ALUMNI SHARE THEIR GIFTS WITH THE WORLD

We recently caught up with a few alumni Dragon athletes to talk about how they put their O'Dowd experience into play within their communities and careers, uplifting others.



### CHRIS LEOBA '15

**M.S., Epidemiology, Stanford University, School of Medicine (anticipated completion May 2020); Stanford University, B.S., Human Biology with a concentration in disease ecology**

"I was a member of the water polo and swimming teams, where I met the people I still consider my best friends to this day. The Living Lab community was also a big part of my life at O'Dowd, and I still bring friends from college to Living Lab Work Days. Working to push for change at O'Dowd through The Living Lab and environmental clubs gave me the skills and confidence to approach, work with, and in some cases protest the Stanford administration to bring about change and a more just place. I now use those same skills to generate data and advocate for changes in international humanitarian response."

CHRIS LEOBA works on research related to epidemiology, infectious disease, and human migration. This includes research for the United Nations High Commission on Refugees and research on the epidemiology of civilian trauma since the 2001 Operation Iraqi Freedom in order to inform humanitarian healthcare preparedness. In addition to his coursework at Stanford, LeBoa leads Sustainable Stanford, a student organization that successfully campaigned the University to adopt zero waste and carbon neutrality goals for 2030. LeBoa also works with Stanford Food Recovery to redistribute leftover food from campus to organizations and food banks in need. LeBoa received the Dinkelspiel Award for outstanding service to undergraduate education at Stanford and the Haas Center for Public Service's "Walk the Talk" Award for his environmental advocacy and leadership at Stanford.

### KEVIN DONAHUE '63

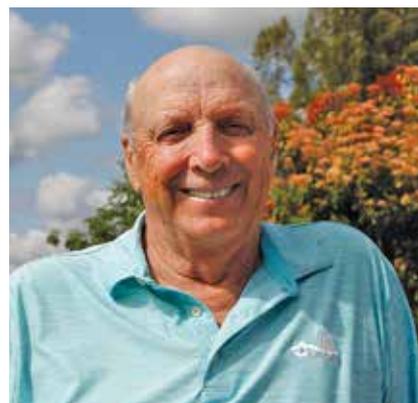
**Athletic Director, Junipero Serra High School (Retired)**

Santa Clara University, B.A., History with a minor in Philosophy, Basketball

Holy Names College M.A. and Teaching Credential

"I participated in basketball and baseball. I also was on stage crew my senior year for the spring musical. Bishop O'Dowd High School changed my life. By a faculty member/coach seeing my athletic potential and working with me to reach it, I was able to spend my career giving back by becoming a teacher, coach, administrator, and mentor to young people."

KEVIN DONAHUE continues to be involved in sports, which has always been an integral part of his life, through college and into his career, including returning to O'Dowd to teach and coach freshman and JV basketball and the school's first football team. Donahue coached Saint Mary's College before spending the remainder of his career at Junipero Serra High School, where he was head basketball coach, then athletic director for 30 years. Community development and involvement was also a priority, and Donahue was named Central Coast Section Athletic Director of the Year in 2004-05 and the California Athletic Director's Association State Athletic Director of the Year in 2011. Donahue is involved in CYO and Little League Baseball. He coached his daughter's and son's teams and served on the board of directors and as president of the Washington Manor Little League Association. Donahue is also involved in his parish, Saint Leander's Church, where he is a board member.





## VICTOR VIEGAS '75

**Chief Executive Officer, Immersion Incorporated (Retired)**

Santa Clara University, M.B.A., B.S. Accounting

Certified Public Accountant

“While at O’Dowd, I played football for three years and baseball for three years. I feel Bishop O’Dowd provided me with many of the skills needed to achieve success, the platform to challenge myself, the motivation to do more, and the humility to try and be a positive influence in the community.”

VICTOR VIEGAS retired in 2017 as CEO of Immersion Incorporated after a successful 40-year career in public accounting, with controller and CFO capacities at numerous Silicon Valley companies. He entered the Santa Clara University Business IPO Hall of Fame in 1999. Viegas has been a long-time member of the Santa Clara University Board

of Regents, and mentored numerous disadvantaged micro business owners as part of the university’s Global Social Business Incubator. Viegas’ love of sports and community is reflected through a Santa Clara University fully endowed scholarship created along with his wife, Loren, titled the Victor and Loren Viegas Baseball Scholarship. Viegas also coached youth sports, including baseball, soccer, and basketball for many years, and today he continues to play baseball in a local league. In 2017, he was a member of the 60+ Men’s Senior Baseball League National Champions, coincidentally named the Dragons.

## AERIAL CHAVARIN '16

**Chicago Red Stars, Women’s Professional Soccer**

Yale University, B.S., Psychology

Yale University, Soccer and Basketball Teams

“While at O’Dowd, I played varsity soccer my freshmen and sophomore year. Once I committed to Yale for soccer early in my junior year, I tried out for the varsity basketball team—I played varsity basketball my junior and senior year at O’Dowd. I also played clarinet in the band for four years, and participated in student council and Campus Ministry Team. O’Dowd pushed me to work incredibly hard to succeed in the classroom, use the multitude of resources that were offered, and build relationships with my teachers. I am grateful I was able to grow and learn as a student, person, and as an athlete. Like academic study and achievement, I learned to stay after practice in order to improve my game and build relationships with and learn from older players. Those experiences taught me time management, the importance of leaving a legacy, and leadership skills. I am forever thankful to have been a part of the O’Dowd community and the many amazing experiences that have shaped who I am today.”



AERIAL CHAVARIN has received multiple accolades for soccer while at Yale, including Rookie of the Year, First Team All-Ivy, and Second Team All-American. In between playing soccer for Yale, finishing her undergraduate degree, and recently being signed to play professional soccer on the women’s Chicago Red Stars team, Chavarin finds time to give back to the community by mentoring youth at the Boys and Girls Club and at local soccer practices around New Haven.



## NICHOLAS WILLIAMS '90

**Director of the Parks, Recreation and Youth Development for the City of Oakland and a Certified Parks and Recreation Executive (CPRE)**

Morehouse College, B.A., Sociology

"While at O'Dowd, I played basketball and also ran cross country. I participated in the Black Student Union all four years and played drums in the band. Everything O'Dowd taught me was valuable. From the intense nature of the learning environment, to the underlying sense of community and concern for my brothers and sisters, to the fun and silliness of the lunch room, to the passion of not only winning, but finishing in sports, O'Dowd taught me to give it my all, to strive to be the best, and be nice and considerate to others on the path. I wouldn't trade it for the world."

NICHOLAS WILLIAMS is currently the Director of the Parks, Recreation and Youth Development for the City of Oakland and a Certified Parks and Recreation Executive (CPRE). In 2019, Williams received recognition by the Cohort American Express Leadership Academy and the Campaign for Black Male Achievement. He dedicates much of his time to giving back to the community through serving as a ministerial staff member at First African Methodist Episcopal Church, Advisory Board member at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland, volunteer at the Center for Nature and Health, and as an Oakland Rotary member.

## SARA LILLEVAND '86

**City Administrator, City of Piedmont**

University of California, Davis, B.S., Physical Education, graduated with high honors, awarded NCAA postgraduate scholarship

Boston University, M.A., Physical Therapy with distinction

"It is impossible to overstate the positive impact Bishop O'Dowd High School had on my personal development. Sports brought me to O'Dowd and my Dragon athletic experience was exceptional, but O'Dowd gave me much much more than a platform for athletic achievement. O'Dowd gave me a richly diverse community that supported and celebrated my gifts and talents as well as broadened my horizons at a time when I considered myself a misfit. I was lifted up by O'Dowd and in turn I was inspired to strive toward a life of authenticity and service. My path since high school graduation has been circuitous, but it has always been led by my Dragon heart."



SARA LILLEVAND played basketball at O'Dowd, Stanford University, and UC Davis, where she was team captain and set all five UC Davis assist records. Her career path continued in athletics with a common thread of finding a place of meaningful service — Assistant Basketball Coach at UC Davis; Assistant Basketball Coach at Wellesley College; Head Basketball Coach, Director of Athletics, and Kinesiology teacher at Cal State Hayward/Cal State East Bay; Physical Therapist at Stanford Children's Hospital. Currently, Lillevand is the City Administrator for the City of Piedmont, where she is responsible for all city staff including police, fire, public works, finance, administration, planning, and recreation. Throughout her life, Lillevand has coached more than 25 soccer, basketball, and baseball teams. Currently she coaches the Challenger Division of Oakland Little League and says it's "always the best couple hours of my week!"



## LANAE BARBER DURDEN '85

**Organizational Development Specialist, Apple Inc.**

University of California, Berkeley, B.A., American History

National University, M.S., Instructional Leadership in Curriculum and Instruction

Syracuse University, M.B.A., Marketing

"Participating in O'Dowd athletics taught me the power of perseverance and the leadership skills that fuel my personal and professional life every day. I learned to win and lose with grace and that with God's favor I will rise above any obstacle that comes my way. Athletics is a very powerful tool that teaches leadership, relationship building, collaboration, and teamwork—all capabilities needed to be successful as an adult in

this ever-changing world. But most importantly, at O'Dowd I learned compassion and love for my fellow man. I couldn't have had a greater lesson."

LANAE BARBER DURDEN was a cheerleader and on the Track and Field team at O'Dowd. As a cheerleader, she tutored children at Lincoln Child Center in Oakland, where she learned that though everyone has intellectual ability not all have access to opportunities. That inspired her passion for giving back to children and families. Today, she volunteers at Rebekka House, a South Bay facility benefiting abused women and children. With her husband and daughter, she partners with local businesses to organize drives to provide meals to the homeless at City Team. Durden's role at Apple is to prepare the retail leadership team to lead Apple retail into the future through learning and professional development. What brings her the most joy at Apple is her company's strong support for employee philanthropic efforts related to inclusion and diversity, which she participates in with her colleagues by volunteering at the local food bank, participating with the CEO in community clean-up efforts on Martin Luther King, Jr. holidays as well as being a member of Apple's Black@Apple Diversity Network Association (DNA).

## ALEX MCGRATH '14

**CEO and Founder of Rumagi**

University of Southern California School of Business, B.A., Business

United States Naval Academy

The American University of Paris

"O'Dowd instilled in me how important it is to live a life committed to serving others. My teachers inspired me most of all and remain some of the most influential people in my life. The school fosters people who care about one another and want each other to succeed. I hope to leave the planet better than I found it. I want to help more people access the outdoors who might not be able to for economic reasons."



ALEX MCGRATH's energy and varied interests form her entrepreneurial leadership. While at O'Dowd, McGrath participated in lacrosse, golf, basketball and chorus. She went on to explore colleges, immersing herself in the outdoors experiences each offered—the US Naval Academy Ski Team, including mountaineering and survival skills on a glacier, then USC's Ski and Snowboard Teams and leadership of the college Outdoor Club's weekend ascent of a fourteener (14,000-foot peak). Today, McGrath is preparing to launch a secondhand e-commerce start-up for lower than original priced outdoor gear to help contribute to a more sustainable future. She shared with us that if everyone bought one used item a year, 5.7 billion pounds of carbon dioxide emissions would be saved, a level equivalent to taking half a million cars off the road.

# CLASS NOTES

## 1955

**James Burnham '55** recently retired after teaching computer programming for 11 years at Ohlone Community College in Fremont. He has been married for 48 years, has 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

## 1966



**Michael Tucevich '66** served as a federal judge for more than 28 years and recently retired. Prior, he served as a Counsel to the House Judiciary Committee in Washington D.C. and was responsible for FBI oversight and the ABSCAM review. He co-authored the Missing Children's Bill signed into law by then President Reagan.

## 1968



**Janet Rodrigues Monteiro '68** recently retired and moved to the Central Valley in 2019. She is enjoying this new chapter in life with her husband of 47 years, Duarte Monteiro.

## 1973

**Alfred J. Musante, Jr. '73** joined Keyser Marston Associates as a consultant in Economic Analysis and Real Estate Consultants to the City of Oakland in 2019.

## 1977

**Mary Dresser '77** recently retired. She was a professional realtor in Oakland for 29 years. She is living the simple life in the countryside of Southwest France and loving it. Mary is grateful she studied French for four years at O'Dowd with Mrs. Geister back in the mid-70s as it has proven to be invaluable.

## 1981



**Diane Mascote McRae '81** married David Lencioni in October. David and Diane were introduced by Leslie Sims Robertson '81, who was present at their wedding along with alumni Nicki DeMarais Shaw '81, Kathy Cunningham Alexander '81, Tanya Butler '81, Rod Roche '81, Kathy Huaco Kirby '81, Michael Sanchez '89, Jill Sanchez Stokes '92, Jordan Gibbs '09, and Travis Robertson '15.

## 1983



**Maria Baird '83** is the Command Sergeant Major of the 9th Mission Support Command, the Army Reserve Command in the Pacific, with units in Alaska, American Samoa, Guam, Japan, Korea, Saipan, and Hawaii. As a civilian, Maria is a Supervisory Budget Analyst for I Corps at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Washington.

## 1995



**Alumna Brandi Thompson Summers '95, Ph.D.** is Assistant Professor of Geography and Global Metropolitan Studies at U.C. Berkeley. She visited Mr. Green's class to share her expertise about how economic and racial forces change U.S. urban landscapes and communities, adversely affecting people of color and the poor.

## 1998

**D'Lonra Ellis '98**, General Counsel for the Oakland Athletics, was recently recognized in the *San Francisco Business Times* list of 40 under 40.

## 2000



**Antoniya Green '00** started 2020 as Apple's head of U.S. Partner Sales Enablement programs, providing integrated content, training, and coaching services. This follows her 15 years with Verizon, leading various marketing teams and functions for the business division.

## 2002



**Meena Harris '02** wrote her first children's book, which features her mom (and fellow alumna), **Maya Harris '84**. It is based on a true story from the childhood of Meena's aunt, Senator Kamala Harris, and mom, Maya Harris. *Kamala and Maya's Big Idea* is about two sisters working together to create change in their community.

## 2004

**Dr. Alexis Jackson '04** was featured in the *Times Herald* for her passion and interest in Marine Biology. After graduating from Yale in 2008, she earned her master's degree then Ph.D. in 2014 at UC Santa Cruz in ecology and evolutionary biology. Alexis is currently the Fisheries Project Director at the Nature Conservancy.

## 2005



**Tyson Ross '05** signed a one-year, minor-league contract with the Giants. Ross, 32, was a second-round draft pick of the A's in 2008. He also has pitched for the Padres, Rangers, Cardinals, and Tigers. He made his major-league debut with the A's on April 7, 2010.



Classmates and fellow volleyball teammates, **Jordan Kees '05**, **Aly Pence Russo '05**, and **Gerry Erwin '05**, all had babies in 2019; Adley Roan Thorpe, Madilynn Theresa Fagalde, and twins Rudy Joseph Russo and Rory Bud Russo.

## 2006



**Tim Beck '06** married Ashley Cooper October 13, 2019 in Sonoma. A backyard wedding was held at the home of Shannon and Austin Beck '98.



**Caitlin Green '06** married Scott Schmidt in Bentonville, Arkansas, October 5, 2019.



After graduating from Harvard, **Andrew M. Prince '06** worked at independent schools in Texas and New Jersey. He then pursued his master's in private school leadership at Columbia's Teachers College and now works as the Dean of Multicultural Education at the Taft School. Andrew is engaged to Courtney Smyth, who also works at Taft.

CLASS NOTES (continued)

## 2007



**Katie Hawkins '07** married Josh Braverman in August 2019 at the Evergreen Lodge near Yosemite. The O'Dowd Class of 2007 was well-represented. Left to right: Andrew Kurtz '07, Jake Lampenfeld '07, Katie and Josh, Eileen Clapp '07 and Tory Levine-Hall '07.

## 2008



**Adam Butterfield '08**, Senior Programming Producer at Snap, was included in *Forbes'* 30 Under 30 List.

## 2013



**Hedda Nguyen '13** is pursuing her master's degree in public health at Columbia University, studying racial disparities in the healthcare system. She recently earned a fellowship to study and research in Puerto Rico.

## 2014

**Madelyn A. Murray '14** started working as an Environmental Analyst at Dudek in 2019, providing grant-writing services and planning document support. She was recently promoted and is working on bringing in more local work to give back to the Oakland community.

## 2016



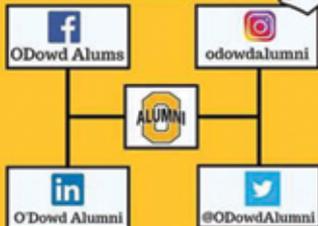
**Aerial Chavarin '16** has been a superstar on the field and in the classroom at Yale. She was named 2019 Ivy League All-Academic team, Ivy League Defensive Player of the Year at Yale, and Women's Soccer All-American 2nd Team. Aerial has now been recruited to play in the National Women's Soccer League for the Chicago Red Stars. *Read more about Aerial on p. 30.*

## 2017



**Antoneil Carter '17** earned a 3.9 GPA in her first quarter at UCLA. Shortly thereafter, Antoneil secured a coveted internship position this summer at Facebook's corporate headquarters as a Product Development Specialist.

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

**EDWARD B. ADAMO**

Father to Cathy C. Adamo '67, Richard J. Adamo '80 and Steven E. Adamo '71 (dec)

**MELVIN JOSEPH CAUGHELL**

Father to Robert F. Caughell '72 and Maureen Caughell Padilla '77, father-in-law to Karen Baird Caughell '73 and Joan Sulprizio Caughell '72

**ERVIN R. DELONEY '90**

Brother to Curtis Deloney '91

**ERIC P. EWEN**

Father to Catherine M. Ewen Granto '98

**SISTER ANN ROMAYNE FALLON**

Former faculty

**ANNA L. FISHER '85**

Sister to Erik Fisher '86

**JOAN MCDONALD GUILFORD '70****WILLIAM HAGAN**

Husband to Jan Hagan, former faculty and staff, and father to Kent W. Hagan, D.C. '80 and Kimberly A. Hagan '84

**RONALD W. HILL '56**

Husband to Rita O'Neill Hill '56

**NICOLE T. JONES '96**

Daughter to Theresa Green Jones '73 and Stephen R. Jones '68 (dec)

**ROGER J. KLOEPPING '56****RAYMOND DONALD KOPE**

Husband to Cathryn Serrao Kope '73, brother-in-law to Carolyn Serrao '65, Daniel J. Serrao '68, and Robert Serrao '69

**DONALD LEES '57****LYNNE MADIGAN**

Wife to Thomas F. Madigan '64, mother to Alyson L. Madigan '89, Thomas F. Madigan '89, Molly L. Madigan '94

**ALISSA B. MYRICK '92**

Sister to Aaron J. Morrison '94 and sister-in-law to Tracy Ann Lovewell Morrison '94

**NORMAN NAGEL**

Father to Timothy N. Nagel '82, Mark P. Nagel '85, Patrick D. Nagel '89

**ROBERT P. OBRA '69**

Bonnie Lantz Perakis '60

**MICHAEL J. POITEVIN**

Husband to Vickie Barrious Poitevin '65 and brother-in-law to Gary Barrious '59

**F. PATRICK RILEY**

Former faculty and coach

**CHRISTINA SMITH RILEY '63****JESSE RUBINO '65**

Brother to Joann Rubino Enos '60 (dec), and Jerry Rubino '69 and brother-in-law to Ronald F. Enos '55 and Jo Ann Schneider '69

**ARLEEN RUSSI**

Mother to John F. Russi '79, Tim Russi '80, Joseph Russi '81, Catherine Russi Thomas '83, Patrick J. Russi '86, Michelle M. Russi '88, mother-in-law to Jodelle M. Prola Russi '79, and grandmother to Gabriela R. Twitchell '20 and Grace A. Twitchell '23

**JOSEPH SACCOMANNO**

Father to Christine A. Saccomanno Ewert '10, Paul A. Saccomanno '15, Matthew C. Saccomanno '16, father-in-law to Daniel J. Ewert '10

**DAVID L. SANDOR**

Husband to Geraldine Graham Sandor '60

**LARRY L. SCHALEGER**

Husband to Marjorie Murray '59, and brother-in-law to Ann Murray Halligan '55, Patricia E. Murray Baxter '56, Francis J. Murray '57, John Murray '58, and James J. Murray '63

**ALAN J. SILVER**

Husband to Mary Ellen Frazier Silver '80, father to Stephen C. Silver '04 and Aaron C. Silver '11, father-in-law to Jennifer A. Capilla '12, and brother-in-law to Laura Frazier Libbey '68, Michael W. Libbey '61, Kathy Frazier Rose '70, Patti Frazier Grignon '72, Susan D. Frazier '76

**RALPH SMITH**

Father to Janet Smith Keeter '79, Virginia Smith Haynes '81, Kenneth S. Smith '86, Alan G. Smith '89, and brother-in-law to Jim Canty '60

**FRANCES STEPHENS**

Mother to Lori A. Stephens Slaybaugh '76 and Kelli F. Stephens Hermanns '82, and aunt to Paul Stephens '77, Brian Stephens '79 and Mary Kae Stephens '80

**KEVIN M. SUGRUE '74**

Brother to Brendan S. Sugrue '79 and John J. Sugrue II '81

**ANN TOMPKINS**

Mother to John M. Tompkins '65, Terrence P. Tompkins '69, and Julie Tompkins Dyson '79, and grandmother to Brendon M. Tompkins '93 and Jennifer A. Tompkins '96

**DENNIS TRAILLE '79**

Brother to Albert J. Traille '76

**SIGURD E. ULLAND '61****DENIS MICHAEL WILLENS**

Grandfather to Eleanor C. Daum '16 and Grace A. Daum '20



Bishop O'Dowd High School  
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