

D R A G O N

Conversations
Through
Time

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75 Years
By the
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Shaping
Hearts and
Minds

PAGE 16



O'Dowd: Where Tradition Meets Tomorrow

FOR 75 YEARS, across decades of change, O'Dowd students have learned, competed, served, prayed, performed, and connected in a school that continues to invest in excellence. Your gift ensures these programs remain strong, relevant, and accessible for today's students, and for future Dragons.

Honor the past you treasure, and help build the future they deserve.

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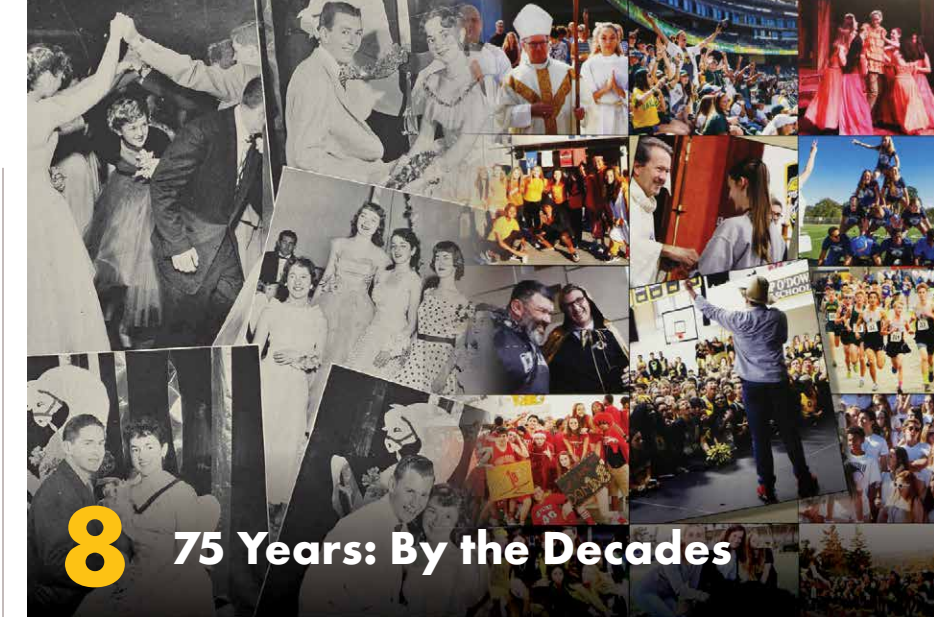
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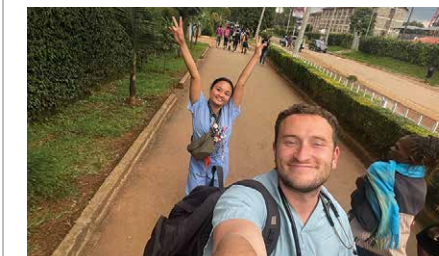


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WRITE US!

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

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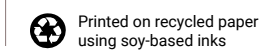
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Charism

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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LOOKING AHEAD

A Letter from the President

As we celebrate 75 years of Bishop O'Dowd High School, it is natural to look backward, to honor the traditions, milestones, and memories that have shaped who we are. But anniversaries also invite us to look forward and ask what we are called to build next.

O'Dowd has always been more than a school. For generations of students, families, and educators, it has been a place of formation — where young people are challenged academically, known personally, and invited to grow into lives of purpose, service, and integrity. Across decades of social change and cultural shifts, this mission has remained constant and continues to guide our work today.

Carrying that mission forward requires intention. Excellence in education depends on investing in the people who bring learning to life each day. Our faculty are at the heart of O'Dowd's strength, and supporting their growth and innovation ensures that students continue to be stretched, supported, and inspired.

It also means strengthening the programs that educate the whole person. Academic challenge exists alongside athletics, the arts, service, faith formation, and leadership development. These experiences work together to prepare students not only for college, but for lives of meaning and contribution.

Access is equally essential. Today, nearly one-third of our students receive tuition assistance. That diversity strengthens our classrooms and reflects the world our graduates will lead. The generosity of alumni, parents, and friends makes this possible and ensures that an O'Dowd education remains within reach for talented students from all backgrounds.

Through thoughtful planning and faithful stewardship, we are preparing for the decades ahead. We ask not only what students need today, but how O'Dowd can remain strong and mission-centered for generations to come.

The stories in these pages — of teachers shaping hearts and minds, of alumni carrying O'Dowd's values into the world, of students discovering who they are becoming — offer a glimpse of what is possible when a community commits to something larger than itself.

As we look to the future, we do so with confidence, gratitude, and hope. Confidence in the strength of this community. Gratitude for all who have built, sustained, and loved this school across 75 years. And hope rooted in the belief that the people, programs, and access that we invest in today will continue to shape lives for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of O'Dowd's story, and for helping write what comes next.

With gratitude,

Kim Walsh
President, Bishop O'Dowd High School

Above L-R: President Walsh with student leaders Ian Sweeney '26, Perry Kissam '26, Quincy Hare '26.

O'DOWD CAMPUS NEWS

DRAGONS AT CIF STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

In O'Dowd's 75th anniversary year, Dragon student-athletes delivered a season that reflects the strength of the school's enduring athletic tradition — led by a historic championship run from O'Dowd Football.

The Dragons capped an extraordinary season by securing the Division 6 NCS Playoff title, the CIF NorCal Bowl victory, and the Division 5-AA CIF State Championship.

That excellence extended across programs. Girls Soccer advanced to the inaugural CIF Division 1 State Championship, finishing 19-1 and claiming WACC League, NCS Open Division, and NorCal Division 1 titles.

The Boys Cross Country Team, along with **Izzy Rodgers '27** of the Girls Cross Country Team, represented O'Dowd at the CIF State Finals. The boys placed 8th in California, while Izzy finished as the 18th fastest runner in the state.

Across every field, course, and competition, these achievements reflect a tradition 75 years in the making, defined by commitment, teamwork, and Dragon pride.



THANK YOU, MS. WARMERDAM!

As O'Dowd celebrates 75 years of excellence, we also honor the educators whose dedication has shaped the school across generations. After 41 years of service, longtime faculty member and current Associate Principal of Academics Ms. Fran Warmerdam is adding a new title: *retired*.

Fran joined the O'Dowd community in 1985 as a German teacher, counselor, and cheer team moderator, beginning a career defined by deep care for students and a steadfast commitment to the school's mission. Over four decades, she directly supported nearly 2,000 students, guiding them through academic decisions, personal growth, and the college-planning journey that defines the O'Dowd experience.

In 2023, Fran once again answered the call to serve, stepping into the role of Associate Principal of Academics. She has supported our teaching faculty as they continue to develop innovative teaching practices.

As she closes this extraordinary chapter, Fran's impact on students, families, and colleagues remains woven into O'Dowd's story — past, present, and future.



CONVERSATIONS THROUGH TIME

O'DOWD'S ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
CONNECTS STUDENTS AND ALUMNI
ACROSS GENERATIONS

As O'Dowd marks its 75th anniversary, the school turned toward its most enduring and powerful resource: our alumni. Through the launch of the school's first-ever Oral History Project, current 9th graders were invited to encounter O'Dowd's history through the lived experiences of the Dragons who came before them.

Above: Annie Freccero '94 and Sutter Schumacher '94 embrace at the alumni reception during the Oral History Project. The two had not seen each other in over 20 years and were overjoyed to reconnect.

Top right: 9th grade students interview alumni in small groups, capturing stories that connect generations and bring O'Dowd's history to life.

The Oral History Project was conceived by the Religious Studies Department as a way to deepen students' understanding of O'Dowd's spiritual legacy and core values. For Molleen Dupree-Dominguez, chair of Religious Studies, O'Dowd's 75th anniversary presented a timely opportunity. "What a perfect moment to capture stories from the long legacy of alumni our school has," she said. Just as importantly, she saw the project as a formative experience for ninth graders, as a way to help students recognize that they are now part of a living tradition.

Rather than studying O'Dowd's values in the abstract, students were asked to listen. As interviewers and archivists, they crafted questions centered on community, justice, joy, academic excellence, and belonging — and explored how those values were lived across different eras. "It was an effective way for students to see the enduring values that have always been present at O'Dowd, even as they've been expressed differently over time," Molleen reflected.

On the day of the in-person interviews, the campus hummed with conversation. More than 50 alumni returned to campus, while

many others joined via Zoom from across the country and beyond. In the gym and classrooms, small groups of ninth graders sat face-to-face with alumni spanning decades, listening closely as stories unfolded about high school life, friendships, challenges, and the paths that followed graduation.

The range of alumni experiences was wide, with many rooted in the East Bay and contributing to their communities in diverse ways. For students, these conversations brought O'Dowd's broader impact into focus.

Elliott Chiu '29 interviewed Mike Sheridan '03, who now works for the Alameda County Fire Department. "I came away from the interview deeply inspired by how intentionally Mike has stayed rooted in Oakland and uses his time, resources, and relationships to strengthen our community," Elliott shared. "His commitment and service made me reflect on my own future and my own responsibilities to the Bay Area. I want to build my own career that will serve and invest in the community around me."

Other students found themselves reaching across even greater spans of time. Katie Baker '29 and Edie Kevane '29 interviewed

Beverly Mello Rettus '55, a member of O'Dowd's very first graduating class. "Mrs. Rettus' investment in the wellbeing of the O'Dowd community today shows how the connections fostered at O'Dowd last a lifetime," they reflected. "We can imagine that in the future the O'Dowd community will be like the soil in a garden that helps us to grow and thrive. The connections that we make now will impact us for the rest of our lives, just like Mrs. Rettus!"

For Leo Glasgow '29, the conversation sparked a different kind of realization. He interviewed Peter Krawiec '85, a former O'Dowd teacher and coach who helped lead the lacrosse team to a state championship in 1993 and continues to serve the school today by supporting sound engineering at assemblies and liturgies. "I think it's really amazing and inspiring how Mr. Krawiec has stayed connected with O'Dowd for such a long time," Leo said. "Our conversation made me hope that when I'm older, I'll still be involved in this wonderful community."

The experience was equally meaningful for alumni. Many who participated had not been back on campus in years, and several remarked on how thoughtful and engaged the students were. Tom Durein '87 shared that sitting with ninth graders left a strong impression. "They were asking questions about life and school and my experiences that made me appreciate how O'Dowd set me up for success," he said. "Things are tougher in their world than it was for us, and I was very impressed and proud to see how O'Dowd is preparing students for the future."

For others, the day reinforced a sense of continuity. Kyle Koichi Morishita '02 reflected on hearing alumni from earlier generations speak with the same affection and pride he still feels today. "It's beautiful to see how people stay tapped into the school, wanting the same experiences for future students that they had themselves," he said. "It's powerful to watch that dedication continue onward."

As the interviews concluded, students transcribed recordings, listened to one another's conversations, and reflected on what they had learned. Across stories and decades, a shared theme emerged: while O'Dowd has changed in many ways over 75 years, its

commitment to community, relationship, and purpose has remained constant.

The Oral History Project now serves as both a celebration and an invitation — honoring alumni by preserving their stories, and inviting students to see themselves as part of a much larger narrative. O'Dowd's history doesn't sit on a shelf. It lives in relationships, shared values, and the ongoing exchange between generations. We know this conversation will continue to shape the O'Dowd community, one story at a time.



SCAN TO WATCH: CONVERSATIONS THROUGH TIME

Experience the energy and connection of O'Dowd's Oral History Project. Scan the QR code to watch a short video capturing this special day on campus.



STAY CONNECTED WITH THE O'DOWD ALUMNI COMMUNITY

O'Dowd's story continues through the relationships we carry forward. Alumni are invited to join our alumni communities on social media, and to be part of the ongoing conversation across generations.

-  facebook.com/ODowdAlums
-  instagram.com/odowdalumni
-  linkedin.com/groups/1826239

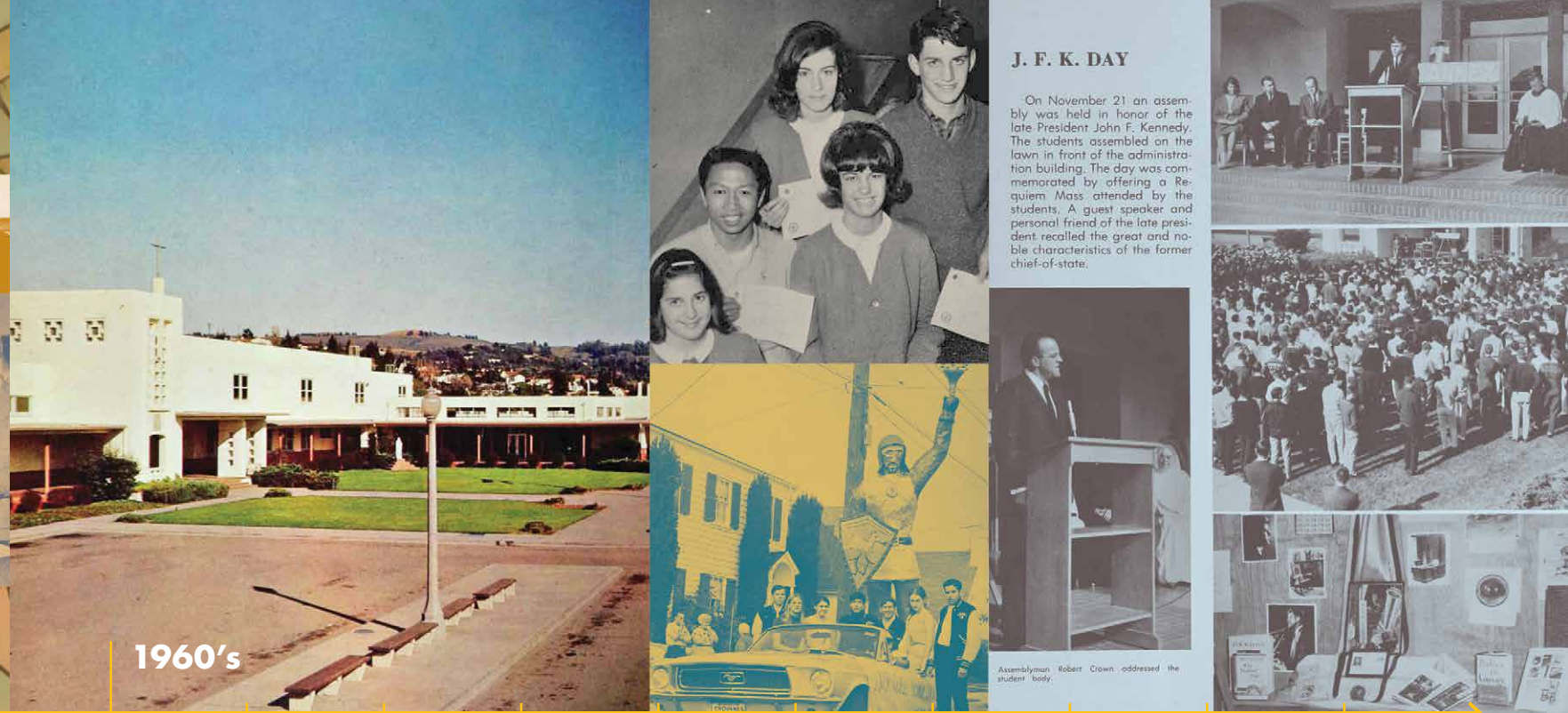
THROUGH THE DECADES

75 Years of O'Dowd, in Alumni Voices

1950's



1960's



Across 75 years, much about O'Dowd has changed — the music on the Quad, the styles, the headlines shaping the world beyond campus. And yet, as alumni tell it, much still feels familiar. Dragons remember teachers who stayed after school, coaches who demanded discipline and care, friendships formed in classrooms and on fields, and a school that asked them not only to achieve, but to grow. These reflections were gathered through O'Dowd's first Oral History Project, launched during our 75th anniversary. In conversations led by ninth graders, alumni from every decade shared what it meant to be formed here.



Above: Carol Matthews Milano '57

"We were small, but we were close — we knew one another's families, took the bus together, and learned quickly that respect and cooperation mattered."

— Beverly Mello Rettus '55

BEVERLY MELLO RETTUS '55

Being part of O'Dowd's very first graduating class felt like building a school from the ground up. We started in borrowed classrooms at St. Louis Bertrand before the campus was even finished, just four rooms and 120 students. We were small, but we were close — we knew one another's families, took the bus together, and learned quickly that respect and cooperation mattered.

Life was structured: Mass in the chapel, strict rules, and those heavy gray wool uniforms with colored blouses to show your grade. If you talked in the hallway, you might end up in the 3:15 Club after school. Still, we had fun. There were school dances where the boys stood on one side and the girls on the other, cheering for our teams, and feeling proud of this brand-new place.

My favorite teacher, Sister James Margaret, pushed us in business classes and taught me

confidence. Nearly seventy years later, many of us still meet for lunch. The friendships we formed then have truly lasted a lifetime.

CAROL MATTHEWS MILANO '57

Coming to O'Dowd in the '50s felt like stepping into a place that was steady and safe. I had grown up during World War II and the Korean War, always aware of the wider world, but here I could relax, make friends, and be part of something welcoming. Because I came from a Catholic grammar school and home, the values were familiar: look for the good in people, help where you can, and stay faithful.

We were a small school then, with separate boys' and girls' classes, gray uniforms, and strict rules about everything from talking in the hallways to skirt length. But we also had fun cheering at basketball games, attending dances, singing in Glee Club, and being proud that O'Dowd was the first school to have boys on the pep squad.

DAVE SOETH '61

O'Dowd was still young when I arrived, and there was a strong sense of shared purpose. Most of us came from Catholic parishes, and our teachers expected discipline while genuinely caring about our growth. Classes were demanding. I had chemistry with Mr. O'Donnell, and geometry and debate with Sister Helene. The debate team opened my world beyond campus. We tackled political questions and even attended Model U.N. at Stanford. I'll never forget seeing John F. Kennedy at a rally before the election. O'Dowd gave me intellectual confidence and friendships that have lasted more than sixty years.

JIM GHILARDI '65

O'Dowd in the '60s meant boys on one side of campus, girls on the other, and dances where the sisters made sure everyone stayed a Bible's distance apart. It sounds strict now, but it built a close community. Basketball was king, and I lost my voice at more than one rally.

Teachers pushed us hard. I had Mr. Keeley, Sister Helene, and a chemistry teacher who signed his name "G.O.D." When President Kennedy was assassinated, we prayed in every classroom. That moment, and this school, shaped my sense of responsibility and the life of service that followed.

KATHLEEN SCHARR TIRADO '65

O'Dowd in the early '60s was deeply Catholic and intensely academic. We stopped in the chapel before class and were taught mostly by nuns who expected discipline and precision. Physics with Sister Helene nearly did me in, but earning a B from a woman who worked at Lawrence Livermore Lab remains one of my proudest achievements.

I learned organization, skepticism, and hard work — except the day I got caught looking up answers in sewing class while my best friend kicked me under the table trying not to laugh. Sixty years later, those friendships remain.

AMY GUILLEM ADELSON '69

O'Dowd in the late '60s was strict and spirited. We couldn't talk in the halls, wore uniforms, and had separate classes, which made social moments more thrilling. I once talked near a handsome hall monitor just to get detention. It worked. Three times.

Outside campus, the world was heavy. There was Vietnam, Dr. King's assassination, constant prayer. Those years forced hard questions about justice and faith. Then I found debate. It changed my life, teaching me how to think, speak, and walk into a room with confidence. O'Dowd helped me grow up during extraordinary times.

J. F. K. DAY

On November 21 an assembly was held in honor of the late President John F. Kennedy. The students assembled on the lawn in front of the administration building. The day was commemorated by offering a Requiem Mass attended by the students. A guest speaker and personal friend of the late president recalled the great and noble characteristics of the former chief-of-state.



Assemblyman Robert Crown addressed the student body.

"O'Dowd shaped my sense of responsibility and the life of service that followed."

—Jim Ghilardi '65



1970's

1980's



Above from top:
Anita Battle '78,
Kathleen Gruss Byle '79,
Gay Seraile Rich '77

“What stayed with me most were loyalty, resilience, and a deep responsibility to care for others.”

— Kathleen Gruss Byle '79

LORI KOVENCHAMBERS '75

Coming to O'Dowd felt like stepping into a different world. Mr. Peters took me to a Baptist church in East Oakland, and Mr. Kastel's Bay Area Social Concerns class introduced us to hard truths about poverty, incarceration, and his own survival of a concentration camp. Those experiences reshaped how I saw faith and justice.

There was joy, too. We wore platform shoes on free-dress days, sang Stevie Wonder and Neil Young, and I pretended my invisible dog Spot followed me everywhere. O'Dowd nurtured compassion in me, and those friendships still feel like home.

GAY SERAILE RICH '77

O'Dowd in the '70s was pure joy. We rolled up our plaid skirts, raced through the halls, and poured everything into Spirit Week, with costumes, skits, fierce competition, and the occasional tears. It brought the whole school together.

Counselors and young teachers looked out for us, and my "core group" of friends from freshman year are still part of my life. I'll never forget the morning it snowed on campus and everyone ran outside in disbelief. With the Jackson 5, Aretha Franklin, and Stevie Wonder as our soundtrack, O'Dowd gave me camaraderie and confidence.

ANITA BATTLE '78

O'Dowd gave me a foundation of respect and responsibility. I spent four years in student government and ultimately became Student Body Vice President. When Father Waldie told us the race had come down to three votes, I slid down the wall and cried when I heard I'd won.

I was often one of the only Black students in my classes. That sharpened my awareness and strengthened my voice. Those skills carried me into the tech world, where I was "the first" many times, and into a lifelong commitment to equity, service, and community.

KATHLEEN GRUSS BYLE '79

O'Dowd was disciplined, demanding, and deeply rooted in community. We learned how to study, take notes, and push ourselves, which are lessons I still use as a teacher today.

The world around us was intense: Jonestown, the assassinations of Moscone and Milk, and the loss of a classmate our senior year. Through it all, the school wrapped around us with support. On the lighter side, basketball was electric and dances in the cafeteria had the worst acoustics imaginable. What stayed with me most were loyalty, resilience, and a deep responsibility to care for others.

LUCIA WATSON '82

When I think of O'Dowd in the early '80s, I think of joy. I found community through chess club, band, and basketball, learning alongside classmates from many cultures. Free Dress Fridays were a fashion show, and I once got detention for wearing "pocket socks." They were green, just not *approved* green. Senior year we didn't have to wear uniforms, but I kept wearing mine anyway. It was part of who I was.

Growing up Black and Hispanic, O'Dowd taught me we're stronger together, and we each have something to give. Staying connected feels like honoring where I came from.

BRIAN CUSHING '84

What defined O'Dowd for me was the combination of high expectations and deep support. Our writing program, especially Short Stories and Speech, prepared me so well that when I arrived at UC Berkeley, I never once worried about my writing. Teachers like Mrs. Crotti, Ms. Chaney, Mr. Thiel, and Mr. O'Malley pushed me and opened doors I didn't know existed.

But I loved the spirit, too: skits, basketball games, retreats, and a wonderfully diverse friend group. O'Dowd taught me to respect every story. Those values — faith, responsibility, and community — have stayed with me throughout my life. That's why I came back to teach.

GIO WELCH '86

I arrived at O'Dowd not knowing how to study or organize myself, and I left with the confidence and discipline to succeed in college. Teachers and counselors pushed me, but they believed in me. Coach Phelps taught me accountability and what it meant to show up for your team.

What stayed with me most was the community. My classmates came from every background, and learning alongside such a diverse group changed how I see the world. Those friendships remain 40 years later, and we still dominate Alumni Happy Hour.

KATHY BOZZONE OLMOS '89

Some of my happiest memories are the everyday rhythms of campus life, with skits, jogathons, dances, and being the "Freshman Ferds," our not-so-subtle nod to *Revenge of the Nerds*. We had a strict dress code and a complicated schedule, but the friendships made it all worth it.

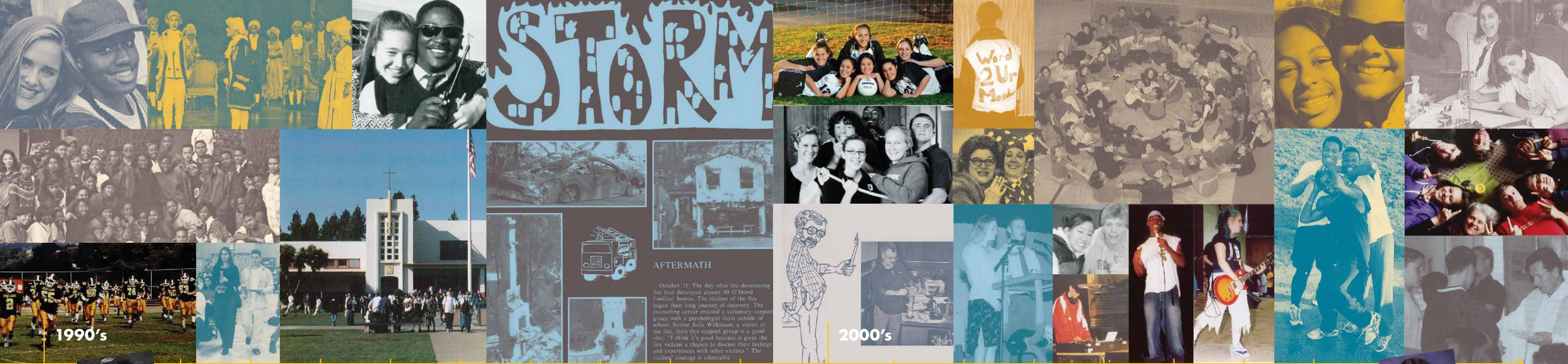
Senior year, passing AP English showed me I had more grit than I realized. In accounting, Father Colelli suggested I consider becoming a CPA, which changed the course of my life. Today, as both an alumna and a parent of two Dragons, I feel that instant connection whenever I meet another graduate. O'Dowd stays with you.



Above from top:
Gio Welch '86,
Lucia Watson '82

“I arrived at O'Dowd not knowing how to study or organize myself, and I left with the confidence and discipline to succeed in college.”

— Gio Welch '86



STORM

AFTERMATH

October 21: The day after the devastating fire that destroyed almost 40 O'Dowd families' homes. The victims of the fire began their long journey of recovery. The counseling center created a voluntary support group with a psychologist from outside of school. Senior Julie Wilkinson, a victim of the fire, feels this support group is a good idea. "I think it's good because it gives the fire victims a chance to discuss their feelings and experiences with other victims." The victims' courage is admirable.

1990's

2000's



Above from top: Alexander Quinn '90, William Wilson '91, Megan Jones Beatty '95

"O'Dowd represents the best of Oakland. We're a community that is inclusive, spirited, and uplifting."

— Alexander Quinn '90

ALEXANDER QUINN '90

What I loved most about O'Dowd was how alive it felt. Our teachers had big personalities and made learning memorable. Like the day our chemistry teacher staged a ransom prank with a stuffed animal and a flaming experiment that sent us chasing him down the hallway.

What shaped me most was the diversity: students from the hills, East Oakland, and immigrant families, all pushing toward college. No one knew your status. When I overextended myself junior year, a teacher pulled me aside and said, "You're messing up. Let's fix it." To me, O'Dowd represents the best of Oakland. We're a community that is inclusive, spirited, and uplifting.

WILLIAM WILSON '91

What stays with me most is how intentionally O'Dowd formed the whole person. The academics were demanding, but by college I realized how well prepared I was. Just as formative were retreats in Napa, the Mission Drive, and classes like Ethics in the Media that pushed us to wrestle with faith and justice.

I found balance through soccer, lacrosse, and playing clarinet and bass clarinet under Mr. Rossi. As the Persian Gulf War and Loma Prieta earthquake unfolded, O'Dowd taught us to think thoughtfully rather than react. That grounding still shapes me today.

ERIN GALVIN-VALENZUELA '94

My time at O'Dowd began with the Oakland Hills Firestorm. Friends lost homes, families were displaced, and our house became a refuge. When we returned to school, the community rallied around those in need. That was my first real lesson in empathy. You never know what someone else is carrying.

O'Dowd prepared me academically, but it was the relationships that mattered most. I leaned on friends and the counseling staff, especially Ms. Warmerdam, who changed how I saw my future. Now my son walks the same halls, building friendships of his own.

MEGAN JONES BEATTY '95

What I loved most about O'Dowd was the sense of discovery. Marine Biology with Mr. Goodhart and Anatomy and Physiology with Mr. Newman sparked my love of science and ultimately led me to medicine. Those classes were demanding but creative. I still remember filming a project on muscle movement and loving every minute.

I also found my place in theater, performing in *Merrily We Roll Along*, and built friendships that have lasted decades. Now, as a parent, I see those same values shaping my children.

EMILY SCHLESINGER '00

What I loved most about O'Dowd was the culture of learning. I was surrounded by classmates who showed up motivated and prepared, and that set a tone that pushed me to grow.

Community was central. From muddy soccer fields and hard-fought wins, I gained friendships that have lasted decades. As a Jewish student, I always felt welcome in Religious Studies. Those conversations about ethics and identity still shape how I relate to people today, especially in my work raising funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. O'Dowd gave me confidence and a lasting sense of belonging.

SHERRY LAM DINH '01

At O'Dowd, I felt comfortable to be myself. Orchestra, swimming, and the Asian Student Union gave me belonging. Environmental science with Mr. Tyler, especially early-morning meteor shower hikes, opened my eyes to the world beyond the classroom.

The junior research paper was intense, but it prepared me well for college. As the daughter of Chinese immigrants, I carry my parents' sacrifices with me. Today, working with the Oakland Police Department and supporting the Chinatown community, I draw on the resilience and purpose O'Dowd helped shape.

TILLIE ADELSON '03

Some of my happiest memories are the everyday energy of O'Dowd — Spirit Week, school dances (at least after our freshman one was canceled!), and monthly Masses that were genuinely fun. Coming from public school, the academics were an adjustment, but my teachers pushed me in the best ways. By college, I realized how prepared I was.

More than anything, I grew in confidence. I found my voice and my people. O'Dowd's diversity made it easy to connect with people who were different from me, and between tennis, drama, and daily life with friends, I found lasting community.

BARRY BREAUX '04

What I remember most about O'Dowd is how naturally friendships formed. Even with a heavy academic load, there was joy woven into the day. I pushed myself through honors and AP classes, and that preparation carried me through college and into medicine.

After 9/11, teachers created space for real dialogue across history and religion classes. Athletics shaped me, too. I learned resilience by pivoting from basketball to tennis and helping win a league title. Twenty years later, many of those friendships are still central to my life.



Above from top: Sherry Lam Dinh '01, Tillie Adelson '03

"Today I draw on the resilience and purpose O'Dowd helped shape."

— Sherry Lam Dinh '01



2010's

2020's



Above from top:
Indigo Haley Jackson '12,
Isabel Alvarado '19

INDIGO HALEY JACKSON '12
O'Dowd is where my connection to the earth and the arts grew side by side. As co-president of Earthbound Club, I helped build the three-bin system, worked in the Living Lab, and hiked the Oakland hills with Ms. Prutzman. Learning the land by being on it shaped how I understand my place in the world.

The drama department, under Mizzo and **Mr. Kohles '69**, was my creative home. Kairos taught me how to lead with honesty and vulnerability. O'Dowd helped me become both an artist and an earth-connected human, grounded in community.

"O'Dowd helped me become both an artist and an earth-connected human, grounded in community."

— Indigo Haley Jackson '12

CLAIRE KELLY '17
What stands out most about O'Dowd is how easy it was to discover who I was by trying everything. I came in shy, but between softball, cheer, choir, art, and Spirit Week, I found confidence. It felt like a buffet of opportunities, and I sampled it all.

My service at St. Vincent de Paul's Kitchen changed me most. Cooking and serving on Saturdays taught me compassion and the importance of showing up for others. Football games and rallies felt electric, and O'Dowd gave me purpose and lasting community.

ISABEL ALVARADO '19
Some of my best memories come from swim and water polo. There was laughter, pasta nights before tournaments, and a weekend trip to San Diego that felt like pure freedom. Being part of a team gave me belonging.

I also found a home in Latinos Unidos, organizing fundraisers and performing baile folklórico at assemblies. Sharing my culture and seeing it celebrated mattered. Academically, I struggled at times, but teachers, tutors, and my counselor never let me fall behind. O'Dowd taught me resilience, responsibility, and pride in who I am.

LAURYN LA DUC '19
What I remember most is how quickly O'Dowd became a place where I found my people. My friends were ambitious, creative, and kind, and that sense of community carried me through high school. Theater was my home. I was in every show for four years, and I still come back to watch productions.

Teachers like Mr. Turnacliiff and Ms. Correia challenged me to grow, while Kairos and service at Harbor House deepened my sense of purpose. O'Dowd taught me to work hard, care deeply, and seek out community wherever I go.

LUCI HOPKINS-NICKEL '20
Graduating in 2020 with online classes and a drive-through ceremony wasn't what I expected, but it taught me how much time with people really matters. Looking back, O'Dowd is where I discovered who I was becoming.

Spanish changed my path, leading me to Panama with Amigos de las Americas and later to study abroad in Spain. Solidarity & Action with Mr. Downs taught me how to advocate with intention and serve thoughtfully. Soccer and Dragon Ambassadors expanded my circle and built my confidence. My counselor, **Ms. Arechiga '93**, made an enormous difference as I navigated learning differences and college applications.

Now I'm back at O'Dowd working in Development, giving back to the place that helped shape me.

JUSTICE REED '25
Starting high school as COVID was winding down wasn't easy, but O'Dowd helped us reconnect and find our rhythm. What stayed with me most is how much this community values kindness. You never know what someone else is carrying, and I learned to lead with empathy.

Baseball shaped my experience, especially my sophomore JV season. We stayed focused, supported each other, and learned real leadership. Senior-year robotics with Mr. Allen was another highlight. His class was hands-on, collaborative, and encouraging.

Through sports, classes, and service, I grew more confident speaking up and giving back. Today, staying connected and helping younger Dragons find their way matters to me.

MATT GOLDWEBER '25
O'Dowd is where I learned to slow down, pay attention, and care for people. Some of my clearest moments came in the Living Lab, on hikes with friends, or during Spiritual Ecology. Being in nature deepened my faith and made God feel present.

Service changed me, too. What began as a requirement led me to the Boys & Girls Club, then to becoming an EMT. Helping people in practical ways taught me patience and how to stay grounded in intense moments.

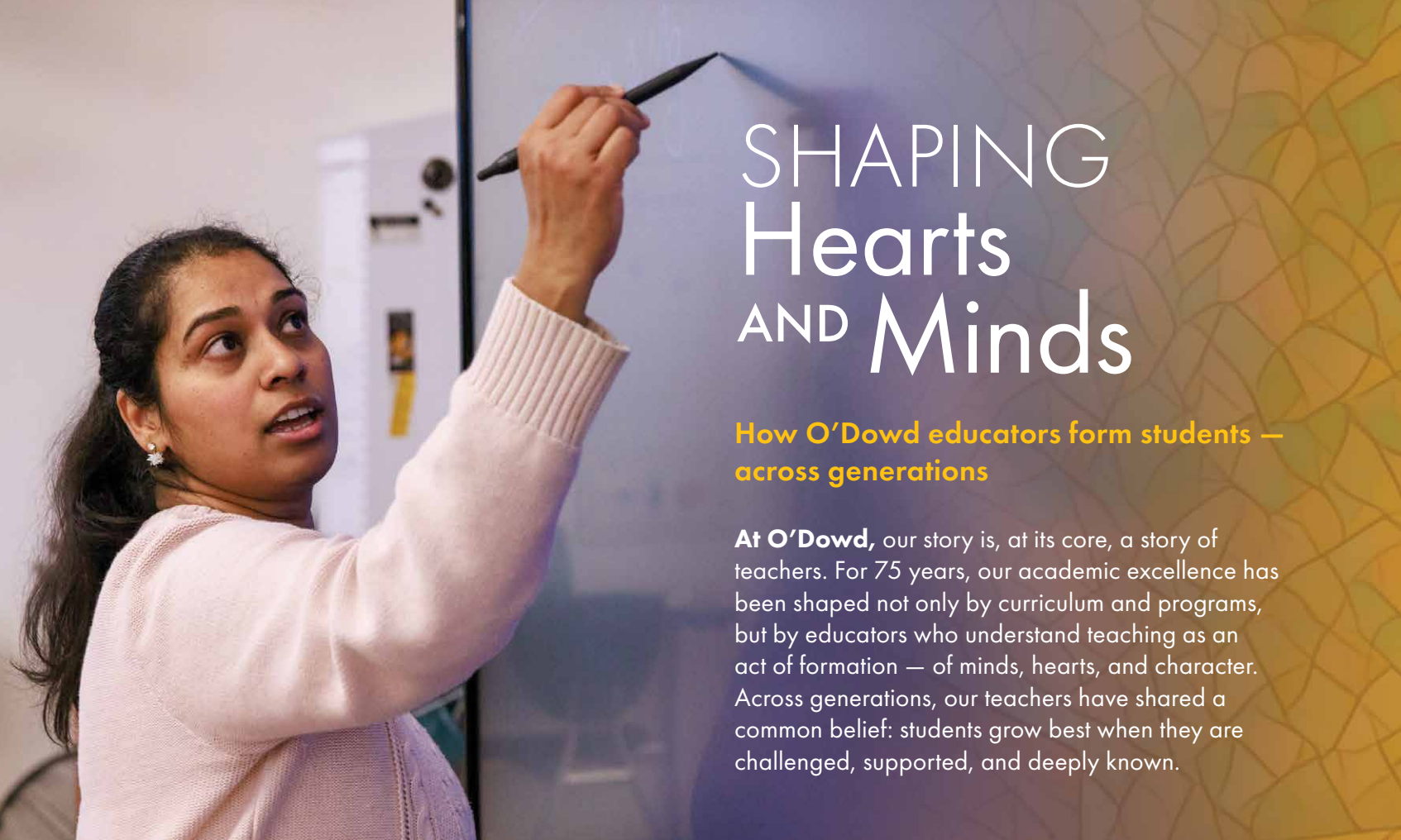
I also learned to navigate hard conversations with kindness, because you never know what someone else is carrying. What O'Dowd taught me is simple: show up, be thoughtful, and give back.



Above from top:
Luci Hopkins-Nickel '20,
Justice Reed '25

"Staying connected to O'Dowd and helping younger Dragons find their way matters to me."

— Justice Reed '25



SHAPING Hearts AND Minds

How O’Dowd educators form students —
across generations

At O’Dowd, our story is, at its core, a story of teachers. For 75 years, our academic excellence has been shaped not only by curriculum and programs, but by educators who understand teaching as an act of formation — of minds, hearts, and character. Across generations, our teachers have shared a common belief: students grow best when they are challenged, supported, and deeply known.



“I always believed that strong teaching goes beyond academics. Good teachers help shape good people.”

— CHERYL DELAHOUSSAYE '65

Top row, left-right: Earl “EJ” Walls ‘11, a proud alum, returned to O’Dowd as a teacher in 2024. On the first day of school, he shares his own O’Dowd journey with students, connecting past and present; Cheryl Delahoussaye ‘65 returned to O’Dowd as a teacher in 1972. She modeled the habits she hoped her students would develop, staying prepared and curious.

Bottom row, left-right: In English 3, teacher Aurora Ramos helps students discover the power of language and self-expression; Teacher Ian Allen guides students through AP Physics C, the most advanced physics course offered by the College Board.



Above: Dr. Vino teaches Honors Chemistry, an advanced lab course that challenges students to explore pathways in medicine, science, engineering, and higher-level mathematics.

Bottom Left: Tony Green (right) has taught Social Studies at O’Dowd since 1986, the same year he founded the school’s Black Student Union. Over four decades, he has mentored thousands of students in the classroom and as a coach. Here, he presents Bisa Grant ‘94 with her O’Dowd Hall of Fame Award for Track & Field.

THAT BELIEF has been expressed in many ways over time. For alumna and longtime educator **Cheryl Delahoussaye ‘65**, teaching meant holding students to clear expectations rooted in care. “I always believed that strong teaching goes beyond academics,” she reflects. “Good teachers help shape good people.” For more than four decades, her classroom was anchored in structure. Students were expected to show up prepared, do the work, and treat one another with respect, not as an end in itself, but as a way to take pride in their own growth.

That same balance of challenge and support shaped the work of Jack Dold, who taught and served as dean during the cultural upheaval of the 1960s and 1970s. “We did everything in our power to make O’Dowd a safe haven for students,” he says. Teaching extended well beyond the classroom, into games, dances, and everyday moments of presence. Before O’Dowd had a formal Counseling Department, our teachers became mentors and trusted listeners. Early retreats for students and faculty — precursors to today’s Kairos program — reflected this shared commitment. “I saw students lifting one another up,” Jack recalls, “and sometimes lifting the teachers, too.”

As our school evolved, teachers continued to invite students to connect learning to the wider world. Tom Tyler,

who helped create the Earth and Space Science course, launch AP Environmental Science, and develop what became the Living Lab, believed education should feel alive. “Learning is never about passively listening,” he says. “It is about discovering how ideas connect to real life.” Through hikes, field trips, service experiences, and hands-on exploration, students were encouraged to see themselves as learners who could engage meaningfully with the world around them.

Today, our teachers carry these same values forward, adapting them to new generations. In Ana Torres’s geometry classroom, academic challenge begins with belief. “I hold high expectations because lowering them sends the wrong message,” she explains. “With the right support, every student is capable of learning challenging mathematics.” Collaboration is central to her teaching. Students think aloud, work together, and learn to see mistakes as part of the process. Especially for ninth graders, the goal is confidence: leaving class less afraid and more willing to take intellectual risks.

For Matt Lane, teaching history starts with relationships. “Before students can really learn, they need to feel seen,” he says. His student-centered classroom invites curiosity, discussion, and choice, centering diverse voices and perspectives. “History isn’t a single story,” Matt notes.

“It’s complex, human, and unfinished.” Students are challenged not just to understand the past, but to see how it shapes the present, and to think about how they might shape what comes next.

In our Science Department, Dr. Vino brings a global perspective shaped by years of study in India and the United States. “I encourage students to look beyond grades toward the bigger picture of who they want to become,” she shares. Her classroom balances discussion and laboratory work, thinking and doing. “I want students to see that chemistry isn’t just in a textbook,” she says. “It’s happening all around them, and even within them.”

Across eras and disciplines, O’Dowd educators believe in asking students to stretch — and in walking alongside them as they do. Our teachers challenge students to think deeply, act with integrity, and grow into people of purpose, supported by a community that values academics, creativity, faith, service, and belonging.

As we look to the future, our pedagogy will continue to evolve. But the heart of our teaching remains the same: a shared commitment to educating the whole person. This daily, relational work — in classrooms, labs, conversations, and connections — continues to shape hearts and minds, generation after generation.

INVESTING IN THE NEXT 75 YEARS

How alumni class campaigns are helping ensure access to an O’Dowd education for generations to come



Each year, Reunion Day brings O’Dowd alumni back to campus to reconnect with classmates, swap stories, and reflect on the experiences that shaped them. Conversations often begin with nostalgia, with favorite teachers, lifelong friendships, and moments that still feel vivid decades later. But they don’t end there. Just as often, alumni find themselves asking a forward-looking question: *How do families afford an O’Dowd education today?*

Above: O’Dowd alumni gather for Reunion Day 2024.

Top right: Outtakes from O’Dowd’s 1976 yearbook. As the Class of 1976 approaches its 50th reunion, members are launching a class campaign to support future Dragons.

Bottom right: Alumni from the Class of 1981 are planning a class campaign in celebration of their 45th reunion. From left-right: Anthony Griffin, Paul Giacoletti, Jacques Rachal, Leslie Sims Robertson, Keith Towns, Daniel Robertson, David Brue, Rod Roche, Diane Mascote McRae, Christopher Shadix, Daryl Tom, Antonette Gullatt-West, Theresa Rush Woo.

“A lot of our success goes back to the foundations that were developed and reinforced at O’Dowd.”

— Daryl Tom ’81

That question has become the starting point for O’Dowd’s annual Class Campaigns – a collective way for alumni to come back, give back, and invest in the future of the school that formed them. Through these campaigns, classes come together to establish endowed funds dedicated to tuition assistance, creating long-term support that ensures access to an O’Dowd education for generations of students to come.

Today, nearly 30% of O’Dowd students receive need-based tuition assistance. The program is mission-critical, not only for individual students and families, but for the strength of the community as a whole. Socioeconomic diversity is a valued part of the O’Dowd experience, enriching classrooms, conversations, and relationships across campus. For the 2025-26 school year, O’Dowd awarded \$4.2 million in tuition assistance, with an average award of \$11,348.

Class Campaigns help sustain this commitment in a powerful way. Endowments provide support in perpetuity, ensuring that tuition assistance remains a financial priority long into the future. To date, 18 classes have established class endowments, collectively contributing more than \$2 million through reunion campaigns.

The idea took root in 2010, when the Class of 1960, celebrating its 50th reunion, launched the school’s first class endowment for tuition

assistance. Starting with \$104,000 in gifts and pledges, that fund has grown steadily and now exceeds \$750,000 – a testament to the lasting impact of alumni acting together.

For **Lisa Coffey Mahoney ’76**, participating in her class campaign felt like a natural extension of her gratitude for O’Dowd. “It’s a meaningful way to honor the 50th anniversary of my high school graduation,” she says. As her reunion committee began meeting, she learned that other milestone classes had already created endowed funds. “We all felt it was a worthwhile cause.”

Lisa’s connection to O’Dowd runs deep. Her husband, Rob, is also a member of the Class of 1976, and their children – **Daniel ’03** and **Kate ’06** – are O’Dowd alumni as well. “The friendships I formed at O’Dowd have lasted a lifetime,” she reflects. “The school has played a pivotal role in the lives of all four of us.”

Supporting the class campaign, she says, ensures that the same opportunity remains available. “It’s about giving young people the same chance that we had to succeed in life,” she says. “Making an investment in the education of the next generation benefits all of us.”

For **Daryl Tom ’81**, the idea to launch a class campaign emerged through a different path, one shaped by service and reflection. As a member of O’Dowd’s Board of Regents,

A LEGACY THAT GROWS OVER TIME: The First Class Campaign

In 2010, the Class of 1960 launched O’Dowd’s first class endowment in celebration of its 50th reunion.

FIRST-YEAR TOTAL	CURRENT BALANCE
\$104,000	MORE THAN
IN GIFTS AND PLEDGES	\$750,000

Their leadership helped establish a model that many classes have followed – strengthening the school’s tuition assistance program year after year.

he became aware that several classes had already established endowments. “The Class of 1981 is celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, but we hadn’t started an endowment,” he says. “I just felt like we had the capacity to do something special.”

Now in their early sixties, Daryl notes, many classmates are entering a new season of life – retiring, reflecting, and thinking more intentionally about legacy. “It’s a great opportunity to ask: What’s really important to us?” he says. “A lot of our success goes back to the foundations that were developed and reinforced at O’Dowd.”

Those shared values of faith, purpose, service, and community became a unifying force as classmates reconnected. “How do we make this experience available to future generations?” Daryl asks. “One powerful way to do that is by contributing to an endowment that focuses 100% on tuition assistance. That really creates access for future students.”

At their best, Class Campaigns reflect what O’Dowd has always been about: community, shared responsibility, and paying forward what was so generously given. As the school celebrates 75 years of excellence, these efforts stand as a living expression of alumni stewardship – investing not only in students they may never meet, but in the enduring mission and spirit of O’Dowd itself.



INVEST IN THE NEXT 75 YEARS

Reunion is more than a time to look back – it’s an opportunity to shape what comes next. Class Campaigns invite alumni to come together, reconnect, and pay forward the gift of an O’Dowd education through endowed support for tuition assistance.

Interested in learning more about starting or supporting a class campaign?

Visit bishopodowd.org/endowment-opportunities or contact Senior Director of Development Kathy Canty Brown ’84 to continue the conversation at kbrown@bishopodowd.org.



O'DOWD AND THE ART OF THE POSSIBLE

How **Caitlin Meyer '08** is shaping communities through service, leadership, and imagination

When **Caitlin Meyer '08** reflects on her path in public service and environmental philanthropy, she points to where her sense of responsibility first took shape. "O'Dowd didn't just make me feel like I *should* have an impact," she says. "This school made me feel like I actually *could*."

As a student, Caitlin threw herself into campus life. She played varsity basketball as a freshman, explored sports and the arts, and ultimately served as student body president and commencement salutatorian. But what stayed with her most were the deeper lessons. "O'Dowd taught me there's nothing more important than love. I will always hear the words of Fr. Leo Edgerly guiding me: 'Love one another, and everything else will fall into place.'"

That message, Caitlin says, was modeled every day on campus. Teachers showed students how to lead with compassion. Surrounded by peers excelling in academics, athletics, and the arts, Caitlin absorbed what she now calls "the art of the possible,"

the belief that ambition, integrity, and purpose can coexist. "I graduated believing I had an obligation to make the world better through service and leadership," she says.

Caitlin went on to Fordham University, where she again served as student body president and graduated near the top of her class. A scholarship to Cambridge University followed, where she studied international politics and explored ways to engage people in public decision-making.

Those experiences led her to Washington, D.C., where she began a decade-long career in the office of U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, working on policy issues ranging from housing and education to environmental protection, and witnessing firsthand the real impact of public service. "Anything we accomplished that mattered was rooted in love for the people we served," she shares.

Today Caitlin serves as the Chief Program Officer for the Tahoe Fund,

a nonprofit dedicated to protecting and restoring the Lake Tahoe environment. She leads initiatives that bring together public agencies, private partners, and community leaders across the region, testing collaborative approaches to address complex environmental challenges that can be adapted far beyond Tahoe. For Caitlin, the work reflects the same call she first heard at O'Dowd — to lead with courage, imagination, and care for others.

"O'Dowd is such a special place," Caitlin shares. "It significantly shaped the contours of my life." That formation went beyond being prepared for college and a career, it was about translating a way of loving and living into adulthood. And as O'Dowd marks its 75th anniversary, Caitlin is one of many alumni who continue to carry that formation forward, shaped by a community that taught her to believe that when people care deeply for one another, anything and everything becomes possible.



Above, left-right: **Caitlin Meyer '08** (left) and Tahoe Fund staff enjoy an afternoon on the lake; Caitlin spoke about the power of an O'Dowd education at this year's Transforming Lives Dinner.



Above: **Caitlin Meyer '08** with President Kim Walsh.

Caitlin Meyer '08 returned to campus this fall as keynote speaker for O'Dowd's annual **Transforming Lives Dinner**, which raises support for the school's Tuition Assistance Program. This year's gathering was especially meaningful as the community celebrated O'Dowd's 75th anniversary.

Parents, alumni, and friends gathered for student performances and reflections on the life-changing experiences made possible by the Dragon community. Together, they raised **\$610,000 for Tuition Assistance**, helping ensure that financial barriers do not prevent students from experiencing what Caitlin calls "the magic of O'Dowd."

The school extends heartfelt thanks to the Transforming Lives Dinner Committee and the many donors whose generosity continues to expand opportunity for future Dragons.

AT THE INTERSECTION OF SCIENCE AND SERVICE

Sebastian Hurtado '15 brings his O'Dowd values to global health

"I loved how diverse O'Dowd was, and I think the seeds of my curiosity and appreciation for diversity were definitely sown there," says **Sebastian Hurtado '15**.

At O'Dowd, Sebastian's interests in science and service developed side by side. In the classroom, he was drawn to human anatomy and physiology through his AP Biology courses. Beyond it, he sought out opportunities to serve — volunteering at elder care homes, working at a camp for children with mental and physical disabilities, and tutoring students at East Bay elementary schools. "Between the curriculum and opportunities for after-school involvement," he says, "my O'Dowd experience put me on a trajectory where service became an integral part of my life."

That foundation has guided his path ever since.

After graduating from O'Dowd, Sebastian studied psychobiology and pre-med at UCLA before moving to New York City to join Teach For America. For three years (and an additional year during the COVID pandemic) he taught eighth-grade biology in the South Bronx while earning his master's degree in teaching from Relay Graduate School of Education. The experience deepened his commitment to education and equity, even as it clarified his long-held goal of pursuing medicine.

In 2022, Sebastian returned to California to begin medical school at the Kaiser Permanente Bernard J. Tyson School of Medicine in

Pasadena. Launched in 2020, the school's innovative, tuition-free model aims to remove financial barriers for future physicians. Competition was intense: Sebastian was one of just 50 students admitted from more than 12,000 applicants. "The opportunity to receive an exceptional education without graduating under the weight of debt was huge," he says. He will earn his M.D. this May.

While at Kaiser, Sebastian enrolled in a global health elective through AMPATH (Academic Model for Providing Access to Health Care), a consortium of academic health centers around the world. The program took him to the Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya, which is a major referral center serving a region of approximately 25 million people across Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda.

"I've always been passionate about travel, learning languages, and understanding other cultures," Sebastian says. "When I entered medicine, global health felt like a natural extension of that curiosity. Seeing people's lived experiences around the world makes you a better physician."

His month in Kenya reinforced lessons he had been learning throughout his education, particularly the importance of cultural humility and partnership in patient care. "It deepened my understanding of shared decision-making," he explains. "People come from many different backgrounds, and that shapes how they want to receive care. Medicine works best when we listen carefully and treat patients as partners."



To strengthen those connections, Sebastian studied Swahili and built close relationships with his Kenyan colleagues. "The physicians and doctors-in-training I worked with were incredible, some of the most talented I've ever met," he says. "The experience was about collaboration, learning from one another, and working together to serve patients well."

Now back in California, Sebastian is completing his M.D. and has applied for a three-year residency in internal medicine. He hopes to practice in a major urban area, where he can care for diverse and underserved populations while integrating scientific rigor with compassion and respect for patients' lived experiences.

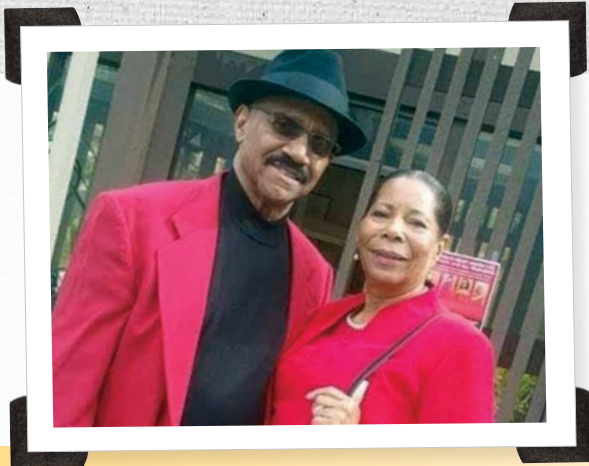
Looking back, Sebastian sees a clear throughline from O'Dowd to where he is today. "My time at O'Dowd helped me see science not just as a discipline, but as a way to serve others," he says. That perspective is now one that Sebastian carries into communities around the world.

Above: In the summer between Sebastian's junior and senior year at O'Dowd, he gained clinical research experience at Children's Hospital of Oakland Research Institute.

Below: **Sebastian Hurtado '15** (second from right) with fellow Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine students and faculty members at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Eldoret, Kenya. Photo credit: Kaiser Permanente.

ENDURING GENEROSITY

Maxine and Leonard Scott, Jr.'s support spans generations



As O'Dowd celebrates its 75th anniversary, the school owes its longevity and success to the alumni, parents, and friends who believe deeply in our mission and future. Such stewardship is exemplified by the Scott family, whose long-standing relationship with O'Dowd offers a powerful example of how the school's spirit has endured and evolved over time.

Above: Maxine and Leonard Scott Jr. pose in matching Christmas red.

On December 12, 2025, O'Dowd played Christian Unified Schools of San Diego in the CIF Division 5-AA State Football Championship at Buena Park High School, with O'Dowd winning 37-0 to claim the state title and bring home the championship trophy. Among those cheering in the stands was Leonard Scott, Jr., whose children and grandchildren have attended O'Dowd since 1986. "It's a really strong school, both academically and athletically," he says. "No wonder so many O'Dowd alumni have gone on to play professionally in the NFL and NBA."

Leonard and his wife, Maxine, are Oakland residents who have been married 57 years. For many years, the couple operated a chain of small convenience stores in the East Bay before turning to real estate. Since 1968, Leonard has owned and self-managed a number of multi-family residential properties.

Of their four children, their son **Joseph Scott '90** attended O'Dowd. "We gave Joseph the option of attending either public or private school, and he chose private," Maxine recalls. "There were very few local private schools to choose from, and O'Dowd had the best reputation. I had friends whose children had gone there, and they spoke very highly of it."

Two decades later, their granddaughter, **Kristen Barker '10** graduated from O'Dowd, followed by her sister, **Katelyn Barker '17**. The Scotts' grandson **Jalen Jack '28** is now a current student at the school.

Maxine remembers the first time she was inspired to support O'Dowd. "In 1990, Joseph told me about a fundraising project in which we could buy a brick for one of the school's courtyards. I said yes, and that involvement led me to begin volunteering for his football team. Once we got more involved with the school, we began supporting O'Dowd regularly."

Leonard soon came on board with the idea of donating to the school. "After I saw the results of what O'Dowd was doing for my own child, it inspired me to do more," he says. "We've got 13 grandchildren now. I believe the best place to put our money is in their education, not in trying to get them out of trouble later down the road. A good education sets them up for success for the rest of their lives."

In addition to their financial support, Maxine became actively involved at O'Dowd through football and student activities, deepening the family's connection to the school community. Over time, she says, that involvement helped her feel welcomed and valued. "As we became more involved, we were invited into the life of



the school," she recalls. "When O'Dowd was building the new wing and school leadership invited us to come see it, it really stayed with me. It made us feel like we were part of something, and that's what inspired us to keep giving and supporting O'Dowd as it continues to grow."

Due largely to the generosity of donors like the Scotts, the campus has grown considerably since those early days. "When Jalen invites me to watch his football and basketball games, I say I don't even know if I can find my way around the school anymore," Maxine laughs. "When Joseph began at O'Dowd, I drove up front, and there was basically one building to enter. Not any more!"

Kristen, one of the Scotts' 13 grandkids, joins in. "In terms of discipline and comprehension, my O'Dowd education has enabled me to excel and pursue leadership opportunities," she says. In high school, she took advantage of the full breadth of co-curricular activities, from serving as sophomore class president and cheerleading captain to participating in choir and the Black Student Union. She's also continued her family's legacy in real estate, working for the past ten years for Essex Property Trust as a supervisor in its Account Resolution Department for its California portfolio, which comprises more than 300 properties. With her grandfather, she recently

purchased her own five-unit apartment complex, as well.

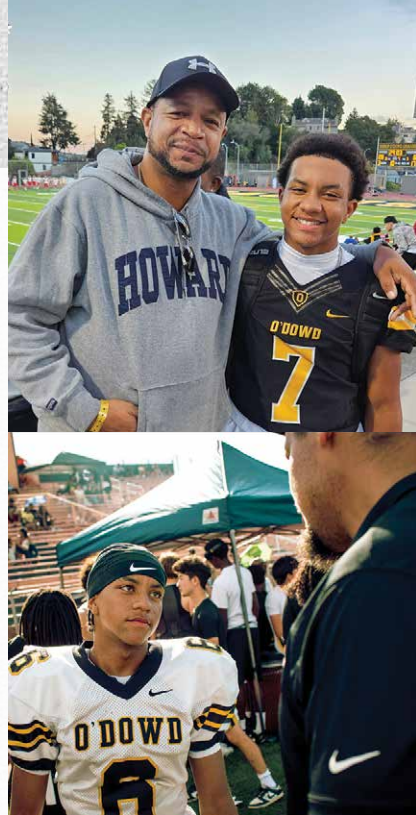
"When you mention O'Dowd, people recognize the name and its brand as a high-quality college prep school," she says. "So I definitely appreciate the experience I was given there. I love wearing black and gold and going to my brother's football games. I've been out of high school for 16 years now, but I went in for Jalen's birthday one day, and he had some of the same teachers as me. So O'Dowd is definitely an extended family, for sure."

Such continuity and student support give O'Dowd alumni enormous confidence in themselves and their choices, Maxine says. "Our oldest two children went to other, smaller schools and they were a bit intimidated by the size of classes and crowds of students once they went to college. But our O'Dowd graduates felt better prepared to enter university and forge their own careers."

Although the Scott family isn't Catholic, they were impressed by the school's faith-based culture and its focus on service. Most of their O'Dowd students did some sort of volunteer work during their high school years. "And it didn't stop with just the school requirement," Maxine says. "It wasn't an obligation for them. It was more of a passion."

A strong sense of family and community, academic challenge, and a focus on public service. These are just a few of the reasons why Maxine and Leonard Scott, Jr. continue their philanthropy to support the school. "We just knew that we wanted our family to continue to be a part of O'Dowd, and we want O'Dowd to be here for future generations," Maxine says. "Educating our youth benefits our whole community."

Leonard agrees. "Basically, we try to lead by example. Our greatest effort has been to help our children and grandkids, then they can help the next generation. It's all coming back to us—the pride, the accomplishments, the belief in O'Dowd and a job well done."



Top Left: Joseph Scott '90 joins nieces Kristen Barker '10 (left) and Katelyn Barker '17 (right) at O'Dowd's Homecoming Balcony Social.

Above: Joseph Scott '90 with nephew Jalen Jack '28 at the Homecoming game.

Below: Jalen Jack '28 plays wide receiver and cornerback for O'Dowd's JV football team.

THE DRAGON FAMILY BOND LASTS LONGER THAN 4 YEARS

Our legacy giving program is anchored by the families who want to see our O’Dowd values endure. Through a legacy gift, you will safeguard our ability to develop students grounded in faith, service and academic excellence for years to come.

This year marks 75 years of providing quality education to our community.

Please consider honoring this milestone with a gift through your will, trust, retirement plan, charitable annuity or life insurance policy. Contact us to learn more about joining our Dragon Legacy Circle.



“The transformative environment at O’Dowd motivates us to help future generations of students thrive. Including O’Dowd as a contingent beneficiary of our IRA allows us to make a meaningful, tax-smart contribution that reflects our commitment to expanding educational opportunities.”

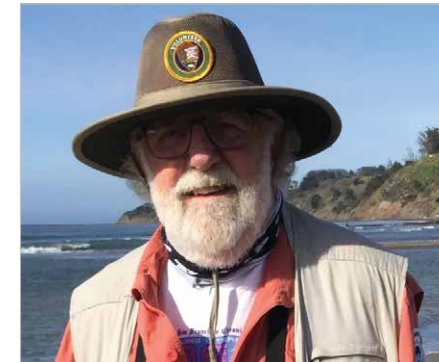
— LISA MORBIDELLI AND MIKE BARBEE, PARENTS OF JACK BARBEE '14 AND DRAGON LEGACY CIRCLE MEMBERS

Make a gift through your will.

Contact: **Rebecca Bischoff**, Chief Development Officer
 (510) 553-8628 or rbischoff@bishopodowd.org
 or visit bishopodowd.org/legacy-giving



1950's



Edward Ryken '57 retired after 30 years as a nonprofit CEO serving older adults. The organization included 12 senior centers, a large transportation department, a worldwide travel program, and home-delivered meals. Ed later began a second career in conservation, serving as bird docent coordinator on Alcatraz and leading historic tours at the San Francisco Presidio.

1960's



Philip DeAndrade '61 celebrated the 50th anniversary of his iconic San Francisco staple, Goat Hill Pizza, in November 2025. One of the original founders from 1975, Philip was joined by local politicians and neighborhood goats to honor the legacy business's half-century of community service and sourdough crust excellence.



Julia Shovein '65 just had three mystery novels released, including *Squid Row Run*. After a 30-year career as a university nursing professor, Julia sailed around the world for seven years with her husband. Her nautical mysteries are inspired by her real-life experiences.



Michael Tucevich '66 retired after 26 years as a judge and now serves as an adjunct professor of criminal justice at Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona.



Jim Negri '68 finally retired from educational consulting in December 2024 after serving as superintendent of Castro Valley USD, Acalanes UHSD, and Mountain View Whisman SD and continues to serve on the Bishop O’Dowd High School Board of Regents and with the Rotary Club of Castro Valley.

1970's



Michelle Taylor Abney '76 was elected and sworn in to a second term as recording secretary for the

Women’s Democratic Club of Clark County, Nevada. She is also serving her second year as chair of the North Las Vegas Civil Service Board.



Mark Leyva '76 married Cindy Kitaura last October in an intimate celebration at the San Mateo Buddhist Temple. O’Dowd alums **Fran Moore '76**, **Larry Ramos '76**, and **Chris Adi '76** served as groomsmen, along with Mark’s younger brother, Leo Sacramento, and Mark’s son and honorary groomsman, **Brandon Leyva '09**. Brandon’s aunt, **Catherine Megino-Suazo '81**, accompanied the Mendoza family patriarch and guest of honor.

Harold LeBlanc '77 is a published author with *Event Planning 101: 15 Things You Need to Know – So You Want to Have a Party*, released in March 2025.



Adrienne Elenteny '79 served as a public defender in Los Angeles and Alameda Counties for 23 years and retired from the State of California as a senior enforcement attorney for adult and senior care facilities. Adrienne is the founder of Crime-IQ Software, which has been used throughout California by county offices of the public defender, district attorney, probation departments, and superior court judges, as well as private attorneys, for two decades. Adrienne was the first in her family to attend O'Dowd, followed by three brothers, two nieces (including a valedictorian), and her son, **Aidan Elenteny '26**.

1980's



Brian Cushing '84 (center, seated) was honored with the St. Francis de Sales Educator Award, presented by the Diocese of Oakland to Catholic school teachers who demonstrate excellence, innovation, and a strong commitment to their students' holistic growth. He is recognized for his long-term dedication and continues to inspire the O'Dowd community as a social studies teacher, coach, and unofficial school historian.



Catherine Jorgensen Martinsen '86 retired in June 2025 after 32 years with the Lafayette School District and now lives in Incline Village, Nevada, where she runs a triathlon coaching and personal training business.



Mario Butzner '89 was ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of Oakland on October 11, 2025, and assisted at his first Mass the next day at St. Augustine in Pleasanton. Mario and his wife Teresa have five children.

1990's



Laura Meyers Lynch '90 is now teaching middle school science at Corpus Christi School.



Keir Gumbs '92 was featured on the Nasdaq Tower in New York City's Times Square in recognition of his service as board chair of the Society for Corporate Governance. During his two-year tenure, he advanced governance, thought leadership, and advocacy alongside fellow professionals.



Katie Togneri '94 recently joined O'Dowd as the Alumni Engagement Associate and can't wait to connect with you.



Jordan Gill '95 earned a master's in counseling psychology from the Wright Institute in Berkeley, CA, received his Associate Marriage and Family Therapy license, and launched a private practice near the Claremont Hotel serving teens and adults.



Michele Kennedy '97, a professional vocalist, recently won first prize in the 2025 Berlin International Classical Music Competition. This season she will perform with the Boston Symphony, Berkeley Early Music Festival, at the San Francisco Girls Chorus Annual Gala, and with New England Symphonic Ensemble at Carnegie Hall in June.



Veronica Nelson '99 is running for reelection as judge of the 482nd District Court. Since taking office in 2023, she and her staff have worked to reduce the docket, hold fair jury trials, and prioritize safety and justice.

2000's



Brandon Davis '02 has been named Director of Athletics at San Francisco State University.



Karina Del Rosario '03 and family welcomed baby Leo in August 2025.



Jaclyn Gross '03 was honored as one of 2025's *Best LGBTQ+ Lawyers Under 40* for her leadership in law and advocacy, including her dedicated service with ALRP and the broader community.



Kara Blasquez Callero '04 is an owner of Day Off Group, a Chicago-based restaurant group behind Rose Mary, il Carciofo, BLVD Steakhouse and Bar Tutto. The group is being recognized among Chicago's 2026 James Beard Award Semifinalists in the outstanding restaurateur category, with il Carciofo also earning a nomination for Best New Restaurant at Chicago's local Jean Banchet Awards.



Seth Kweller '04 was named to the 2025 Cal Poly Lacrosse Hall of Fame for his achievements on the field and ongoing contributions to the sport.

Sean Reimers '05 married Samantha Reimers in July 2025.



Alyssa Pence Russo '05 self-published *Wish Dragon: The Wish Blanket*, a rhyming picture book celebrating love, courage, and belonging, with a keepsake page for families' hopes and dreams.



Charday Foster '07 and family welcomed a baby girl, Caia.

Anie Markarian-Salazar '07 and family welcomed a baby boy, Mikael Andrés, on August 20, 2025.

2010's



Betty Uribe Asuncion '11, Counselor and Associate Therapist at O'Dowd, married Dwight Asuncion in December 2025 in San Francisco.



Chad Cromer '12 earned his private pilot's license in July 2025 and his high-performance endorsement in September, marking the first major step toward his lifelong goal of flying professionally. This summer, Chad will begin full-time flight training on the Post-9/11 GI Bill to earn the certifications and ratings needed to one day serve as a first officer.

Victoria Burns Gracey '12 and her family welcomed baby boy Theodore Ferdinand in August 2025, joining big sisters Addison and Keira.



Tara Wood '12 and Drake Tisdale were married on September 20, 2025.

Katie Dunne '14 married Christian Doumitt.



Cristina Riani '14 and her husband, Michael Woffendin, were married in May 2025 and bought a home in Beaverton, OR.



Sebastian Hurtado '15 participated in a global health elective at Moi Teaching and Referral Hospital in Kenya as a fourth-year medical student at the Kaiser Permanente School of Medicine, gaining hands-on experience in cross-cultural, high-acuity care through the AMPATH partnership.

Lionel Sims, Jr. '16 has started a new position as operations coordinator at Pacific Gas & Electric Company.



Tamarik Rabb '17 joined Invictus Growth Partners as an MBA Intern, for the summer gaining experience in private equity investing in SaaS, cloud software, cybersecurity, and fintech companies.



Isabel Weinerth '17 is now senior research and insights manager at Fuel Cycle.

Maria Maddalena Baldo '18 began a new role as an architecture and design sales representative at Porcelanosa in 2026, following three years in trade and inside sales.



Melissa Claire Catolos '18 is pursuing a Master of Science in Nursing at the University of the Pacific.



Kate Cherryhomes '19 has started a new position as a kindergarten teacher at Corpus Christi School.



Emma Flood '19 is a speech-language pathology intern at San Francisco Unified School District, working with TK and elementary students while pursuing SLP certification.



Amira Moore '19 was accepted into the University of San Francisco's Master of Science in Sport Management program.



Ben Nguyen '19 interned at Asian Americans for Equality, working with the CASTLE Leadership Program to prepare high school students for college, careers, and community leadership.

2020's



Matthew Becker '20 has started a new position as enterprise business development representative at Salesforce.



Kayla Hankins '20 is pursuing a Master of Arts in Entertainment Industry Management at CSU Northridge.



Tyler Jolly '20 recently started as a marketing coordinator at Sotheby's International Realty.



William Kegelmeyer '20 completed a ten-month judicial fellowship at the Superior Court of California, of Butte, in June 2025, gaining experience in courtroom operations and judicial administration.



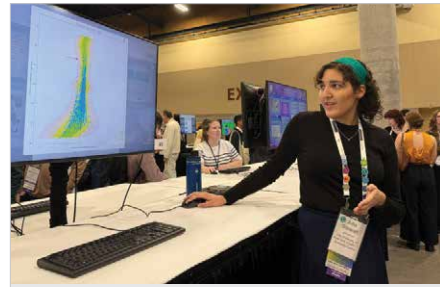
Emma Lancaster '20 was promoted to SMB account executive at ClickUp.



Anastacia Loukianoff '20 is a part-time recruiting intern with Stanford Football, in addition to her role as a graduate assistant in athletics development at Saint Mary's College.



Julian Orozco '20 has started a new position as business development representative at TrustedTech.



Julia Stewart '20 is pursuing a master's degree in Astrophysics, recently presented thesis research at the 247th American Astronomical Society meeting, and published a second-author paper in *The Astrophysical Journal*.



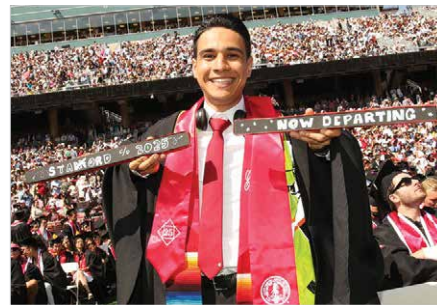
Paloma Canales '21 has started a new position as merchandise coordinator at Williams-Sonoma.



Nebai Esaias '21 completed a fall 2025 internship with Fox Sports in the Highlights Department, gaining hands-on experience and building connections within the industry.



Nathan Ho '21 has accepted a position as a financial advisor trainee at UBS in their San Francisco Wealth Advice Center.



Sebastian Madrigal '21 graduated from Stanford in 2025 and is completing his master's in engineering this spring before joining a structural engineering firm later this year.



Noelia McKillop '21 began her career as a registered nurse in the operating room at Northwestern Medicine.



Ciara Murphy '21 is a maternal and child health promoter with the Peace Corps in Guatemala.



Tobias Rivera '21 has started a new position as Code Coach at The Coder School Berkeley.



Milan Ford '22 was named to the summer 2025 dean's list at Georgia State University, where she is

completing her degree, interning with the MARTA Police Department, and preparing to graduate in May 2026.



Colin McMahon '22 is spearheading the revival of Howard University' co-ed water polo team

with USA Water Polo and Diversity in Aquatics.



Audrey Ohwobete '23 was selected as a 2026 MADE program finalist through the ANA Educational Foundation.

IN MEMORIAM

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

Robi Souza Andersen '55
Sibling of Carol Souza Putnam '57†

William Anderson '80

Mary Augustine
Parent of Angelina Augustine '92

Maxine Bannister
Parent of Michael Bannister (faculty/staff), and grandparent of Jessica Bannister Davila '07 and Jared Bannister '16

Bill Bergesen
Spouse of JoAnn Carpaneto Bergesen '66

Victoria Bonjean
Former faculty/staff

Ronald Bremond '70
Wally Brown '62

Thomas Byrne '57
Sibling of James Byrne '61†

Linda Malmstrom Cannon '56
Susan Fuentes Chappel
Spouse of Jerome Chappel (faculty/staff)

Michael Ciprazo
Parent of Nanea Ciprazo '23

James Collins '76
Sibling of Gary Collins '68, John Collins '74, and Mike Collins '78

Marie Cumming
Parent of Loretta Cumming Meyer '74, Robert Cumming '76, Vicky Cumming Stanborough '79, and Rita Cumming Hagerty '82 and grandparent of Lauren Meyer '07, Chris Meyer '18, and Devon Meyer '18

Martha De Gomez
Parent-in-law of Gerald Bennett '93 and grandparent of Gevanni Gomez-Bennett '29

Conrad de Guzman
Parent of Rachel de Guzman '82 and Marissa de Guzman '83

Patricia Deasy '56

Richard Del Bonta
Former faculty/staff and parent of Adrien Del Bonta '89 and Eireann Del Bonta '92

Dorothy Delahoussaye
Parent of Cheryl Delahoussaye '65 (former faculty/staff) and Robert Delahoussaye '68†

Dudley Desler
Grandparent of Caroline Desler '14, Nicholas Desler '17, Elizabeth Deslier '19, and Matthew Desler '21

James Dickson '58
Spouse of Patricia Dickson '62†, and sibling of Nancy Dickson Masar '58 and Gail Dickson Malone '67

Tony Dittirro
Spouse of Maria Vargas '74

Joshua Evju
Former coach and parent of Hank Evju '22 and Lana Evju '25

Rodney Filipich '86
Sibling of Sandra Filipich Chase '87

Daryl Ford '75
Sibling of Darbie Ford '77

Pamela Huppert Franciosa '60
Sibling of Devan Huppert '64†, Mike Huppert '66, and Leslie Huppert '76

Theodore Gallegos '69
Sibling of Rosemary Gallegos '64 and Leroy Gallegos '70†

Peter Garcia '05
Child of Philip Garcia '70

David Gleason
Parent of Cristian Gleason '14

Thomas Graves
Spouse of Ann Chiappelone Graves '68

Carmen Sanchez Holscher '80
Judi Irwin
Parent of Audrey Irwin (former faculty/staff), and grandparent of Isabel Merritt '11 and Annie Merritt '14

Luis Fernando Jauregui Delgadillo
Jamie McAndrews Jauregui '95

Parkes Johnson
Spouse of Kathy Connelly '60, and brother-in-law of Michael Connelly '63, James Connelly '66, and Anne Connelly Corrigan '67

Mary Lou Dietz Jones '56
Patrick Kennedy '74

Peter La Torre, Jr. '58
Sibling of Luceen La Torre Dunn '61, Frances La Torre '65, and Lorrie La Torre Brescia '71

Kathy Mahoney '66
Sibling of Steve Mahoney '55, Patricia Mahoney '57, Mary Jo Mahoney-Kelly '60, Larry Mahoney '63, and Diane Mahoney '68

Trudy McCulloch '63
Sibling of Bruce McCulloch '60

Richard McQuillan '72
Sibling of Bob McQuillan '78

Robert Milano '57
Sibling of Marge Milano Potestio '56

Judy Ann Fogarty Moore '59

George Niespolo, Sr.
Parent of Geo Niespolo, Jr. '08 and Dominic Niespolo '11

Oliver Preston
Parent of Lytwon Preston '00 and Philippe Preston '03

Richard Puppione
Former faculty/staff and spouse of Cindy Puppione (former faculty/staff)

Carole Gross Raine '57

Patty Ritzman
Spouse of Gary Ritzman '60 and sister-in-law of Richard Ritzman '58

Joan Seitz Romero '60
Spouse of Art Romero '60, sibling of David Seitz '64†, and sister-in-law of Marcy Romero Williams '63, Mary Romero Dilling '72†, and Kathy Romero Asturias '74

Geraldine Graham Sandor '60

Sally Enea Servidio-Craig '68
Sibling of Geri Enea Goodell '66, Sylvia Enea Surano '72, Anna Marie Enea '74, and Robert Enea '76 and sister-in-law of Kris Surano '72

Joseph Silva '57
Spouse of Diana Young Silva '57†, and sibling of Maxine Silva Crowley '55 and Judith Silva Pohyar '58

Rosaley Pistante Smith '56

Marie Songey
Parent of Susan Songey Rossillon '68, Chris Songey Schmitz '70, and Diane Songey Twomey '71, grandparent of Erin Twomey Lunde '04 (faculty/staff), Daniel Rossillon '04, and Evan Twomey '09, and parent-in-law of Jeannine Willits Songey '80 and Steve Twomey (faculty/staff)

Eugene Stovall III '58
Sibling of Mavis Stovall-Kelly '60

Julie Taylor
Parent of Matt Taylor '13 and Sam Taylor '17†

Marilyn Thirion
Parent of Tracy Thirion '89, Debra Thirion '93, and Laurie Thirion Billups '93 (faculty/staff), and grandparent of Dominic Ramsey '25 and Matthew Ramsey '28

Dick Totten
Spouse of Sandy Sarubbi Totten '76

Karen Walls
Parent of E.J. Walls '11 (faculty/staff)

Constance Welsh '58

Richard Whitsel
Spouse of Laurie Phillips Whitsel '58

John Younghein
Spouse of Monica Hayes Younghein '69 and parent of Meredith Younghein '00 and Andrew Younghein '03

Joseph Zotter '63



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

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HEY ALUMNI, JOIN US!

The **O'Dowd Reunion Day** is an opportunity to visit campus and relive memories with classmates and former teachers. We will celebrate milestones for the classes ending in 1s and 6s. This is a 21+ event. You are #foreveradragon.



O'DOWD REUNION DAY
MAY 2, 2026

Living Lab Service Day with Alumni

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2026

Spend the morning connecting with alumni, students, faculty, and staff as we celebrate more than 20 years of Creation Care with hands-on garden projects, great food, and community.

Young Alumni Event

FRIDAY, MAY 1, 2026

We're hosting a special event exclusively for young alumni from the classes of 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 the night before Reunion Day at the CES. Enjoy an evening of cornhole, wood-fired pizza, and beer and wine as you catch up with classmates, reconnect with favorite teachers, and meet fellow Dragons from across different years. This is a 21+ event.

Dragon Decades Challenge

MAY 1-31, 2026

Get ready for the annual Alumni Giving Challenge in May! Prepare to represent your decade, and be a part of the alumni donor legacy that spans generations.



For more information on upcoming opportunities, please visit bishopodowd.org/alumniconnect or scan the QR code.